

A.C.W. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**HAVE
YOU
REGISTERED
YET?**



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMAN
ACW NEWS**

“We aim:- to unite Christian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PO Box 527 Prospect East S.A. 5082
(All Newsletter correspondence to this address please)
April – May 2001

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

“Jesus our Living Hope” Greetings to you all.

As I write this piece, I am looking out on a beautiful Autumn day here in Adelaide. The days are getting shorter and the nights, crisper but today the sun is shining and it is quite lovely.

Your National Executive is continuing to develop the programme for our conference in September. Things are coming together well and we are looking forward to a great time of learning and inspiration as we share together in many ways and as we look to the future.

In June I will have the privilege of sharing with the Victorian Unit as they celebrate their 60th year. Before that I will be representing A.C.W at a “Capacity Building Workshop” organised by the Status of Women, here in Adelaide. Then in July, I will attend the National Council of Churches Forum in Melbourne. Hugh Mackay will be the speaker at a National Mission Conference prior to the Forum, and I plan to attend that also, at my own expense. This Conference will address the issues confronting the church as we move forward, and I believe it could have

significant implications for us as we discuss the future of A.C.W. at our Conference.

I would continue to encourage you to come to Adelaide in September. It will be a great opportunity to share our Australian stories, but also to hear the stories of some of our sisters in Asia, and the particular struggles -and joys- they face as they witness to their faith,--- often in very difficult circumstances. Yes, their will be some "Business" to attend to but the greater benefit is, I believe, the opportunity to encourage one another as we seek to make our experience of God real in our lives, and a blessing to others.

Jesus is OUR Living Hope, so we can face the vagaries of life with confidence. Without that knowledge, life can be a huge struggle and become almost too hard. It is our mission to lift people from hopelessness, and help them to find strength for the journey, that peace which passes all understanding, and that joy for living, which is only truly found in the life-giving relationship with Jesus.

May God bless you and empower you as you find ways of bearing that message of hope to all around you.

See you in September.

Love Marj. (Marj Dredge, President)

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE NEWS

The ACWC Executive members are looking forward to joining Australian Church Women at our National Conference in September. This is a wonderful opportunity for ACW to greet, meet and encourage our ACWC sisters, who share a huge leadership role in Asian Church Women's Conference. They keep in constant contact with the Executive Secretary, Rev Iluminada

Domingo, and each other, via email between meetings. They seek ways to build bridges between the women of many cultures and nations, and most importantly encourage and empower them to work together for the Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus Christ... our aim too in multicultural Australia!

AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO ACWC:

My term of office concludes after the next ACWC Assembly to be held in Seoul, Korea, in October of next year. The new Australian representative, and two delegates, to be chosen at National Conference, will be expected to support me with Australia's participation, and be present and vote at all meetings during the Assembly. Observers, at their own cost, are most welcome to attend, and as in the past, can be depended upon to support us as the Australian team.

Please send in those nominations for the position of ACWC Australian Representative to our National Secretary as soon as possible.

In the past four years, my faith and vision have been greatly broadened by my experience as your representative, and many friendships as sisters in Christ have been made. I pray for your consideration and commitment.

With love and prayers,

Barbara,
[ACWC rep.]

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

It was with great pleasure that Life Membership was bestowed on Lady Wilson (Leila) and Janet Watts at our February meeting.

Margaret Napier attended this meeting to present their badges. All the members were delighted to welcome Margaret, as she was the nominator of this honour to Leila and Janet.

Lady Wilson (Leila)

Leila joined Australian Church Women in the Western Australian Unit from Presbyterian Women of Australia about 1967. She left in 1971 when her youngest child was 18 months old, who became 'too much of a nuisance to take to meetings' (Leila's words!). Leila returned in 1976 when number five child started school. In 1979 she became the representative for the Uniting Church.

During her years with Australian Church Women Leila has held office as President, Vice President and on two occasions, Treasurer. She was also National Executive Minute Secretary 1989-1991. At present she is the Treasurer of the Unit.

Leila has been married to Ron for 51 years, has five children and nine grandchildren. Her Hobbies are cooking, patchwork, reading and her grandchildren. Leila is actively involved in her local church at Applecross and is also involved in district activities.

Janet Watts

Janet has been a member of the Australian Church Women in the Western Australian Unit since 1975 as a representative of the Methodist Church and later Uniting Church. She was Minute Secretary for the National Executive Committee in 1975-1977, the National Executive FLC Convenor for 1989-1991. In the Western Australian Unit she has been Convenor for both FLC and WKS, as well as Minute Secretary and Secretary. She is happy to admit to attending six National Conferences, at all of which she has enjoyed the fellowship of her many friends.

Janet married Bob, a Methodist Minister, in 1951 in South Australia, and then moved to Western Australia where they served in six different country and suburban parishes. Janet was widowed in 1980. She has four children and ten grandchildren and now attends the Yokine Uniting Church.

Janet has a passionate interest in ecumenism, serving in local Presbytery and Synod areas in the Uniting Church. She is a Friend of Iona and a Member of Wellspring Communities.

Janet feels loyalty to the Aims of the Australian Church Women, has loved and appreciated being a member, and treasures the many friends she has made throughout Australia.

NEWS OF LT. COL. LYN GREEN

The following is an extract from the Victorian Unit's February Minutes: -

'Major Alan Laurens of The Salvation Army, spoke about his visit last year to Kenya where he met Lyn Green. He saw the appalling conditions in which people live but he also saw Joytown where The Salvation Army is helping crippled children. He recounted an amusing incident when he was in the National Park with Lyn, and an enormous Baboon caused them all to retreat to their vehicle. He concluded that God is in Kenya working through wonderful people like Lyn.'

FROM THE EDITOR

That is the end of 'News' that has been sent to me for this edition and I thank those who have contributed. The closing date for the next issue will be Friday 13th July. This is earlier than usual because I will be going away and would like to get the newsletter out before I go.