



*AUSTRALIAN
CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC*

51st ANNUAL REPORT

April 2014

IN CHRIST WE ARE ONE

Words & Music - Lucelle King
Arranged Helen Scott 1991

We, being many, are one in the Lord
Each one is different,
but we're trusting in His Word.
For we are part of God's family
thru' Jesus Christ His Son.
Tho' we are many,
yet in Christ we are one.
We, being many, in Christ we are one.

This song is sung at many of the gatherings of Australian Church Women Inc

Plan to attend National Conference for Australian Church Women Inc
as arranged by National Executive from NSW

Monday 7th September to Friday 11th September 2015.
at Collaroy Centre Sydney.
Theme: **Building in Harmony**

Further details later.

BIBLE SOCIETY

Rhyllis Davey

"In prison, no family came to visit and I was all alone. Christianity wasn't real for me, although I had been born into a Christian family. But I started reading the Bible materials brought into the prison and it was then that I gave my heart to the Lord". This story is from a prisoner in **PNG** and an exciting one told by Rose Patrick a Prison Literacy project Officer in PNG, and she knows firsthand the value of Bible Societies work in the prisons.

Bible Societies around the world get the Bible to people in a language they can understand, in a format that is useful for them and at a price people they can afford (We often give them away).

Every year our desire is to get as many Bibles into many nations as we humanly can. In **China** millions of Bibles are being printed and distributed every year and our ongoing literacy programmes reach some of the millions of illiterate people who have never had the opportunity to read their own copy of the Bible.

"Beacon of Light" a literacy programme in **Pakistan**, helps many women who are not given the privilege of literacy and welcome Biblically based material. In **South America** our literacy programme targets women and children who live constantly in fear of abuse.

At present we have a worldwide goal to complete **100 Bible Translations in 1000 days**. At present there are only 495 complete Bibles available in the 7105 known languages of the world. An estimated 500 million people will be reached with the 100 translations project giving them the opportunity to own a Bible in their own language. Locally we are working on the **Pitjantjatjara Bible** for the Aboriginal people of the Central Australian desert.

In Australia 22,973 Bibles were given to schools by Scripture teachers. 63,770 Bibles and New Testaments and tracts were also given to our many Chaplains and volunteer workers who take the Word to many people in **Australia** who have not heard the Good News.

For the many times you have invited our staff into your churches, women's and senior fellowships and schools, we thank you. We look forward to continuing this partnership in 2014.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN NSW 2014

Monday 19th May

Installation of new President of
New South Wales State Unit Inc and
Dedication of office bearers

At 12.30 pm at St John's Anglican Church
cnr Beecroft Road and Chapman Avenue BECROFT

Monday 15th September

STATE CONFERENCE DAY

For further details contact secretary, Pamela Freeman

Ph: 02 9873 1701 email: freeowp@netspace.net.au

Locally arranged Special Days:

Fellowship Day **last Friday in July**

World Community Day **last Friday in October**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Isabel Hewitt

Our Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. has once again been well served by the dedicated women who have made up Executive during the last year. When things go according to plan it is a good indication of a team working together harmoniously, and we have scored well.

At the forefront of organisation has been Pamela Freeman who has faithfully performed her duties – and more – in an efficient and helpful way.

To keep our finances in order we have depended on Helen Richardson. We thank her sincerely for her work over 10 years.

Lillian Hodges has continued to spread the word about Fellowship of the Least Coin, enabling groups near and far to refresh their understanding of the uniqueness of FLC.

The Winifred Kiek Scholars, present and past, are reported on, thanks to the efforts of Judith Cayzer. We are aware of the changing nature of the way the scholarship is taken up, but studying off campus can leave a gap, and keeping in touch may become even more important if this trend continues.

We began our ACW year with a vacancy for Special Days Convener. Considering the importance of keeping contact with Branches and disseminating materials for Fellowship Day and World Community Day, Lyn Middleton took on this role. We are grateful that she did so, even though it left us without a convener for ACWC.

Social Issues are ever with us, and there are many ways we can respond. Rae Goth has brought three matters to our attention at each Council meeting, urging us to consider what we can do and to take action.

The publication of *Newsette* has engaged the gathering and editing of material by Jennifer Peffer. It has been gratifying to hear positive responses from people in and beyond ACW who have appreciated receiving it. Brenda Dickinson has assisted as manager for *Newsette*, and as our website manager.

Pastoral Care is an important facet of our coming together. We acknowledge Helen Hill's work in this role, along with Nola Dickson who has deputised for Helen when necessary, as well as helping out with Publicity.

As our Membership Convener, Martha Noël greets and registers those attending meetings, and sends minutes to members unable to attend.

We give thanks to all these women for their commitment in the carrying out of their duties on our behalf.

As President it has been very worthwhile representing ACW at denominational events, and at gatherings sponsored by organisations with which we are affiliated. We also welcome their representatives at our functions.

Reports from Bible Society, Girls' Brigade, National Council of Women, NSW Ecumenical Council, Pan Pacific and South East Asian Women's Association, and World Day of Prayer are an important segment of our Council meetings, keeping us abreast of their activities.

This year has seen the formation of a NSW National Executive for Australian Church Women Inc. as we took over from Western Australia in October last. We are working towards our National Conference at Collaroy in September 2015. The Executive is ably led by Lyn Middleton, and work has begun to fulfil the tasks asked of us in Perth. We will be busy!

We were delighted at National Conference in Perth when Pamela Freeman was named as one of the four Australian delegates to Asian Church Women's Assembly Conference in October this year. Pamela has been working to engage artists for our ACWC Function to be held at Epping Baptist Church on Sunday 24 August 2014.

As my presidency concludes I thank all those who have shared so graciously in the life of ACW NSW State Unit Inc. All have helped in some way, be it providing food, moving chairs, running the trading table, giving support to others whether physically or by prayer. To those who have had to leave ACW for whatever reason, we wish them well in the future.

We look forward to the leadership of Natalie McLeod, our President Elect, who takes office as President at our Installation and Dedication Service at St John's Anglican Church Beecroft on 19 May. We give thanks to God for the fellowship and friendship we enjoy as members of Australian Church Women.

Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association

Edith Ridge

Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA) NSW Group is made up of Individual Members and Corporate Members, and Life Members, women honoured for their contributions to PPSEAWA over many years.

Corporate Members represent * Australian Church Women * Country Women's Association * Girls Guides Assoc. * Muslim Women's Assoc. * National Council of Jewish Women * The Salvation Army Women's Ministries * Sydney Korean Women's Assoc. * Uniting Church Adult Fellowship. PPSEAWA sends representatives to National Council of Women.

I am honoured to be at PPSEAWA as your representative.

PPSEAWA is a fellowship group of women interested in the region where we live, and people who desire peace on our earth. We are able to assist financially some worthy causes. Members are interested in supplying knitted squares for making into warm rugs, to be distributed globally to people in need.

PPSEAWA supports the International Day of Peace on 21st September by attending the service and also supports the Day of Harmony.

Speakers and topics during the year under review were:

*Discussion of items for International PPSEAWA Conference in Fiji August 2013

*Visit of two Fijian Embassy staff to tell us about Fiji

*Dr Eileen Pittaway, Ass. Professor UNSW Research Project - Refugee women at risk project and integration in Australia

*17 Australian women attended the Conference in Fiji.

*Retired Chief Inspector Gary Raymond on his experiences as a policeman

*Bob Ernst spoke about the Red Cross' "Young Parents' Programme"

*Chris Franks from Habitat for Humanity

*A Christmas morning tea and stories of Christmas and Chanukah (this Jewish festival is quite close to Christmas) around the world and at home.

One of the highlights of the year is the International Women's Day Luncheon in March. The speaker this year was Emily Milton-Smith and two school girl recipients of the Marie Bashir Peace prize.

NSW Ecumenical Council Report

Isabel Hewitt

Some of the activities during the year concentrated on keeping contact with Heads of Churches, visiting where possible, and often sharing in worship in the many traditions which make up the 15 member churches. Country visits were made to Central Western NSW, and the Bruderhof Community in Inverell. The Bruderhof were received into membership of the Council in February 2014.

A meeting was arranged for talks with the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Barry O'Farrell, enabling Heads of Churches and Executive members to join in raising issues seen to be of importance to the churches.

A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at St James, King Street developed the theme "*What does the Lord require of Us?*". David Gill, a former General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, was the preacher.

The small book, *The Gift of Each Other* was launched by Cardinal George Pell and Archbishop Glenn Davies. It is now available for people wishing to explore what can be learnt from people of denominations other than their own.

A Taizé Brother visited Canberra and a number of people from Sydney and country areas travelled to the ACT to join in the worship and workshops.

A report session on WCC Assembly in Busan, Korea, was a feature of the half-yearly meeting in February. Worship, audio-visual presentations, reports, and a question and answer session helped give those present an opportunity to share in what the Assembly had meant for participants from Australia.

It is hoped that a General Secretary will be appointed in the coming months to continue developing the impetus that has emerged during this last year.

REPORT FROM SECRETARY

Pamela Freeman

It has been my privilege to work in the role of secretary for the New South Wales State Unit Inc of Australian Church Women in 2013/14 working with the State Executive supporting President Isabel Hewitt with the organization of days when meeting together.

In May 2013, several members travelled from Sydney by train to attend the Dedication Day held at the Uniting Church in Hamilton, Newcastle. Included in the gathering were various denominational representatives and other members of Council commuting from surrounding areas of the Hunter and Central Coast.

On 16th September the Spiritual Enrichment Day was based on the verse '*Remember to show hospitality to strangers, for some have entertained angels unawares.*[Hebrews 13:2]. Jenny Stanger enlightened us with the practices of those who would keep people in slavery. Jenny oversights the ministry at the Samaritan Safe House Project for those rescued from trafficking, this project being the recipient of funds from World Community Day offering 2013.

Singing together was enjoyed, including *Come ye blessed of my Father*, the anthem of the Pitcairn Islanders, based on the scripture theme for the day.

Four women from ACW NSW related their experiences when migrating to Australia, some having had little English and with lack of knowledge of Australian customs, and told of the love and care shown to them by the churches. During the afternoon the new banner for the NSW State Unit Inc was unfurled, featuring the words from the ACW song - '*We, being many, are one in the Lord*' featured on a light blue background, and the red waratah, NSW floral emblem.

Another four women brought their thoughts and interpretations on passages from the Bible relating to showing hospitality, especially to strangers. The 75th Anniversary of New South Wales State Unit Inc was acknowledged by sharing boxed cup cakes which were displayed as the number 75.

I am very grateful for the care and support shown me as Secretary, the willingness of others to assist, and for the grace of God enabling me to continue.

To the members of Australian Church Women - Modified Audit Certificate

I have examined the books of Australian Church Council and issued the attached Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Income and Expenditure.

I have made changes to the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

The receipt and expenditure of 'Funds to be Distributed' as I call them, are accounted for in the Balance Sheet, not the Statement of Income and Expenditure. The Assets in the Statement of Financial Position are verified from the Bank Statements and Reconciliation Statements.

I have been unable to verify the accuracy of the balances held distribution as shown in the financial statement and have accepted those provided by the Treasurer.

The Administration Account should be analysed in future to give the details making it up, such as printing, stationery, telephones and such.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE INC
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
January 2013 to December 2013

	2013	2012
Income		
Administration	\$ 1,650	\$ (200)
Interest	\$ 606	\$
Membership subscriptions	\$ 466	\$
ACWC News	\$ (12)	\$
Fellowship Day	\$ 182	\$
Winifred	\$ 45	\$
Total Income	\$ <u>2,937</u>	\$ <u>(200)</u>
Expenses		
Administration	\$ 5,596	\$
Total Expenses	\$ <u>5,596</u>	\$
Net Profit /(Loss)	\$ <u>(2,660)</u>	\$ <u>(200)</u>

5.



Girls' Brigade NSW

Elizabeth Neale

NSW Girls' Brigade Representative

Over the last 12 months, Girls' Brigade has been involved in several events throughout the year.

In 2013, Girls' Brigade celebrated 120 years International. The Girls' Brigade companies in NSW celebrated this with having Birthday Parties and also having Walk-a-thons to raise money for 'Give a Girl a Hope' project. This was also a chance to promote Girls' Brigade in the Community. A few GB Companies created a movie that featured 120 somewhere in the movie and then these were put on our Facebook page.

Throughout the year we had several State events. We had a camp with Boys' Brigade and another camp for the younger girls (Girls' Getaway). Everyone who attended had an awesome time and a few girls came forward wanting to learn more about Jesus.

We also had our Pioneer Leadership Training. This is where the older girls come along and learn different leadership skills that will help them throughout their lives. This is also a chance for girls to meet girls throughout NSW.

Girls' Brigade NSW took part in the Sydney Easter Parade, It was a great, but wet day to celebrate the Easter message that Jesus has risen and to spread the word of God to the people of Sydney.

This year we had a few enquiries for new Girls' Brigade Companies, and a company starts in Term 2 of 2014. Awesome news. Praise God!

Our Vision for Girls' Brigade

**Transform Girl's Lives
and Enrich God's World**

16.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE BRANCH

Brenda Dickinson

Our Lady Star of the Sea at Miranda kindly hosted **Fellowship Day** on July 26th. Sister Nance Cale gave a terrific message on the theme "Love Never Fails". 62 invitations were sent out by mail and 19 by email. The event was advertised in the local newspaper (The Leader); on the local radio station 2SSRFM and Hope 103.2 notice boards as well as our Australian Church Women Inc. website www.acw.org.au. Five denominations took part. Attendance was approximately 50. A lovely fellowship lunch was enjoyed by all. The offering in support of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship amounted to \$286.00 plus a retiring offering (taken up once a year) of \$60 towards expenses which was gratefully received.

St. Clement's at Jannali was the venue for **World Community Day** on October 25th. Again, this turned out to be a very memorable occasion, with five denominations taking part in the Service. The speaker was Rhyllis Davey from the Bible Society who had four hours travelling to reach the church due to the weather conditions. Her message on the theme "Love is for Sharing" was outstanding. Attendance was approximately 40. We pay tribute here to Pat Condon from Jannali Uniting Church who has been a great support of ACW in the past but was unable to attend due to ill health. The General Offering amounted to \$248.40 and Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings \$747.25. Lunch was shared.

We thank all those from the host churches who worked so hard to make our Special Days so worthwhile. This enabled us to meet together in worship and fellowship and support our special projects. How blessed we are!

Branch members also serving on ACW NSW State Council, Mina Whybourne, Pat Sutton, Norma Dumbrell and Ineke Nieuwland have faithfully attended Council meetings and supported other ACW events held during 2013.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC. SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2013

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Carried Forward	2,701.40	
Received to 30 November 2013	<u>13,451.85</u>	
	16,153.25	
Less Expenses: 'Circle of Prayer'	<u>200.00</u>	
	15,953.25	
5% to ACWNSW	797.66	
Paid to ACW National	<u>15,155.59</u>	
Received 1-31 December, 2013 and carried forward		893.05

FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE

Received to 30 November 2013	3,821.00	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	<u>179.28</u>	
	3,641.72	
5%to ACWNSW	182.36	
Paid to ACW National	<u>3,459.36</u>	

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE

Carried Forward	730.75	
Received to 30 November 2013	<u>3,868.25</u>	
	4,599.00	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	<u>159.45</u>	
	4,439.55	
5% to ACWNSW	221.97	
Paid to ACW National	<u>4,217.58</u>	

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Received to 30 November 2013	150.00:	
Paid to ACW National	150.00	
Received 1-31 December 2013 and carried forward		100.00

FELLOWSHIP of the LEAST COIN

[Major] Lillian Hodges

It has been a pleasure to serve as State Convener for Fellowship of the Least Coin for this year.

In October for World Community Day, I was invited to be the Guest Speaker at The Entrance and also at Umina for the Kincumber Area Branch. These were well planned days and enjoyed by those who were able to attend. The theme of "Love is for Sharing" was quite thought provoking, and allowed us to contemplate how we might do that. I hope that you were able to attend a service in your area.

I have visited a number of church groups throughout the year, to tell the FLC story, to remind everyone what it is all about. I was so pleased that, from those initial visits, I had more invitations to speak at other venues. I am always happy for any opportunity to speak about FLC and the wonderful story of peace, justice and reconciliation.

You would be pleased to know that \$422,766.00 was given worldwide last year. Fifty four funding requests were completed for block grants, project grants, scholarship awards, administrative accounts and others. This is a tremendous result, when you think about all the prayers that have been prayed right around the globe, together with the least coins.

One least coin can bring about God's kingdom in a remote village or a large city homeless shelter. What a great fellowship to belong to!

In my reports in Newsette for the remainder of 2014 I will have some news of current and recent grants given for projects around the world, so that you can see what your least coins are supporting.

Thank you all for your continuing support for FLC. May we live out peace justice and reconciliation in our everyday lives. With God's help, we can!

EPPING BRANCH

Jennifer Pepper

The Epping Branch has continued to support all Fellowship Day and Community Day services in the past two years with good numbers attending. These have been hosted by the Uniting Church, 2 Presbyterian Churches, 2 Anglican Churches - one co-hosted with the Lutheran Church, and the Catholic Church.

The speakers on all occasions have given challenging messages reflecting the topics given in Orders of Service which reflect various aspects of the National Theme.

Our Fellowship Day Service for 2014 will be held at the Epping Presbyterian Church. The offerings taken at the services have been generous and given support for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Asian Christian Women's Conference and also the Special Projects for each year.

Leadership changes have evolved. Helen Hill, Olive Bolliger and Jennifer Pepper seem to have been "changing chairs" due to various reasons. Currently Jennifer is acting as President, Secretary/Treasurer but it is hoped that during the year someone will step up to assist.

Olive Bolliger has stepped down as the Branch Representative on Council to become a Presbyterian Council Member. We welcome a more recent member from the Epping Uniting Church, Dr Valerie Hazlewood, who is now representing us on Council.

When Mrs Natalie McLeod is inducted as the incoming NSW Unit President in May 2014 at St John's Anglican Church, Beecroft this will be the 3rd State President from our branch to fill this role in the past 7 years. This is reflected in the continuing support for ACW in our area.

Reports from Branches in NSW

BURWOOD/CONCORD/STRATHFIELD Branch

Margaret Grundy

World Day of Prayer – This was held at St Paul's Anglican Church Burwood for the first time in many year. Ninety people attended and \$715.80 was raised for the Bible Society.

On 25th July, Fellowship Day was held at Concord Uniting Church with 50 people from 12 churches. Rev Bev Matthews (Uniting Church) spoke and sang. \$429 was raised for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund.

Community Day 2013 was held at Strathfield Uniting Church. Rev Leonie Findlay was the speaker with attendance of 50. \$520 was sent to A.C.W. for the Australian Special Project and ACWC. The FLC contribution was \$100.

Each host church has been very welcoming.

THE ENTRANCE Branch

Merle Menzies

The Entrance branch of ACW arranged the World Day of Prayer service which was held at St Andrews Presbyterian Church. Colourful scarves were worn by those taking part in the service. Nancye Harris was the guest speaker.

The Fellowship and World Community services were held in All Saints Anglican Church. Members of all churches participating assisted in the services. Major Lillian Hodges N.S.W. unit, Convenor of Fellowship of the Least Coin was the speaker at the World Community Day service. The theme *Love is for Sharing* was presented in her address with grace and Christian love toward others.

Our representative Mrs Bernice Baker continues to regularly attend State Unit meetings. Our planning committee elected Mrs Marilyn Derbyshire as President-Elect at our 2012 Annual meeting. She will become President 2014. It is my prayer that God's richest blessing will be with her and all committee members.

SPECIAL DAYS

[Major] Lyn Middleton

Throughout the past year suburban and country ACW branches have faithfully conducted each Special Day with some encouraging attendances. As always it has been a delight to read the reports of these gatherings as they have come in.

The Special Days during 2013 continued the theme of the Western Australia National Executive which left office in October, namely, *Our Choice is Love*.

The topic for Fellowship Day was *Love Never Fails*. Fourteen services were held throughout the state with a total attendance of 539. The theme for World Community Day was *Love is for Sharing*. Eighteen services were hosted with a total attendance of 703. At all of these services there was consistent representation from all or most of the affiliated denominations and both total attendances were up on last year.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to the members of all branches for their diligence and faithfulness in organising each Special Day. It is my prayer that these times of ecumenical fellowship will always be a source of spiritual refreshment.

We look forward to a rich time of fellowship at our Special Days during 2014 as we pick up the theme of the newly installed NSW National Executive, *Building in Harmony*.

Theme song: National Executive from NSW

Let's build in harmony a bridge not to divide,

Building in Harmony as we are unified

The Spirit tunes our hearts as one working side by side

In Christ we build in harmony and God is glorified.

Our past National Executive [WA] have given regular updates on scholars past and present. The current National Executive from NSW has Major Nancy McLaren as our National WKS Convener. We look forward to learning more about our new scholars :

Rev. Wasama Fernando [Sri Lanka] who will study in England and **Seng Ja [Myanmar]** who is to study in Singapore .

New scholars are given the book " Winifred " the story of Winifred Kiek as written by her daughter. These are always available for AUS \$15 dollars.

Past scholars:

Christina [Vanuatu] married, had twin babies, and deferred her studies.

Lou [PNG] lives in a remote area. Lou had her 4th child [girl]. Her husband studied too. With the Theology course completed, they now travel around the villages. After a final course in 2015, they will be available for Ministry where the Synod decides .

Berebere [Kiribati] had some health issues, recovered, then picked up studies again and continued with ministry.

Verenaisi [Fiji] No regular news came through from Verenaisi while she continued studies for her Bachelor of Divinity doing Christian education and Chaplaincy in schools

Christy Ferguson [Australia - 2009]. It was stressful in her placement in the Middle East. There were visa difficulties too, so her Agency had her return to Australia. While Christy is still based in Melbourne, she has holidayed in NZ visiting family and deputation supporters. She is regaining her strength and doing some nursing work. Christy will meet with the Agency soon to plan her return to the field by mid-year .

Ruth Marsipal [PNG-2010] went back to her studies "on-line" with a computer provided by the WKS Trustees and is doing well .

Doreen Tie [Sarawak-1990] , Nighat Gulzar [1994] , Mary Au [Hong Kong] send Christmas greetings and emails come from **Leinamau [Vanuatu-2007]** .

Mina Wybourne [NSW Unit] has contact with **Rachel [McManus] Otto** from **Australia [1997]**, while **Inise Foiakau [Australia-2009]** has nearly finished her Masters in Theology.

Please continue with prayer support for these young women who often express their gratitude for the assistance given with the Winifred Kiek Scholarships.

Please log on to www.acw.org.au and have a look at our Australian Church Women Inc. website which consists of more than 15 easily navigated pages.

On the Home page there are links to various reports, including the National President's Report for 2013 and a report of the National Conference held in Perth 2013 with photos.

The **National** page **About Us** tells the story of ACW; our history, our aims and objectives and the programs supported. Tabs on this page direct the reader to current information on the **Winifred Kiek Scholarship, [WKS] Fellowship of the Least Coin [FLC]** and **Asian Church Women's Conference [ACWC]**, with links to International Fellowship of the Least Coin and ACWC websites.

The **State Units** tab directs the reader to a page for each of the Territories and States. There is an opportunity to advertise events/news/newsletters on each State page. Please keep this in mind when preparing your Special Days material and send me the information for posting on your web page. People expressing interest in ACW and its activities can be referred to the website with confidence.

The **Downloads** page gives shortcut links to the Annual President's Report for 2013, Fellowship of the Least Coin information and Winifred Kiek Scholarship 2014 Pamphlet.

Send material your branch would like to have on the website to me, Brenda, at least two months before the event.

Brenda Dickinson: email: brendad2@optusnet.com.au

NEWSETTE

Jennifer Pepper - Editor

Newsette has been in its current format now for 3 years.

The Layout has changed a little and no two issues have been the same as the Convenors who head up the various aspects of Australian Church Women have shared up-to-date information.

We have endeavoured to “showcase’ items which have interest ecumenically and topics which relate to both city and country readers. A few have taken up the offer to submit articles, puzzles, recipes, poems which have been included as space permitted.

We always welcome new subscribers – why not pass on your copy and try and interest others? Interstate readers have made favourable comments and subscribed. This is encouraging.

Recent questions raised have included whether people would like to receive the magazine via email? Is this a step too far, too soon? We will watch the trend of publications from like-minded organisations but do not anticipate change in the immediate future.

Suggestions are always welcome and will be considered.

Sincere thanks to our Sub-Editor who is an excellent proof reader – and for our Printer who ensures that we get our publication presented to a high standard and ‘out on time’.

We again give thanks that God does go before and believe He guides and directs what material should be included in each issue. What we considered frustrations have meant more appropriate material has become available

PASTORAL CARE

Helen Hill

As in previous years, Australian Church Women members have experienced the joy of new grandchildren, the delight of great grandchildren being born, sadness at losing a precious family member too young, the deaths of Dame Monica Gallagher and Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse, both of whom had contributed so much to ACW.

We remember Miss Shirley Wells with love and pray for her as she deals with the debilitating illness that keeps her from all the activities she loved.

We pray for those members who are experiencing illness and those who are caring for their loved ones as they battle ill health and lack of mobility.

We pray for speedy and complete recoveries for those members who have had surgery recently, so they can return to their previous lifestyles, perhaps to slow down a little!?

We are very aware of dreadful catastrophes happening all round the world with seemingly frequent consequences, we pray for all who are affected and for all who have lost members - so often losing entire families. We trust that they are able to feel the comforting love of our Precious Lord, as He cares for everyone who needs Him.

We know there are many friends who are ill and we remember them in the silence of our hearts, praying that they will feel Jesus' healing presence in their time of need.

We pray for God's richest blessings to be bestowed upon all who suffer, for whatever the reason and may the coming year bring recovery, relief and the knowledge of His all encompassing love for us all.

MEMBERSHIP

Martha Noël

The attendance at the Council meeting for 2013/14 averaged 35.5. We had 3 resignations during the last year. We welcome 2 new delegates and one new representative for the Epping Branch. The attendance is good. Thank You to the ladies for making the effort to come and participate. It is appreciated by the whole committee. Absentees who sent their apologies averaged 13.5.