

**** INFORMATION PAGE ****

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WCTU NSW	
The Girls' Brigade	
Bible Society NSW	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$10.00 per annum
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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.

Mission Statement

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Carmel Keys Tel: 9977 5156

NUMBER 108

AUGUST 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As I take up my pen for my first message as President, I would like to acknowledge Major Lyn Middleton and her Executive for the warmth of their welcome to me. I offer my sincere thanks to all who sent kind messages and for your presence at the Installation Service on 15 May. My family, friends and parishioners were most impressed with the fellowship shared at the Service by so many Christian women and at the lunch afterwards – a truly enriching display of God's words "I call you my friends."

When you are reading this we will have enjoyed the Fellowship Day Services and I know you will have gained immensely from the thought-provoking readings and prayers. We pray our offerings will support future recipients of the Winifred Kiek Scholarships. Have you read the story of Winifred Kiek? I recommend it to you. What a wonderful woman, kind and gentle but strong in faith, in God and belief in what women can do –

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for her. God was "a giver of courage."

Preparations have been made for our one-day State Conference on Monday 18 September. *Sister Patricia Stephenson RSJ* is an inspirational speaker whom I am sure you will appreciate – she made a wonderful impression at the National Conference at Collaroy last year. After lunch, *Mr Ian Minnis* will speak on the work of *Camp Breakaway*, a ministry of Prison Fellowship – the Camps are for children with parents in prison. Also in the afternoon, we are expecting to hear from one of our current Winifried Kiek scholars, *Vivian Cheung*, whom we hope will bring her new baby, expected this month, with her.

I recently attended the *NSW Ecumenical Council Annual Meeting* at St Patrick's, Parramatta, of which there is a separate report in this Newsette. It was a delight to visit again the modern new Cathedral for the Prayer Service. As always this meeting is a great help and encouragement in our own aspirations as an ecumenical body.

I ask your special prayers for our Executive Member, *Beryl Kirkwood*, who is very seriously ill and is facing drastic surgery as this Newsette is being printed. I pray we will respond to God's call to be his disciples in the millennium and that we will go out with faith and courage to do his will.

God bless, *Carmel Keys*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

STATE DAY CONFERENCE: Monday 18 September at *Salvation Army Function Centre*, 140 Elizabeth Street Sydney (close to Museum Station) commencing at 10 am. Cost \$25 includes Morning Tea and Lunch. Morning Devotional Session with *Sr Patricia Stephenson*. Afternoon speakers as mentioned above in President's message. *RSVP* to Secretary *Irene Hewitt*, 16 Hillcrest Ave Strathfield South 2136 if possible with payment.

ACWC SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT: 24 September at *Eastwood Baptist Church*, 3 First Ave Eastwood commencing 2.30 pm. This is our annual observance in fellowship with Asia Church Women's Conference and will feature musicians from many Asian countries, followed by Afternoon Tea at 3.30. Limited parking at the Church; parking possible in East Parade by railway line. Convenient to bus and train – exit Eastwood Station on eastern side, 5 minute walk to First Avenue.

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SPECIAL DAYS:

Half of the offertories from the World Community Day Services held each year in end of October in city and country centres around Australia is allocated towards Australia's commitment to Asian Church Women's Conference, as ACW is one of the 18 affiliated countries.

The other half is devoted to a "*Special Project*" selected each year by the National Committee from suggestions from the State Units. This year's Special Project is support for "*Joseph's Corner*."

Joseph's Corner is a free support service for families living with alcohol/drug addiction. It is a project of the Catholic Westgate Deanery which covers the Melbourne suburbs of Altona, Hoppers Crossing, Kingsville, Laverton, Newport/Spotswood, Werribee, Yarraville and Williamstown. It was established in 2001 in response to the community's need. It now has two Centres. Since 2002 the clientele has tripled and groups include people of up to ten different cultural backgrounds and ages from 18 up to the 70s. They receive no government funding and rely on donations and the invaluable work of volunteers.

Their current special project is *Merrijig Place* – a drop-in centre for young adults aged 14-24. The funding received from Australian Church Women will be used for the running expenses of this Centre including Art & Craft Materials, Gardening Materials etc.

Our New South Wales Unit has been asked to write the Service for World Community Day in 2007.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

The attractive new brochures for our 2006 Scholars from multicultural Australia are now available. Thank you to the Packing Day team in sending out the bundles of Fellowship Day Services, brochures etc. We hope you enjoyed the Service and thank God for the funds raised for WKS. Please be in prayer for the Trustees in South Australia and the National Executive in Victoria, as they decide on the Scholars for 2007.

I have had phone contact with both our 2006 Scholars –

Vivian Cheung (NSW) has moved with her husband into Moore College accommodation. She has been very busy and got all her essays in on time in spite of pressure of an unplanned pregnancy – we hope to see her new baby at our September 18 Day Conference. She is so thankful for the Scholarship and can't believe we are interested in her and praying too. She needs strength to get through the pregnancy and birth. Her 2nd Semester

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subjects are Hebrews and Old Testament. We look forward to her "baby news."

Tania Eichler (Q'land) is reading the "Winifred Kiek Story" and can see how inspirational her life was. The Scholarship has taken much pressure off the many things she balances. Her studies are going well and she achieved a Double Distinction for Psalms/Wisdom Literature. Her preparation for the Anglican Priesthood is in progress, she is learning lots in her Parish placement and ministry with Anglican Youth. Her husband *Mark* enjoys his horticultural work and their children, *Sonny* 10 and *Zoe* 7, enjoy school, sport and friendships. She has recently had another 4-day intensive Subject Course. In July she was to visit and speak at Brisbane Fellowship Day Service.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

RECOMMENDED READING -- 'Winifred'



This reprint of Winifred Kiek's story, written in 1978 by her daughter *Margaret Knauerhase*, who is now 92 years old, was commissioned by the ACW National Conference in 2005. A review of it was included in the last issue of *Newsette* (May 2006).

Every ACW member or friend is encouraged to get a copy to read or it would make a most acceptable gift. Each State Unit has received a number of copies, which are on sale at \$15, including postage – you can obtain it through the State Secretary *Irene Hewitt*, Treasurer *Helen Richardson* or any ACW Council member.

The first woman to gain a Bachelor of Ministry from the University of Melbourne – in 1927 the first woman to be ordained in Australia – Winifred served on many organizations, at State, National and International levels. On one international visit, to Sri Lanka, she had the idea of the possibility for a Christian student to be assisted to undertake further study. In 1965 this idea became a reality when Australian Church Women founded the *Winifred Kiek Scholarship*, of which we celebrated the 40th Anniversary last year.

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FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

The Jubilee Year for FLC is coming to a close and has been highlighted in many countries, including Australia at the National Conference at Collaroy last year.

Reports have been written up in *FLC "Moves & Touches"* and in *FLC "Messages & Reports"* for 2006. I wish there was room to include some of those inspiring reports here in *Newsette*.

The concluding celebration for this wonderful year of FLC Jubilee will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October, and we plan to include this celebration at our State Conference on 18 September.

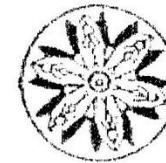
The total amount received for special grants worldwide in 2005 amounted to \$US 348,400, which enabled 38 grants to be given in 2006, as listed on next page, proving yet again that "an act of love is never too small and God's gifts to us are meant to be shared."

Janet Lang, FLC Convener

~ From the Victoria/Tasmania Newsletter of the Churches of Christ Women's Fellowship, *Judith Cayzer* has sent this song, written by *Dr Pauline Webb*, which I am sharing with you all here - *Editor*

FLC Jubilee Song

*Fifty years of women sharing
Coins that are of little worth
Till they're multiplied in caring
For the needy of the earth
Sharing is our way of caring
Sharing every smallest coin.*



*Fifty years of women praying
For our sisters far and near
Asking God to bless them, saying
Everyone to God is dear
Praying is our way of saying
Everyone to God is dear*

*Fifty years of women striving
For a just and worldwide peace
With fair trade and crops all thriving
When all hate and wars shall cease
Striving is our way of thriving
In our work of making peace*

*Fifty years of women keeping
Faith in power hat works by love
Sharing joy and calmly weeping
In the power of God's great love
Keeping faith despite all weeping
In the power f Christ's great love*

*Fifty years of women preaching
Though men did not always heed
Now together we are reaching
Thousands with good news indeed
Preaching is our way of teaching
Christ is risen, risen indeed. Alleluia!*

ALLOCATED FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN GRANTS FOR PROJECTS 2006

AFRICA.

- * Njelo Self Help Group, Emusutwi Sub-Location, Kilingili Division, Vihiga District, Kenya
- * Kiragati Water Project, Gathihu Sub-Location, Magutu Location, Nyeri District, Central Province, KM North of Nairobi, Kenya
- * Methodist Women's Fellowship, No. 14J Glass Quarters, Kenema, Sierra Leone
- * Women's Empowerment Project (WEP), Faith Community Lutheran Church, Lumley F'Town, Sierra Leone
- * Lusite Labomama Community Project, Alberton City, Johannesburg, South Africa
- * Thari Women's Organisations, Tamboville-Benoni, South Africa
- * Mwambashi Women's Club, Sinjela Area,
- * Mwambashi Community School, Chongwe, Zambia

ASIA.

- * Women's Pre-Assembly Forum, UCCP, Brokenshire College, Madapo Hills, Davao City, Davao Del Sur, Philippines
- * Lutheran Community Sewing Group, Using the Albert Park Lutheran Hall, 64 Bolting St, Albert Park, S.A. 5014, Australia
- * Delhi Street Children's Village, Japan-New Delhi, India
- * WSCF-AP-SCM Joint Women's Programme,
- * The Joint Women's Programme Emphasises to meet the needs of the Women Students at local or national levels.
- * The ACWC 13th Assembly, 2006, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

CARIBBEAN

- * The Tamarind Tree Project, The Methodist Church, Montserrat, Eastern Caribbean

EUROPE.

- * "Thekla" Phasel, EFEOQ, Greece, Athens
- * EFECQ General Assembly Workshops, Moral, Switzerland
- * Self-Awareness-Prevention, Ecumenical Forum of Romania Christian Women, Stejeris-Romania
- * DVD "Telling Our Story", Geneva, Switzerland

LATIN AMERICA.

- * Say "No to trafficking of Women and Children in Argentina and Latin America" Buenos Aires, Argentina
- * "Women Alive" San Gabriel Da Palha, Es, Brazil
- * Christian Women working toward Empowerment, La Paz, Bolivia
- * Gender and Faith for Wholeness in Social Action, Santiago de Chile
- * Weaving Networks of Hope in the Middle of Pain, Bosa, Bogota, Colombia
- * Empowerment of Women in the Community of Faith, Four Municipalities of Honduras
- * (Pro-Mujer)_ "Pro-Women, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

PACIFIC

- * Gender and Economic Empowerment Development Training for the Advancement of Women, Niue, South Pacific
- * Women and HIV/AIDS, the Pacific Conference of Churches, Suva, Fiji
- * Christian Leadership and L.P.V. Workshop, Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea

MIDDLE EAST

- * Leadership Training Conferences for young women all over Egypt, in the eight Presbyteries of Churches in Egypt
- * MECC Regional Workshop "Overcoming Violence against Women", Cairo, Egypt, September 2006
- * National Seminar "Women, Education and Gender Beirut-Lebanon, May 2006-06-13
- * Catering to Support Living, Bsalim, Above Jal El Dib
- * "Be equipped" young Mothers' Seminar,
- * Evangelical Conference Centre in Dhoun El Shoue Lebanon
- * A Woman's Resource Room, Resource Centre of tl Near East School of Theology
- * Healthy Hearts, Dar Al-Kalima health & Wellness Centre-Bethlehem/Palestine

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WOMEN'S PROGRAMME.

- * Streams of grace transforming Churches into place of safety for women, Workshop 1, WCC Assembly WCC Women's Programme
- * Violence and abuse: Understanding the sacredness of the human person. Workshop 11, WCC Assembly, WCC Women's Programme

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

- * In Faith Women of Central America/Caribbean shape the Future, Panama -WDPIC Programme
- * In Faith Caribbean women Shape the future, Guyana-WDPIC Programme.

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SOCIAL ISSUES:

Mental Health Issues. The Social Issues Committee has taken action concerning these issues by writing to the Minister for Health, the Assisting Minister for Mental Health, the Shadow Minister for Health and the Shadow Minister for Mental Health. In our letter we expressed our concern for the needs of those suffering mental illness, which is an urgent crisis in New South Wales because of the inadequacy of finance and appropriate services for their care. Many of those mentally-ill are homeless and others are over-represented in the prison population. We urged the Ministers to undertake measures with the funds foreseen in the State Budget, boosting mental health services by providing the necessary mental health centres and a sufficient number of mental health workers. While acknowledging that our State Government is beginning to give these matters their attention, we expressed our hope that adequate measures would be taken for these needy members of our community. *The Hon Gladys Skinner MP*, Shadow Minister for Mental Health responded favourably and thanked us for our concern. She stated: "We are developing our mental health policies with consideration to input from affected groups and members of the public, such as yourself, who contact us to outline their views."

Young People With Disabilities Living In Nursing Homes. We are beginning to look into this area of concern as the plight of these young people, and appropriate residential accommodation and supportive care is an evident need. In the recent State Budget the Government pledged \$1.3 billion spread over five years and most of this has been put off until 2008-2009. The Director of the Council for Social Services, *Gary Moore*, commented that the measures were welcome but overdue. He also stated that some people suggest that there are up to 4,000 people with disabilities, under 45 years of age, living in nursing homes. This package, he states, will only buy a couple of hundred places for them. *The National Alliance for Young People in Nursing Homes* (www.ypinh.org.au) asks the Government for a clearly articulated transition process to enable individuals to plan how their housing, support and respite needs, along with those of their families/carers will be met in the future, and to enable supports to be delivered into their current nursing home accommodation as a matter of priority while they wait for their alternative options to be created. Other needs expressed can be found on their web page.

Sr Joan Bird from . Social Issues Convener

**Practice what you preach -
or better yet, don't preach,
just practice.**

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NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday 17 June at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

The President, *Archbishop Aghan Balcozian*, commenced the morning session with the welcome and reception of the *Melkite Catholic Eparchy* into membership of the Council. We were reminded that we are joined in unity but are not always the same.

Commission Reports were received on the Theological Reflection, Partnership for Development, Local Initiatives with emphasis on Covenanting, and Social Justice. The clients of the *House of Welcome* are mostly in this last category – they are not permitted to work, therefore have no money and are not eligible for Medicare, Dental Care or Mental Health Care. The Council will be meeting with the State Minister on this issue. Dental Health is a major concern – can we help?

The Worship Liturgy was held in the Cathedral after lunch. Have you visited this wonderful modern Cathedral? The Service was centred on "Make Indigenous Poverty History" and we were asked to *Remember, Recognise and Rectify*. At the conclusion we were invited to sign a Totem Pole on the Altar.

The Community Housing Report was then presented. This is a wonderful organisation which is continuing to grow and is well-respected in the field of housing. The election of Executive and other office-bearers was completed

The General Secretary, *Rev Ray Williamson*, is resigning after 21 years. Do you know a suitable someone to take on this full-time position for the next three years?.

Carmel Keys, ACW Representative to NSW Ecumenical Council

PAN PACIFIC & SEA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

At the Annual Meeting in March corporate members reported on their organizations and I was pleased to present a report of the year's work and service of ACW.

In April, the guest speaker was *Hind Karouche*, who shared insights into the varied ways Muslim women cope in Australian society. Born in Lebanon, Hind came to Australia with her mother and 13 siblings at the age of 6, and attended Yagoona Public School and Birrong Girls' High. Now a consultant, Bachelor of Economics & Accountancy, and Member of the Society of Chartered Practising Accountants, Hind addressed the

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broad interpretations of the Koran possible within Islam, depending on political and geographical environment, extremism and traditions. The meeting expressed its delight at the friendliness and openness of this charming young woman, who has since been the recipient of a National Council of Women NSW Foundation Day Award.

At the May meeting, the affiliation of a new organization was accepted – the *Muslim Women's National Network of Australia* and its two representatives, *Hind Karouche* and *Zubeda Raihman*. The speaker on that day was *Robyn Riley*, Assistant Principal of *Stewart House School* and Deputy Executive Officer of the *Stewart House Preventorium* at Curl Curl. Stewart House, now 75 years old, was visualized by *Sir Frederick Stewart* in the post-Depression years and has access to services such as optometry, dental, social. Children go there for two-week holidays; their needs include mental health issues with parents, drug and alcohol (family members), loss through death or family breakup, abuse/neglect. Isolation, stress, anger all present challenges for the staff.

Edith Ridge, ACW Representative to PPSEAWA

NUNGALINYA COLLEGE, DARWIN:

An update from this Aboriginal Training College, a joint project of the Anglican, Uniting and Catholic churches, which we have supported in past years as a special World Community Day project.

The Principal, *Dawn Cardona*, writes *"We all have so many things to do, as we have cut back so drastically on staff, but manage to achieve so much, including our new website at www.nungalinya.edu.au - please share this with your church and friends."*

Two of our Tiwi Island students have graduated with the Diploma of Theology. The uniqueness of this was that their ministry study was conducted at their home community at Nguiu.

On Good Friday, on the ABC show 'Compass' an indigenous leader of Redfern gave praise to Nungalinya College as a life-changing experience. In June, two of our Anglican students graduated in their home community, Umbukumba on Groote Eylandt. We have been very excited at the introduction of our youth program "Creating Indigenous Futures" a pilot program for young women aged 15-19. This has been operating since last October and two of the participants have entered full-time

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employment.

In partnership with Red Cross Australia we are delivering a Parenting Education & Support Program on the Tiwi Islands. We continue to deliver Cross Cultural Awareness and Cultural Safety as well as Certificate II in Community Services Work. I am hoping to offer Indigenous peoples another way to cope with the difficulties of life in remote communities and lead them on a path of peace and hope.

Thank you for continuing to support our very vital work in Indigenous spiritual outreach and education. We are struggling to make a difference. In Calvary love, Dawn."

THE 'GOOD NEWS' IN THE NEWSROOM:

God's word has entered TV stations across Sydney.

Every Thursday at *Network 10* a group of busy media executives meet in a conference room only metres away from the wall-to-wall TV screens in the hectic newsroom.

Across town at *Channel 9* on Wednesdays at 1 pm journalists, camera operators and producers get together in the plush surrounds of 'Hendo's', a room named after the legendary news anchor.

These colleagues are not studying the latest news schedule but are working out how to apply the Bible to their lives.

Christians In The Media, based out of Annandale Anglican Church began the two Bible studies last March after hearing from Christians working long shifts at TV stations who were in need of support and regular Bible teaching. One of them is *Dominic Sirone*, Nine's Outside Broadcast Coordinator. "There's no room for God in this industry" he says, "Christians need all the encouragement they can get."

Christians In The Media also run weekly Bible Studies at the ABC and Fairfax. These groups aim to be welcoming to non-believers who are curious about their colleagues' faith.

"We would love to see groups running in all the major media outlets in Sydney" said *Andrew Laird*, a ministry trainee with *Christians In The Media* and a former journalist, "It's a powerful witness."

(From Sydney Diocesan Anglican Newspaper 'Southern Cross')