



# NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- N.S.W. 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.

President: Mrs. Major Joan Tong

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MESSAGE from THE PRESIDENT:

*Dear Ladies,*

*Thank you for your support and encouragement during these early days of presidency.*

*I am most grateful to retiring president Marjory Baker for her help and guidance in these days. Marjory has been so very generous in sharing her knowledge of ACW matters, thus easing any concerns that I may have had about my inadequacy for the task of president. My grateful thanks are sincerely offered to Secretary Edith Ridge and Treasurer Dorothy Lumb for their kindness to the 'new girl.'*

*It is easy to 'preach' and tell others how to trust in the Lord for guidance and strength, and not so easy to put into practice for oneself. However, I have the promised presence of the Holy Spirit, and by God's grace I will do the task I have been assigned.*

*I have a real love and enthusiasm for women's ministries, and I am enjoying my work in ACW. As together we affirm the aims and objectives of ACW and together we set new goals and new heights of this*

service, may we all catch a vision of an almighty God whose will it is for all the world to know Him; and in that vision, may we see ourselves, taking our place, giving our hearts and hands to help in the work of the kingdom. ACW gives us opportunities to serve Him together; let us hold hands each other's hands a little tighter and move toward and into the new decade, determined to make ACW a strong community of women whose work in the Church will be a force to be reckoned with.

May God be with you,  
Joan M. Tong (Mrs. Major)

(Joan's work phone number is 244.1711. Just to correct an error in last Newsette - Joan and her husband worship at Dulwich Hill Temple but do not work in the Corps there; their present appointment is at Salvation Army Headquarters. Editor)

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#### PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS:

(Those marked \* were speaking engagements; otherwise attendance representing ACW)

June 12: \*Silver Threads Meeting, Seven Hills Uniting Church.  
June 20: \*Catholic Women's League, St. Patrick's, Parramatta.  
July 2: P.W.A. Annual State Conference, Scots Church.  
July 4: A.B.M. Sydney Auxiliary 80th Anniversary & Luncheon.  
Fellowship Days:  
July 24: \*Strathfield/Homebush at Salvation Army Enfield.  
July 26: \*Lakemba at Belmore Church of Christ.  
July 27: \*Chatswood/Willoughby at Chatswood Sth Uniting Church.  
July 28: \*City Branch.

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#### FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS:

(Meetings are held on 5th Floor of the Uniting Church Building, Piccadilly Court, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney. 10.30 Morning Tea! Visitors are welcome at all of these meetings.)

August 17: Theme - Fellowship Of The Least Coin.  
(Convenor, Pat Burke, to speak)  
September 17: Theme - Winifred Kiek Scholarship.  
(Convenor, Mina Whybourne, to speak)  
October: World Community Day in various centres.  
Theme of Service - 'Caretakers Of Creation'  
November 19: Theme - Christmas Celebration.

### ANNUAL SERVICE of DEDICATION & INSTALLATION of PRESIDENT NSW UNIT:

May 21 was a happy day for the 200 women who gathered at the Salvation Army Citadel in Chatswood for the Annual Service of Dedication and the installation of Mrs. Major Joan Tong as President for the next two years.

The ladies of the Salvation Army and members of our State Executive had put a great deal of preparation into the day and everything went like clockwork. The meeting hall was beautifully decorated and we were happy to see our two ACW Banners on display again.

The Service was a time of real fellowship and of inspiration. Music from the organ and piano and soloist Shelley Soper, of Enfield Salvation Army, lifted our souls. We fed on the Word of God in the Bible Readings brought to us by members of the Executive. Marie McCann, ACW National President, challenged us with her words of greeting to President Joan and how our new President charmed us when it was her turn to speak! We truly had a foretaste of the good things we can expect from this dedicated and spiritual lady, as she shared her life and her faith with us.

Each President brings to the role her own personality and emphasis. We have been grateful for each one of them and ACW is stronger because of such diversity. Whatever else Joan brings to this task, and I expect it will be no mean contribution, we will never be bored, looking for something to do, nor in anything but good humour!

It was our pleasure (and pain) to say farewell to Marjory Baker as she stepped down from her position as President. The pleasure was in thanking her for her loving leadership over the past two years. The pain was in realising that another era had closed; but we go on to new things.

The new member of Executive, Miss Jeanne Sutherland, was pinned with her badge of office as Publicity Convenor. Welcome, Jeanne!

Over lunch, we were able to meet with old friends and get to know new ones. Many people took advantage of this informal atmosphere, to speak to members of the Executive, in particular the President.

We had already said farewell to Past President, June Graham, at the April Annual General Meeting when she chaired the election of officers. June and her husband have retired to Bundanoon; we know that she will find work there to do for her Lord. We are grateful for the years she spent with us in ACW and will always benefit from her contribution as Promotions Convenor, and her fine leadership as President.

(Report written by Edith Ridge, Unit Secretary)

### NEWS From STATE COUNCIL:

At the June meeting we had a glimpse of good things to come in 1991, when the National President, Marie McCann, spoke about the Conference being planned by the National Executive for September 9th-13th 1991. We report with enthusiasm that this will be a great Conference! Planning is already at an advanced stage; the venue is the Salvation Army's Conference Centre at Collaroy, a beautiful spot at one of Sydney's northern beaches. The accommodation looks great, the programme outline exciting and we are looking forward eagerly to welcoming our interstate visitors to Sydney.

There will be plenty of room for visitors to the Conference, either to live-in or make day visits. We hope many NSW women will take up this rare opportunity to experience a National Conference - remember, it will be 12 years before we host the Conference again! Watch for more news in the coming months and plan to be a part of a great experience.

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### TWO FESTIVALS OF FLOWERS:

Sydney folk will have a feast of beauty and inspiration in September, when they visit two great Cathedrals for their Festivals of Flowers.

#### St. Andrew's Cathedral - September 7th to 10th:

Look especially for the display arranged by ACW. The Theme for our arrangement is *"Praise The Lord...The Maker Of Heaven And Earth, The Sea And Everything In Them...The Lord Who Remains Faithful For Ever."* These words were chosen by Peg Blake from Psalm 146.

Ask Jeanne Sutherland for brochures soon.

#### St. Mary's Cathedral - September 21st to 24th:

ACW will arrange a display at this Festival also. The Official Opening by Mrs. Katherine Greiner will be preceded by the music of the Naval Band. Specially featured will be Christening Robes more than 100 years old, a 120-year old Wedding Dress, and historic and early vestments of the Catholic Church in Sydney. It will be very hard to surpass the Festival held in this Cathedral a few years ago but the organisers are going to try!

Dame Monica Gallagher will have further information soon.

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### AMENDMENT to last NEWSETTE: (May 1990)

In third paragraph of article on formation of Jewish/Christian Council please read: *"Sister Lenore Sharry (N.D.S.) is Co-Convenor with Rabbi Apple, replacing the Rev. Bern Stevens, who still remains a member and from whom tapes of addresses are still obtainable."*

### PARTNERS With ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

People who attended either the Annual Service or June Council Meeting received copies of the 'Partners' Leaflet; if you were not at either, ask at your Branch meetings for them. We hope that every ACW member will want to be a 'Partner' - it is only \$1.00 per person per year, every year, and it will help us to reach our allocation of \$500.00 from NSW in support of our sisters in Asian countries.

### WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

News to hand that 1990 Scholar, Doreen Tie has her entry visa and her ticket to Australia and is on her way here to take up her scholarship. Doreen will do her studies in NSW, living at the Baptist Hostel in Petersham and studying at Lidcombe. This means that there should be opportunities for NSW women to meet her during her stay. We welcome her to our State and wish her God's blessings as she studies here.

Do you remember Dien Sumiyatiningsih, our 1980 Scholar? She has now married and her name is Dien Nuhamara (much easier to say!). Dien is working in her own country (Indonesia) as a University Chaplain.

News from Kiribati that last year's Scholar, Failautusi Teb'ati is now the Head Teacher in the Home Economics Dept. at the Junior Secondary School of the Kiribati Protestant Church, which is on an island called Abaiang. The Electric Typewriter which was the gift of ACW Australia to the women of Kiribati and which Fai guarded with her life, as she took it home, is proving to be a great boon in the office of Women's Work in the Church at Kiribati. They are most grateful for it.

Please always pray for our former scholars, and for the Executive of Asian Church Women's Conference, especially its Secretary, Eunice Kim, as she prepares for their Conference in Jakarta in November.

*(For Convenor Mina Whybourne, at present Overseas)*

### FELLOWSHIP Of The LEAST COIN:

The list of grants given from F.L.C. Funds for 1990 indicates that Australia is to receive three of these grants:- one to Victoria, one to South Australia and one to Tasmania (for Papua New Guinea).

Keep putting aside your 'Least Coins' always remembering that this is a prayer fellowship and we are committed to pray for our sisters as we put the coins aside, and at the same time, to put aside any hurts or things that divide us from other people - it is a fellowship of prayer and reconciliation. *(For Convenor Pat Burke, also overseas!)*

### GREAT ECUMENICAL GATHERING in ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL:

A Service to celebrate The Year Of Ecumenical Sharing and to welcome Dr. Philip Potter to Sydney was held in St. Mary's Cathedral on 21st June. Hundreds of people attended, from many denominations and ethnic backgrounds. During the Processional Hymn, it was exciting to see the city's Church Leaders and the colourful costumes of the choirs and other people who would later take part in the Service.

With one voice the congregation responded to the words of the hymn to "Shout God's praises, for if we are silent, even the stones will cry out." There were opportunities during the Service to turn to one's neighbours and greet them, introducing ourselves and Passing The Peace.

In prayers of Intercession, 16 people prayed, from 8 different ethnic groups - Aboriginal, Maori, Tongan, Samoan, Spanish, Coptic, Korean, Indonesian - one of each pair prayed in his/her own language, the other repeated the prayer in English.

The great wooden cross, draped in a red cloth, was carried into the Cathedral by Pastor David Broome, who serves his aboriginal people in Wellington NSW. During the singing of the hymn "Christ Is The King!" the red cloth was changed for a gold one; after the Service, the congregation was invited to join in a quiet reflection around the cross, which was placed on the floor of The Chapel Of The Irish Saints.

Rev. Dr. Ray Williamson, Executive Secretary of NSW Ecumenical Council was the Liturgist and the President of that Council, Edmund Walker, (husband of our own Elizabeth Walker) greeted the congregation to this time of historical worship. It was good to see friends from many places at the Service, among them members of ACW.

ABC Television will be presenting this Service on Sunday, August 19 at 11.00 a.m. in the 'Worship Now' segment. Try to see it then, or ask a friend to tape it for you - it is a celebration worth seeing.

*(Report contributed by Edith Ridge)*

### FELLOWSHIP DAY - 1991:

No, we haven't made a mistake - 1991 is what we said and 1991 is what we meant! When we gather to celebrate together on Fellowship day in July next year, the Service we will be using will be one written by members of the NSW Unit. The Theme is to be "Praise The Lord With Gladness" and we are looking forward to writing a Service on such a lovely thought. We hope you will enjoy using it in due course.



# HISTORIC MEETING of NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

Members of NSW Unit of ACW participated in an historic meeting of NSW Ecumenical Council held during The Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity, when the Roman Catholic Diocese of Parramatta was admitted to membership.

This is the first Roman Catholic Diocese in NSW to be admitted to the ecumenical body, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the Council's history (20 years after our Catholic sisters joined the NSW Unit of ACW!)

At the Opening Service, held in St. Patrick's Cathedral, in Parramatta, the Rev. David Gill of ACC traced how far we had come in the world-wide ecumenical movement over just a few decades. He said the motivation for ecumenism is that we believe unity is the will of God for His people.

Senator Michael Tate, from Tasmania, where the first Catholic Diocese was admitted to the State Council of Churches back in 1966, was the Guest Speaker. It was the vision of Archbishop Gilford Young of Hobart, who was encouraging young laymen to study theology, that inspired Michael Tate to study theology at Oxford (perhaps the first Roman Catholic to do this since the Reformation) and he graduated with a Master's Degree in Theology.

The Senator said he saw the Australian nation as fulfilling the mission of the Portuguese explorer who called this continent "The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit." He believes it is Australia today where the Spirit is gathering the peoples of the world and we are able to show that it is possible for people from 130 countries to live in harmony. He asked that Christians hold a vision not just of "the south land of the Holy Spirit" but "the whole world of the Holy Spirit," the "Oikumene."

The Prime Minister has appointed Senator Tate, who for 2 years was the President of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship in Canberra, as the liaison with the Cabinet, to ensure that all possible government support be given to the World Council of Churches Assembly in Canberra in 1991. Pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to guide him and other Christian parliamentarians, that they glorify God in all their words and works.

At the meeting following the Service, encouraging reports were given on workshops and gatherings taking place around NSW, in which women are playing an important part. Much of the success of the meetings could be attributed to Mrs. Jenny Johnston, the Executive Secretary of the Council. She and Mrs. Bev. Plaizier, the part-time worker for refugees, led workshops at the meeting which were informative and challenging.

Mary M. Andrews.

(Member of NSW Ecumenical Council Executive.)

### CONFERENCE for CHRISTIAN VOLUNTEERS & CARERS:

The Second Inter-Denominational Conference on Christian Volunteering will be held on Wednesday, 5th September from 9.30 am to 3.15 pm, at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall, Burwood.

The Theme for this year's Conference is "Encouragement - The Key To Caring" and it will be officially opened by the Lady Mayoress of Sydney. The Keynote Speaker is Sister Toni Matha of the "Fair Share" Committee of the Catholic Church; other speakers include Ruth Bright (Caring For The Carers); Sr. Merilyn Barnes (Recruitment & Training of Volunteers). A Panel to be interviewed includes people from the Multiple Sclerosis Society, State Emergency Services, Wesley Mission Street Smart Refuge, The Gideons, and Refugees & Migrants (Hermine Partamian who spoke to ACW March Council). There will also be input from the Salvation Army who will entertain and challenge, as well as opportunities for sharing, networking and questions.

ACW is represented on the Steering Committee for this Conference among other bodies such as Wesley Mission, Anglican Home Mission Society, Baptist Community Services, Missions To Seamen, The Prison Fellowship, The Mothers' Union, Sydney City Mission, The Volunteer Centre Of NSW. Brochures with full details will be available at August ACW NSW Council meeting or may be had by ringing Beryl McLaughlin (267.3711 or 764.2625).

### ENCOURAGING GROWTH in the CHURCH in CHINA:

In March, Dr. Patricia Page, a professor from California shared her experiences while visiting China to contact Christians in different areas and to lecture in a theological seminary. She was enthralled by the Christmas Celebration in Shanghai, where last year a large Sunday School came into being and the children put on a Christmas pageant. Eagerness to learn about the Christian faith and to share it is evident everywhere. Many Christian homes in country villages in Chekiang (the Diocese where Deaconess Andrews worked) display large red crosses - a courageous witness. In some Universities, groups of Chinese students and teachers meet for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship; as the groups grow, they divide to form new groups. The demand for Bibles continues to increase and Amity Press is kept very busy.

From Shanghai, the Associate Secretary of the China Christian Council writes: "The Church still flourishes in China. Some 400 new converts have applied for baptism in Grace Church, where I am working in a voluntary capacity. Last year a Church Women's Commission was set up under the Shanghai Christian Council - I hope we can promote mutual encouragement of women in different Churches. We are grateful to all the Christian brothers and sisters who support us in prayer and in other ways."

*(From Prayer Letter of Anglican Deaconess Fellowship)*



REPORT of MEETING at ACC to hear DR. ELIZABETH FERRIS:

*Some brief notes and facts from a heartsearching talk by Dr. Ferris (of USA) who is Information & Interpretation Secretary of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee & World Service of the WCC in Geneva .....*

Ethiopia - 350,000 refugees - mostly young men, so no chance of marriage or normal relationships ... the very small ration of water cut to half rations ... Malawi - priceless gift to woman going into labour - a tiny piece of fuel ... For 1000 pupils in primary schools only one place is available to a refugee, so little opportunity for any education.

Why such situations in our world today? Some contributing factors .... Moral emphasis has changed; European asylum policy most restrictive; Western governments making it more and more difficult to offer asylum - taking 3,000 instead of 30,000. Example from Sudan "If UK - Mrs. Thatcher - is refusing more refugees we too will close our border"; they already have 1 million from Ethiopia - not one more was allowed in. Governments are much more selective, asking not "What is people's need" but "How will they fit in, will they integrate well?"

How can refugees be dealt with when wars are lasting longer and longer, thus they are staying longer and longer, e.g. 5½ million Namibians now in Sth Africa need to go back ... Many still in own countries are worse off than others who have left and become refugees. From Canada "It is much different opening a soup kitchen to tackling a hostile government at great cost and at great risk" ... With recent changes and new freedom in Europe, support for refugees is changing; for example, last year, more wheat was sent to Poland than to the whole of Africa.

From Central America; A woman whose husband had disappeared was herself threatened: "Stop trying to help people or you'll also disappear." When WCC offered to get her out she replied: "I can't - look in Matthew 25 - the hungry, tired, naked, in prison - I have to stay to do what I can." *May these sketchy notes stir us to pray for people in such situations, and befriend any who have come to our country that we may meet.*

*Beryl McLaughlin.*

WOMEN & THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH CONFERENCE: This is a project initiated by major superiors of Women & Men Religious in Aust. Catholic Church, with the goal being a change in the understanding of the role of women in their participation in the Australian Church and the broader society. Its NSW STATE CONFERENCE under the theme "Women Empowering The Future" is to be at Our Lady Of Mercy College Parramatta on Saturday 11th August from 8.45 am to 5.45 pm. Brochures with details of a most interesting and challenging day of listening, discussing, praying, thinking and enjoying being together are obtainable from Sr. Patricia Kent at ACN State Council or by ringing Bernice (516.1065 (W) or 570.5265 (H)).

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS at NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN:

*Speakers at two recent NCW functions discussed women's issues on almost parallel lines, one Federally and the other from a NSW State aspect.*

At NCW Annual Luncheon, Mrs. Joan Brewer, Deputy Convenor of National Women's Consultative Council was Keynote Speaker. Her Council is comprised of 13 delegates from organisations and 6 appointees; the latter to include women from specific fields of interest e.g. an aboriginal woman, one representing farming women etc. It does not include anyone from the Office Of The Status Of Women as it is meant to represent the women's organisations, not be part of the bureaucracy. Quarterly meetings (in Canberra) are of 2-3 days duration; Task Groups and Seminars are active in between, covering such subjects as: Education; Women In Poverty; Housing; Tax; Domestic Violence; Equal Pay; Violence In The Community; Portrayal of Women in the Media; Women With Domestic Responsibilities e.g. care of aged or invalid relative; Advertising.

Examples of the Committee's achievements: The farming representative brought information on use of chemicals - this now placed before Senate Committee. A rumour that Family Allowances would be cut out at salary of \$30,000 - Council, with other groups, made a stir - amount raised to \$60,000. In one State women in hospital subjected to vaginal examinations without consent because of 'need to train students' - this has been stopped. Victim Toys - toy industry would do nothing - Council lobbied the Minister - such toys now banned. Submissions on Child Care; Women's Education; J.E.T. (Jobs/Employment/Training) Programme instigated - re-training women for the workforce so they are not dependent on Social Security; welfare of Filipino brides.

The Council is not in a position to make laws but can make submissions and thus influence the laws being framed e.g. new laws relating to maintenance; new laws re advertising and the media; new Appeals Committee.

A person or organisation may get on mailing list for the Council's National Agenda by contacting the NWCC Secretary, C/- The Office of The Prime Minister & Cabinet, 325 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600.

\* \* \* \* \*

The other informative Speaker was Lady Carrick, at NCW June Council Meeting, who is Chairman of the Women's Advisory Council of NSW, and also a Commissioner in the Girl Guides Movement. Lady Carrick observed that her Council's work somewhat parallels the work of organisations such as NCW - they get the ideas - her Council 'fires the bullets' at the Government!

The Council looks at all legislation to see how it would effect women. They now have a top lawyer in the Office Of The Cabinet, to look at everything before it comes before parliament, thus can make suggestions in advance instead of trying to change actual proposed laws.

Examples: Lady visiting Walgett - horrified at conditions on aborigine reserve - suggested unofficial visit by women - party included an aboriginal woman who is on Bourke Council; result - new housing, grass mown a small hall for meeting place, an aboriginal woman resident being appointed as liaison person with Lady Carrick's Council.

Cobar - mining town - very mobile population - nothing for women to do - men go off to clubs/pubs - town has second highest teenage pregnancy rate in Australia - any rain at all, all roads cut and town isolated.

Council's widely diverse activities include:

Women in prison - forgotten, as far fewer in number than men; now old Mullewa Gaol (8 to a room, cement floors) replaced by comfortable houses, workrooms, craftrooms; Council suggested to Michael Yabsley that the many aboriginal prisoners be taught to read & write or at least offered opportunity to do so. Another 'lobbying' prevented the removal of the magistrates from small country towns, which would have meant long costly journeys for people to have cases heard.

Lady Carrick's own special areas of interest include:

1. In-Vitro Fertilisation. A challenge for the future morally and ethically; only a very small proportion ever have a child; When ova are taken women asked to allow extra eggs to "help other women" but have no rights to what happens to them. In nature's way of conception, only the strongest and fittest survive, but in IVF programme, any ova and sperm are put together - creating monsters.
2. Domestic Violence. Not new but now out in the open. NSW has led the States in legislation in this field. Refuges are available and good but women stay a long time - not good for children - while perpetrator of the violence lives in comfortable home. Needed - an anonymous '008' number; country women especially will not ask for help for fear of talk all over town. Such a 008 number still a dream, as very costly, but is needed so any woman can ring for advice on anything, not only violence. Also needed - more women magistrates; men magistrates inclined to disbelieve that any man could behave as some cases describe, or say "You must have asked for it."
3. One-Year Survey On Breast Cancer, specially Ethnic and Aboriginal women, also Pap. Smears; programme had great success among the ethnic women but very little with aboriginal women.

Beryl McLaughlin.

*(I attend NCW for Deaconess Council but as neither of ACW delegates were present at either function I thought both were well worth reporting here)*

\*\* INFORMATION PAGE \*\*

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ALL OTHER A.C.W. MONIES such as Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of Least Coin, Subscriptions to A.C.W. National News, or Donations, should be sent to the Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Lumb,  
69 Myall Street,  
Concord West. 2138.  
(Tel: 73.3360)

AFFILIATION FEES become due on 1st March each year, as follows:

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Denominational Groups — State Level: | \$ 15.00 per annum |
| Local Branches of A.C.W.:            | \$ 5.00 per annum  |
| Special Interest Groups e.g.         | \$ 5.00 per annum  |
| YWCA, WCTU, Girls' Brigade:          |                    |

ALL CHEQUES should be made payable to 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN'

\*\*\* Let us learn like a bird for a moment to take  
Sweet rest on a branch that's beginning to break;  
She feels the branch breaking, but calmly she sings,  
Why worry? Why fear? She has wings! She has wings!!

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