

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - ACT UNIT

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Mrs Audrey Sherwin
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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ACW NEWS

We aim: To unite Christian women in their allegiance to their lord
and Saviour Jesus Christ.

June / July 1997

National President's letter:

Greetings everyone! There is so much to report in this letter it is difficult to know where to begin -

Firstly I would like to announce the safe arrival of another great grand-daughter on April 12, bringing the total to five. Samantha Jane is a third red head for my grand-daughter Kerrin Hardie of Banks ACT.

National Executive had the pleasure of entertaining Anne-Marie Priestley (President of Alice Springs branch of ACW), Vera Wilson (WA Unit) and Lynette Green (Victoria Unit) during April. We also joined National Life Member Ruth Burmester (ACT) in celebration of her 80th birthday on 19th April.

On 25th April I attended the National Anzac Day Mass in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest con-celebrated by the Most Reverend Geoffrey Mayne AM DD, Catholic Bishop for the Australian Defence Force. The Cathedral was filled to capacity.

I was delighted to accept the warm invitation of Peg Blake (President NSW Unit) to attend their annual service of dedication and commitment on Monday 12th May. The service, held in the Chalmers Presbyterian Church at Surry Hills, was beautifully organised and very well attended. Guest Speaker Beryl Burke gave an interesting and informative presentation on Bimbadeen College at Cootamundra, and also of her work there as the voluntary librarian.

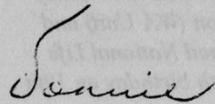
A highlight of the service was the bestowal of life membership upon Marie McCann OAM in recognition of more than twenty years service with NSW Unit, including two years as National President.

With the National Conference now only four months away, National Executive is busier than ever putting into place firm arrangements for the conference. I thank God for the privilege of working in harmony with women of the calibre of the ACT National Executive. I also gratefully acknowledge the goodwill and ready co-operation of the various State and Territory Units and Branches.

Rev Iluminada Domingo (ACWC Executive Secretary) has confirmed her acceptance of the programme prepared by National Executive for her visit to Australia 21 September - 4 October. At the conclusion of National Conference Iluminada will visit the Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia Units.

Finally, I wish to record my sincere appreciation of the ready response by State/Territory Units to the invitation of Senator Jocelyn Newman (Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Women's Affairs) to submit a list of priority issues for women into the new Millennium. Your prompt replies made it possible for National Secretary to forward a list to Jocelyn Newman by the due date of 30 April.

May God bless you all!



Evonne R Sullivan



The logo (above) for the National Conference, beautifully illustrating the theme for the Conference was designed for us by Captain Marie Hambleton of Queensland. Incorporating the way ahead with the floral emblem of the ACT the logo will be seen on much of the Conference material.

Registration forms are now available from your Unit Secretary.

CONDOLENCES

Our love and sympathy is extended to **Betty Laurie**, (National Executive) and her family in the loss of husband and father Godfrey and to **Margaret Knauerhase** (SA Unit) and her family on the passing of husband and father Oscar. May God comfort and uphold you all.

FROM NATIONAL CONVENOR WKS - Jenny Jarvis

The following is taken from the taped interview with Rachel Rolland mentioned in our last edition. The interview was conducted by Jenny Charlesworth in Rabaul.

Although the interview began tentatively, requiring much prompting from Jenny, Rachel soon warmed to the opportunity of expressing her gratitude for the things she had learned during her time in Rabaul.

It was obvious that she suffered some home sickness, as she spoke in loving terms of her two married sisters and her three younger brothers still at school.

She was on a steep learning curve during the course since she had to learn Melanesian Pidgin in order to communicate with her classmates. Jenny explained that she had jumped that hurdle very well.

Her course covered topics as diverse as writing business letters and understanding office structures, to theology, sermon preparation, leading services, evangelism and mission. On the recreational side there was a good deal of craft work such as basket making, crotchet, patchwork and making children's clothing. Much of the craft work is sold at a special fete each October to raise money for the college.

Of the electives offered during the year Rachel chose a course in the co-ordination of women's ministry, as this was her area of special interest.

She enjoyed her times of sharing with other students in Bible Study and loved the sporting activities, picnics and singing. She explained that in her Presbyterian church at home there were no 'sing-a-longs' and she hoped to introduce this innovation on her return. She also hoped to introduce the use of instruments to accompany singing.

She concluded by saying how much she enjoyed her time in Rabaul and expressed her hope and prayer that other women might be encouraged to take up the challenge of further study as she had.

FLC NATIONAL CONVENOR - Eileen Holley

The following applications for grants from FLC funds 1998 have been received and submitted by the National Executive to the International Committee of FLC for consideration at their Annual Meeting to be held in Finland early October 1997.

1. Somali Refugee Women's Sewing Group.

This group meets in the Auburn (NSW) Uniting Church each Monday and is sponsored by the NSW Ecumenical Council.

As well as providing an opportunity for the women to learn the skills relating to sewing, they are able to mix with others of their culture. As they meet they establish links with Australian women also and are able to learn to speak English and gain confidence to help them in their communities. Their children who attend with them benefit also.

2. Young Aboriginal Women's Self Esteem Program.

Sponsored by Crossroads: Aboriginal Anglican Ministries NSW.

The purpose of the project is to take young Aboriginal women away from the inner city environment to a place where there is little to do but talk, build up self esteem and present Christ. The many issues which affect these young women - racism/discrimination, poor health, alcohol/drugs, teenage pregnancy, lost identity and domestic violence are addressed and it is hoped these cycles will be broken down and the young women transformed by the power of the Gospel.

3. Life After Prison Association

The Life after Prison Association is an Ecumenical Christian Ministry. Its objectives are to provide support and practical assistance to the families of prison inmates as well as to the inmates themselves. They also aim to provide support and assistance to the victims of crime and their families and to assist in reconciliation between victims and the perpetrators of the crime. The Association is also involved in working with youth and young people at risk of being involved in criminal activities.

Many interesting reports of FLC activities, especially the 40th Anniversary celebrations in various countries has been published in the ACWC Newsletter. Space does not permit a reprint here but for your interest we have a summary of the 1997 Grants on the next page.

Summary of Fellowship of the Least Coin Grants for 1997

Region	Amount	No. of Projects
Africa	US\$26,000.00	5
Asia	50,000.00	9
Caribbean	5,000.00	1
Europe	15,000.00	3
Latin America	16,500.00	6
North America	19,000.00	4
Middle East	27,000.00	8
<u>Ecumenical Body</u>		
WCC	5,000.00	

BLOCK GRANTS FOR 1997

1. Africa	US\$10,000.00	
2. Asia, ACWC	US\$20,000.00	
CCA	US\$05,000.00	
3. Canada	US\$05,000.00	
4. Europe	US\$10,000.00	
5. Middle East	US\$10,000.00	
6. Latin America	US\$10,000.00	
7. Pacific	US\$10,000.00	
8. USA	US\$05,000.00	
9. WCC	US\$10,000.00	
10. WDP	US\$10,000.00	
11. Caribbean	US\$10,000.00	
12. Caribbean	US\$10,000.00	for 1996

Block Grants	US\$125,000.00
Emergency Grant	US\$ 10,000.00
Project Grants	US\$167,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	US\$302,500.00

NEWS FROM THE UNITS:

ACT Unit:

Bettie Saint, a long time member of the Unit was made a life member of the Unit at the Annual General Meeting in March. Unfortunately, Bettie passed away a few weeks later.

The Unit was well represented at the funeral service for Godfrey Laurie held in the Church of St Andrew, Forrest acknowledging his support of Betty in her work for the Unit and the National Executive.

Fellowship Day in July will be held in the Canberra Baptist Church with Jeanette Mathews, the Associate Minister of the church the guest speaker.

QUEENSLAND Unit:

'On Tuesday, 29th April, 1997 our Unit held their Annual Musical Morning Tea. Unfortunately rain prevented many friends from attending, however, the entertainment provided by the Brisbane Light Opera Company was most enjoyable. With the men dressed as Gondoliers, and the ladies beautifully attired, we enjoyed solos and choruses from well known shows with an Italian theme. A sumptuous morning tea provided by our ladies was enjoyed, our Travel fund benefitting financially. A fitting program for our 50th Anniversary.'

SOUTH AUSTRALIA Unit:

Ms Christine Loveday, a Refugee Support Worker with SACC was the speaker at the May Unit meeting. Having completed Migrant subjects at University she commenced work with the SACC as a Migrant Support worker. She told stories of the desperate plight of some of the women/families she has dealt with and the way in which the SACC and the 14 churches who are involved help these people to make a new life in South Australia.

It was truly an eye opener to hear stories of some of the refugees and it became a real challenge to all in attendance.

' Commemorating South Australian Women - Book 11'

At the May Unit meeting the History Sub-committee formally presented this book to the Unit President, Mrs Anne Murray. The original copy will be presented to the State Library and copies are available for hire to fellowships. Thanks was expressed to the members of the sub-committee for their work with this book as well as the 60 year history book which was also presented. The history book will be available for sale at the Conference. The President offered a dedicatory prayer for both books.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA Unit:

Lorna Hudson from Derby, Western Australia, a recipient of a grant from FLC visited our May meeting to show the artefacts that have already been made with the monies provided to raise funds for the Aborigines in Derby. These will be sold in the markets at Derby and Broome. Lorna is an ATSIC Regional Councillor this year and is a Community health worker; she is very aware of the health problems especially of the children and was happy to report that since 1984 problems of ear, nose and throat have improved. She was in Perth to attend the Heart Foundation Conference.

Thirty-eight women, representing seven denominations attended a 'Day of Reflection' in March at the Redemptionist Monastery in North Perth. All participants felt the day was very worthwhile, a day of togetherness and spirituality, of thanksgiving and assurance and rejoicing in God in whom we trust.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

From the June issue of Asian Church Women's Conference Newsletter, the member countries have been asked to provide faith stories of women in their country. Unfortunately for us we have been chosen for the June edition which means I have had to get something together very quickly. The story I have is about a young mother from Western Australia who talks about her faith following the birth of her Downs syndrome daughter.

If you know of any good faith stories, please let me know as I am sure they will be of interest and use for the magazine in future days.

We are very much looking forward to meeting Iluminada Domingo, the Executive Secretary of Asian Church women's Conference at our National Conference in September.

Until then

Lynette

Lynette Green

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Editor's Note: Copy for the August/September edition to be forwarded by July 15 1997 to PO Box 95, Yarralumla ACT 2600