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**ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN'

**AFFILIATION FEES** are due 1st March each year, as follows:

Denominational Groups:	\$15.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$10.00 per annum
Affiliated Organisations:	\$10.00 per annum
(YWCA, WCTU, Girls Brigade)	

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FEES** due 1st June: \$10.00 per annum  
(includes Subscription to Newsette)

**NEWSETTE** is the official journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women. It is published four times a year on the 1st February, May, August and November. The Annual Subscription is \$5 (payable to Treasurer as above).

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

(in the first week of the month prior to publication)

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**CHANGES OF NAME OR ADDRESS** or subscribers should be sent to the Newsette Secretary:

Mrs Carmel Emmett  
5 Owen Avenue  
BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

... Have faith in God, my heart, trust and be unafraid;  
God will fulfil in every part each promise he has made.



# 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.

**PRESIDENT:** Mrs Lucelle King Tel: (046) 47.2226

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Jesus Christ Pre-Eminent!

In the name of the Lord, I greet you as your new President. How wonderful is the God whom we serve! As we worship Him, we become aware more and more of His power, might, majesty and glory. Yet this wonderful God is as close as breathing to those who know Him because of their acceptance of reconciliation through Jesus Christ.

It is with real personal gratitude that I thank God for the lovely Installation Day on May 16. I am thankful for the loyalty and service of those of you who attended and those who contributed to make the day the blessing it was. Thank you, also, for your comments of encouragement to me.

May I now, in turn, encourage you to "continue steadfast in the faith." My prayer for all ACW members is the prayer of Paul for the Philippian church - read it in Philipians 1:9-11 (GNB). This should be the aim of all who claim Jesus Christ as Saviour.

As we move together through the next two years, may we be

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drawn closer to the Lord and to each other as part of the body of Christ.

Let Him, as the Head of the Body, be pre-eminent in every aspect of our life and ministry.

God bless you all, Lucelle King.

**ECUMENICAL LUNCHEON / SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY:**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 - 5TH FLOOR, 222 PITT STREET, SYDNEY.**

This is to be our first effort in initiating ecumenical functions, and it has been arranged in place of the earlier advertised Spiritual Enrichment Day in July.

The special speaker will be Marie McCann, who has recently returned after being invited by Asian Christian Women's Conference to join a team of theologically-trained women to visit the women of China, where they visited five cities. It will indeed be a special privilege to hear about that visit, the purpose of which was to make bridges between the two worlds, to empower and learn from each other.

The programme will commence at 11.30 a.m. and there will be opportunity for reflection and to enjoy some music, as well as fellowship over a ~~hot~~ lunch. Donation \$10.00 - Booking essential - to Joan Tong (718.8640, evenings).

**TWO MEETINGS OF INTEREST:**

LANE COVER/LONGUEVILLE ACW BRANCH meet together whenever a 5th Friday occurs in the month, specifically to PRAY for the schools in their district, and especially for those who have the opportunity to teach scripture in the schools.

WOMEN FOR THE FAMILY (Sponsored by Festival Of Light): This group meets at 10.30 am on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, in the Parliament House Theatre. Coffee is served in the Foyer, followed at 11 am by a lecture on family matters of concern.

ALL PERSONS ARE WELCOME AT THESE GATHERINGS.

Joan Tong (State Secretary)

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**REPORT of FIRST ACW NSW STATE CONFERENCE:**

Our first ever State Conference proved to be a most worthwhile gathering at Golden Grove Healing Ministry Centre and it was good that some country members were able to be there. The Guest Speakers included Dr Marlene Goldsmith MLC, Julie Brackenreg, Girls' Brigade Commissioner & Robin Bali, Prison ministry, chaplain, ministry to troubled teenage girls.

The following is the 'Media Release' issued following the Conference under the title "Christian Focus OnThe Family":

'We, though many, are one in the Body of Christ. This oneness was evident as 43 women, representing seven denominations (Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and Uniting Church), The Girls' Brigade, Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) came together for the historical first State Conference of Australian Church Women (ACW). This was held at Golden Grove, Forbes Street, Newtown, on 28th and 29th April, 1994.

Australian Church Women shared experiences pertaining to the work and function of its Branches and learned from the Conference speakers who spoke with Christian focus on the family and on ecumenism.

Australian Church Women are recognising the need for Christian women to speak out in support of the International Year of the Family, their work in Ecumenism, and in particular, the work of their women members of the Branches of ACW.

Australian Church Women, New South Wales State Unit, calls on State and Federal Governments to prohibit the importation and/or distribution of pornographic and violent matter, e.g. videos, computer games, bulletin boards and magazines.

Australian Church Women, New South Wales Unit, calls on the New South Wales Government to provide resources for education in effective parenting.

The members of Australian Church Women affirm their intention to support and initiate ecumenical functions, and to publicise the work of the incoming National Council of Churches in Australia, and the Ecumenical Council of New South Wales.'

Commendation is expressed to Special Functions Convener, Marie McCann, for the excellent Conference organisation.

### **PROGRESS at SHALOM COLLEGE, TOWNSVILLE:**

(Shalom is the Special Project to which half the offertories at World Community Day Services in October will be donated)

### **A 'GRAND' TIME with GRANDMAS, GRANDPAS and GRANDKIDS --- RETIREMENT WITH A DIFFERENCE:**

Many Australian grandparents would not welcome living out their last years in the middle of a school, but for Aboriginal and Islander grandparents, this is the ultimate!

Shalom students have been eagerly looking forward to this third term, when Stage 1 of a three-stage Retirement Village opens its doors to Shalom's very own grannies and grandads.

This marks the beginning of an education process for Shalom's students that incorporates 'oldies' into the day-to-day operation of the classroom. One of the essential elements in the students' education is a serious involvement by family and community 'elders' - for the children of Shalom some of this input will come from grandmas and grandads moving into the Retirement Village. Please pray for God's wisdom and blessing as staff, students and retirees begin to make this happen.

### **VOLUNTEERS and WORK-PARTIES:**

One of our long-term volunteers is John Algar, who came in March as a 'Volunteer In Mission' (a Uniting Church program), to live with us and work (unpaid) in any capacity desired. So he has been a houseparent for our boarders, driver, gardener, landscaper, mechanic, listener to Grade 1 reading, etc. etc. What a blessing he has proved to be!

Members of Blackwood Uniting Church, South Australia, have spent some time at Shalom as a work-party.

### **SHALOM'S 'BUSSING' DILEMMA:**

Shalom is on the outskirts of Townsville, which means up to an hour's drive for some students to get to school. It is essential to provide transport for the day students. Very few families have their own transport and the city transport system is too limited to be of any use. By bringing day students by bus, attendance has been maintained at 90%, a very pleasing result, but of course it comes at a real cost,

So, that is the problem. The cost of running this bus is very high: \$600 per student - upwards of \$54,000 per year,

and all requests to the Minister for Education have so far been rejected. We would invite you to join us in prayer about this concern. (From Shalom Newsletter)

### **WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:**

Miss Nighat Gulzar, our 1994 Scholar, arrived in Adelaide from Lahore, Pakistan on May 3rd. She has been working in the Uniting Church Synod Office in a work-experience situation to provide her with further expertise in office organisation and administration.

Nighat finished her studies at the end of June and has spent four days in Melbourne, four days in Canberra and four days in Sydney, before returning to Lahore on July 17th.

While in Sydney, Nighat was able to attend the Fellowship Day Service at Wirreanda Retirement Village, Pennant Hills, and the Fellowship Day Service at the Uniting Church, North Parramatta, where she was able to meet and converse with a good number of ACW members. From Parramatta she was driven to the city, where she met with 10 more ladies at Circular Quay, including 3 ACW visitors from Western Australia, and they enjoyed a pleasant trip to Manly on the ferry. She is a delightful young lady and appreciated the opportunities of meeting members and was very impressed with our beautiful Sydney.

We had a long letter from DOREEN TIE TAN (1990 Scholar) who told us of her wedding and how happy she and Phillip are in their new home, and thanked us for our gifts and good wishes. Doreen is very busy at the Handicapped Children's School and was teaching 32 children a special 'Pom Pom' Dance for their Sports Day. She is also very involved with her Church - in teaching pre-teens and the Sundau School Choir, also teaching English to neighbourhood folk in an evangelism programme, sharing God's love with them. She sends loving greetings to all ACW friends.

MALAI MAHAMANEERAT (1993 Scholar) writes she is very busy studying at the University for her Master's Degree in Nursing, lecturing nurses at St. Louis Hospital, Bangkok in Bereavement Counselling, and is also involved in the setting-up of the Hospice for AIDS patients. She asks for our prayers in this very demanding programme.

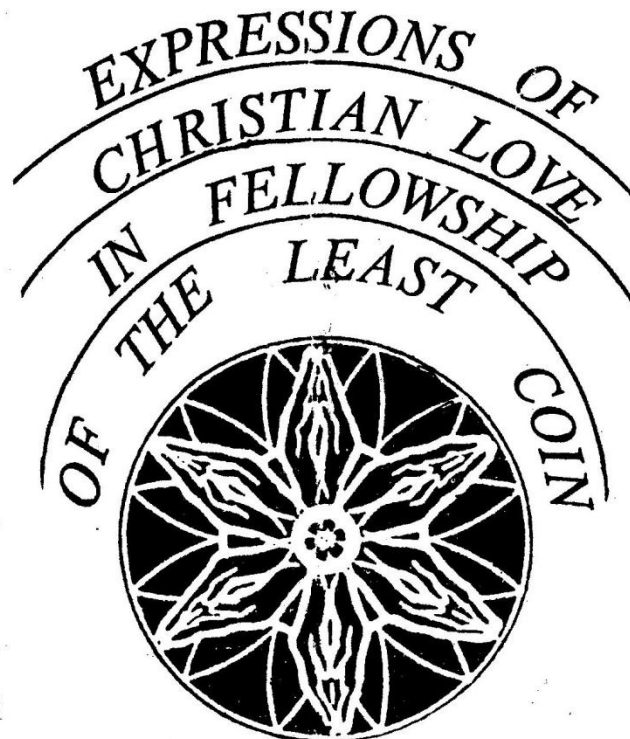
Do remember all our Scholars in your prayers.

Mina Whybourne (WKS Convener)

# FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

This double-page display is an extract from a publication sent by Shirin Samuel, who has taken her "expressions" from various reports and letters she has had from different countries.

Shirley Wells (FLC Convener)



'The object was not necessarily to raise money but to be a symbol of how women in all parts of the world can come together in fellowship for a cause and be witness to Christian fellowship among rich and poor alike.'  
Ms. Felicidad G. Carli

'FLC gives me the opportunity to share with other women (and some men) over all the world an offering of prayer for peace and reconciliation.'  
Ms. Dorothy Hannel

'The Fellowship of the Least Coin, with its discipline of prayer, enhances our Christian heritage of faith, love and caring concern, leading us to pray and work for peace and reconciliation within the church and among all the nations and peoples of the world'.  
Ms. Rachel H. Cocks

'The Fellowship of the Least Coin has become the basic means that God has used to bind A.C.W. women together in their common allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to our sisters across the seas'.  
Ms. Deaconess M. Andrews A.M.

Ms. Eva Findlay Hon. Treasurer says that FLC is not money raising project. Least coins are given as offerings after having sensitivity for the distress, pain and struggles of people. It is an expression of solidarity. Money collected with the prayers is made available to people for healing, restoring & rehabilitating. Prayer plays tremendous role to give strength to share in shaping a society where human dignity is recognized and sufferings of the people are shared.

FLC is a movement of wonders, where we experience God working in our lives, blessing our acts of concern, malitica, and sacrifice. It is a movement of togetherness where with our similarities and disparities we acknowledge that God is God of all nations and creation, we affirm our unity to support and be supported. It is a movement of concern and courage where one can speak to be heard by God and people for the situations of oppression and exploitation. It is a movement where one is empowered and blessed with humility to stand by others and to accept the support of others with dignity and gratitude. Mrs. Shirin Samuel Ex. Sec. ICLC

They  
nurtured  
in its  
infancy  
FLC

'Project of Christian service and helplessness in which every woman could participate no matter what her economic status'.  
Ms. Shanti Solomon, founder of FLC.

'The gathering of these coins would be given in the name of the Christ who encouraged the healing power of love among alienated and suffering people'.  
Their satisfaction in this fellowship is to witness the constant miracle of God's love expressed through human beings.  
Ms. Margaret Shannon

'The meaning of the "Least Coin" Fellowship is that it is found in every pair of hands, in every pair of praying hands, in every pair of hands that witness to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to our sisters across the seas'.  
Ms. Rayann M.

'The Fellowship of the Least Coin have given women throughout the world a way of becoming involved in one another's history through prayer, through support of one another in our human struggles, through sharing of resources'.  
Ms. Dorothy C. Wagner



**F.L.C. PROMOTIONAL VISIT TO GERMANY:**

A team of two, Shirin Samuel (past Secretary) & Eva Findlay (Treasurer) from FLC International Committee, visited Germany in December 1993, the purpose of the visit being:

1. To revive the relationship already established by the visit of Shirin Samuel in February 1992;
2. To acquaint interested people with the objectives of FLC.

The programme planned gave the best priority to these two objectives. Of great help were the following people:

Clare O'Mahony, of Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women & IFLC Committee; Elizabeth Raiser, also from Ecumenical Forum; Helga Christine, who organised Shirin's earlier trip, also translated FLC Brochure into German language; Antje Heider-Rottwilm, of Okumische Dekade (Ecumenical Decade), who met Shirin in 1992 and expressed desire to share and support each other's efforts for peace and justice; Von Klausbruch, who wanted to learn about FLC and invited the team to be her house-guests and meet some other interested women. (From FLC News Circular)

**PUBLICITY REPORT:**

Reports of publicity and advertising for this year's Fellowship Day Services has been good. Announcements were placed with 2 CBA FM and 2WS Radio Stations. The Parramatta Advertiser gave good coverage in the magazine section 'My World With Nan Webber' with the headline "WOMEN SEEK TO BREAK DOWN DENOMINATIONAL BARRIERS" and an article promoting the Fellowship Day Service at North Parramatta, including a photo of the guest speaker and mention that our current Winifred Kiek Scholar, Nighat Gulzar, would be present. This kind of publicity is excellent.

Hazel McIver (Publicity Convener)

**PROMOTIONAL ITEMS:**

Limited stocks of the following are available:

ACW/ACWC PARTNERS PENS	\$1.00	KEY FOBS	\$6.00
TEASPOONS	\$4.00	TEA TOWELS	\$5.00
SPECIAL SOUVENIR SPOONS	\$2.00	LAPEL PINS	\$3.00

Please order now for World Community Day in October, from Secretary Joan Tong (718.8640 evenings)

**ASIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:****NEWS OF MARY AU:**

Margaret Napier, ACW Australian representative to ACWC recently attended the Executive Meeting in Hong Kong and met Rev Mary Au (1980 WKS Scholar) whom so many of us enjoyed getting to know at National Conference in Tasmania last September. Margaret writes:

"Fortunately Mary found a few hours among her very very busy schedule to drive me & Jenny Phuah from Singapore past her church and into the Rainbow Housing Project nearby. In this high-rise complex there are 2 primary schools and an elementary school at which Mary teaches religious instruction. The Complex is for low-income earners, who pay HK\$1000 (approx. Aust.\$200) for 400 square feet (20ft by 20ft) which area includes the kitchen & bathroom and in which a family of 6 may live.

We went then through the Science & Technology University which has 3000 students.

Mary then took us to her church - really a whole community. We saw various classrooms and met many of the 600 children, 3-6 years, who attend kindergarten there. In the church canteen we met church members, families of the kindy children, and people off the street who come and have a nourishing cheap meal. The Church itself has an Asian look and feel, and the huge (3 metres high) crucifix behind the Altar was made by a priest, a parishioner and Mary when she was in her teens - it is so prominent because it is 'Calvary' Church. I also met the social welfare convener who works with 6 social workers who are paid for by the Government.

We visited a famous Buddhist Temple - the smell of incense and clatter of joss sticks was overpowering. This temple has no monks but is run by a charity, which gets the offerings. There were 128 fortune-telling booths, with room for two fortune-tellers in each - well over 100 of them working - interpreting the joss sticks, reading palms and reading faces - and this was a Monday morning! Mary said this is the devil she has to work against and believes if she can teach and train them in kindy then maybe they will grow up to be Christian. She has a dream - to build a 20-story apartment building on the 'Peak' with a Chapel on the ground floor. Down the sides there would be a huge Cross - to stand as a witness to Christ's light to the world.

Those who have met Mary know what a fascinating and energetic

person she is - one of three ordained Anglican women priests in Hong Kong. Pray for her and those who work with her."

#### ACWC QUADRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY:

This 10th Assembly will be held in Taipei (Taiwan) from 2-8 November, with the theme "Partnership Through Christ In A Changing World" with sub-themes of Partners in the Church, Partners with the Family, Partners with God's Creation and Partners with Others. Speakers will include women from Taiwan, Malaysia, Korea, Japan and New Zealand. Lucelle King and Joan Tong will be attending from New South Wales.

The following PRAYER CONCERNS are from ACWC Bulletin:

- \* The Quadriennial Assembly in Taiwan; for the local committee working very hard to prepare for it; that visas will be granted by Taiwan Govt. to all those wishing to attend.
- \* For the victims of floods in Asia and many other parts of the world, and victims of war, violence and injustice.
- \* For the United Nations, in trying to help the needy world with burning issues and concerns.
- \* For all rich people and countries to share their wealth and resources with others who have none.

#### ACWC ANNUAL SERVICE in SYDNEY - another first for NSW:

The ACWC Service has been held around Asian countries each November for many years, where women shared in fellowship and worship together, using a Service written for the occasion.

Because we have our own two ACW Special Days, this Service has not in the past been held in NSW, but the Unit Council agreed to plan this year to do so, and be one with our Asian sisters in the other countries affiliated with ACWC.

ACW City Branch agreed to host the Service, and this is to give advance notice that it will be held on Friday, November 18th, at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Grosvenor Street, Sydney. There will be fuller details in November Newsette.

#### TRAGEDY in RWANDA:

Many have responded to appeals to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees in Rwanda, where thousands of people have been massacred and tens of thousands of refugees are fleeing to neighbouring Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire (ACC Media Release). **NOTE:** Since this item was published, we have all seen this tragedy escalate, and we must now read 'millions' instead of thousands.

#### A NEW BEGINNING - INAUGURATION of NCAA:

In July, the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCAA) replacing the previous 'Australian Council of Churches' was launched, with a spectacular celebration in Canberra. This is a historic event, and has seen the Roman Catholic Church join the Council as a member with the 13 churches who had been members of the ACC. The Lutheran Church also is in the process of making a decision about membership.

A full day of prayer preceded the official inauguration in St. Christopher's Catholic Cathedral in Canberra.

Marie McCann (ACW Representative to NCAA)

#### MAKING CROSS-CULTURAL BRIDGES at HOME:

Australia is probably the most ethnically diverse country in the world, but traditional Australian attitudes have not always made it easy for migrants. All cultures tend to be 'ethnocentric' - a natural bias which sees the world through one's own culture and all other cultures as inferior - and Australians are no exception. Unfortunately many in churches today still feel threatened by multi-culturalism.

The Aussie church has been a sleeping giant, a late starter in multicultural evangelism. Our ethnocentricity has been hardened in the furnace of pioneering self-reliance. The opportunity before the Australian church of the 90's is one with global dimensions never dreamed of before - if we can rise to the challenge.

- \* We need to be aware of the potential, convinced that the influx of nationalities to Australia, despite the tensions and difficulties, is God's purpose;
- \* We need to be prepared to participate. Fear of stepping out of our defined boundaries is paralysing many today. Why is it that some who have faithfully prayed for and supported missions in other lands have been unprepared to accept ethnic diversity in their home church?

Recognising the opportunities for building bridges with people from other nationalities is important. In one Sydney suburb some migrants said they felt isolated and were seeking friendship with Australians e.g. to attend an Aussie BBQ.

Home Tutor schemes enable people (after short training) to help migrants who are house-bound to learn English.

(Condensed from SPAN, Journal of Presbyterian Women's Assoc.)