

Issue No.
155
May 2018



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

NEWSLETTE

From the President . . .

Christian greetings to all. No doubt like you, I have witnessed many changes in my term as President of NSW State Unit of ACW. I count it a privilege to have had this opportunity to serve in this role. There have been challenges. Yet on the other hand, there have been many times of blessing and reflection, enriched by the unity we have in Christ Jesus.

I commend to you the incoming President, [Mrs] Peg McEntee, OAM. Her experience over many years will be useful in her tenure. We are looking forward to her leadership over the next two years and pledge our allegiance to her at this time.

Details of Peg's installation on Thursday 31st May can be found on page 4.

All are welcome

During these past two years I have experienced prayerful support, for which I am very grateful. I have proved the faithfulness of God through the varying passages of life that we all traverse.

Thank you for all that is done to bring together Christian women from across the spectrum of the Christian faith. May we each continue on the journey with Jesus until we meet him – face to face.

God's rich blessings on you each one, **Pamela Freeman**

Email: freeowp@netspace.net.au

Phone: 02 9688 2859

Australian Church Women seeks to unite Australian church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; and to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

Mission Statement: Australian Church Women believe 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.

Please Note New Address

All ACW. Monies—Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of the Least Coin, *Newsette* Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to:

Lt. Pat Cory
P O Box 248
Dapto NSW 2530
Phone: 0408 440 127

Please **DO NOT** include the word “Treasurer” when addressing envelopes

- ALL CHEQUES to be made payable to

“Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc.” - NOT to any individual person

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS
Denominational Groups: \$25 per annum
ACW Local Branches: \$15 per annum
Organisations: \$15.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES \$15 per annum
(This includes subscription to *Newsette*)

ACW Website: www.acw.org.au

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Changes of Address & Contributions to *Newsette* should be sent to
Newsette Editor: 35 Veda Street Hamilton NSW 2303
Phone 02 4969 6336 Email: doug.isabel35@gmail.com

As the varied way of life we journey, Come the plains and then the mountainside,
Come the days of joy when birds are singing, And the world is fair and sweet and wide;
Then a deeper joy comes, overflowing, From the everlasting throne of love,
And all other joy is but an echo From the ever-blessed heights above.

There are shadows on the earthly pathway Where, at time, uncertainly we tread;
In perplexity we halt and linger Till our faith again is upward led.
For the heights of truth are ever calling, And celestial radiance from afar
On our pilgrim way is ever falling, For our comfort where the shadows are.

In the days of peace and golden sunshine, In the days of joy, or days of woe,
There is confidence in him who holds us; There is light to guide us here below.
And beyond await the heights of rapture Where all earthly joys, transcended, fade
In the glory of the Saviour's presence, In the Home eternal he has made.

Lily Kells Sampson

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

2018 Scholars

Lauren England [QLD] and **Elise Ruthenbeck** [SA]: both have challenges balancing work, ministry and their studies.

Easter cards were sent with encouragement to these and also to

Hina Burq [2017 Pakistan] who attended a Women's Leadership Conference in Canada in April.

Easter greetings by email were sent out, and replies received from

Christy Ferguson [2009 Melb] Celebrated Easter with church family which includes a group of joyful Persian folk.

Leinamau [2007 in Fiji] "Good and doing well" with the Masters Program. At Easter she always remembers when studying in Sydney, especially the Maundy Thursday Service she had to prepare.

Esline [2016 Vanuatu] She is always thankful that she is still thought about and appreciative of prayers "it means so much to me".

Nighat [1994 in Philadelphia] always sends a lovely card and greeting although no news.

Applications for 2019 Scholarships for women of Pacific Islands to be received by WKS Trustees by 31 May

Judith Cayzer, Convener

Congratulations to Peg McEntee, our incoming President

who has been awarded a Papal Honour of Dame of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by his Holiness Pope Francis, in recognition of her life-long involvement on all levels of Catholic Women's League and her other involvement in various community endeavours

“Inexhaustible Joy”



For 2018 the ecumenical community of Taizé has determined to search for ways to live out 'Inexhaustible Joy', inspired largely by encounters in Africa among refugees and persecuted people. Brother Alois writes: *I was particularly impressed by the women. The mothers, often very young, bear a large part of the suffering caused by violence. Many had to flee their homes in haste. And yet they remain at the service of life. Their courage and their hope are exceptional.*

Four proposals are put forward:

- Dig deeper into the wellsprings of joy
- Hear the cry of the most vulnerable
- Share trials and joys
- Among Christians, rejoice in the gifts of others

In a community where chants are an integral part of worship it is not surprising that we read 'Our joy is nourished when we pray together in song. Sing to Christ until you are joyful and serene'.

With a Brother visiting from Taizé in May there will be a retreat near Bathurst, and Evening Prayers at Pitt Street Uniting Church, Sydney (see below).

Coming Events

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| May 21 | NCW NSW Jean Arnot Luncheon – Mrs Edith Ridge nominated by ACW NSW |
| May 25/26 | 11.00 am Friday to 3.00 pm Saturday Taizé Retreat at St Joseph's Conference Centre, Perthville near Bathurst |
| May 27 | 7.00 pm Taizé Evening Prayer at Pitt Street Uniting Church 264 Pitt Street, Sydney |
| May 31 | 11.00 am ACW NSW Installation and Dedication Service St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Harbour St Wollongong |
| July | Fellowship Day Services in local areas |
| August 26 | 2.00 pm Concert of Praise in support of Asian Church Women's Conference at Epping Baptist Church |
| September 17 | NSW State Conference at Concord Baptist Church – celebrating 80 years of NSW WICC/ACW NSW |
| October | World Community Day Services in local area |

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

In 2018 the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed in Australia from 13 to 20 May, the week between Ascension and Pentecost.

The National Council of Churches in Australia has adapted the Order of Service from international material emanating from the Caribbean, and while this is rather late notice, you may wish to follow up on the Victorian Council of Churches website at vcc.org.au/resources (the easiest and most up to date). Material includes daily readings for the week.



The graphic illustrates the broken chains of oppression, recalling the days of slavery across Caribbean islands.

The history of Christianity in that region contains a paradox. On one hand, the Bible was used by colonizers as justification for the subjugation of the original inhabitants of these lands, along with others who were transported from Africa, India and China. Many people suffered extermination, others were put in chains and enslaved, and were subjected to unjust labour conditions. On the other hand, the Bible became a source of consolation and liberation for many who suffered at the hands of the colonizers.

Today, the Bible continues to be a source of consolation and liberation, inspiring the Christians of the Caribbean to address the conditions that currently undermine human dignity and quality of life. As the iron chains of enslavement fall from our hands, a new human bond of love and communion emerges in the human family, expressing the unity prayed for by our Christian communities.

In Australian history chains are also a potent symbol – think of convict road gangs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment and Pacific Islander enslavement. ‘Chains’ in modern day Australia include human trafficking, denial of responsibility for refugees and asylum seekers, domestic violence, child abuse and the cycle of poverty.

SPECIAL DAYS

I am pleased to be able to commence this report by saying that the material for Fellowship Day has all been mailed out to our state branches. If you haven't received your parcel by the end of the month don't hesitate to contact me on (02) 9529 6744 or middletonk@bigpond.com

Once your planning is complete you can advertise your service on our webpage by sending the details of your service to brendad2@optusnet.com.au or phone – 02 8521 7891. **I warmly encourage you to take advantage of this facility.** Don't forget that while Fellowship Day is usually held on the last Friday of July this can be changed to suit local circumstances.

The Order of Service for Fellowship Day this year has been prepared by our own NSW Unit of ACW. The theme is **Women of Encouragement** which is the first service in the current National Executive's theme of *Women Serving Openheartedly*. It is at this service that we learn about the Winifred Kiek scholars for this year and have the opportunity to support these scholarships through our giving in the offering.

If there is a Fellowship Day Service being held near you I would encourage you to attend. For a list of where services are to be held you can go to our website: www.acw.org.au closer to the date, and click on State Units – NSW – Special Events.

If you are no longer able to attend a Fellowship Day Service or your local branch no longer conducts this service but you would still like to support the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund your donation can be sent to our Treasurer whose address is on the back cover of this magazine. For information about the scholars for this year please read the WKS Convener's report.

Lyn Middleton
Special Days Convener

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Fellowship of the Least Coin is a fellowship of prayer, more so than of raising money. However, through the miracle of the 'least coin' FLC has over the past year supported 9 projects in Africa, 10 projects around Asia, 6 in Europe, 4 in North America, 2 in the Pacific and 9 in Latin America.

Grants up to \$US 5000 are given as initial 'seed money' for projects such as education/awareness raising, programs dealing with social issues, women's issues, peace and reconciliation, ecumenical gatherings and promotion of community and care of the environment.

As we give let us be faithful in praying for our 'suffering sisters' around the world. Pray for those who are caught in war torn areas, those who are struggling to care for their families because of famine and those in poorer countries like Ethiopia who suffer from Fistular (those who without medical help go through days of labour only to give birth to stillborn babies & suffer tears from the vagina to the urinary tract & or the bowel).

Prayer; Our Loving Father, we who live in the West understand so little of the suffering of others. Help us remember those less fortunate and bring them before you, that you in your mercy will bring healing and blessing. Amen.

Judy O'Hara
FLC Convener

Plan to attend . . .

Service of Installation of Mrs Peg McEntee OAM
Thursday 31 May 2018 at 11.00 am
St Francis Xavier Cathedral,
Harbour Street, Wollongong

RSVP for catering: Mobile 0418 651 822
Email: margaret.mcentee@bigpond.com

Train from Central 8.13 am arrives Wollongong 9.59 am
Taxi from station 10 minutes to Cathedral

Compassion starts with you us **GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST DETENTION OF REFUGEE CHILDREN NSW**

Have you seen any of the peaceful demonstrations held by the Grandmothers against Detention of Refugee Children? There are branches in several cities in Australia, and many older women (joined by 'Others' - younger women and men in sympathy with their beliefs) have been voicing their concerns about the plight of children caught in the rigid stance adopted by the Australian government "that refugees and asylum seekers offshore will never be accepted in Australia".

It is ironic that although the reasons that motivated the parents of children in detention to come to Australia vary, the wish to give their children a better chance in life than would be possible in the countries they are fleeing is a recurring theme. So, where is the compassion? Where is our compassion?

The Mission Statement of the NSW Grandmothers is:

To achieve freedom for all refugee children held by or on behalf of the Australian Government. Our mission will not be complete and we will not stop until every child is removed from detention centres on the mainland and from the Offshore Processing Centres on Nauru. We will also continue to advocate for a better future for the children released from the Nauruan Processing Centre into the Nauruan community.



In Newcastle where I live, Grandmothers and Others from churches and the community join in silent roadside vigils each week, and have done so for the last three years. They met first outside the office of the Federal MP for Newcastle, but since access has been lost due to 'light rail works', the vigil is held opposite the City Hall beside the major road to the CBD..

Letters to parliamentarians are another important activity, along with the collection of signatures on petitions on behalf of detained children.

With the Easter message of New Life for all still fresh in our minds, may we support this cause by our action and/or by our prayers.

Isabel Hewitt