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**However....**

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For further details contact Jennifer Pepper (9874 4056)

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**Changes of Address & Contributions to Newsette**  
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# Newsette

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

ACW Website: [www.acw.org.au](http://www.acw.org.au)



Issue No. 150

February 2017

**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

**PRESIDENT: Mrs Pamela Freeman**

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**2017 IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Dedication Day**—May 15 at Eastwood Baptist Church

**Spiritual Enrichment Day**—July 17 at Woy Woy Presbyterian Church

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Baubles, tinsel, lights and other decorations are safely packed away for the next Christmas Season; memories stored of days spent with those who are important to us.

Where do we go from here as we have arrived in 2017? As we face the challenges and changes coming our way let us remain steadfast in our focus on Jesus. Recently I attended the funeral of a man in his 90<sup>th</sup> year. The focus was on the presence of Jesus in his life. What a blessing to witness the generations following express their love for him and to highlight the example he gave to them!

Do we believe the Gospel as we read and as has been shown to us by others?

Just as we anticipated the good events incorporated in the recent Christmas festivities, let us now look towards Easter and all that it means. Sometimes in this present age we suddenly realize that our space has been encroached upon by much negativity. This is readily spread through the media that is at the fingertips for most of us.

Each of us can be one voice that endeavours to point to a better way. Mother Teresa was not rich; in fact she was quite poor. Yet she gave her life to helping people far less fortunate than herself. She once said; 'We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. A drop in the ocean can mean a great deal to another person.'

Thank you for your ongoing support of the many aspects of Australian Church Women in your area. May you continue to know Christ's presence in your gathering together.

Ephesians 5 v 1-2 Living Bible.

*Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. <sup>2</sup> Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us<sup>1</sup> and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.*

*Pamela Freeman* President ACW NSW State Unit Inc.

**REMEMBER** - All cheques sent to our Treasurer must be made out to "AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW UNIT INC."

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



Greetings to you at the beginning of this new year.

My desire for 2017 would be to see each of you continuing to support FLC movement in your Church Group and individually.

Right around the world, we can all give our least coins so that the work of God can continue and people's lives can be changed because we decide to support a worthy cause.

I want to share more projects which have received a grant from ICFLC.

- In Europe 4 projects each received \$5,000.
- In Cyprus and Greece for Ecumenical Meeting and Sharing
- A Grandmothers Gazebo Summer School to teach life skills in Romania
- To Bosnia and Herzegovina for awareness raising and preventing gender based violence.
- "Young Women in Pilgrimage" project in Slovenia which aims to bring together young women from different countries so that they might grow in their spiritual experience.

I want to remind you that I now have copies of the children's book called "Shanti Means Peace". It is a tool to promote FLC among adults and children. The cost is \$10 per copy.

Thank you again for what you are doing for FLC.

God bless you

*Lillian Hodges* Convenor

### *Can you help?*

There are some 'gaps' in our Newsette archives.....if you have some 'tidied away somewhere' and could supply any of the following it would be appreciated. February & November 2005, all 4 issues for 2006, May 2009 and November 2011. Please let the editor know if you are able to assist. *Thank You.*

## SOCIAL ISSUES

As we commence to gather for our regular meetings this year, our vision is to be ever more diligent in identifying the areas where we can raise our voices in the public arena as the followers of Jesus. I believe this entails a commitment to be well informed and to stand on our belief that our God remains sovereign in all events, no matter how chaotic or complex they seem to us.

We praise God for the freedom we have to lobby - whether at local, national or international level with those in positions of power and authority, questioning and challenging them about decisions being made. There are also occasions where we are happy to express support to and congratulate those whose actions and opinions are merciful and righteous.

Please join us as we pray for our Lord's wisdom, discernment and graciousness as we "take up our pens".

*Rae Goth* Convenor

## PASTORAL CARE

If anyone has any Pastoral Care needs please advise Helen Hill who has stepped back into this role until the AGM in April.



New Year greetings to all our readers, may 2017 bring health, peace and contentment to you.

During the months since the last issue of Newsette many have faced challenges in their family situations, bereavement, personal health problems and as an organization we have Council members of long standing who really value prayer support.

Nola Dickson, a former State President, has decided she no longer feels able to attend regular meetings - her contribution was acknowledged at the November Council Meeting. Deaconess Heather Badgery, an Anglican representative for many years, has now entered a care facility for assistance with an illness. Some of our ladies attended the Thanksgiving Service for Associate Member, Enid Utber.

*Helen Hill* Convenor (email: dahall4@bigpond.com)

## SPECIAL DAYS

I would like to begin this first report for 2017 by wishing you each a very Happy New Year!

I often say in my reports how I enjoy reading the reports that are sent to me following our Special Days, so for this report I have decided to share with you just two reports of services conducted for World Community Day 2016 for which the theme was – Empowered by the Spirit.

From the Kincumber Branch where there was an attendance of 50 they write: There was a great sense of ecumenism as 12 churches gathered to participate in a wonderful service. We were given a challenging message on doing 'daily things for God' by being 'empowered by the Spirit'. Our small gifts combined with the gifts of others and empowered by the Holy Spirit can make a huge difference as we work as a team. We are many parts of the one Body. The Holy Spirit guides us to be what God wants us to be and to respond to people with grace. As individuals we may not be powerful but collectively we can do great things as we each offer our gifts to the work God has called us to do.

From the Sutherland Branch we read: At least 50 people attended the service at the Miranda Uniting Church where the pastor extended a warm welcome to everyone. It was an excellent time of worship. The order of Service was particularly enjoyed by the ladies. The hymns were very traditional and all spoke about the Holy Spirit. The Soloist sang a beautiful hymn which was really a prayer to the Holy Spirit. The organist played beautifully and the final hymn to the tune of Jerusalem was a very stirring conclusion. The speaker gave a wonderful message on the theme and demonstrated this with an object lesson using her Bible and an empty glove. There was no way the glove could pick up the Bible until it had a living hand within it. She encouraged us to listen to the Spirit of Truth and not the spirit of deceit and to use this enabling Spirit for good.

My prayers will be with you as you prepare, plan and attend the Special Days in 2017.

God Bless!

*Major Lyn Middleton* Convenor

## WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

As 2017 begins, we look forward to your support in prayer and for Fellowship Day in July, and for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship women past and present.

**Esline** [Vanuatu /2016] As reported last Newsette, went to her Denominational World Conference in India where she was a speaker in the Women's Sessions. Her WK Scholarship provided the funding for this. In recent email exchanges Esline expressed how humbled and thankful she was for the opportunity. We look forward to a report on her experience.

**Leinamau** [Vanuatu /2007] has been home for the season and is "fine and happy". She will return to the Fiji Bible College at the end of January to complete her studies. She is glad the end of these is in sight but values ongoing prayer for her future ministry.

**Yane** [2015 /NT] Her family is well and enjoying holidays. Her nephew, Riel in Indonesia did not respond well to Radiation therapy for the brain tumour. Chemotherapy was advised but the family consider he is too weak so are trying Herbal Therapy with some success. She expresses thankfulness for ongoing prayers.

**Nighat Gulzar** [1994/ Living Philadelphia USA] Christmas Card and greetings for the New Year together with a handkerchief received.

**Inese** [2009/Sydney, Australia] Continues to work with her studies whilst balancing family, work and ministry. Inese said she went well this year but will have to work harder for next semester. Her Lecturer is to publish the first part of Research papers, which is exciting and she is hopeful of finishing this year. She sends love and is forever thankful.

**2017 Scholars known at this time of writing** : "All India Council of Christian Women" and to Hina Burq, Pakistan, to attend an International Conference on Women's Leadership and Empowerment. Hina will also include 4 days in Thailand visiting church projects. We shall be praying and looking forward to news.

*Judith Cayzer* Convenor

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO RENEW YOUR NEWSLETTE SUBSCRIPTION? COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED FORM TODAY**

## NEWS OF THE NSW GIRLS' BRIGADE



Our ACW Unit has been greatly blessed by the regular attendance of the Girls' Brigade Representative, Elizabeth Neale, at our Council Meetings. Apart from her youthfulness, which reduces the average age of those attending dramatically, she always is prepared with news of the organisation and the contribution that is being made into the lives of young girls in many of the churches in our State.

Her recent report of the GB work in 2016 is comprehensive and makes interesting reading however is a bit lengthy to include in its entirety - so just some highlights.

The theme for GB worldwide in 2016 was "Be Courageous" and NSW embraced the scheme wholeheartedly.

Leadership courses continued to be a highlight and prepare girls for future roles both in Brigade and in our churches.

In November one girl was presented with her Queen's Award at Government House by the NSW Patron Mrs Hurley. This is the highest International Award and 9 others received their Pioneer Pin, the highest National Award. These awards represent time, dedication and commitment by both girls and their leaders often taking many years.



Girls Brigade NSW made a decision that they wanted to help their GB sister in Vanuatu with the buying and sending of 200 English Bibles and Some French Bibles. During January the Vice President of GB Pacific and another lady were taking these Bibles to Vanuatu where they are doing training to help revive GB in that country.

Girls Brigade also made and decorated cards called "Cards of Hope" to show that GB cares about how girls around the world are treated. They aim to bring hope into girls' lives and hope brings freedom! It has been 2 years since more than 250 young women and girls were kidnapped from their boarding school in Nigeria – today 219 young women remain missing from Chibok, 6 of whom are Girls' Brigaders. The cards made are for each one of the missing girls. GB is not alone in praying for the release and safe return of these young women. It is encouraging to us older women to see that younger women and girls are being aware and seeking to assist in such situations.

