

**REPORT BY MRS. LUCELLE KING, A.B.W.F. DELEGATE TO 1993  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:**

The 1993 National Conference of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN was held at 'Camp Clayton', Ulverstone, Tasmania from September 13 - 17. There were 68 in attendance, the largest delegation of 14 being from New South Wales. The National Executive has now passed from Tasmania to Victoria which will be responsible for conducting the next National Conference in 1995. There were seven Baptists in attendance at the Conference, four of them coming from N.S.W. The Conference Theme was 'A CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE IN A CHANGING WORLD'.

Special guests at the Conference were **Rev. Mary Au**, a past Winifred Keik Scholar and now Vicar of the Calvary Anglican Church in Hong Kong, **Miss Malai Mahamaneerat**, the current Winifred Keik Scholar from Bangkok, Thailand and **Rev. Liyapidiny Marika**, the first Aboriginal woman to be ordained in the Uniting Church in Australia, who is Minister of the mixed race Parish Church at Urakala in the Northern Territory.

The Opening Service of the Conference was held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Launceston to which location all delegates were taken by coach (½ hour drive, which included beautiful scenery along Tasmania's northern coastline). Because there was no time prior to leaving our accommodation, an excellent devotional cassette tape was prepared and played as we travelled. The tape centred on God's creation which was all around us, concluding with a beautiful Australian Psalm by Prewster. The Opening Address was given by **Mrs. Jill Tabart** a Tasmanian who is President-Elect of the Uniting Church in Australia. She spoke on the Conference Theme emphasising the need for love, acceptance & forgiveness, particularly having regard to multicultural Australia.

The Closing Service was held in St. John's Anglican Church, Devonport where the Address was given by the newly elected President of ACW from Victoria, **Mrs. Eunice Reidy**, a member of the Churches of Christ.

The daily devotionals were very spiritual, uplifting and challenging, each State Unit being responsible for one day.

The Business Sessions were held in a great sense of unity and oneness of purpose. Many important decisions were made, particularly concerning the management of the Winifred Keik Scholarship, which will now be the total responsibility of the Trustees who will initiate the choosing of the Scholar, the courses available and necessary entry permits, etc. The National Convener will organise visits to the State Units which will take up the responsibility for the Scholar whilst with them.

It was also agreed that **Fellowship Day** and **World Community Day** should be held, preferably, on the last Fridays of July and October, respectively and that the Orders of Service be subject of copyright and not changed nor rewritten. Hymns, however, can be substituted if those chosen are considered not suitable in any local situation.

**Lucelle King**, who is President-Elect of the N.S.W. Unit, presented a report on behalf of Australian Baptist Women's Fellowship. She was also elected one of the three National ACW Delegates to attend the Asian Church Women's Conference to be held in Taiwan in November of 1994.

The Conference maintained a high spiritual tone and there was no sense of denominational differences. Of particular challenge was the time when our Aboriginal sister-in-Christ sang 'Bind us together, Lord'. We all felt the emotional impact of being 'One in Christ'.

Isn't that what A.C.W. is all about?

**LUCELLE KING**