

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN



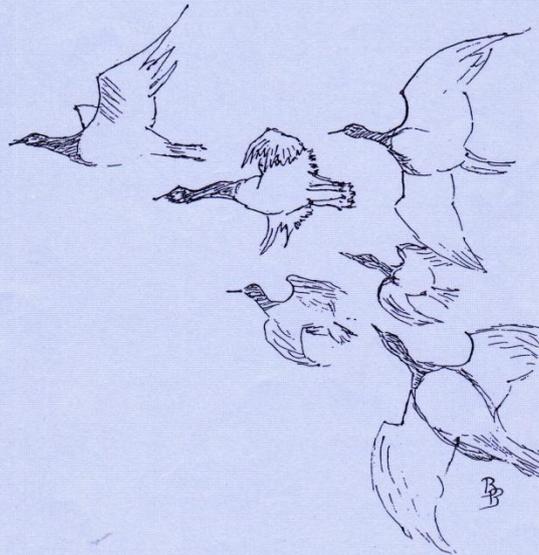
19TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

6th OCTOBER – 10TH OCTOBER 2003

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MINUTES

'TOWARDS COMMUNITY'



***People who share a common direction and sense of community
can get where they are going more quickly and easily
because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.***

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

6 October – 10 October 2003

Swanleigh, Middle Swan, Western Australia

CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY 6 October 2003

Prior to the official opening of the Conference the official conference photographs were taken immediately after lunch.

CONFERENCE SESSION 1

OPENING The National President Rev. Lee Edwards declared the 2003 National Conference open and welcomed everyone to Western Australia.

GREETINGS AND APOLOGIES

Greetings and Apologies were read by Mrs Leeola Loughnan, National Secretary, who extended a special welcome to Wong Wai-Yin, Christina, visiting as a Winifred Kiek Fellow.

Greetings:

Bishop George Browning, Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Diocese of the Anglican Church.
Mrs Ruth Burmester, National Life Member Australian Capital Territory
Mrs Marjory Verco, National Life Member New South Wales
Mrs Olive Ackland, National Life Member Victoria
Mrs Dorothy Wright, National Life Member South Australia
Lynette Green, Chefe do Comando, The Salvation Army, Portugal
Barbara Lacy, previous Australian Representative on Asian Church Women's Conference
Mrs Betty Farrell, member of Australian Capital Territory Unit
Jean Rutherford, Chairwoman, Church Women United in Aotearoa/New Zealand
Esther Byu, Executive Secretary, Fellowship of the Least Coin
Annamaney Arumanayagam, President, Asian Church Women's Conference
Shu-Wen Chiang, Executive Secretary, Asian Church Women's Conference
Yasuko Nakayama, Treasurer, Asian Church Women's Conference
Heather Spencer, Secretary, Women's Ministries Churches of Christ in Australia
Kay Bullpitt, National Co-ordinator, Australian Baptist Women
Peg Mcentee, National President, Catholic Women's League Australia Inc
Joan Shenton, Mothers' Union Australia, Diocese of Perth
Barbara Eygenraam, Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, WA Synod Committee
Lillian Deane, National Liaison Officer, World Day of Prayer, Australia
Coral Strong, Commissioner Territorial President Women's Ministries, The Salvation Army, Eastern Territory

2.

Elizabeth Bennett, Project Office, Australian Women's Coalition
Coral Fleming, Pan Pacific and South East Asia women's Association of
Australia Inc
Cr Charlie Gregorini, Mayor, City of Swan
Eva Cooper, FLC Convenor, South Australia
Mrs Ailsa Skippen, Life member Queensland – best wishes for success of the
National Conference and greetings to all her friends attending the Conference.
Mrs Marge Dredge – Past President National Executive – sending her love and
sincere wishes for a wonderful time of blessing and friendship.

Apologies

Mrs Ailsa Skippen, Queensland Unit – broken shoulder
Mrs Gwen Morris, New South Wales – injured
Sally Hanna, The Coptic Orthodox Church in WA

REMEMBRANCE A heart motif for each person from the State/territory Units, as listed in the Working Papers, who had died since the previous National Conference was placed on a tree, and National President Lee Edwards led a prayer of remembrance.

HONOURS/AWARDS National President Lee Edwards expressed sincere congratulations to those who had received Honours and Awards as listed in the Working Papers.

The Chair was then taken by Senior Vice President Lady Wilson (Leila).

PRESENTATION OF WORKING PAPERS

Alterations to Working Papers as circulated at Registration.

Prior to the presentation of Working Papers National President Lee Edwards explained that the National Executive wished to apologise for the fact that, due to an oversight, notices of motion dealing with the Constitution had not been circulated 'to all State/Territory Units three months prior to the National Conference at which they are adopted' (Constitution 8.2). This error had been discovered only a week before the Conference, at which point legal advice had been sought. The National Executive now wished to introduce a motion dealing with the matter which members believed was consistent with the spirit of the Constitution.

2003/1 MOTION: Moved Lee Edwards (National President), seconded Margaret Ker (National Executive).

That this Conference proceeds to debate the constitutional motions namely 3, 8, 9, 10 and 22 and make decisions; such decisions to be ratified by voting delegates from the States/Territory Units at a teleconference to be held at least three months after the Conference.

CARRIED BY A SHOW OF HANDS

3.

2003/2

ALTERATIONS TO WORKING PAPERS as circulated at Registration and alterations to Working Papers as advised by members:

- Page 6 Delete National Life Member – Ailsa Skippen - accident
Delete National Life Member elect – Mrs Eunice Reidy – now delegate for Churches of Christ Women’s Ministries
Delete National Life Member elect – Mrs Mollie Jean Hunt – unable to attend Conference
Correct spelling – Mrs Margaret **Ker**
Delete Mrs Edith Ridge – Australian Church Women National Archivist now Delegate for Incoming National Executive
- Page 7 Add WA Unit - Mrs Ailsa Maley, Observer
Delete WA Unit - Ms Joan Mann, Delegate
Delete VIC Unit Mrs Eunice Reidy – see page 6
Delete TAS Unit – Mrs Pauline Taylor – unable to attend due to illness
TAS Unit – Mrs Kath Pearce now Delegate
Add QLD Mrs Beverley Currie and Mrs Evelyn Clerc - Visitors
Add NSW Unit – Mrs Helen Richardson, Mrs Beryl McLaughlin, Mrs Janet Lang, all Visitors
- Page 8 The Salvation Army Eastern Territory – Major Joan Tong, now Observer
Add Uniting Church Adult Fellowship – Mrs Pat Johns, Observer
National Council of Churches Gender Commission – Ms Ronis Chapman - Visitor
Add Churches of Christ in Australia Women’s Ministries – Mrs Eunice Reidy,
Delegate and Mrs Betty Ryall, Observer
Add World Day of Prayer Australia – Mrs Jannice Graham, Delegate
- Page 10 Add Victoria – Ruth Knuckey
Add Tasmania – Pat Dodd and Mattie Balk
- Page 26 Add ‘**National**’ to heading.
- Page 29,30,32..National Winifred Kiek Scholarship Treasurer’s Report – Auditor’s report received on October 1st with a number of corrections – one copy to each Unit plus extras tabled for interested people.
- Page 38 3rd Paragraph – AWA should read **AWC**.
4th Paragraph – NSWA should read **NCWA**.
- Page 40 7th Paragraph – ACW should read **AWC**.
- Page 41 1st Paragraph, second word – if should read **is**.
5th Paragraph – WCE should read **WCD**.
- Page 42 4th Paragraph – ‘major’ should read **Major**.
- Page 45 3rd Paragraph, 1st line should read Lt Colonel Lynette Green. 2nd line should read first year as **Officer Commanding** not Commissioner
6th Paragraph, first numbers 1902 should read **2002**.
- Page 46 Last Paragraph, 1st line should be **to** not of.
2nd line add Church Women **of** members of the Unit.
- Page 47 1st paragraph, 2nd line **sharing of resources** – incorrect spelling.
- Page 52 Correct spelling ‘Salvation’
- Page 56 Motion 6 incorrectly entered. Should read South Australia moves.....
- Page 65 Motion 27 added by Western Australian Unit
- Page 69 Updated profile of Mollie Jean Hunt for National Life Member

Page 70 Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor is Major Joan Tong, 8 Metella Crescent, Belfield, 2191 – Telephone (02) 9718 8640

Page 75 Corrected profile of Mrs Edith Ridge

Page 75a Profile of Major Joan Tong, Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor

2003/3 **MOTION:** That the working Papers together with alterations be received.
CARRIED

PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

2003/4 **MOTION 1** (p 55)

Moved Lee Edwards (National President, seconded Janet Watts (National Executive)

2003/5 Amendment moved Mrs Isabel Hewittt (NSW), seconded Mrs Jean Porteous (NSW)

That **this** National Conference...

Motion carried by show of hands.

2003/6 The amended Motion was then put. CARRIED

2003/7 **APPOINTMENT OF REFERENCE COMMITTEE (3)**

Mrs Dorothy Haensel

Mrs Evonne Sullivan

Major Joan Tong

Confirmed by a show of voting cards

2003/8 **APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS (2)**

Mrs Catherine Derries

Mrs Brenda Dickinson

Confirmed by a show of voting cards

5.

2003/9 AMENDMENTS TO MINUTES OF 2001 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
None

2003/10 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2001 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Moved Leeola Loughnan (National Secretary)

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2003/11 BUSINESS ARISING None

2003/12 GENERAL BUSINESS

Motion 13 It was agreed that consideration of this motion be deferred until after Motion 10 had been debated.

2003/13 RECEPTION OF LIFE MEMBERS (citations pp.67-69)

Mrs Eunice Reidy (Victoria)

Mrs Mollie Jean Hunt (Queensland) In the absence of Mollie Jean the certificate and badge were accepted by Mrs Lorraine McKenna and will be presented locally on World Community Day.

Mrs Evonne Sullivan (Australian Capital Territory)

The new Life Members were welcomed and congratulated by acclamation.

CONFERENCE SESSION 2 Chair: Lee Edwards

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

2003/14 National President's Report (p.15) Reverend Lee Edwards

ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS

2003/15 National Secretary's Report (p.16) Mrs Leeola Loughnan

ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS

Jean Hambley (ACT) expressed appreciation to Leeola for all her hard work in retyping the Constitution and Guidelines.

2003/16 In answer to a query from Jean Porteous (NSW) Janet Watts (National Winifred Kiek Schoarship Convenor) informed the Conference that a working group of delegates from each State/Territory would examine the motions dealing with the Memorial Bursary Book (Motions 18-21).

Evening Programme: Opening Service – Introducing theme TOWARDS COMMUNITY. Presented by National President Lee Edwards, assisted by National Vice Presidents Leila Wilson and Barbara Bourhill. The theme of community building was explored through the formation of intentional communities and the sharing of an Agape meal.

TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2003

Morning Devotions – Victorian Unit

Morning News was presented by Mrs Phillis Dolling, National Publicity Convenor.

In the unavoidable absence of Reverend Eira Clapton through illness, participants engaged in Bible Study prepared by National President Lee Edwards and incoming National President Major Nancy McLaren.

CONFERENCE SESSION 2 (Continued)

2003/17 **National Treasurer's Report** Mrs Sheila Mellar

Acceptance of the Reports as included in the Working Papers (pp.17-24) and addenda thereto was moved by Sheila Mellar (National Treasurer).

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2003/18 **Motion 2** (p.55) It was agreed that a subcommittee be convened by Margaret Florence (QLD), to consist of the National Treasurer, the incoming National Treasurer, any past National Treasurer present, and the Treasurer (or her representative) of each State/Territory Unit. Marie Majoer (National Executive) was also invited to join this sub committee. The sub committee was to report back to the Conference as soon as possible.

MOTIONS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND GUIDELINES

2003/19 **Motion 3** (p.55) Moved Jean Hambley (ACT) CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

This decision is subject to ratification.

7.

- 2003/20 **Motion 4** (p.55) Moved Jean Hambley (ACT) CARRIED BY CONSENSUS
- 2003/21 **Motion 5** (p.56) Moved Jean Hambley (ACT) CARRIED BY CONSENSUS
- 2003/22 **Motion 7** (p.56) Moved Jean Hambley (ACT) CARRIED BY CONSENSUS
- 2003/23 **Motion 8** (p.56) The motion was amended to read:
That after each National Conference, the National Executive to update where necessary the Australian Church Women – Constitution and Guidelines – and send amended pages to each State/Territory Unit (within six (6) months after National Conference.
- Moved Margaret Florence (QLD) CARRIED BY CONSENSUS
- This decision is subject to ratification.**
- 2003/24 **Motion 9** (p.57) Moved Margaret Florence (QLD) CARRIED BY CONSENSUS
- 2003/25 **Motion 10** (p.57) It was agreed that discussion of this motion be deferred until after discussion of Motions 2 and 13.
- 2003/26 **Motion 11** (p.58) Moved Isabel Hewitt (NSW) CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

CONFERENCE SESSION 3

Chair: Lee Edwards

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS Continued

- 2003/27 **Fellowship of the Least Coin** (p.52) Olive Dell expressed appreciation to The Salvation Army (Hollywood Village) for their provision of photocopying and postage at no cost over the past two years. It was noted that promotion of the Fellowship of the Least Coin is a good way of publicising Australian Church Women.
- 2003/28 **Special Days** (p.26) Marie Majoor
- 2003/29 **Asian Church Women's Conference** (p.37) Pat walker reiterated that members should promote the Newsletter and the Signature Campaign.
- REPORTS ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS
- 2003/30 **Motion 12** (p.58) The second paragraph was amended to read
- Asian Church Women's Conference: Australian Church Women participate in Asian Church Women's Conference through an Australian Representative on the General Committee. The major fundraising project for the Asian Church Women's Conference is the Signature Campaign. As a sign of solidarity with ACWC it is therefore requested....**

8.

At the suggestion of Mrs Jannice Graham (World Day of Prayer) a gold coin collection was taken up for the Signature Campaign.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2003/31 **Motion 6** (p.56) (as included in amendment pages in conference bags) Moved Wanda McKeand (SA)

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

CONFERENCE SESSION 4 Chair: Lee Edwards

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS Continued

2003/32 **National Publicity and Publications Convenor** (p.35) Mrs Phillis Dolling

2003/33 **National Archivist** (p.36) Mrs Edith Ridge

REPORTS ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS

2003/34 **Motion 27** (as included in amendment pages in conference bags) Moved Laurel Pearce (WA)

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2003/35 **National Social Justice Issues Convenor** (p.33) Laurel Pearce expressed appreciation to all who had provided input on various projects.

ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS

2003/36 **Motion 14** Moved Laurel Pearce (National Executive)
This motion was referred to a working committee for revision

2003/37 **Motion 15** Moved Laurel Pearce (National Executive)

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2003/38 **Motion 16** Moved Laurel Pearce (National Executive)

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2003/39 **Motion 17** Moved Laurel Pearce (National Executive)

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

- 2003/40 National Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor's Report** Janet Watts expressed appreciation to State/Territory Convenors and to Margaret Greenslade and other Trustees. She welcomed Christina and Monique Crabtree to the Conference. Jean Hambley (ACT) and Aileen Mortensen (QLD) spoke of their personal contacts with other Scholars. Shirley Brooks (TAS) expressed appreciation for the forthcoming visit by Christina.

ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS

CONFERENCE SESSION 5

Chair: Lee Edwards

- 2003/41 Winifred Kiek Trust Report** (p.28) Margaret Greenslade noted that there had been some difficulties with processing this year's applications because of lack of details. The chosen applicant is Deaconess Mariani Raqeu from Fiji who will be in Australia for 24 weeks working with Project Respect in Melbourne. The Uniting Church is providing assistance. Because the second chosen applicant was unable to come there will be a surplus in 2004 funds.

- 2003/42 Motion:** That this surplus be carried over to 2005 in the hope of offering two scholarships in that year.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Margaret Greenslade further noted that it would be very helpful if Unit members from denominations with contacts in Asia and the Pacific were able to pass on information on suitable courses of study in Australia as it is difficult for Trustees to obtain information at short notice.

ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS

- 2003/43** *It was also agreed that* the honorarium for the auditor be increased to \$125.

- 2003/44 Appointment of Trustees** (p.66) RATIFIED BY CONSENSUS

- 2003/45 Financial Reports** (pp29-32) plus addendum ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS

- 2003/46** Trustees to investigate possibility of providing copies of biography *Winifred*.

GUEST SPEAKERS

2003/47 *Wong Wai-Yin, Christina* (Hong Kong Women's Christian Council) was introduced by Janet Watts. Christina expressed pleasure at being able to attend the Conference and said how impressed she was with the long tradition of Australian Church Women. She spoke of the work of the Hong Kong Christian Women's Council in placing emphasis on new models for women's ministry and encouraging women to generate more thinking on feminist theology. This has involved production of a faith awareness training manual, the organisation of seminars on women's ministry and the organisation of educational programmes. The Council also hopes to train women in leadership to promote Asian Church Women's Conference.

Christina presented to Australian Church Women a hand worked wall hanging depicting Jesus and the woman at the well.

2003/48 *Monique Crabtree* (2003 Winifred Kiek Scholar) was then introduced by Janet Watts.

Monique expressed her pleasure at being invited to the Conference and shared her faith journey. Born in New Zealand Monique came to Australia with her family when she was 15. She did not come from a church going family background and noted how important the welcoming attitude of fellow worshippers had been to her. By the time she was 18 she realised that she could not lead a fulfilling life without God.

Monique noted the importance of Christian families as witnesses to non Christians.

She had decided to go to Bible College after a period of prayer and discernment and a re examination of her own attitudes.

Without the assistance of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship she would not have been able to continue her studies.

Asked about her future plans Monique said that she hopes to encourage other women to enter ministry. She wants to work in pastoral care, working with people who need to believe in themselves more.

Evening Devotions - South Australian Unit

WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2003

Morning Devotions - Western Australian Unit

11.

Conference participants travelled to Perth for a Morning Tea at Government House hosted by His Excellency Lieutenant General John Sanderson, AC, Governor of Western Australia. Mrs Lorraine Sanderson was prevented from attendance by illness. After morning tea a tour of Government House and its gardens was enjoyed.

In the afternoon the **National Conference Ecumenical Service** was celebrated at Wesley Church, William Street, Perth. Heads of Churches and their representatives were guests at the service which was attended by approximately 150 people. In the absence of Mrs Lorraine Sanderson due to illness, the preacher was Reverend Bev Fabb.

Afternoon tea at the Wesley Centre followed.

Conference participants then enjoyed a bus tour of Kings park and beaches to the north of Perth as they returned to Swanleigh.

CONFERENCE SESSION 6

Chair: Lee Edwards

A warm welcome was extended to Ms Ronis Chapman from the National Council of Churches Gender Commission who had arrived at Swanleigh that afternoon.

2003/49 Motions 18, 19, 20 and 21 (pp.61-62) dealing with the Memorial Bursary Book were replaced by an amended **Motion 20**.

Moved Jean Hambley (ACT)

2003/50 a. **That the Guidelines (page 19) heading Australian Church Women Memorial Bursary Book be amended to read 'Honouring Australian Church Women'.**

2003/51 b. We further move that the second paragraph below the above heading be amended to read:

All State and Territory Units are encouraged to record and submit entries for Honouring Australian Church Women. This will be a record of women who pioneered Women's Inter-Church activities which later led to the formation of Australian Church Women and of those women who have made a significant contribution to Australian Church Women.

2003/52 c. The incoming National Executive be responsible for rewriting the relevant Guidelines.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2003/53 After discussion it was also agreed by consensus that no amount be specified as a donation for entry into the book

UNIT REPORTS

- 2003/54** **Australian Capital Territory (p.40)**
Jean Hambley thanked everyone for their prayers during the Canberra bushfires. She explained the system of affiliated organisations.
- 2003/55** **New South Wales (p.41)**
Isabel Hewitt highlighted the work of the House of Welcome in Carramar.
- 2003/56** **Queensland (p.42)**
Lorraine McKenna paid tribute to the late Terry Reeves

REPORTS RECEIVED BY CONSENSUS

Evening Devotions - Tasmanian Unit

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER 2003

Morning Devotions - Queensland Unit

Bible Study 2 - Reverend Eira Clapton

CONFERENCE SESSION 7

Chair: Barbara Bourhill

- 2003/57** **Australian Women's Coalition Report (pp.38-39)**
ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS
- 2003/58** **Motion 22** The motion was amended to read
- 5. Relationships**
- 5.2 ...and other ecumenical or otherwise appropriate bodies.**
- CARRIED BY CONSENSUS
- This decision is subject to ratification.**
- 2003/59** **Motion 24** Moved Lee Edwards (National President)
- CARRIED BY CONSENSUS
- 2003/60** **Motion 23** Moved Lee Edwards (National President)
- CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

13.

2003/61 **Nomination** as Australian Women's Coalition representative:
Jean Margaret Hambley (ACT)

Nomination presented by Helen Lloyd (ACT).

ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS

2003/62 **Motion 25** Moved Lee Edwards (National President)

The Motion was amended to read:

.... wording of the Constitution to **use gender inclusive** language.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

UNIT REPORTS Continued

2003/63 **Tasmania** (p.44) presented by Kath Pearce

2003/64 **Western Australia** (p.46) presented by Laurel Pearce

2003/65 **Victoria** (p.45) presented by Elaine Johnson
Elaine noted that 5 members had attended the forum on Civics and
Citizenship. A Quiet Day had also been held.

2003/66 **South Australia** (p.43) presented by Wanda McKeand

REPORTS ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS

2003/67 **Motion 26** (p.65) Moved Wanda McKeand (SA)

A short presentation on the issues involved in this motion was given and
Received with great interest.

CARRIED WITH CONSENSUS

2003/68 Margaret Florence (QLD) then reported to the Conference on behalf of the
sub committee formed to consider Motion 2 and related issues. After
discussion an amended Motion 2 was then presented.

2003/69 **Motion 2**

That

- a. **The incoming National Executive review the structures of the total funding of Australian Church Women and report their findings to the next National Conference.**

Continued over page

14.

- b. **The National Executive be responsible for Travel Expenses and Conference Fees for the Asian Church Women's Conference Representative and Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust Representative at the National Conference.**
- c. **The National Executive be responsible for at least 50% of Travel Expenses and National Conference Fees for up to 5 members of the Incoming National Executive, subject to available funds.**

It was clarified that conference fees are understood to include both registration and accommodation.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

CONFERENCE SESSION 8

Chair: Lee Edwards

2003/70

⁵⁷
Motion 10 (p.67)

Moved Margaret Florence (QLD)

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

This decision is subject to ratification

2003/71

Motion 14 (p.59)

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

REPORTS FROM NATIONAL BODIES

2003/72

Australian Baptist Women (p.47)

Beryl Kirkwood spoke about the building up of resources, the development of leadership, including overseas, and the importance of networking. She also spoke of work on social issues including lobbying to ban female circumcision in Africa. A professional women's group has been formed to network and support.

2003/73

Catholic Women's League Australia (p.48)

Dorothy Beyer read a message from National President Peg McEntee noting the relevance of the Conference theme and thanking Lee Edwards and the rest of the National Executive for their strong leadership. The 41st Biennial National Conference of CWLA had been held in Sydney in August. The Catholic Women's League looked forward to continuing the bond of friendship.

15.

- 2003/74 Women's Ministries – Churches of Christ in Australia (p.49)**
In presenting the report on behalf of Mrs Heather Spencer, Eunice Reidy spoke of work for orphan children of AIDS victims.
- 2003/75 The Salvation Army Eastern and Southern Territories (pp.50-51)**
Commissioner June Kendrew presented both reports and spoke of the Child sponsorship programme operating in both Territories. She also spoke about the Women's Bible Conferences to be held in February 2004.
- 2003/76 Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (p.52)**
In presenting the report Joan Kelley spoke about plans for a national banner display which would involve up to 50 banners travelling for two years.
- 2003/77 World Day of Prayer Australia (addendum to Working Papers)**
In presenting the report Jannice Graham conveyed best wishes from Mrs Lillian Deane and her apologies for her inability to attend the Conference. Jan said that the recent Quadrennial Conference had been a wonderful occasion. Jan is one of the Pacific representatives for the next 4 years. National President Lee Edwards congratulated Jan on her election.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY CONSENSUS

CONFERENCE SESSION 9

Chair: Lee Edwards

- 2003/78 Report from National Council of Churches Gender Commission**
- Ms Ronis Chapman
- Ronis introduced herself and her work. She is a member of the Religious Society of Friends.
- Reflecting on the Conference theme 'Towards Community' Ronis asked the questions: *what would it be like to have arrived, and how would we know?*
- The Gender Commission is based on the idea of shared ministry. Ronis welcomed the opportunity to be present at the Conference, to meet with participants, and to build links. Building such links is an important part of the work of the Gender Commission.
- Ronis invited Edith Ridge to speak of the historical background to the setting up of the Commission.
- Edith outlined the early history of relations between Australian Church Women and the Australian Council of Churches and the changes that had been associated with the regrouping of the ACC into the National Council of Churches of Australia.

Ronis then explained that the Gender Commission has a small budget and no paid staff and has to be realistic about its limitations. Its recent work includes a Statement of Concern in relation to the sexual abuse of children which led to the formation of a working party and work in relation to the launch of the Decade Against Violence Against Women.

Participants then engaged in discussion on how Australian Church Women and the Gender Commission might work together in the future.

The **Conference Dinner** took place in the evening and was enjoyed by all. Entertainment was provided by 'The Windbags'.

After dinner the **Ceremony of Installation of the Incoming National Executive** took place.

The evening concluded with **Devotions led by the New South Wales Unit and the Incoming National Executive.**

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2003

Morning Devotions - Australian Capital Territory

Bible Study 3 - Reverend Eira Clapton

CONFERENCE SESSION 10 Chair: Lee Edwards

2003/79

General Business

At the suggestion of Shirley Brooks (TAS) "Majesty" was sung as a Tribute to all National Life members present.

Past National Presidents present were acknowledged.

Incoming National President Nancy McLaren addressed the Conference, paying tribute to the Outgoing National Executive for all their work and praying that they would now enjoy rest and a sense of achievement as they looked back over the past two years.

Flowers were then presented to members of the Outgoing National by their Counterparts in the Incoming National Executive.

Outgoing National President Lee Edwards thanked her colleagues on the National Conference who had in many cases extra responsibilities at the Conference

Vice President Leila Wilson then led a brief discussion on the use of the consensus model of voting at the Conference. It was generally agreed that the model had worked well but that it was up to the Incoming National Executive to decide as to future use.

Evonne Sullivan (Life Member – ACT) expressed concern about the Darwin Branch of Australian Church Women and urged the incoming National Executive to investigate.

Elaine Johnson (VIC) advised that the Victorian Unit had agreed to take over as National Executive in 2005. She expressed regret that the Tasmanian Unit was unable to take on this role and indicated that the Victorian Unit would be keen to have some special role for the Tasmanian Unit during the period when the National Executive was based in Victoria.

Vice President Leila Wilson then presented flowers to the Outgoing National President Lee Edwards and paid tribute to her for her dedicated work in the role in spite of health problems.

It was noted that approximately one quarter of participants in the Conference were attending a National Conference for the first time.

Closing Devotions - Retiring National Executive.

The National Conference was then officially closed and participants farewelled one another and went to lunch.

FOOTNOTE:

On Friday 31st October whilst holidaying in South Australia, Mrs Jannice Graham, Delegate for World Day of Prayer at our National Conference suffered a massive heart attack and died. We extend to her husband Alex and families our sincerest and deepest sympathy. May she rest in peace.

PARTICIPANTS LIST**National Executive - Delegates**

President	Rev'd Lee Edwards, 9/115 Epsom Avenue, Redcliffe WA 6104
1st Vice President	Lady Wilson (Leila), 6B Atkins Road, Applecross WA 6153
2nd Vice President	Mrs Barbara Bourhill, 14A Warragoon Crescent, Attadale WA 6156
Secretary	Mrs Leeola Loughnan, 4 Heatheron Mews, Hillarys WA 6025
Minutes Secretary	Mrs Margaret Ker, 90 Vincent Street Mount Lawley WA, 6050
Treasurer	Mrs Sheila Mellar, 95 Great Eastern Highway, South Guildford, WA, 6055
Fellowship of the Least Coin	Major Olive Dell, 118-120 Monash Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	Mrs Janet Watts, 17 - 8 Bradford Street, Mount Lawley, WA, 6050
Special Days	Mrs Marie Majoor, Villa 22, Southern Cross Village, 27 Pearson Street Success, WA, 6164
Social Justice Issues	Major Laurel Pearce, Unit 4, 242 Lawrence Street Bedford WA 6052
Publications/Publicity	Mrs Phillis Dolling, 36A Peel Street, Mandurah, WA, 6210

Incoming National Executive

President	Major Nancy McLaren, 6/13A Thames Street, Balmain, NSW, 2041 - Delegate
Vice President 1	Mrs Cela Cooper, 288 Rothery Street, Corrimal, NSW, 2518 - Delegate
Vice President 2	Mrs Jan Harrison, 2/8 Morwick Street, Strathfield, NSW, 2135 - Delegate
Secretary	Mrs Isabel Hewitt, 16 Hillcrest Avenue, Strathfield South, NSW, 2136
Treasurer	Mrs Nola Dickson, 1/14 Forest Grove, Epping, NSW, 2121
Minutes Secretary	Mrs Brenda Dickinson, 14 Mary Street, Jannali, NSW, 2666
Fellowship of the Least Coin	Miss Shirley Wells, 125/3 Homeland Avenue, Carlingford, NSW, 2118
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	Major Joan Tong, 8 Metella Crescent, Belfield, NSW, 2191
Special Days	Major Eileen Holly, 3/44 Railway Street, Merewether, NSW, 2291
Publicity Officer	Sr Marie Craddock, 76 Prospect Road, Summerhill, NSW, 2130 - Delegate
Publication Editor	Mrs Edith Ridge, 54 New Line Road, Pennant Hills, NSW, 2125 - Delegate
Social Issues	Mrs Jean Porteous, 259 River Avenue, Carramar, NSW, 2163

Asian Church Women's Conference

Mrs Pat Walker, Unit 6/31 Royal Avenue, Pooraka, SA, 5095 - Delegate

National Archivist

Mrs Edith Ridge *Note Mrs Ridge is also Publication Editor of Incoming National Executive

UNITS**Western Australia**

Mrs Marjorie Scurlock, 1 Regent Street, Mount Lawley, WA, 6150 - Delegate
 Mrs Catherine Derries, 65 Dean Road, Bateman, WA, 6150
 Mrs Ailsa Maley, 22 North Street, Dunsborough, WA, 6281

Victoria

Mrs Anne Murray, 979 Canterbury Road, Box Hill, VIC, 3128 - Delegate
 Major Elaine Johnson, 26/300 Elgar Road, Box Hill South, VIC, 3128 - Delegate
 Mrs Lola Adam, 27 Byron Street, Box Hill South, VIC, 3128
 Mrs Lorna English, 105 Deakin Street, East Benteleigh, VIC, 3165
 Mrs Beth Skilbeck, 9A Box Hill Crescent, Mont Albert North, VIC, 3129

Tasmania

Mrs Shirley Brooks, 20 Riseley Street, Kingsmeadows, Launceston, TAS, 7249 - Delegate
 Mrs Kath Pearce, 2/40 George Street, Devonport, TAS, 7310 - Delegate
 Mrs Veronica Palmer, 42 Mary Street, East Devonport, TAS, 7310
 Mrs Marlene James, 117 Caroline Street, East Devonport, TAS, 7310

South Australia

Major Wanda McKeand, 277 Pirie Street, Adelaide SA 5001 - Delegate —
 Mrs Coralie Wright, 28 Eliza Street, Salisbury, SA, 5108 - Delegate
 Mrs Maureen Clark, 572 States Road, Onkaparinga Hills, SA 5163
 Mrs Barbara Grear, 6 Koonunga Avenue, Rostrevor, SA, 5073
 Mrs Dorothy Haensel, 26 Hobart Avenue, Warradale, SA, 5046
 Mrs Margaret Draper, Unit 93, Elkanah, 50 Woodcroft Drive, Morphitt Vale, SA 5162

Queensland

Mrs Lorraine McKenna, 77 Newman Road, Geebung, Qld, 4034 - Delegate
 Mrs Margaret Florence, 55 Jagora Drive, Albany Creek, Qld, 4035 - Delegate
 Mrs Aileen Mortensen, 205 Ernest Street, Manly, Qld, 4179
 Mrs Joan Trudgian, 2 Pinewood Street, Geebung, Qld, 4034
 Mrs Beverley Currie, Post Office, Koumala, Qld, 4738
 Mrs Evelyn Clerc, 9 Sophia Street, Mackay, Qld, 4740

New South Wales

Mrs Jean Porteous, 259 River Avenue, Carramar NSW 2163 - Delegate
 Mrs Isabel Hewitt, 16 Hillcrest Avenue, Strathfield South, NSW, 2136 - Delegate
 Mrs Janet Lang, 4 Watkins Road, Wangi Wangi, NSW, 2267
 Major Lyn Middleton, 3/14-16 Tuffy Avenue, Sans Souci, NSW, 2219
 Miss Heather Badgery, 5 Amaroo Avenue, Strathfield, NSW, 2135
 Mrs Helen Richardson, 33 Lynwood Avenue, Dee Why, NSW, 2099
 Mrs Beryl McLaughlin, 2/15 Morwick Street, Strathfield, NSW, 2135
 Note: Mrs Porteous and Mrs Hewitt are members of the Incoming National Executive

Australian Capital Territory

Mrs Jean Hambley, 89 Mackenzie Street, Hackett, ACT, 2602 - Delegate
 Mrs Helen Lloyd, 7 Mokoan Place, Duffy, ACT, 2611 - Delegate
 Mrs Margaret Lawton, 10 Pope Street, Hughes, ACT, 2605
 Mrs Olga Scott, 1 Goudie Place, Wanniasa, ACT, 2903
 Mrs Evonne Sullivan, 35 Macgillivray Street, Yarralumla, ACT, 2600

