

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN  
OFFICE BEARERS - QUEENSLAND UNIT

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N.B. Please omit "Kirribilli Manors" from Marie McCann's address.

National Secretary, Helen Richardson, has an altered Phone No. It is now 9710278.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

## ACW News

*We seek: to unite Australian women in their allegiance  
to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;  
to help Christian women to take a more effective  
place in the total life & mission of the church.*

March/April, 1990

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we farewell the 80's we look forward with optimism to what the 90's will bring. We have witnessed a radical transformation in many areas of social and political life - practical compassion for the starving, selfless dedication to the poorest of the poor, the reformation of a united Europe, the remarkable revolution now taking place in Eastern Europe, as well as the beginning of the end of apartheid in Sth.Africa.

The last decade gave birth to a new age for humankind, as the reality of a common humanity is transcending the divisions of political and social ideologies. This has been achieved largely through the extraordinary developments of modern communications. Christ said, 'the truth will set you free', Jn. 8:32. The 90's could be the decade of freedom.

Our two aims printed above could be brought to glorious fruition if we can make known the need for joyous unity under Our Lord and for more effective use of women in the Church.

The Resurrection inaugurated a new era. May we see with the eyes of faith the brilliant Light of Easter to inspire us to greater dedication.

His peace be with you.



Marie McCann.  
(National President)

### FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Dear friends,

Greetings, and a very happy and fruitful New Year to all. It is time to stir from our rest period, sharpen our minds, and apply ourselves to the service for which we are called.



To anxious States waiting for news of Grants, I can only say there is not yet any official word from Shirin Samuel, as to whether Australian Grant Applications were accepted in Jamaica last November. I do have an unofficial grapevine message which leads me to believe all may yet be well, so keep planning.

Rapid changes in European Countries, and the new threat of starvation in Africa, remind us that we must be constantly aware of the needs of others in so many lands.

Pat Burke, F.L.C. Convener for N.S.W., obtained first hand experience of these needs during her overseas trip.

There is of course a wealth of information and insight to be gained from your Circle of Prayer. I urge you to read it through at least once as a book, and acquaint yourself with the heart cry of the people. You will really pray more earnestly and intelligently.

Sincerely,  
Glad West,  
National Convener F.L.C.

\* \* \* \* \*

### VISIT TO ACT UNIT

The President, Marie McCann, and I were pleased to be able to accept the invitation of the ACT Unit to attend their meeting on 24.11.89. We drove to Canberra on the afternoon before and spent the night as guests of the Unit Secretary, Audrey Sherwin. As this was our first official visit to a State Unit, it was an



added delight that Marie was able to present Mrs. Ruth Burmester with her Life Membership badge which had been approved at the National Conference.

As only one member of the Unit had been able to attend the National Conference, the President, Averil Whybird, we were also invited to present a report, and share what the new National Committee is doing.

It was a great time of fellowship when we had lunch with the Unit members after the meeting, before heading back to Sydney after a most enjoyable visit.

*Selen Richardson*

National Secretary.

### TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF PROMULGATION OF THE DECREE



(Vatican 11) (The Restoration of Unity)

Australian Church Women had an appreciable representation at the above - mentioned celebration, held on the 21st November, 1989 by the Roman Catholic Church in the Glebe Convent and Boarding School.

The State President, Secretary & Treasurer with their husbands were present and other members as well. Mrs. Marie McCann, National President, and Brigadier Mabel Ward, National Vice President were among the guests.

Prior to the dinner, Evening Prayer was celebrated in the Chapel in the presence of the Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Edward Clancy and other heads of Churches. Brigadier Ward was given the honour of saying Grace at the dinner, and thus A.C.W received special mention. During the dinner period the Anglican Bishop of Newcastle and Rev. Alan Gill of A.C.C. were among the speakers.

The fellowship across the dinner table was not only enjoyable but truly ecumenical. Ecumenism as our function was most evident on this interesting and important occasion.

Mabel Ward.



JOTTINGS FROM THE ACW

REPRESENTATIVE TO ACWC

First of all, thanks to all for the prayers offered on her behalf, am so relieved to be able to tell you that our ACWC President, Maya Michael, is making a great recovery from her long illness of last year - in fact she was able to attend the Sub Regional Seminar on the Ecumenical Decade held in Thailand during January so, on her behalf, many thanks for your prayers for her.

Maya was unable to attend the ICFLC Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, last November so I had to take her place as chairperson!!!! I have been assured by many that they were praying for us during that time and, believe me, in that far-off island of Jamaica your help came through to me in an almost tangible fashion and for that I'm most grateful. Several of the unhappy decisions made at the Geneva ICFLC Meeting in 1988 were rescinded and I felt our sense of charitable understanding was restored. In due course, ACW will be receiving good news re their Grant applications.

Plodding through the 50 or more applications for Grants helped us to realise the great needs which still exist for women in so many countries of the world - despite our problems of health, relationships, finance, etc., I still feel Australia is a 'Lucky Country.'

Most of the fifteen Committee Members were in Kingston for eight days and we worked on seven of the days. However, on the Wednesday evening, we were given a reception at the Indian Embassy by the Indian High Commissioner and his wife, a friendly Christian couple who, some years ago, spent time in Canberra where both their daughters married Australians.

Also, as is usual at such meetings, on the Sunday we were all sent to different churches to meet local people



and to speak on FLC, etc., and I was told that there would probably be quite a number of women at the Alpha Catholic Church to which I was to be taken. Imagine my surprise when I walked into the Annual Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Jamaica in the presence of the Archbishop of Kingston and about 500 women!! - to say nothing of their surprise that their 'FLC visitor' was a member of the CWL of Australia!! - for me it was a most enjoyable 'day off.' Their key-note speaker was a Canadian Dominican priest, Fr. Brian Massie, O.P. (he's parish priest of an impoverished Kingston parish) who urged the women to take a greater responsibility in their role as lay members of the Church, particularly as 80% of the Church membership in Jamaica are women.

Coming home via visiting a cousin in New York, where I encountered snow, biting winds and below freezing temperatures, arriving in Adelaide in 39°C heat was a bit of a shock but, again, there's no place like home.

I wish many of you could be flies on the walls during an ICFLC Meeting to hear the background of the problems which prompt the applications for Grants so that you'd be able to see just how much is accomplished by all those least coins you contribute at your meetings, or, hopefully, each day when you say the FLC prayer for peace and reconciliation throughout the world. Keep it up.

By the way, those of you who were in Perth last September will be disappointed to hear there is no hope of holidays in Brunei - on that Royal Brunei return flight to Adelaide there was ne'er a sighting of the gold plate on board much less of the Sultan!!!

Bye for now,

*Barbara Treacy*  
A.C.W. Rep. to A.C.W.C.

LORD OF OUR LIVES

Hymn for the Third Age

Lord of our lives, our years, our days,  
Our every passing hour,  
Help us to fill them all with praise  
And live them in your power.

Our bodies are your temple still,  
And every age is yours,  
Help us to use them at your will  
To serve your holy cause.

No weakness, age or even death  
Can pluck us from your hand,  
Give us a strong, upholding faith,  
Unshaken, let us stand!

Open our minds to see the good,  
In things both new and strange,  
Knowing your love and truth have stood  
Secure in every change.

Gather us in, yet drive us out!  
Ours be no timid soul!  
There is no place for fear and doubt  
When you are in control

The task you give us, Lord, through grace,  
Is ours till death shall fade,  
Then may we serve before your face,  
Still loved and unafraid.

M.Knauerhase.

(Margaret won a \$100 prize for an original hymn  
in a competition run by the Uniting Church Music  
Society. Congratulations, Margaret!)

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The theme for Fellowship Day in July will be,  
"In the Beginning, God". The Q'land Unit  
have prepared the service.

We are happy that Mrs. Marjory Baker, Pres. of  
the NSW Unit has agreed to come on Nat. Exec.  
This gives us complete denominational repres-  
entation. Marjory's address is - 39 Cook  
Terrace, Mona Vale, 2103 and Phone 993764.



MAY  
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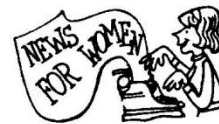


New Year greetings to all our Winifred Kiek Scholarship  
supporters. Some of our past scholars have written; they  
send their best wishes to all ACW members for 1990.

Christmas greetings have been received from Tapita Das, (1978  
scholar from Bangladesh) who has been working with Y.W.C.A.  
in Geneva, and is now returning to her home country. Also  
greetings from Rev. Mary Au (1980 scholar from Hong Kong) who  
is a busy minister in her church in Kowloon, Melini Devananda  
(1981 scholar from Sri Lanka) who is now working in London with  
her husband ministering amongst the poverty sections of Leeds.  
This is a 12 months appointment for her husband - (a curate of  
St. Margaret's, All Hallows) - and is part of a 5 years' plan  
known as "The Archbishop's Commission on Urban Priority Areas."  
This is a link between the Diocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and  
the Diocese of Ripon Leeds.

Our 1990 scholar, Doreen Tie Chin Bing is looking forward to  
her arrival in July next, to study in Sydney at the Develop-  
mental Disabilities Services Training Centre. The application  
forms for the 1991 scholar have been sent, and by mid-year we  
should know who this will be.

Lucelle King,  
WKS Convener.



Please let me know if you would like your  
individual copy of "ACW News" mailed direct  
to you. Subscription is \$12 for two years.

Mrs. Mavis Burtenshaw,  
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(EDITOR.)