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**** INFORMATION PAGE ****

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue
DEE WHY 2099
(Tel: 9971 0278).

PLEASE NOTE:

- ⇒ For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word "Treasurer" when addressing envelopes.
- ⇒ **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to "Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc." and **NOT** to any individual person.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Denominational Groups: | \$25.00 per annum |
| A.C.W. Local Branches: | \$15.00 per annum |
| Organisations: | \$15.00 per annum |
| The Girls' Brigade | |
| Bible Society NSW | |

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$10.00 per annum
(includes subscription to Newsette)

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CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the **EDITOR:**

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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

ACW Website: www.acwnational.org.au

ACW 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 Jennifer Peffer Tel: 9874 4056

NUMBER 116

AUGUST 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

In the May issue Carmel wrote her last message as President and now I come to writing my first as 'the new President.'

The Service of Dedication and Installation in May was a happy and blessed time. Thank you to all who prayed and came to share together in worship and fellowship.

My theme - the message - the Bible readings, the hymns and music were all about LIGHT, and I encouraged you all to "**walk as daughters of the light.**"

I meant it when I urged each one individually to go home and work out what YOU think about LIGHT. God can and does illuminate His word and teach us new lessons each day.

Using the word LIGHT as an acrostic, I hope I started you off making

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your own list of words that can direct your thoughts about LIGHT.

L LIFE In Genesis we read where it all began and from the very beginning God saw the need for LIGHT and it was good.

I found that you could not have LIGHT without LOVE. God's love was shown when he sent his son Jesus Christ to give us the way of salvation.

*"He is the light of the world and Lord of the cross
And we will all bow down
Kings will surrender their crowns
And worship Jesus – He is the love, unfailing love
He is the Love of God"*

I INSIGHT Light can give insight and I used the example of the car headlights on high beam giving a long distance glimpse of what lay ahead and the pitfalls on either side of the road. Another car approaches and you are forced to switch back to ordinary headlights, just seeing immediately ahead. At times, God's light does give us insight of the future but that is the incentive to keep on just a step at a time when obstacles come our way.

G GUIDANCE As we look back through the scriptures we read that God led his people by light. The OT account of the Israelites wandering in the desert being led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Psalm 119:105 *'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.'*

H HINDSIGHT This can be the best light of all if you are willing to learn from mistakes you have made in the past; however without this willingness, hindsight is nothing more than remembering what has happened without using it for benefit in the future.

T TENACITY i.e. persisting for a long time, difficult to change, destroy or get rid of. Jesus the light of the world in our lives is just that....difficult to change, destroy or get rid of – and how often we fail to be thankful that He keeps on loving us regardless sometimes of our indifference. The lighthouse generates a light that keeps on regardless of conditions – a single light but reflected by many mirrors to warn of danger or guide ships to a safe harbour. Together we are like those mirrors, reflecting God's light – each is necessary to warn of dangers hidden by darkness and guide to the safety of God's love and the promise of eternal life.

On September 15 we will be celebrating 70 years of ACW NSW. I do encourage you to plan to attend Scots Church, Sydney, when we will be **LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD!**

Yours in Fellowship Jennifer Peffer

*PS How many hymns or choruses can you list that mention "LIGHT?"
A prize for the one who names the most by the November Council meeting.*

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SERVICE OF DEDICATION:

On Monday, 19 May 2008, 160 members and friends gathered at Eastwood Baptist Church for the annual Dedication Service and Installation of our new President, *Mrs Jennifer Peffer* for the forthcoming 2 years.

A welcome to the Church was extended by the Baptist Moderator *Rev. Michael Dennis, OAM, Dip. R.E.* and as retiring President, I led the Call to Worship and welcomed our invited guests. *Mrs Isabella Harrison* (daughter-in-law of Past President *Jan*) was song leader and soloist for the Service - what a blessing to have such a talented singer to guide us!

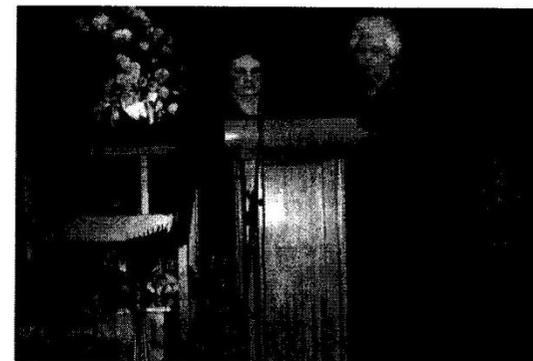
During the Offertory there was a visual clip announcing our 70th Birthday Celebrations and the ACWC Concert - both in September - and the themes for the Special Days in 2008.

The Dedication of council members and Installation of President Jennifer included the Statement of Faith and the singing of the ACW theme song *"In Christ We Are One."* The President's Badge and ACW Bible were presented to Jennifer, and Badge to new executive member, Membership Secretary *Mrs Martha Noel.*

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to *Sister Joan Bird fmm*, retiring Social Issues Convener and *Miss Heather Reid*, former Membership Secretary. Presentation of a beautiful Floral Bouquet and address of thanks for my commitment as retiring President was made by past president *Major Lyn Middleton.*

President Jennifer's Message was very encouraging as we look to a new future. Grace and Benediction preceded a delightful lunch in the hall, where the fellowship of the occasion continued to be shared. We assure Jennifer and her team of our prayers and support,

(Reported by Carmel Keys, Immediate Past President)



Outgoing President *Carmel Keys* and Incoming President *Jennifer Peffer* share the lectern at the Dedication Service.

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION !!!

ACW NSW 70TH ANNIVERSARY

on

15th SEPTEMBER 2008

at

SCOTS CHURCH, MARGARET STREET, SYDNEY

THEME: "LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD"

Looking Back: Past Presidents *Edith Ridge* and *Joan Tong*
 Moving Forward: Guest Speaker *Pru Goward MLA*

Registration from 9.30am - Commences 10.00 am

Cost \$25.00 which includes Morning Tea and Lunch

(If anyone has photos or memorabilia please contact Secretary Isabel (4969.6336) or Jennifer (9874.4056) as soon as possible)

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

On July 9 I had a phone call from *Mina Whybourne* (past WKS Convener) to share news of *Rachel Otto (nee McManus)* our 1997 scholar – whose husband Craig had phoned that their baby had been born on 1st July. Mina called Rachel, who with Craig and Ivy May, was delighted at the birth of *Jayden Daniel McManus Otto*. I sent a card to them from Council. Rachel and Mina have had a long and special relationship, for which we thank God.

I have heard from *Constance Aronsen* (National WKS Convener) who gave me a new address for *Tania Eichler* (2006 Scholar) who was accepted into the Anglican church at St. John's Cathedral, Bundaberg (Qld) back in February. I will write to Tania soon.

I receive email from *Imelda Aquino*, current Scholar, at the Asia Pacific Theological College in the Philippines. She enjoys a chat and freely shares her prayer points. She received her "Winifred" book and feels a part of ACW. This semester she is busy with Hebrew 4, Greek 1, Homiletics and Preaching and Church History 1. She needs prayer for her preparation for the Mission Field next year, with Muslim women; in the Middle East culture a woman on her own is not respected. She misses her close friends back home with whom she can share.... not all understand her calling. She will need to do a 1-year course in Arabic language studies, and will need to raise funding for this. Imelda's daughter who is 18 and serves as a youth leader in her church, will stay with her dad in the USA for some studies ... Imelda is supporting her in this decision.

The WKS Trustees in Adelaide have received some applications for the 2009 scholarship so need wisdom and guidance as they consider these.

We look forward to Fellowship Day Services in October which will focus on Winifred Kiek and the women awarded scholarships. Let us continue to partner in prayer.

Judith Cayzer. WKS Convener.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

There is no current FLC Report as Convener Janet Lang is still with her husband Tony doing an interim ministry in the Shetland Islands. Instead we have an interesting account she has sent from there.

News from Unst, Shetland – Scotland's most northerly parish

Shetland is a beautiful collection of islands, situated with the North Sea on the east and the Atlantic on the west. There are over one hundred islands,

PASTORAL CARE:

Nola Dickson has offered to look after Pastoral Care for the time being for which I am very grateful.

This is let you know what has been happening with my daughter-in-law Naline, for whom many have been praying. Out of her four siblings they had three potential donors; further tests were run and her younger brother was selected (males are better than females!) He came from America early in July, to go through the process of donating his bone marrow which will be preserved until Naline is well enough to have the transplant.

She has been in hospital because her immunity was very slow in responding to the last round of chemotherapy and she picked up an infection again.

We thank God for the interest and prayer support which we are continuing to receive and know that the future is in His hands.

Olive Edmonstone, Pastoral Care Convener

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but only fifteen are inhabited.

Tony and I have spent the last nine weeks in this remote and beautiful part of the world, and it has been truly worth it. The weather is unpredictable, the scenery unusual. The people have been warm and friendly and made us most welcome. We arrived in snow and ice, and they rushed about, bringing us gloves, beautifully warm coats and beanies, gumboots – and even a plinkie! A plinkie is the Shetland name for a torch.

We live on the island of Unst, Britain's most northerly island, (about 400 inhabitants) which is reached by a ten minute ferry crossing from the island of Yell, which is reached by a half hour crossing from mainland Shetland via another (bigger) ferry.

The islands of Unst, Yell and Fetlar, forming a parish known as The North Isles, has been Tony's parish for the past nine weeks.

We live in a small two-bedroom flat attached to a 150 year-old house, which was a former manse. The island's health centre is in the same grounds. We have wonderful views over the surrounding landscape with the sea to the east. In every other direction are rolling hills and slopes, all treeless - it's not a case of you can't see the hills for the trees! There have been no trees on Shetland for 4,000 years. The hills are covered in peat, grass, and sleeping heather, which awakens in the late summer. Most are dotted with grazing sheep.

The past weeks has been the lambing season, and baby lambs are everywhere, never far from their mothers' sides. They also graze along the sides of the roads, so one has to be extra careful when driving.

Unst is home to about one third of Shetland's shetland pony population - like the sheep, they do not respect the rules of the road! There are quite a few beautiful foals about at present, and they are so cute. Shetland ponies are now kept only for showing, and as pets. Four live in the field beside us, and two love to help me get in the washing. (Actually, they are looking for a hidden carrot or apple in the peg basket!)

Fairisle knitting and lace knitting, all from fine Shetland wool is a big cottage industry. Fishing (especially salmon farming) creates a lot of employment.

Birds are starting to arrive in their thousands for the breeding season, and many bird watchers and walking tourists are arriving, as there are many walking tracks.

If interested those, who have email can read Tony's blog; the address is <http://revlang.livejournal.com> which will take you to "Two Kangaroos in

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Shetland" which is an internet journal about day to day happenings (with some photos) and something of our ministry here, in beautiful Shetland.

Christian Greetings from Janet
(The Flat Hillsgarth, Baltasound, Unst, Shetland ZE2 9DY)

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

When cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar on May 2-3, with its resultant devastation and the horrific loss of life and property throughout the region, grave fears were held for *Zo Hming Thangi*, the ACWC's national representative from Myanmar, with whom contact could not be made. Zo has since contacted *Shu Wen Chang* (ACWC Executive Secretary) and we know she is ok, but not much more than that. We give praise that she is all right physically, but we will never know the extent of emotional trauma she has and will suffer. Let us continue to keep in our prayers all the people of this land who so tragically experienced the effects of the cyclone.

The 'Children At Risk Prayer News' reports on global warming effects in Asia:

"Many parts of Asia, including Bangladesh whose territory falls largely below sea level, have experienced flood-related damages resulting in big losses to life and property due to rising sea level, which is suspected to be caused by global warming. The loss of farmlands has led to massive food shortages, while the contamination of sources of drinking water has led to water-borne diseases. As usual, the worst hit are children - it is estimated that 10 million of them are at risk of these recurrent floods."

**Thank God for groups like Save the Children, TEARfund and Compassion, whose intervention in these areas helps to alleviate the suffering of children at risk and their families.*

**Pray that more safe zones will be created for these displaced people.*

Pray that mankind will listen to the clear message from creation, and live responsibly in God's world, and that we will reduce (if possible, eliminate) things that push creation to its delicate limits.

The annual Executive Committee Meeting of ACWC and the biannual meeting of the General Committee are now past. Both *Donna Bryan* (Assembly Secretary) and *Pat Walker* (Australia's National Representative) attended these meetings and we will receive reports on them in due course.

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Plans for our **PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT**, with which we celebrate being one of the 18 countries affiliated with ACWC, are picking up momentum.

The Concert will be at **The Salvation Army, 34-38 Smith Street, Parramatta** at 2.30pm on **Sunday, 21st September 2008**.

At least 5 different nationality groups will be participating, providing a variety of group and individual items. **Afternoon Tea** will be served following the concert. Do plan now to be there!

Lyn Middleton, ACWC Convener

PAN PACIFIC & S.E.ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

At the April meeting *Mrs Mignonne Murray* of "Tribes and Nations" spoke of how she and her husband had become aware of the pittance most people in developing countries were receiving for their goods (e.g. different types of tea, coffee and chocolates, handcrafts of various types). They realised there was no "fair trade" so people were being exploited and not receiving a just profit for their efforts. It took them some time, with other concerned citizens to overcome difficulties arising when dealing with those buyers of the goods who wish to make a large profit to suit themselves and those who desperately need cash to exist and may therefore sell at any price. In the year 2000, 30% of goods sold were considered to be covered under the "Fair Trade" logo - an international movement ensuring a fair price is fixed for goods, workers receive a just wage and goods are of good quality. A lot of the goods coming into Australia and sold in the supermarkets are not Fair Trade items and while Australians are concerned with goods produced cheaply, those in developing countries will continue to be exploited. Customers can help by enquiring about Fair Trade goods being available for sale. For more information see www.fairtrade.com.au

Liz Wynn from **Share Life Australia** gave an informative power point presentation about **Organ Donation and Transplantation**. This organisation is working to "pull together" the various organ transplant organisations and ensure better coordination. They are working to stop Australians suffering and dying needlessly waiting for a transplant. There are 5.7 million Australians who have ticked a box to donate organs or tissue - one of the highest rates in the world. **BUT our donation rate is one of the lowest in the developed world with only 200 donors each**

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year. Australia's performance has not improved over the past 20 years. It is not that Australians are bad donors, but even if someone has ticked the box, when the time comes the family makes the decision. At this highly emotional time the family needs to know beforehand quite clearly the wishes of the one who ticked the box as a potential donor. Doctors in Intensive Care Units are only concerned for the well-being of the patient and family and work completely separately from the doctors responsible for transplants. Age is not a deterrent as the medical condition is the determinant. The oldest donor was 90 years old. All of the major religions support organ donation. For more information see www.sharelifeaustralia.com.au

Platters for Peace - a book with recipes from many countries and text concerning Peace - is being sold for fund-raising purposes and can be purchased through *Edith Ridge* (9875.1200) or myself (9769.1211)

Sr Joan Bird fmm, ACW Representative to PPSEAWA

MYALL CREEK REMEMBERED 1838 - 2008:

"We are descendants of all those who carried out murder and mayhem on the slopes below."

"We are descendants of those who survived the massacres."

In a moment of great emotion members of the two groups standing in front of the granite memorial linked arms and embraced each other, as the assembled throng recited the words:

"We acknowledge that we are all heirs in different ways to this history, with its injustices and misunderstandings and struggles... We remember the past so that we may understand the present."

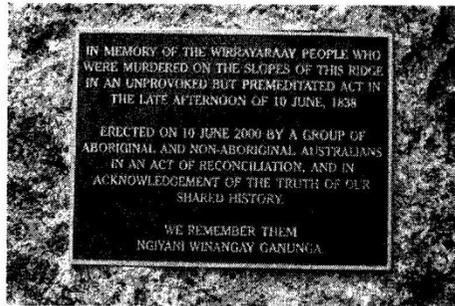
The act of contrition, and the acceptance of the apology by the Aboriginal people, was a great example of true Reconciliation. A red candle was lit to remind us of the blood that was needlessly shed on the 10th June 1838. Then later in the ceremony the lighting of a green candle signified hope, healing and new life.

I was among the hundreds who gathered at Myall Creek this year, to share in the commemoration of one of many evil acts in the frontier wars of our nation. We joined with those who "apologised for the past mistreatment suffered by so many."

In our school days we were not told the facts about the many early

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massacres, because we were identified with the murderers, and the historians wanted to cover up the truth.



Sue Blacklock, Uniting Church pastor, elder of the *Gamilaroi* nation, and one of the descendants of the survivors, heard the stories of the massacre which were handed down orally through the generations, and she says, "I grew up scared of white people". She resolved to do something about commemorating the murders which occurred in her family's country, and with the assistance of the Uniting Church began the annual ceremony of reconciliation which is now held at the site of the massacre.

(Contributed by *Isabel Hewitt*, ACW NSW State Secretary)

BIBLES @ WORK . . .

SPORTS DVD: With the **Beijing Olympics**, sport is big in 2008! So, the Bible Society has produced a cutting edge Sports DVD containing testimonies from 11 Christian sportsmen and women. This will accompany a fresh Sports New Testament also produced by Bible Society.

The apostle Paul used a number of sporting analogies to encourage

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Christians to 'run the race' (*1 Cor 9:24*) and 'press on to the goal' (*Phil 3:14*). In this DVD high profile sports people like *Aaron Baddeley*, *Jason Stevens* and *Joey Peters* talk about how they handle the pressures of elite sport and maintain consistent Christian witness.

Golf professional *Aaron Baddeley* says "The Bible to me is the living Word of God, inspired by God and the actual Word of God. It's the most important thing in my life. I believe and stand on what it says."

THE BIBLE ON THE INSIDE: Many of the young men behind the bars of the *Kariong Juvenile Corrective Centre* on the NSW Central Coast have never attended church on the outside. However numbers of them can now recite *John 3:16* by heart.

Kariong houses 16 to 20-year olds who have been charged with various offences. *Martin Parish*, working with Baptist Community Services, is their pastor. He has conducted chapel services there with the help of personal testimonies from other prisoners. One such testimony was from an inmate in South Africa, who smoked his Bible from Genesis right up to *John 3:16* and then gave his life to Jesus.

Martin says "The lads were so touched that they donated \$200 to buy Bibles for the prisoners in South Africa. This is so amazing, as these inmates can only earn a maximum of \$13 a week and most of them gave at least \$10 – some gave four fold!"

Martin also says that another inspirational part of his work is the pastoral prayer-time at the end of each service, where inmates pray for each other, their families and their victims.... "There's always a tear in my eye!"

(From *Bible Society 'Bible-A-Month' News Sheet*)

NORTHERN BEACHES REFUGEE SANCTUARY UPDATE:

Books and Computers for Sierra Leone: The first container of goods, collected by *Sierra Unite*, a community based group in Sydney, has arrived and goods distributed to schools, universities and orphanages. So far we have collected more than 90 computers and pallets of books for the next container. We are looking for computers, school and children's books, exercise books, boxes of pencils and pens, clean soccer shirts and boots.

If you, your group or school would like get involved by donating such goods - a great way for students to help the poor – let me know – we can arrange for someone to talk to your group and for goods to be collected in Sydney. As we are asking for pre-loved goods so it won't even cost the parents!

Contact: *David Addington* (Project Chairman) Phone: 0434 029 384

Email: nbrs@optusnet.com.au Web: www.northernbeachesrefugees.org