

**\*\* INFORMATION PAGE \*\***

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The Girls' Brigade	
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$10.00 per annum  
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# NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

A C W seeks:

- ⇒ to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ⇒ to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

Mission Statement

*Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.*

PRESIDENT: Mrs Carmel Keys Tel: 9977 5156

NUMBER 109

NOVEMBER 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members,

As you are reading this Newsette we will have come to the end of the year and celebrated the World Community Day Service with the theme "A Little Becomes A Lot In The Master's Hands." May we be aware of our constant reliance on the Master and trust in his guidance in whatever we do. The small coin of the Fellowship of the Least Coin is a great example of a little doing a lot of good. We look forward to news of the Jubilee Celebrations for Least Coin from Isabel and Helen when they return from the Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where they have been our ACW NSW representatives.

It is encouraging to know that although Peter completely misunderstood who Jesus was and his mission in the world, Jesus did not give up on him or the other disciples. Like them we are always in the process of getting our vision clarified and our ears opened that we may hear God's message.

For myself, this year has been a time of learning, and getting to know you,

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the members of ACW. I have enjoyed and appreciated your friendship and support and look forward to continuing together, not alone but in company with one another, sharing our common tasks and taking united action in our endeavours.

The ACWC Concert at Eastwood Baptist Church, of which there is a fuller report further on in Newsette, was a delightful afternoon and my sincere thanks to the minister, parishioners and members of ACW who organized the wonderful artists, who gave so generously of their time and talents.

May God bless you and keep you in the palm of his hand now and in the Christmas season.

*Carmel Keys, President*

### **SPECIAL DAYS:**

#### **Fellowship Day July 2006**

Theme: *"I Am The Bread Of Life"*

Almost 1000 persons attend Fellowship Day Services at 18 NSW venues. All reported great fellowship and inspiring messages.

The Theme for Fellowship Day in July 2007 is to be *"Heaven's Bread"* based on Exodus 16:13-18 and the Service will be prepared by the West Australia Unit. Forms for ordering materials for that day will be sent out in the New Year.

#### **World Community Day 2006**

Theme: *"A Little Becomes A Lot In The Master's Hands"*

Services for this day were still being held as this Newsette is being prepared and I look forward to receiving your reports. Please send them promptly and ensure that they include correct contact information.

The Theme for World Community Day in October 2007 is *"Enough For Each Day"* based on Matthew 6:11 and the Service is to be written by our New South Wales Unit. We are already looking at a sub-committee to undertake preparing this.

Thank you for your prompt returns and continuing support for these ecumenical gatherings.

*Pamela Freeman, Special Days Convener*

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### **ACW NSW STATE CONFERENCE:**

This Conference on September 24 was a great time of blessing, fellowship and learning for some 60 or more who gathered in the very pleasant surroundings of the Salvation Army Function Centre.

The morning session was a devotional time, the speaker being *Sister Patricia Stevenson*, with the theme of *"Women Of Vision."* She spoke first of *Anna*, who saw the culmination of the many years of widowhood she had spent serving in the Temple at Jerusalem, when she recognised the promised Messiah in the infant Jesus. The second woman of whom Sr Patricia spoke was the *Canaanite woman*, who withstood the impatience of the disciples, and the seeming harshness of Jesus' initial replies in her desire for her daughter's healing, and her reaction that "even the dogs may eat the crumbs from the master's table."

Sr Patricia then gave us an opportunity to speak to one another about the characteristics of these women, and to think about women of vision whom we had met or known in our own lives, and finally to ponder how we might be Women of Vision ourselves.

Conversation and fellowship was enjoyed over a delicious lunch served by the friendly Salvation Army staff.

In the first afternoon session our speaker was *Ian Minnis*, Director of Prison Fellowship NSW. Ian spoke of the devastation to a family when dad is suddenly missing – income ceases - bullying and teasing at school – all the ensuing heartbreak. He told of the many volunteers who visit in our prisons to offer support. He explained the *"Angel Tree"* program, when caring people may purchase a Christmas gift, with the parent's agreement, which is personally delivered to the child, as a present from mum or dad with a greeting written by the parent him or herself.

The main program we had asked Ian to tell us about was *Camp Breakaway*, now called *"Camp WerX,"* – the holiday camps for children of people in gaol. At a cost of \$250 per child, a child is sponsored to go to camp by individuals or groups. Commenced some years ago for years 3 & 4 children, who were disappointed when "too old" to go to camp again so a camp was arranged for years 5 & 6. The same disappointment occurred again, so a Years 7 & 8 camp was planned, and next Easter this will be extended for Years 9 & 10. Team leaders and members are all volunteers who pay their own way, and seek to keep in touch with the boys and girls after their camp, and if possible to obtain the interest and involvement of local churches. This session gave us information for our prayers and maybe for some active involvement by some of us in the future.

For the second afternoon session, we were all delighted to have one of our

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current Winifred Kiek Scholars, *Vivian Cheong* introduced to us, and to hear her speak of her and her husband Eric's studies and ministry at Moore College and their hopes to later serve in an Asian country. Vivian told us of the joy of the birth of baby *Alexander* only a few weeks before and of getting used to being a mother. It was a joy to be able to meet one of our Scholars "in the flesh" and to hear how much our sponsorship through the WKS is appreciated.

Our Conference this year was a valuable and worthwhile exercise once again to all who attended.

*Beryl McLaughlin, Newsette Editor*

#### **WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:**

Remembering our two 2006 scholars, we think of *Tania Eichler* from Queensland, as she continues her studies and balances family life and ministry – we have no recent news.

The other is *Vivian Cheung* (NSW) whom those of you who attended the State Conference (reported above) met and heard speak about herself- her baby son was born on August 15. Remember Vivian and her husband as they adjust to caring for a new baby whilst continuing their studies. It has been great having a Winifred Kiek Scholar nearby to keep in touch with. An encouragement card has recently been sent to each of these women.

I have almost monthly contact with our National WKS Convener, *Una*, in Victoria. She attended the South Australia Unit's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Adelaide in September, as Winifred's daughter *Margaret Knauerhause* was attending and there was a display on the history of WKS celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Margaret spoke of her mother, and Una says that at 92, Margaret has a brilliant mind. I will have some photos to show at the November Council meeting.

With details still to come, the two Scholars for 2007 are *Cathy Paraka* from Papua New Guinea, and *Leinamau Manrogoana* from Vanuatu.

Christmas cards will be sent to past and present scholars with whom we keep in touch.

I would like to share with you a Benediction that Winifred loved from the book "*Winifred*" (page 140) .... "*Now may the hope of a better world, a worthier life, a holier morrow and a sweeter thanksgiving inspire us all with patient continuance in well-doing, and may grace, mercy and peace from Father, Son and Holy Spirit remain with us now and always.*"

*Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener*

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#### **FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:**

As reported in the last Newsette, the Jubilee year for FLC is coming to a close. As I write this on October 10, our delegates, *Isabel Hewitt* and *Helen Richardson* are in Malaysia with approximately twenty other ladies from Australia at the Asian Church Women's Conference Quadrennial Assembly in Kuala Lumpur and would be sharing with ladies from all over the world in celebration of this Jubilee at the *FLC Jubilee Thanksgiving Service and Celebration Dinner*. It will be so great to hear all about the Conference and FLC Celebrations from Isabel and Helen when they return.

Our editor has asked me to include a brief description of the Australian Project which received an FLC Grant this year. The grant was awarded to the *Lutheran Community Sewing Group*, using the Albert Park Lutheran Hall, Albert Park, South Australia.

The aim of this project is teaching basic sewing in a secure and Christian environment to new arrivals living out of their culture, helping them to buy their own machines. It started two years ago with three Sudanese women. Before long a ten-seater bus was required because these three women's friends wanted to come and learn to sew. A number of Lutheran women gave pre-loved machines to the group.

This year the sewing class began with thirty-four women from five countries representing eight language groups. There are also thirty-five pre-school children. All are new arrivals in Australia, all are in a low-income group, all are ethnic minority groups, almost all have come from countries and circumstances where justice and peace have been largely absent.

The sewing group has become a safe place where people can gather. They not only to learn to sew and be employed with the skills they learn, but they talk and work through issues relating to healing relationships, both within and between the different groups. Many other issues are addressed as they gather together, such as nutrition, health, literacy and social concerns.

They are given the opportunity to form friendships with Australians. The children are looked after by qualified and volunteer creche workers. Some of the volunteers are men, which gives the women valuable insight into the roles of men and women in our culture.

It sounds like a very worthwhile project, don't you think?

*Janet Lang, FLC Convener*

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### ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SERVICE

The Asian Church Women's Conference service for 2006 in NSW took the form of praise and worship through music. Those present made melody in their hearts to the Lord as they received ministry by many artists on this Sunday afternoon.

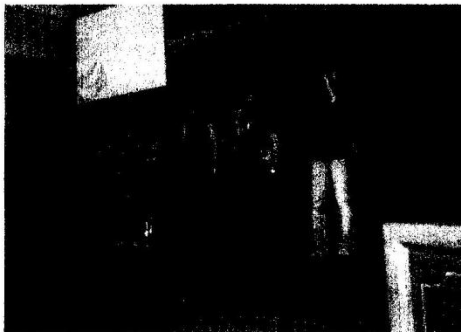
The service was held at Eastwood Baptist church where the president of ACW NSW Unit, *Carmel Keys*, welcomed the two hundred present. Parramatta Salvation Army band set the tone of the afternoon when they played as people assembled. The programme followed unannounced with varying items.

These were choirs, a duet, solos and instrumental musical presentations and a children's dance group. Several Asian countries were represented including China, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Australia with some items being performed in their mother tongue.



The Bible reading from Philippians 2 was read by the ACW secretary *Isobel Hewitt* and focused on the Lordship of Jesus. This was further highlighted by the closing solos and the challenge to be followers of the Christ.

Each one who performed gave freely of their time and talents and the afternoon proved to be a time of fellowship together at Afternoon tea.



The offering taken will go to the work of Asian Church Women's Conference and we are grateful that this was possible because of willing participation.

A great deal of effort went into the preparation of this service. It was advertised on 2CH radio and in the local press. The cooperation of Eastwood church with its facilities and

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helpful people together with many other volunteers made this a worthwhile happening. *Olive Edmondstone* kindly stepped in and worked hard to finalise the function when I was unable to do so. Afternoon tea was a banquet!

To all who helped in various ways to make this a pleasant and joyous time, thank you each one.

A pleasing result was that the Korean Choir, Siloam Korean Choristers (below), offered to be part of next years service again. Changing venues to varying areas allows us to touch different groups of people.



We need to be in prayer for guidance concerning the right venue next year.

*Beryl Kirkwood, ACWC Convenor*



**SOCIAL ISSUES:**

Many young people are in nursing homes because of inadequate residential care and support services. Because of this concern our State Executive sought information from YPINH (Young People In Nursing Homes National Alliance) as to how we could support them. *Dr Bronwyn Morkham* replied regarding their submission to the Senate Inquiry. She stated that "it would be an enormous help if you would consider writing to government ministers about the issue generally, but particularly about the fact that younger people over 50 have not been included in the target group for the COAG (Council of Australian Government) YPINH Program."

In New South Wales, as of March 2006, there were in nursing homes, 18 aged 20-29 years; 64 aged 30-39 years; 315 aged 40-49 years; 977 aged 50-59 years; 982 aged 60-64; totalling 2356. These are estimated numbers from Dept of Health & Ageing.

Every day a young person with high or complex care needs is placed in an aged-care facility somewhere in Australia because the accommodation and support they need does not exist. Some of these individuals are younger than 10 years of age. At the current rate of entry there will be over 10,000 young people residing in aged-care facilities by 2010.

It is clear that aged care settings are not an appropriate option for younger people with disabilities, yet they are often the only option. We frequently see in the media cases of elderly parents trying to care for a young adult with such needs and reaching the limits of their own physical strength. The web page [www.ypinh.org.au](http://www.ypinh.org.au) gives further information concerning this issue, stating that:

- staff in aged-care facilities do not have the skills and knowledge to care for younger people with brain injuries and other specific disabilities;
- aged-care nursing homes do not offer them rehabilitation;
- resources needed to purchase appropriate equipment to support the complex care needs of young people do not exist;
- therapeutic input resources needed to sustain an individual's physical, cognitive and social functioning are largely unavailable, as are the resources needed to foster his or her rehabilitative potential.
- aged-care staffing levels are insufficient to maintain and promote independence.

These young people simply want a life worth living and a future worth having. They want to be productive members in their communities again. How will we as Australian Church Women respond to their call and support them in their cry for the help they need?

*Sr Joan Bird fmm, Social Issues Convener*

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN N S W:**

NCW NSW has had similar concerns to those expressed by ACW through Sister Joan Bird as detailed on the previous page of this Newsette and after their approach their secretary has received the following reply:

"Dear Mrs Barkl,

I refer to your correspondence to the Premier regarding the provision of supported accommodation for people with an intellectual disability. This was referred to the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Minister for Disability Services as the issue falls within his portfolio responsibilities.

The NSW Government recently announced a 10-year plan, *Stronger Together: A New Direction for Disability Services 2006-2016*. This plan will deliver new services to fill gaps that were identified during consultations, and enhancements to services that the NSW Government has recognised as critical in providing support for families and carers of people with disability.

*Stronger Together* aims to provide a more diverse range of accommodation options with greater choice and opportunity, which will help to address the shortage of accommodation services. This plan will focus on funding additional flexible types of support, including options for people whose needs fluctuate. New models of supported accommodation will be developed for people with challenging behaviours, complex health needs or those who are leaving correctional settings.

The quality of the services provided in specialist accommodation support will increase, particularly through improved standards of health-related care and enhanced supports to enable people with a disability to participate in the community. In the next 5 years over \$514 million will be spent as part of *Stronger Together* to increase the number of specialist accommodation places from 180 new places in 2006/07 to a total of 990 additional places in 2010/11.

In relation to additional respite places for children, young people and adults with an intellectual disability, this is also being addressed, with an additional 80 places for children and 670 for adults, increasing in 5 years to 1260 new flexible respite places for children and adults.

Both the State and Federal governments recognise the need for respite for older carers, and the plan will build on the \$48 million, in joint funding with the Australian Government for respite for older carers, including in-home support, overnight car, weekends away and peer support."

### SNIPPETS FROM ACW NATIONAL NEWS:

A **Website** is being prepared by Brenda Dickinson (of NSW) and each State Unit will be able to have its own particular news included. The domain name will be [www.acwnational.org.au](http://www.acwnational.org.au).

The next **National Conference** will be held at the *Geelong Conference Centre*, from 24-28 September 2007 – why not put this in your next year's diary now – and maybe start saving up!

**Editor's note** – We have heard of the numerous difficulties which the National Executive in Victoria have experienced since taking over from New South Wales last September. One was the serious illness of their Treasurer, *Margaret Watson*, who had to withdraw from that position. We have just received the sad news that Margaret has passed away, and condolence and sympathy have been sent by Carmel on our behalf.

### PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

In line with PPSEAWA's study of the *Year of the Outback*, six speakers concerned with the remote areas of Australia addressed us during 2006.

In **February** we heard from a woman who worked as a Nomad for the Bush Church Aid Society, the outback ministry of the Anglican Church.

In **May** the Assistant Principal of *Stewart House* at Curl Curl told of the work there.

At the **June** meeting, the Associate Director of Frontier Services, *Rev David Thiem* was the speaker. Frontier Services dates back to the 1880s Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Ministries in Inland Australia and now operates Patrol Ministries. Community Services, Health Centres and Clinics, Home/Community/Aged Care, Migrant and Family Support Services, Student Group Homes in remote Australia.

In **July**, *Rev Paul Dew* from the Bush Church Aid Society told of their work in isolated parts of our land, and which has recently been extended to include Norfolk Island. BCA occasionally receives co-operative support from the Royal Flying Doctor Service and from Frontier Services.

In **August**, *Jenny Rosalky* was the speaker on the work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

At the Spring Luncheon in **September**, *Jann Kingston*, Chief Executive Officer of the Far West Children's Scheme and Services for the Aged was the informative speaker.

*Edith Ridge, ACW Delegate to Pan Pacific & SEAWA*

### Only God could have known!



Christmas was far beyond anything one family could have imagined when God provided four brand new bikes for four hurting children

Stacey's brother tragically lost his wife and was unable to care for his four children. So love and courage led Stacey to accept the responsibility of raising them herself.

Stacey, just 23, had only recently married Mark and bought their first home in western Sydney. Their life together was just beginning. Taking on the children was a huge financial burden for the young couple, and by the time Christmas came, they had no resources left. But God had gone before and prepared the way. Not only was

ANGLICARE able to provide a Christmas hamper, but a generous donor had only recently given four bikes to the Rooty Hill Welfare Office to be utilised for a family in need. Four

bikes - four children. Only God could have known. Only God could have worked in advance to bring people and needs together in such a marvelous way.

"We were so glad that we were able to offer them some support, especially at Christmas", said Felicia Fitzgerald, the Emergency Relief Coordinator at Rooty Hill. "Stacey was so thankful for the food and amazed that we had a bike for each child. We were amazed too, actually!"

Thanks to God's provision, through the generous gift of an unknown donor, Christmas for Stacey, Mark, and their newly acquired family was far beyond anything they could have imagined.

### C H R I S T M A S . . . .

. . . And so we pause this time of year to think (some for the only time), of him who lay, within a lowly manger, far from home, and cradled only by the humble hay. We sing our songs of praise, some build a crib, and dare to carve a figure that is his; A touching thing, a child – all will agree – and Jesus was a child, so Jesus is.

And so a King is locked in babyhood, to stay forever quaint, diminutive, as in a myth men tell from time to time . . . O living, risen, reigning Christ, *forgive!*