



ACW seeks to unite Australian church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

The Winifred Kiek Scholarship provides funds for a year of study for a Christian woman from Asia, Pacific or multi-cultural Australia mainly in preparation for work among women and children



Fellowship of the Least Coin through prayer and least coins works for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation for marginalised people of the world.



Asian Church Women's Conference brings together Christian women from many Asian countries—including Australia and New Zealand.

Celebrating 70 Years

1938 - 2008



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ACW NSW Unit Secretaries

1938-39	Mrs E F Bond	
1943-44	Miss Rebecca Swann	Society of Friends
1944-48	Mrs W H Lock	Methodist
1948-50	Mrs M Chapman	Congregational
1954-55	Miss Gertrude Roseby	Congregational
1957-59	Mrs E D Briggs	Anglican
1959-60	Mrs Lt Col Hutchison	Salvation Army
1961-62	Mrs Lt Col Edna Baker	Salvation Army
1961-62	Mrs Lorna Lilley	Methodist
1965-67	Mrs Margaret Ralph	Presbyterian
1967-70	Mrs Win Dougherty	Methodist
1970-71	Mrs Audrey Bell	Methodist
1971-75	Mrs Dorothy Martin	Methodist
1975-77	Miss Doris Mitchell	Anglican
1977-81	Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse	Uniting
1981-86	Brig Mabel Ward	Salvation Army
1986-88	Mrs Marie McCann	Roman Catholic
1989-94	Mrs Edith Ridge	Uniting
1994-96	Major Joan Tong	Salvation Army
1996-99	Mrs Jan Harrison	Anglican
2000	Major Glenys Holley	Salvation Army
2000-	Mrs Isabel Hewitt	Uniting

ACW NSW Unit Treasurers

1952-54	Mrs Chapman	Congregational
1954-60	Miss M McDiarmid	Presbyterian
1960-63	Mrs Lorna Lilley	Methodist
1963-76	Mrs Linda Perriam	Baptist
1977-83	Miss Doris Mitchell	Anglican
1983-86	Mrs Elizabeth Walker	Uniting
1986-93	Mrs Dorothy Lumb	Anglican
1993-2001	Mrs Marie Majoor	Roman Catholic
2002-03	Mrs Elaine Wilson	Churches of Christ
2003-	Mrs Helen Richardson	Uniting

National Presidents from NSW

- 1965-66 Mrs Mabel Wyllie
1977-79 Mrs Win Dougherty
1989-91 Mrs Marie McCann
2003-05 Major Nancy McLaren

National Life Members from NSW

- 1973- Mrs Keelah Dey
1973 Mrs Mabel Wyllie
1973 Deaconess Mary Andrews
1973 Mrs Marjory Verco
2005 Miss Shirley Wells
2007 Mrs Edith Ridge

Profiles of all these women are to be found in ACW National Executive *Honouring Australian Church Women*

Foreword

The 50th Anniversary of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit was marked with the production of a history to 1988 written by Deaconess Mary Andrews. To take the story the next ten years Mrs Marie Majoor built on the original work, and it seems timely that we should now review what has happened since 1998.

This publication introduces the women who have served in the role of President of the NSW Women's Inter Church Council which became the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women. As with the photos, the introductions are thumbnails, derived from the profiles collected over the last two years, but they give a good idea of the stature of the women who have held this office.

In the previous books referred to above are lists of Secretaries, Treasurers, and Life Members and they have been updated to 2008. In addition to these, lists of the women from NSW who have been ACW National Presidents and ACW National Life Members are included

Isabel Hewitt
Secretary.

PRESIDENTS 1938-2008
NSW WOMEN'S INTER CHURCH COUNCIL/ACW NSW STATE UNIT

1938-1939	Hannah Jennings	1966-1967	Olga Badger
1939-1940	May Renwick	1967-1968	Grace Cowled
1939-1940	Gertrude Amy Roseby	1968-1969	Joyce O Gilbert
1940-1941	Amy Gertrude Bowden	1969-1970	Mary M Andrews
1941-1942	Ruby McCallum	1970-1971	Marjorie A Stanhope
1942-1943	Rebecca Swann	1971-1972	Olive Carpenter
1943-1944	Mary Eliza Clouston	1972-1973	Nancy M Pfeiffer
1944-1945	Gertrude Amy Roseby	1973-1974	Winifred Dougherty
1945-1946	Elsie E Deane	1974-1975	Doris M Mitchell
1946-1947	Ruby W McCallum	1975-1976	Gladys M Bent
1947-1948	Rebecca Swann	1976-1978	Edna H Baker
1948-1949	Regina Stolz	1978-1980	Marie J McCann
1949-1950	Mary Millar	1980-1982	Gladys West
1950-1952	Annie Deans	1982-1984	Yvonne A Davis
1952-1954	Sylvia J Lew	1984-1986	Edith B Ridge
1954-1955	May Greenhalgh	1986-1988	June Graham
1955-1956	Kathleen E Lowry	1988-1990	Marjory Baker
1956-1957	Kathleen B Garlick	1990-1992	Joan M Tong
1957-1958	Regina Stolz	1992-1994	Phyl McKinnirey
1958-1959	Marianne Vines	1994-1996	Lucelle King
1959-1960	Reta E Farr	1996-1998	Margaret (Peg) Blake
1960-1961	Effie H Baldwin	1998-2000	Elizabeth Walker
1961-1962	Edris M Manefield	2000-2002	Jan Harrison
1962-1963	Marjory I Verco	2002-2004	Jean Porteous
1963-1964	Brucinda Montgomerie	2004-2006	Lyn Middleton
1964-1965	Hazel V Cross	2006-2008	Carmel Keys
1965-1966	Thelma M Adam	2008-	Jennifer Pepper

LIFE MEMBERS NSW STATE UNIT

1953	M McDiarmid	Foundation Member	Presbyterian
	Rebecca Swann	Foundation Member	Society of Friends
		President 1942-43, 1947-8	
		Secretary 1943-44	
	Ruby McCallum	Foundation Member	Churches of Christ
		President 1941-42, 46-47	
	Mrs A E Walker	Foundation Member	Methodist
	Miss G A Roseby	President 1939-40, 44-45	Congregational
		Secretary 1954-55	
	Mrs Mary Millar	President 1949-50	Presbyterian
	Mrs G H Briggs	Secretary 1957-59	Society of Friends
	Mrs A Hall	Wybalena Committee	Baptist
	Mrs G Knight	Sec. Wybalena Committee	Churches of Christ
	Mrs E G Pearson	Wybalena Committee	Presbyterian
1963	Mrs W Wyper	Sec. Wybalena Committee	Congregational
1967	Mrs Regina Stolz	President 1948-49, 57-58	Lutheran
	Mrs B Montgomerie	President 1963-64	Anglican
1977	Mrs L Perriam	Treasurer 14 years	Baptist
	Col H Cross	President 1964-65	Salvation Army
	Mrs W Dougherty	Secretary 1967-70	Methodist
		President 1973-74	
1981	Dss M Andrews	President 1969-70	Anglican
	Mrs M Stanhope	President 1970-71	Churches of Christ
1983	Miss Doris Mitchell	President 1974-75	Anglican
		Secretary 1975-77	
		Treasurer 1977-83	
1984	Mrs Lt Col E Baker	Secretary 1961-62	Salvation Army
		President 1976-78	
1987	Mrs J Curtin	First Catholic Delegate	Roman Catholic
	Mrs D Woodhouse	Secretary 1977-81	Methodist/Uniting
1997	Mrs Marie McCann	President 1978-80, Sec 86/8	Roman Catholic
		National Pres 1989-91	
1998	Mabel Ward	Secretary 1981-86	Salvation Army
	Mrs Mina Whybourne	<i>Newsette</i> 84-88, WKS 88-97	Anglican
1999	Mrs Edith Ridge	President 1984-86,	Methodist/Uniting
		Secretary 1989-94	
2000	Mrs Lucelle King	President 1994-96	Baptist
2003	Mrs Peg Blake	President 1996-98	Presbyterian
2005	Mrs Beryl McLaughlin	Editor <i>Newsette</i> 1989-	Anglican

PRESIDENTS BY DENOMINATION

Anglican

Brucinda Montgomerie 1963-64
 Mary Andrews 1969-70
 Doris M Mitchell 1974-75
 June Graham 1986-88
 Jan Harrison 2000-02

Baptist

Effie H Baldwin 1960-61
 Joyce O Gilbert 1968-69
 Gladys West 1980-82
 Lucelle King 1994-96
 Jennifer Peffer 2008-

Catholic

Marie McCann 1978-80
 Phyl McKinnirey 1992-94
 Carmel Keys 2006-08

Churches of Christ

Ruby W McCallum 1941-42,
 1946-47
 May Greenhalgh 1954-55
 Marjory Verco 1962-63
 Marjorie A Stanhope 1970-71
 Gladys Bent 1975-76
 Marjory Baker 1988-90
 Jean Porteous 2002-04

Congregational

May Renwick 1939-40
 Gertrude A Roseby 1939-40,
 1944-45
 Annie B Deans 1950-52
 Reta E Farr 1959-60
 Olga G Badger 1966-67

Lutheran

Regina Stolz 1948-49,
 1957-58

Methodist

Amy Gertrude Bowden 1940-41
 Elsie E Deane 1945-46
 Sylvia J Lew 1952-54
 Edris M Manefield 1961-62
 Grace Cowled 1967-68
 Winifred Dougherty 1973-74

Presbyterian

Hannah Jennings 1938-39
 Mary Eliza Clouston 1943-44
 Mary Millar 1949-50
 Marianne Vines 1958-59
 Thelma M Adam 1965-66
 Nancy M Pfeiffer 1972-73
 Yvonne Davis 1982-84
 Peg Blake 1996-98

Salvation Army

Kathleen B Garlick 1956-57
 Hazel V Cross 1964-65
 Olive Carpenter 1971-72
 Edna Baker 1976-78
 Joan Tong 1990-92
 Lyn Middleton 2004-06

Society of Friends

Rebecca Swann 1942-43,
 1947-48
 Kathleen Lowry 1955-56

Uniting

Edith Ridge 1984-86
 Elizabeth Walker 1998-2000



President 1938-1939

Hannah Jennings

1871-1951

Presbyterian

As one of the people who worked for the establishment of a women's inter church council, Hannah Jennings brought to the task a wealth of experience in meeting the needs of migrants, patients in hospitals, poor children and the elderly. She was active in setting up structures to facilitate action and achieved honorary mention in C A White's history of the Presbyterian Church *Challenge of the Years*.

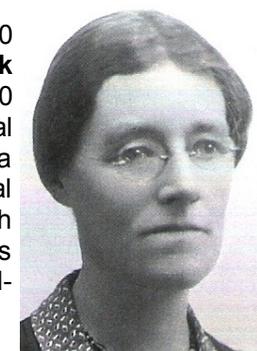
President 1939-1940

May Renwick

1877-1940

Congregational

May Renwick came to Australia from England as a small child, and grew up in the Congregational Church. She was often camp mother at youth camps in the late 20s and early 30s. She was known as a person ahead of her time, and her sudden death was seen as a great loss to the church.



President 1939-1940

President 1944-1945

Gertrude Amy Roseby

1872-1971

Congregational

Amy Roseby believed passionately in peace, and was well versed in world affairs. She was a teacher, headmistress, including over 30 years at Redlands, Neutral Bay, and was awarded an OBE for services to education in 1958. She was active in National Council of Women.

"She quietly assumed that she was the equal of any man in the sight of God." (Ruth Teale in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*)



President 1940-1941
Amy Gertrude Bowden
 1871-1955
 Methodist

The daughter of missionaries, Amy Bowden was a teacher before marrying a Methodist minister. They served in many country and suburban churches where she 'exercised a distinctive ministry' to young people and children. National Council of Women and Temperance Movement were among her interests.

President 1941-1942
 President 1946-1947
Ruby McCallum
 1892-1965

Churches of Christ

The McCallums lived in New Zealand, then in Queensland, Victoria, USA and Canada, moving to Sydney in 1938. Involved in women's ministry at Epping, at State and Federal levels, she also conducted a column for women in *The Australian Christian*. A foundation member NSW WICC, Ruby McCallum was very committed to Wybalena Hostel project. Painted in oils and watercolours.



President 1942-1943
 President 1947-1948

Rebecca Swann
 1873-1959

Society of Friends

Foundation member of NSW WICC, Rebecca Swann was known for her interest in children, in both religious and educational settings. A teacher, headmistress and active unionist, her widely varied interests included the recognition of the needs of slow learners, equal pay, tree planting, improved conditions for Aborigines, peace, temperance, the needs of crippled children. In 1950 was a delegate to World Council of Churches Commission on Evangelism. 'She was kind, good humoured, with a great gift of common sense.'



2007 May Dedication Service – Major Elaine Johnson, National President, as speaker
 Spiritual Enrichment Day – Scripture, Mission, Social Issues, Neighbour with denominational representatives as speakers
 National Conference Geelong – launch of ACW Website
 Shu-Wen Chiang, ACWC Secretary, in Sydney following Conference
 Social issues awareness raising on climate change, anti slavery project, Make Poverty History, UN Millennium Goals, domestic violence, local networking – action priorities as women's group
 Supported child at Camp WerX run by Prison Fellowship
 WKS Leinamau Manrogoana studying in Sydney – Judith Cayzer ACW liaison person

2008 Material for Profiles 'completed'
 Social Issues direction to keep in touch with where women need our support - in areas such as maternity leave, domestic violence, carers – at local level as well as advocating for action at state level. In keeping with this idea a speaker has been invited to Council to look at social needs at the local level.
 Woman's Christian Temperance Union became WCTU Foundation—had been affiliated with ACW NSW Unit.

ACW NSW STATE UNIT INC—EXECUTIVE 2008-2009

PRESIDENT	Mrs Jennifer Peffer	9874 4056
PAST PRESIDENT	Mrs Carmel Keys	9977 5156
TREASURER	Mrs Helen Richardson	9971 0278
SECRETARY	Mrs Isabel Hewitt	4969 6336
MEMBERSHIP	Mrs Martha Noel	9642 0493
PASTORAL CARE	Mrs Olive Edmondstone	9887 1846
FLC CONVENER	Mrs Janet Lang	4975 5740
WKS CONVENER	Mrs Judith Cayzer	9896 3758
SPECIAL DAYS	Mrs Pamela Freeman	9873 1701
NEWSETTE EDITOR	Mrs Beryl McLaughlin	9744 8609
SOCIAL ISSUES		
PUBLICITY	Major Nancy McLaren	9555 2628
		(w) 9266 9880
ACWC CONVENER	Major Lyn Middleton	9529 6744
	NATIONAL WEBSITE:	www.acwnational.org.au

- 2005** National Conference at Collaroy – Speakers included Esther Byu, Vala Palu – FLC 50th Anniversary, ACW 40th Spiritual Enrichment Day – *God's Treasury* - Contact with WKS Scholars through cards and letters
Letters to MPs regarding mental health care and funding, and young disabled adults in nursing homes.
The needs of young carers were brought to attention of members, letters written to Government for support.
With the abortion issue being raised in Parliament members were encouraged to look at the whole issue and write to MPs if they wished.
Opportunity was given at Council to sign a petition against trafficking of women and children
Britt Barry, a worker with Caritas, told Council of work following the December 2004 Tsunami
Judy Williamson from Carers Association suggested ways help could be given to carers who look after relative/friends with disabilities, mental illness or those who are frail
Concept of *Fairtrade* encouraged-a fair price to producers
WCD Special Project –.After school program for Aboriginal children Broken Hill
- 2006** Day Conference – Sr Patricia Stevenson, Ian Minnis from Prison Fellowship, WKS scholar Vivien Cheung
Norma Dumbrell spoke on visit to Myanmar
Helen Richardson and Isabel Hewitt reported on attendance at ACWC Assembly in Kuala Lumpur
Work began on Profiles of Past Presidents
NCW half scholarship to Melissa Baker studying to be chaplain to police force
Glyn Henman from 'Young Life' spoke about volunteers teaching scripture in schools and accompanying young people to activities such as sport or camp
Letters to government about mental health, and young people in nursing homes
Speaker at Council told of some of the proposals for World Youth Day 2008

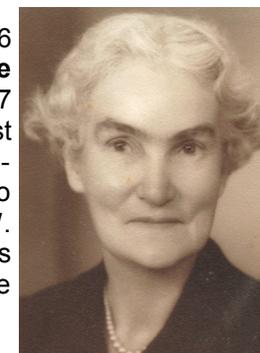


President 1943-1944
Mary Eliza Clouston
-1951

Presbyterian
Mary Clouston worked to help country people, visiting women and children when they were sent to Sydney for hospital treatment. She also helped finance distribution of Scriptures with Bourke as the chief centre. She visited Chinese women in their homes. Mary was active in the many organisations in the Presbyterian Church, and advocated union of them for better effect. 1929-30 was spent speaking to women's groups in Scotland, England and Ireland. She was one of the instigators of NSW WICC.

President 1945-1946
Elsie E Deane
1883-1977
Methodist

Elsie Deane served with her husband as a missionary in Fiji for nine years, before returning to Australia and ministering in many parts of NSW. From 1940-47 they were at Methodist Ladies College Burwood. Support for the Temperance Alliance was another of her interests.



President 1948-1949;
President 1957-1958
Regina Stolz
1904-1989

Lutheran
Regina Stolz was involved with NSW WICC nearly 40 years before the Lutheran church gave permission for its members to join. She saw great value in praying and worshipping together. Other involvements included Women's World Day of Prayer, National Council of Women, Travellers' Aid Society and PPSEAWA.





President 1949-1950

Mary Millar

1892-1979

Presbyterian

With a teaching background Mary Millar became the wife of a minister, first in country NSW and then in Brisbane, involved in women's ministry and in the choir. During WW II she helped establish a hostel for servicemen in Brisbane. Another initiative was a hostel for farm children to stay near school during the week, returning home at weekends. She was interested in the Oxford Group, an attempt to go beyond denominational boundaries. Very involved in Wybalena.

President 1950-1952

Annie Deans

1875-1958

Congregational

Annie Deans emigrated to Perth WA with her husband to start a church under the auspices of the Colonial Missionary Society. Their moves were then to Kalgoorlie, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. She was very active in social work, women's groups and Sunday schools, promoting motherhood and family life. Annie Deans was a keen writer and speaker. She 'showed the confidence of those who know God and trust in His providing'.



President 1952-1954

Sylvia J Lew

1902-1985

Methodist

Sylvia Lew served with her husband in appointments around NSW, including parishes and the Methodist Ladies' College Burwood. She used her musical talents training choirs and organising concerts. A gifted soprano, she was a soloist in presentations of The Messiah. With her husband Sylvia Lew attended the second Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Evanston in 1954.

2002 Incorporation of NSW Unit

Lisa Jackson to South Korea for ACWC and she reported to Council in November

Day Conference with Robyn Claydon of Lausanne Women's Conference and speakers from the Centre of Friendship at Merrylands working with refugees.

Environmental responsibility emphasised and members encouraged to be aware

Letters written to support responsible advertising/brand names that are not offensive to women and children.

Members encouraged to write to Government seeking a non-military solution in Iraq.

Clothing, toiletries and sewing items collected for detainees at Villawood Detention Centre

2003 Spiritual Enrichment Day – "In quietness and confidence . . ."

Fiona Collins spoke of the Fairfax Foundation at Council – funds to charitable organisations

Social issues focused on peace and violence, alcohol, drugs and gaming problems.

Report on 'The Older Woman's Right to Safety in the Home'.

Letters to Government re osteoporosis funding, information given on breast screening.

Contributed to AWC survey on access and equity for culturally/linguistically diverse groups.

Fair policies sought for refugees and asylum seekers.

National Executive WCD Special Project – PLC Sydney East Timor Kindergarten Project

Council for Children's Films and Television Inc ceased—had been affiliated with NSW Unit.

2004 Bible Society NSW Auxiliary affiliated with ACW NSW Unit

Day Conference – *Word and Walk* – Major Geanette Seymour led devotional section, Rev Colin Scott spoke of Hope Street, and Jan Corbett-Jones told of Kairos Prison Ministry

Social concerns included abortion, and the trafficking of women and children

2000 State Conference - Norma Dumbrell described the work of Trinity Theological College Singapore, Juliana Nkrumah spoke on trans multi-cultural health issues for refugees and migrant women, Doug Hewitt on Pilgrimage to the Heart. At September Council meeting Lisa Jackson spoke of her experience as the indigenous young person on the Pilgrimage. Spiritual Enrichment Day was led by Mrs Marj Dredge, National President from Adelaide

Year of Jubilee: devotional led by Joan Tong – “the message of Jubilee is the message of the Gospel”

FLC grants for Baptist Inner City Ministries Parent Support Group at Woolloomooloo, and for Motorised Canoe for the Girls Brigade in the Solomon Islands

Social issues concern with the Fairwear Campaign, and the proliferation of poker machines

WCD Special Project—Teen Challenge

2001 International Year of the Volunteer – denominational groups reported on activities involving their members in churches and the wider community.

Updated History to 1998 produced by Mrs Marie Majoor

Spiritual Enrichment Day “Images of God” led by Sr Colleen O’Sullivan, Sr Marie Craddock

Uma David from India and Diana Manson from New Zealand spoke about their countries

At Council meeting Sr Lorraine Phelan told Council of her work with the NSW Ecumenical Council helping refugees and asylum seekers

In Social Issues attention was given to the report on Fistula treatment in Ethiopia, and the Indigenous and Refugee Women’s Rights seminar

NCW half scholarship to Joanne Lee Cohen – Nursing at UWS

FLC grant – Train the Trainers program for East Timorese who studied in Cairns



President 1954-1955
May Greenhalgh
 1903-1978
 Churches of Christ
 Mrs Greenhalgh was a member of the Church of Christ at Bexley North and then at Pendle Hill. She served a term as President of the Churches of Christ Women’s Fellowship.



President 1955-1956
Kathleen E Lowry
 1903-1994
 Society of Friends
 Kathleen Lowry came from Northern Ireland to Australia as a young woman. She first lived in Hamilton, then Sydney where she worked in a bakery to enable her daughter to attend the Friends’ School Hobart. In NSW WICC she was very involved in the Wybalena project. She enjoyed playing bowls.



President 1956-1957
Kathleen B Garlick
 1898-1984
 Salvation Army
 After coming to Australia from England via Canada Kathleen Garlick left a successful office career to become a Salvation Army Officer. She worked in corps ministry, and is also noted for her organisation at Divisional level of Bible camps and Rallies for women’s Home League. As well as her contribution to ecumenical activities, she served on the Good Neighbour and the Marriage Guidance Councils.



President 1958-1959
Marianne Vines
 1899-1988
 Presbyterian

Mrs Vines fulfilled the traditional role of minister's wife graciously and creatively. She was a good organiser and led women's and young women's groups – brought flair to dramatic presentations. Her caring nature made her much loved. She was active in P & C in Dubbo, learnt watchmaking from her father, and late in life learnt Braille, translating for blind society.

President 1959-1960
Reta E Farr
 1919-
 Congregational

Reta Farr served with her minister husband in both congregations and chaplaincies in SA, Japan, Vic, ACT, NSW, USA. She was involved in NSW WICC and ACW in ACT, and SA. An accomplished singer, Reta sang in church choirs, a trio, and had lead parts in musical theatre. She worked as a librarian and as a secretary to help support the family while in the USA.



President 1960-1961
Effie H Baldwin
 1896-1987
 Baptist

Effie Baldwin was the first woman graduate of the NSW Baptist Theological College. She went as a missionary to East Bengal, worked in India for many years and spoke Garo fluently. Back in Australia she served with her husband in several Baptist churches in ministry. A building at Morling Theological College is named in her honour.

- 1994 First State Conference held at Anglican Centre Golden Grove Newtown
- 1998 Statement of Faith for NSW Unit prepared
 State Conference: *Towards 2000—Walking Together*
 Death of Shanti Solomon, founder of FLC

The Next Ten Years - 1999-2008

Since 1999 annual Fellowship Day and World Community Day services conducted by local Branches have continued to bring women together for worship and fellowship. These are prepared by the different state and territory units following a fixed rotation, using the theme decided upon for the two years of each National Executive. The offerings from the services support the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Asian Church Women's Conference, and a Special Project decided upon by the National Executive. The local Branches are the 'grassroots' of Australian Church Women, the essential element without which state and national cannot function.

The activities of State Council are outlined year by year in what follows. It should be noted that social issues are ongoing, and indeed at times are of an orbital nature, coming to the fore, moving into the background, and returning, sometimes in an altered form. Since the formation of *Australian Women's Coalition in 2002 the selection of social issues has been influenced by requests from AWC for responses to matters which affect women.

- 1999** State Conference: *Towards 2000 - Walking Together*
Year of the Older Person – Mrs Marjorie Deasey spoke at a mid year luncheon: 'Never too old to be of use'.
 WCD Special Project—The Exodus Foundation Ashfield Coalition 99 (non-government organisations under the auspices of Council on the Ageing) set up committees dealing with aged care, health and transport. Members of ACW attended a number of these.

*Australian Women's Coalition (www.awcaus.org.au) became a separate identity in 2003—one of four secretariats under the auspices of the Office of the Status of Women. It had formerly been overseen by the National Council of Women Australia.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNIT

Setting the Scene—1938-1998

- 1938 NSW Women's Inter Church Council formed – Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist, Churches of Christ, Society of Friends
- 1939 World War II stymied growth but women still met for worship
- 1951 *Wybalena* hostel for country girls studying or working in Sydney
- 1953 Baptist representatives welcomed
- 1955 The Salvation Army represented. Goodwill visit from Church Women United (USA)
- 1958 Anglican women represented officially – had been attending
- 1962 Australia invited to send a representative to Asian Church Women's Conference Assembly in Thailand – no national body of church women. Mrs Edna Beales of Epping attended.
- 1965 Australian Church Women formed, NSW Women's Inter Church Council became the NSW Unit. Connie Tan from Indonesia, the first Winifred Kiek Scholar arrived to do Social Work course.
- 1966 ACW officially represented at ACWC Assembly in Japan – Olga Badger elected to ACWC Committee.
- 1967 Decision to sell *Wybalena*
- 1969 Two observers from Roman Catholic Church
- 1971 Over \$36,000 given to YWCA for *Tremayne* hostel at Kirribilli
- 1973 Roman Catholic women officially members
- 1977 Uniting Church in Australia formed. Presbyterian Church still sent delegates
- 1979 Five women from NSW Unit attended Silver Jubilee of Fellowship of the Least Coin in The Philippines. *Newsette* published for first time. ACW National Conference in Sydney with visitors from Church Women United USA and New Zealand
- 1980 Five NSW women returned visit to Alaska and West Coast USA
- 1981 Group visited Church Women United in New Zealand
- 1982 Dr Thelma Adair, President Church Women United USA visited, as did a group from CWU New Zealand
- 1988 Golden Jubilee of Australian Church Women NSW Unit was celebrated in St Stephen's Macquarie Street Sydney
- 1991 Theme song, *We Being Many are One in the Lord* written by Lucelle King for National Conference held at Collaroy. Social Issues awareness emphasised, convener appointed.



President 1961-1962

Edris M Manefield

1896-1981

Methodist

Mrs Manefield served with her husband in the vast Methodist North-west Mission before moving to the Hunter Valley, and then to Sydney where he worked in the Home Mission Department. For seven years Mrs Manefield was State Superintendent of the Methodist Girls' Comradeship. At the local level she was involved at Lane Cove.

President 1962-1963

Marjory I Verco

1914-2007

Churches of Christ

Following a visit to USA in 1958 Marjory promoted the formation of interdenominational groups for women at the local level. She also suggested co-operation across Australia of state women's inter-church councils. Participation in Fellowship Day, World Community Day and Women's World Day of Prayer was encouraged. Fellowship of the Least Coin and Winifred Kiek Scholarship were introduced. Marjory's vision was 'that they all may be one'.



President 1963-1964

Brucinda Montgomerie

1893-1986

Anglican

Along with her husband, Brucinda Montgomerie ran a soup kitchen in Adelaide during the Depression. She had a special interest in the Church Missionary Society as a foundation member, and her husband was Secretary for Aboriginal Church. A devoted member of Mothers' Union she was also a very keen supporter of Women's World Day of Prayer.



President 1964-1965

Hazel V Cross

1904-1969

Salvation Army

Following work in a number of corps and divisional appointments Hazel Cross distinguished herself as a Training College officer for 17 years. Her final appointment was to women's ministry where she introduced a women's leadership training course for Home League members. In retirement she wrote and taught a series of Bible studies for women officers in the social services. A memorial fund in her honour provides books to the library of the Officer Training College Sydney.

President 1965-1966

Thelma M Adam

1909-1992

Presbyterian

In both country and suburban churches Thelma Adam supported her husband in his work as a minister. She was involved in the Presbyterian Women's Association, and was always ready to extend hospitality and help those in need. She was a great cook, gardener, flower arranger, as well as a painter and potter.



President 1966-1967

Olga Badger

1918-2006

Congregational

Olga took part in many church activities, holding office and supporting the wider work of the church. She and her husband were often camp parents at youth camps. She was involved with Asian Church Women's Conference and served on the ACWC Executive. Olga was active in helping the WKS scholars who studied in Sydney. She was known for her entertaining of overseas guests, was a great cook, seamstress, gardener and listener.



President 2006-2008

Carmel Keys

Catholic

Carmel Keys' participation in Catholic Women's League at local, diocesan and state levels, her membership of Broken Bay Diocesan Ecumenical Commission, and attendance at NSW Ecumenical Council meetings have given her a good background for ACW meetings. She is noted for her strong commitment to ecumenism and concern for the welfare of members

President 2008-

Jennifer Peffer

Baptist

Following early involvement in Anglican and Congregational Churches, Jennifer became a member of the Baptist church following her marriage. At Eastwood Baptist Jennifer is fully committed to work in the local church. She has also been active over many years in Baptist Community Services NSW and ACT. Makes good use of her many handicraft skills.





President 2000-2002
Jan Harrison
 Anglican

From working in women's activities at parish level, Jan Harrison has participated in Mothers Union for over thirty years, and in ACW Branches for a similar period. Jan has served on ACW State and National Executives, and has attended all National Conferences since representing MU. She is involved in Know Your Bible and World Day of Prayer. Local visiting and assisting older women has been for her a rewarding form of service.

President 2002-2004
Jean Porteous

Churches of Christ

In her long nursing career, Jean Porteous spent eight years as a missionary nurse in a leprosy hospital in North India. She has taught children in Sunday school and school religious education, as well as enjoying involvement in women's ministry. Her participation in inter-denominational church fellowship dates back to her childhood in country NSW. Aged care is another area where she has made a contribution.



President 2004-2006
Lyn Middleton
 Salvation Army

As a Salvation Army Officer Lyn Middleton has served in NSW and Queensland corps, in Training College and at Territorial Headquarters. She has also had overseas postings in Pakistan, South Korea and London, with short periods in Moldova and Taiwan. ACW has benefited greatly from Lyn's involvement in ACT, NSW and Qld at Branch, State and National levels. She has been a Salvation Army representative to National Council of Women and NSW Council of Churches.



President 1967-1968
Grace Cowled
 1899-1982
 Methodist

Grace Cowled served with her husband in Papua before working in Methodist churches in country NSW. They then went as missionaries to Fiji where Grace worked as a teacher. Her term as President occurred during the years of retirement at Dee Why.

President 1968-1969
Joyce O Gilbert
 1918-1983
 Baptist

Joyce Gilbert was actively interested in the Ladies' Fellowship at local, state and national levels. She also served as secretary of Baptist Women's Home Mission Auxiliary of NSW. Another avenue of her involvement was in church catering. She was secretary of Epping combined churches Women's World Day of Prayer.



President 1969-1970
Mary M Andrews
 1915-1996
 Anglican

After nursing, Bible college and deaconess training, Mary Andrews worked as a missionary in China and India. She became Principal of Deaconess House Sydney, was involved with Women's World Day of Prayer. She attended conferences in Taizé France, Wichita USA, Lusaka Zambia, Tutzing Germany. She enjoyed gardening, walking, photography, and cooking, and was a Fellow of International Biographical Association.





President 1970-1971
Marjorie A Stanhope
1903-1984

Churches of Christ

Marjorie Stanhope was active in her church's women's work as well as in the local inter-church fellowship. At state level she was involved with FLC and WKS. She met WKS scholars on arrival in Sydney and gave them hospitality. Her interests extended to National Council of Women, and she was an Australian representative at the first International Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer.

President 1971-1972

Olive Carpenter
1915-

Salvation Army

Olive Carpenter served in a number of corps in the UK where she was responsible for the women's ministries as well as sharing the preaching and pastoral roles with her husband. In 1944 they worked with the Salvation Army in the European War Relief effort until 1953 when they came to Australia. In Newcastle and Central NSW Olive was involved in women's ministries, always keen to promote FLC.



President 1972-1973

Nancy M Pfeiffer
1911-1992

Presbyterian

After growing up in Adelaide Nancy moved to Melbourne after marriage. She did Social Work there while Norman was in the UK with the RAF. As a minister's wife Nancy supported her husband and was active in all aspects of church life, especially women's meetings. Her family remembers her as a great cook who could make a feast from humble ingredients. She had a keen interest in music and also enjoyed a number of overseas trips with a religious focus.



President 1994-1996
Lucelle King

Baptist

Lucelle King used her singing and sketching skills whenever possible. ACW NSW is indebted to her for its theme song and for covers of orders of service for special days. As a Baptist representative she was on both state and national executives. She served her church as Sunday school teacher, as director of camps, ministry to women, and on the theological college council, as well as work with Scripture Union.

President 1996-1998

Margaret (Peg) Blake
Presbyterian

A foundation member of Caringbah Presbyterian, Peg has been involved in Sunday school, choir, pastoral care and women's group. Leadership in ACW Sutherland Branch, several positions at state level, instrumental in revision of the constitution, formulation of a mission statement are all important aspects of her work in ACW. Prayer on Wheels, Royal Blind Society, reading to visually impaired, English as second language, and singing in the Combined Churches Choir indicate the breadth of her contribution to church and world.



President 1998-2000

Elizabeth Walker
Uniting

Elizabeth was ordained a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in 1995, and has served in parish ministry and on National UC Committees. She is a Friend of Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital in India. A second generation ACW member, Elizabeth served on State and National Executives. She appreciated the brilliance of ACW as a 'grass roots' ecumenical activity.





President 1988-1990
Marjory Baker
1930-2007

Churches of Christ
Marjory Baker took part in church activities at the local level as Sunday school teacher, in women's fellowship, and in pastoral care. She also used her talents at state and federal levels as President of the Christian Women's Fellowship, and in 1980 she represented CWF at a convention in Hawaii. Marjory was skilled in floral art and was on Women's World Day of Prayer Committee for a number of years.

President 1990-1992

Joan M Tong
Salvation Army

Joan Tong served for 40 years as a Salvation Army Officer in New Zealand and NSW. Women's Ministry played an important role in her work in Corps, Divisional and Territorial appointments, including the Over 50s programs. Commitment to ACW State and National, Asian Church Women's Conference and NSW Ecumenical Council give an indication of her hard work beyond the call of duty. Fund raising and arrangement of Pleasant Sunday Afternoons combine with her jovial personality to tell of her great contribution to ACW.



President 1992-1994
Phyl McKinnirey

Catholic
Phyl McKinnirey has served Catholic Women's League in all executive positions. She has worked in church and community organisations in the Paramatta area, and also at diocesan, regional and national levels. Her involvement has ranged through women's refuge, hospital volunteer, RSL day care, court support groups, frail aged club, meals on wheels, to organising the Australia Day Ecumenical Service for many years. Her other interests include National Council of Women and Women and the Australian Church.



President 1973-1974
Winifred Dougherty
1919-1994
Methodist

Deeply involved in church work for women and young people, Win was a member of Synod and a marriage guidance counsellor. She served ACW as National President 1977-79 and led a team of Australian women to the US. She was Australian representative to ACWC in Japan 1978. Her involvement with Willoughby community activities was vast, she was active in Girl Guides and the Christian Television Association Auxiliary.

President 1974-1975
Doris M Mitchell
1908-1997
Anglican

Coming from a teaching background Doris joined the Australian Board of Missions staff. Interests included National Council of Women, PPSEAWA. In 1977 she received the Queen's Silver Medal, and in 1993 the Medal of the Order of Australia for her work with women. Her wisdom, common sense and commitment to ecumenism are noted.



President 1975-1976
Gladys M Bent
1918-

Church of Christ
Gladys Bent is a deaconess with a lifetime of service at Caringbah, including Sunday school teacher, and Christian Women's Fellowship for which she became State President. Singing has been an important part of her ministry, both as a soloist and as a choir member. Gladys was a convener of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.





President 1976-1978

Edna H Baker

1911-1998

Salvation Army

After being commissioned as a Salvation Army officer Edna studied the Chinese language and served as a corps officer in Tungshan and Canton. She was a chaplain in a refugee camp during Sino-Japanese hostilities working with women and girls. She returned to Australia 1940, married, and was a corps officer in Australia and New Zealand. With her husband she pioneered Salvation Army work in Papua New Guinea. Throughout her ministry she made an important contribution to women's ministry.

President 1978-1980

Marie J McCann

Catholic

Marie McCann became the first Catholic president of ACW NSW, also served a term as National President, and has attended several ACWC conferences. Marie studied to obtain her Master of Theology, has been deeply involved in parish work, used her ability as an organist, has been a member Catholic Women's League, and worked with Meals on Wheels. In recognition of her contributions Marie was awarded an OAM.



President 1980-1982

Gladys West

1919-2001

Baptist

Glad West was actively involved in ministry to children and young people, and women's groups. She was particularly gifted in pastoral care. She served Baptist Women at local, state and south west Pacific areas. She was state convener of FLC for many years and on ACW National Executive 1989-91 she was FLC Convener. During WWII Glad was a member of the Women's Ambulance Service.



President 1982-1984

Yvonne A Davis

1922-1999

Presbyterian

Yvonne served with her husband in country and suburban churches, very involved in women's groups. She was on Presbyterian Women's State Council, Camp Committee and Leader of Studies. She prepared lessons for Correspondence Sunday School. In younger days she was in the youth fellowship, and was Youth Convener Women's World Day of Prayer. Country Women's Association was an interest in the wider community.

President 1984-1986

Edith B Ridge

Uniting

Formerly committed to the work of women in the Methodist Church, Edith has served the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship with comparable zeal. ACW has gained from her leadership at Branch, State and National levels in recognition of which she became a NSW Life Member in 1999, and National Life Member in 2007. Edith has been a delegate from ACW to National Council of Women and to the Pan Pacific and South East Asian Women's Association.



President 1986-1988

June Graham

Anglican

June has always been involved in church worship and activities such as Sunday school, Fellowship and Choir. Joined Mothers Union and later served on its executive for 14 years. In 1986 she was an Australian delegate to ACWC in Bangkok, attended ACW conferences around Australia, and spoke at many Women's World Day of Prayer and Fellowship Days around Sydney.

