



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JANE FRANKLIN HALL, HOBART

25th - 28th AUGUST, 1981

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME"

M I N U T E S

TUESDAY 25th AUGUST:

OPENING: The Meetings were officially opened with a Service of Worship chaired by the President, Mrs. Rachel Cocks, who led in a Call to Worship. A feature of the service was the singing of the song "SO SMALL A COIN", the words of which were written by Mrs. Margaret Knauerhase of South Australia and these were set to music by Mrs. Joan McKercher of Tasmania who, as pianist for the service, taught those present the song before the meeting began. This song was written for the Australian delegation to take to Manila in 1980 as Australia's contribution to the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The guest speaker for this service was the Rev. Chris Mostert, minister of Scots Uniting Church, Hobart, who challenged all with an address based on the theme for these Meetings, "The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me". The Scripture readings were from Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-9; Galatians 5:16-25 and Luke 4:14-21. On request Mr. Mostert agreed to make his notes available. There followed Prayers of Intercession and a Litany of Dedication.

Following this service, afternoon tea was served by the ladies of the Swan Street, Uniting Church.

OPENING BUSINESS SESSION:

The President welcomed all to this, the first Business Session and made mention of friends of present and former years unable to be with us - Joyce Pope and Nell Kain, who have died recently; Win Dougherty, who is ill, Jean Yule, who was involved in an accident this morning on her way to the airport, and Deaconess Elisabeth Alfred, who will not be present until later in the week as she is attending Synod.

Roll Call: The Secretary called the roll (see list attached)

Apologies: for non-attendance were received from the Lutheran Women of Australia and The Society of Friends.

Greetings were read from the Catholic Women's League Australia and the Catholic Women's League South Australia.

Procedural Arrangements:

President referred the assembled company to the Procedural Arrangements as set out in Working Docs.,

Agenda: and called for any alterations to the Agenda as printed. There being no alterations or additions required, it was MOVED by Deaconess M. Andrews, seconded Mrs. H. Stevens, that the Agenda be adopted.  
Carried.

Minutes of 1979 National Committee Meetings, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.  
Correction: W.K.S. Report Page 3 para 2 - word "travelling" should read "visiting".  
MOVED E. Ridge/McCann that, subject to this alteration, Minutes be verified. Carried.

Notices of Motion: President drew attention to Notices of Motion as printed in Working Documents and asked for any additional Notices of Motion - None received at this time.

REPORTS

SECRETARY: Mrs. T.Dobber presented her Report and moved its reception.

TREASURER: Miss D.Nairn presented this Report, drawing attention to several matters and advising that a further amount of \$ 42 has been received from South Australia for the Bursary Fund in memory of Mrs. Nell Kain.

Attention was drawn to the need to make the following alteration on page 1 of the Report -

A. Bank Reconciliation as at June 1981.

Last Line should read 30/6/1981 Balance as Bank Statement C/f

MOVED D.Nairn/E.Sullivan, that Report be received and adopted. Carried.

MOVED D.Nairn/R.Fickman, that appreciation for the work of the Hon. Auditor be placed on record and that a small gift be presented to him. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship, Victoria - indicating that members are not at present prepared to "become involved" with A.C.W. - also advising officers of A.E.F. of Australia.
2. Mrs. L.Lillie, member of A.E.F. (Melb.) - thanks for invitation to attend this NCM and for offer of Tas. Unit to pay her fares, but unable to attend.
3. Queensland Unit - advising willingness to take responsibility of National Working Committee following Victoria's term of office.

Matters arising from correspondence:

D.Gordon, Vic., gave brief explanation of Mrs.Lillie's reluctance to attend this meeting and advised that Vic. Unit intends following up this matter with the aim of encouraging Mrs. Lillie in her interest in A.C.W.

Mrs. D.Johnson and Deaconess Andrews also spoke of the need to approach and interest individual Aboriginal women.

Mrs. R.Selveratnam said that during her recent tour of the States she was able to contact various groups of A.E.F. and expressed the hope that they will become interested in the future.

President advised that, at this time, we were about one hour ahead of the Agenda. MOVED L.Meadows/D.Fry that we move on to Reports.

H.Stevens/J.Middleton: THAT Reports as printed be taken as read. Carried.

STATE UNIT REPORTS:

A.C.T. Mrs. E.Ridge presented the Report and added notes on additional activities since the Report was printed, viz.1. The visit of the W.K.S. visiting scholar, Rathi Selveratnam, which proved to be a very well attended and very worthwhile programme.  
2. 1981 Fellowship Day Service, with thanks to N.T. Unit for the inspiration that came from the Order of Service prepared by that Unit.

3. The Catholic Women's League for first time hosted World Community Day service and made a donation of the proceeds of the luncheon, held as a feature of the day, to the Unit to begin a Travel Fund.

N.S.W. Mrs. G. West, in presenting the Report, highlighted aspects of the Unit's work during the biennium, including

1. Recently inaugurated State newsletter, "Newsette", and a State emblem which is now being used on stationery etc.
2. Social concerns committee
3. Rathi's visit
4. Number of new branches during these two years.

N.T. Mrs. D. Johnson brought greetings from Mrs. Betty Vawser and Mrs. Wilma Taylor. Highlights of the work in N.T. were the meeting held for Rathi's visit, 1981 Fellowship Day service. Di spoke of the tremendous isolation of the women of the churches in N.T. and commended these women to our prayers.

Qld. Mrs. J. Greentree presented Qld's Report and commended Mrs. L. Meadows for the extent of her devoted work as F.L.C. Convener over many years.

Qld ladies also received great pleasure and blessing from the 1981 Fellowship Day service. Their speaker was Mrs. Shirley Little, mother of a 26 year old handicapped child and Joyce told how that family has created something beautiful for Christ through this "tragedy" and the help of a Christian friend.

The annual Warana Festival is a highlight of the Unit's year as they have been given the responsibility of preparing and presenting the only Christian service to be part of the festival. The theme for this year's service will be "Jesus, Saviour, pilot me".

STH.AUST. Mrs. P. Crosby highlighted a number of aspects of the work including:

- Community concern luncheons - \$ 1500 given to charities
- S.A. Unit is 50 years old (first as Women's Inter Church Council and then as A.C.W.)
- Mrs. M. Knauerhase who wrote the poem "So small a Coin" is a member of the S.A. Unit.
- For Fellowship Day, World Community Day and F.L.C. Jubilee celebration, Lutheran ladies have been participating although they are not able, as yet, to affiliate.
- The FLC Silver Jubilee celebration dinner and service, which was attended by Rathi, was a wonderful experience.
- Rathi visited a number of areas and branches in S.A. including near and distant country areas.
- The Unit has been asked to form a Committee to arrange special services in connection with S.A.'s 150 Years Jubilee celebrations.
- This Unit has produced FLC spoons which are being sold at \$ 2.50 each to aid the Unit's Travel Fund.

TAS. Mrs. J. Easter highlighted the atmosphere of love that prevails at State Unit and Branch meetings and stressed the importance to Tasmanian women of the visits of such people as the W.K. Scholars. Dien's and Rathi's visits were especially appreciated.

VIC. Miss D. Fry - Highlights of Victoria's activities during the past 2 years have been Dien's term studying in that State, fundraising ventures to raise fares for incoming Working Committee to attend this NCM, visits of President and Secretary to country branches and satisfaction felt because of the number of branches and the interest generally in A.C.W. Dorothy expressed the thanks of members of the Unit to Mrs. Clive Ackland for her work with regard to Special Days.

W.A. Lady L. Wilson expressed the pleasure of the members in the increasing involvement of Greek Orthodox women. W.A. also feels concern regarding the isolation of country women, especially women of the Pilbara area. There has been an expansion of the work in that Special Days are being introduced into the country areas. It is hoped that Catholic women will be able to come into full membership this year.

It was resolved that all Reports of this session be received.

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TUESDAY 25th EVENING SESSION:

STRUCTURE OF WORKING COMMITTEE

From Sydney.  
look at longer  
term

This discussion and the resultant Resolutions arose from a direction to the National Working Committee from the National Committee Meetings held in Sydney in 1979, viz.: That the incoming Working Committee, in consultation with the State Units, look at the structure and composition of the Working Committee, including the practice of the States in rotation providing the personnel, and to bring a recommendation to the next National Committee Meeting.

Mrs. D. Hartam reported on the action taken by the sub-committee formed to look at this matter and presented the following recommendations of the Working Committee:

1. That the composition of the Working Committee remain as it is at present (with the addition of the Australian Representative to ACWC as an ex officio member - subject to the adoption of such a Motion to be put at a later time in this meeting).
2. That the term of office of the Working Committee be extended to three years.
3. That National Committee Meetings be held triennially.
4. That we retain the practice of the States in rotation providing the personnel for National Working Committee.
5. That the Unit in the State where the Winifred Kiek Scholar will study be given authority to act on behalf of and in co-operation with the Working Committee to manage her overall programme, full information and necessary finance to be made available to the Unit.

The remainder of this Session was taken with helpful and interesting discussion regarding the five points of this recommendation.

The first day of the Meetings concluded with evening prayers led by the members of the ACT delegation and the serving of supper by the ladies of NSW and WA.

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WEDNESDAY 26th AUGUST

BIBLE STUDY (1)

President introduced Mrs. Athlea Sansom, a member of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Sandy Bay. Mrs. Sansom had been invited to lead our morning devotional sessions, keeping in mind the theme of our meetings. Mrs. Sansom, in turn, introduced Mrs. Roslyn Langlois who led in a time of singing and praise.

Mrs. Honor Yearsley, after prayer, led us in an expository study on the theme "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me", using many Scripture references, commencing with Isaiah 61:1-4 and Isaiah's imagery of growth. We proceeded to the words of Jesus in Luke 4 and John 16 and 17.

Jesus prayed to God "As Thou hast sent Me, so I send them" - because God loved us, He sent Jesus - because God loves the world let His love constrain us to go, as Jesus went, to take His love to His world. Mrs. Yearsley followed with a journey with the Apostles, through the book of Acts, beginning with their obedience to Jesus, command to wait (Acts 1:4) - they wait, they wait in fellowship, they are expectant, they received the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to be what Jesus intended them to be. As we, Australian Church Women, are obedient to Jesus, so He enables us to be what He intends us to be - to do what He wants us to do. Are we an obedient, expectant, company ?

### 3rd BUSINESS SESSION:

W.A. Motion - THAT the National Committee Meetings be held every three years. Lost

Direction from the 1979 National Committee Meeting THAT the incoming Working Committee make provision for consideration of an amendment to the Constitution to provide that the Australian Representative to ACWC be an ex officio member of the A.C.W. Working Committee.

MOVED D.Hartam/M.Dodds - THAT the Constitution be amended as follows - That in Clause 5(a), following the words "ten members", the words "and the Australian Representative to Asian Church Women's Conference in an ex officio capacity" be added, and that in Clause 5(b) the first word "these" be deleted and the word "the" be added. Carried

It was agreed that the composition of the National Working Committee remain as it is at present and that we retain the practice of the States in rotation providing the personnel for N.W.C.

MOVED D.Hartam/R.Hickman - THAT the Unit in State where the Winifred Kiek Scholar will study be given authority to act on behalf of and in co-operation with the Working Committee to manage her overall programme, full information and necessary finance to be made available to the Unit. Carried

### CONVENERS' REPORTS:

#### "WOMEN AT WORK"

Mrs. Loyce Goldsmith presented her report. Mrs.Doreen Gordon, Vic. thanked Mrs. Goldsmith on behalf of Victoria Unit for the "Women at Work" and moved that the report be received and adopted. Seconded Mrs. E.Sullivan. The President thanked Mrs. Ruth Thomas for her assistance in preparing "Women at Work" Carried

#### SPECIAL DAYS

Mrs. Roma Hickman presented her report on "Special Days". The President thanked Mrs. Hickman for getting the Orders of Service prepared a year ahead. Mrs. Hickman moved that her report be received. Carried

Moved Deaconess Andrews, seconded Mrs. McIntyre THAT each participant to the A.C.W. National Committee Meeting be linked with a prayer partner in another State". Carried

N.B. Should include those who are not present, but had registered, e.g. Mrs. Win Dougherty, Mrs. Jean Yule, Deaconess Alfred and others. A small committee to start work immediately - Convener Mrs. Olive Ackland, with Mesd. Barbara Grealy and Ruth Thomas to help.



WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Mrs. Marion Dodds presented her report. There was some discussion regarding the value to both Winifred Kiek Scholars and the States in having each Scholar visit as many States as possible, and possible ways in which this might be achieved. Dien Sumiyatiningsih and Malini Weerasinghe were asked for their feelings on this and both felt that it would be tiring.

New Resolutions for Discussion - resulted in the following motions:

THAT neither the sponsoring organization nor the related group in Australia be asked to supply financial support towards the personal expenses of Scholars. MOVED M.Dodds/Deaconess Andrews.

Carried

THAT an allowance be made from the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund to cover the personal, incidental expenses of the Scholar, i.e. toiletries, postage stamps, bus fares etc., the amount to be determined by the Working Committee in consultation with the State Unit in which the Scholar is resident.

MOVED M.Dodds/D.Hartam.

Carried

THAT personal gifts made to the Scholar remain in her possession. MOVED M.Dodds/D.Hartam.

Carried

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

The majority of members enjoyed a walking tour of historical interest led by Miss Dorothea Henslowe of the National Trust. Commencing at Franklin Square in the city the tour included the Royal Tennis Centre, St. David's Park, the old bond stores beneath Government House, the Maritime Museum at St. George's Church, Battery Point, and many points of interest in and around Battery Point.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

4th BUSINESS SESSION

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP (cont'd)

MOTION M.Dodds/D.Nairn - THAT a clothing allowance of \$ 100 be granted for the purchase of necessary clothing for the Scholar and that, in the event of anything in excess of this amount being required, the Unit of the State in which the Scholar is resident, consult with the National Working Committee.

Carried

- re recommended revised application form:

Deaconess Andrews suggested the additional question - "Do you have any relatives and/or friends in Australia or in the country in which you wish to study ?"

- re matter of Scholars having opportunity to visit as many States as possible:

MOTION - D.Nibbs/J.Easther - THAT the following question be included in the letter confirming that a scholarship has been granted - "If studying in Australia, and should your course allow, would you be willing to stay a further four weeks in order to travel and meet with State Units of Australian Church Women ?"

Carried

- re revised Application Form:

MOTION - M.Dodds/D.Nairn - THAT the revised Application Form for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship be adopted.

Carried

- M.Dodds felt that the following matter needed clarification, viz. (From 1975 NCM Minutes page 9 par. 2) "Funds shall be available triennially, or at the discretion of the National Working Committee, to provide fares, honoraria and accommodation costs for the Winifred Kiek Visiting Scholar". Mrs. Dodds said that, if funds are available at the end of each triennium, the question of granting both scholarships does not arise. However, in the event that funds are insufficient to support both scholarships, it is necessary to determine which of the two scholarships takes precedence.

It was felt by the Meeting that this matter is adequately covered by the phrase "at the discretion of the National Working Committee".

MOTION - P.Crosby/J.Middleton - THAT the Working Committee circulate the States with information regarding the subjects to be studied by the Winifred Kiek Scholar as soon as this is known in order that States could submit courses which may be available in their Universities, Colleges of Advanced Education or Theological Colleges".

Ensuing discussion produced information showing that, in many cases, time factors involved would render this impracticable. The Motion was put. Motion Lost

MOTION - L.Wilson/V.Dean - THAT in the title "Winifred Kiek Visiting Scholarship" the word "Scholarship" be replaced by the word "Fellowship". Carried

MOTION - G.West/M.Ward - THAT the Winifred Kiek Scholarship leaflet each year show full details of the scholarships (including the W.K.Visiting Fellowship) and the list of past scholarship (and fellowship) holders". Carried

SCHOLARS: President welcomed to the meeting the 1980 Scholar, Dien Sumiyatiningsih, the current Scholar, Malini Weerasinghe, and the first holder of the Visiting Fellowship, Rathi Selveratnam, and each was given opportunity to address the meeting.

DIEN expressed thanks to God and to the members of ACW for having given her the opportunity to study in this country and for the love and help given to her as she visited the various States. Dien's course was in the field of Clinical Pastoral Education and she told us something of the extent of what she has learned and experienced during her course. Dien is currently spending a second year of her studies at Ridley College, Melbourne, for which she is also most grateful as she would not be able to undertake such studies in Indonesia. Dien extended to all present a warm invitation to visit her and her family in Java, Indonesia.

MALINI also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to study in this country, especially to Marion Dodds and to the members of the NSW Unit for all their help. Malini told us that she was the daughter of Christian parents and how important this was to her as she grew up in Sri Lanka. She shared with us something of her life as a school teacher, a Sunday School teacher, and of her work in her church in youth work and other areas. She also told of her life at Deaconess House, her studies at Moore College and her visits to A.C.W. in WA, SA and NSW

RATHI spoke of her tour as the first ACW Visiting Fellow among the women of all States and Territories. Rathi told of the isolation of our Christian sisters in Alice Springs, Darwin and other outback areas, her meeting with Aboriginal women at Rockhampton, Murray Bridge and other places, and the Silver



Jubilee Celebration held in Perth in which the women of the Greek Orthodox church joined. She also made mention of her follow-up interest in various causes within Australia which have received FLC grants over the years. Rathie asked THAT WE PLACE ON RECORD her appreciation for having given her the privilege of being offered the opportunity to be the first W.K. Visiting Fellow.

The President presented to Dien, Malini and Rathie a small gift on behalf of the members of AOW. Malini, in turn, presented to Australian Church Women a Sri Lankan silver tray as a token of her love and appreciation. This will be inscribed with the words of her choice and will be passed on to succeeding National Working Committees.

Evening prayers were led by three members of the Victorian delegation and supper was served by members of SA and QLD Units.

THURSDAY 28th AUGUST

BIBLE STUDY (2)

Following a time of praise and singing again led by Roslyn Langlois, Mrs. Sansom introduced John de Carpentier and four other members of the group "The Story Tellers" from the Beth Shalom Community, who led us in a time of worship featuring music and motion. As we sang together Scripture choruses, the team expressed their love and worship to God in the giving to Him of their minds, spirits and bodies. We were invited to join in with some of the beautiful movements.

5th BUSINESS SESSION

Mrs. Hartam took the Chair and passed on greetings from Mrs. Alder Hall and Mrs. Gwen Cork, and welcomed Mrs. Judy Warn, representing World Day of Prayer, to the meeting.

CONVENERS' REPORTS

Fellowship of the Least Coin:

Mrs. Marie Price presented her report. She thanked those who participated in and organized the Silver Jubilee Celebrations; also Mrs. Cocks and others in the team. Mrs. Hartam thanked Mrs. Rathie Selveratnam for her successful tour.

Mrs. Price moved, seconded Mrs. Thomas that report be received.

Carried

Following discussion, it was resolved that copies of each letter from F.L.C. Convener should be sent to the State Secretaries. Requests for grants have to go through Australian Council of Churches.

Mrs. Price then recommended that "As a special endeavour for this Silver Jubilee Year and out of concern for young people, we suggest to State Units that they consider the concept of recommending the movement to students in Australia, possible contacts being:-

1. Scripture groups
2. Sunday School classes
3. Fellowship groups
4. Choir groups
5. Private schools (where permissible)
6. Government schools (where permissible)
7. Sporting groups
8. Other such bodies
9. Recommended age - from nine or ten years.

Necessary adjustments would be:-

1. History of movement to be written with young in mind
2. Leaflet prepared (ditto)
3. Label designed (ditto)
4. F.L.C. personnel selected to make necessary contacts
5. Leaders among groups chosen for continuity
6. Ensuing prayers by youth - for youth in Australia and/or perhaps selected prayer-partner countries
7. Eventual applications encouraged for youth projects.

Mrs. Hartam thanked Mrs. Price and informed the meeting that a decision on this recommendation could not be made at the Conference, but was open for comment. Mrs. Marie McCann thought that this recommendation could be achieved if the difficulty of taking money from children at school could be overcome. Mrs. Hartam thought the logical place to start would be the youth groups of churches and further enquiries should be made within the States. Deaconess Andrews seconded that the matter should be sent back to the States. Mrs. Cocks to bring this matter up in October at the Executive Meeting of the A.C.W.C. Mrs. Price moved THAT as a special endeavour for this Silver Jubilee Year and out of concern for young people, we suggest to State Units that they consider the concept of recommending the Movement to students in Australia.

Carried

#### ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE REPORT.

Mrs. Rachel Cocks presented her report. After some discussion on the official declaration of the A.C.W.C., Deaconess Andrews moved

THAT A.C.W.C. give consideration to changing the statement "the A.C.W.C. is an ecumenical organization of Protestant women of Asia, Australia and New Zealand" to "the A.C.W.C. is an ecumenical organization of Christian women of Asia, Australia and New Zealand". Seconded Mrs. Heather Stevens.

Carried

Financial situation of F.L.C. Mrs. Cocks pointed out that the F.L.C. is no longer under the stewardship of A.C.W.C. An international committee has been formed and now each member country will be responsible for its ongoing programme. Mrs. Cocks then presented suggestions by the Treasurer, Miss Nairn, for providing Australia's annual contribution to Asian Church Women's Conference.

Deaconess Mary Andrews moved that option No. 3 be adopted - THAT a 5% levy on funds at present transferred to Administration and General account be raised to 6% and divided between A.C.W. and A.C.W.C. in the ratio 4:2.

Seconded Mrs. R.Thomas.

Carried

Mrs. Cocks asked that the concept of the Silver Jubilee celebrations be remembered in prayer.

Mrs. Cocks then moved the reception and adoption of the A.C.W.C. report, seconded Mrs. R.Thomas.

Carried

AFTERNOON - 6th BUSINESS SESSION

APPOINTMENTS: LEADER OF COMMISSION ON STRATEGIES & RESOURCES FOR PEACE:  
(Leader and alternate required)

Nominations - Mrs. Diane Bos N.T.  
Mrs. Dorothy McMahon NSW  
Mrs. Pauline Crosby SA

A ballot was conducted and the following elected -

Leader Mrs. D. McMahon  
Alternate Mrs. D. Bos

MOVED M.Andrews/B.Robinson that ballot papers be destroyed.  
carried

DELEGATES TO ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 1982 Assembly:  
(2 to be elected)

Nominations - Mrs. L.Green Tas.  
Mrs. O.Ackland Vic.  
Mrs. J.Easter Tas.  
Mrs. V.Wilson WA

Result of ballot - Mrs. O.Ackland  
Mrs. L.Green

Mrs. Ackland will be Australia's nomination to the General Committee of ACWC and our delegates were instructed to vote accordingly.

CELESTERS TO ACWC 1982 ASSEMBLY:  
(2 to be elected)

Nominations - Mrs. D. Johnson NT  
Mrs. B. Grealy SA  
Mrs. M. McCann NSW  
Mrs. V. Wilson WA  
Mrs. J. Easter Tas

Result of ballot - Mrs. M. McCann  
Mrs. D. Johnson

MOVED L.Goldsmith/G.West that Secretary be instructed to destroy ballot papers.  
Carried

The Assembly will be held at Bali, Indonesia, from 15th - 18th November 1982 and the theme will be "Co-workers in Christ for Renewal".

President requested that States consider the matter of a National costume for delegation members, and a suitable banner in line with the theme.

NATIONAL BADGE:

Following a recommendation by Tasmania Unit that ACW produce a National badge for members, Tasmania and NSW Units were invited to display the drawings of their suggested designs for further consideration later in the programme.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES REPORT

In the absence of Mesdames W. Dougherty and J. Yule, President presented the Report as printed. Their being no discussion on the Report, President read a letter from Mrs. Win Dougherty giving news of ACC activities during her current term of office as ACW representative to ACC.

President then introduced the Rev. DAVID WEBSTER, Secretary of the Tasmanian Council of Churches and invited him to address the meeting. Mr. Webster spoke of the unusual composition of the Tasmanian Council in that, of its 9 member churches, 5 are not members of the World Council.

He told of some aspects of the work of the Council of Churches in Tasmania. He also spoke of the current tendency of some member churches to give increasing emphasis to the national aspect, and of possible dangers inherent in this change. Speaking of the 1980 Conference in Melbourne of the World Council of Churches, Mr. Webster stressed the tremendous value of such assemblies in keeping alive before the churches of Australia the importance of ecumenism. Members were invited to ask questions or comment on Mr. Webster's remarks and several availed themselves of this opportunity.

Di Johnson N.T. was invited to bring some of her experiences whilst accompanying the recent visiting WCC team to Croker Island.

President thanked Mr. Webster for his attendance and his contribution to our meeting.

#### FEDERAL DENOMINATIONAL REPORTS

MOVED D.Fry/M.Dodds that Reports be taken as read, these having been previously distributed. Carried

**BAPTIST** Mrs. Dawn Nibbs, in presenting the Report, referred to Mabel Wyllie's "Recollections of the Beginnings of Australian Church Women" in the Working Documents and the statement "The interim committee received with regret the notification that the Baptist Women's Board could take no part in A.C.W. because of the association with the A.C.C.". Dawn advised that the Minute regarding this was rescinded and removed from the B.W.F. books in January of this year and spoke of the joy she and other Baptist women experienced as a result of this action.

**ANGLICAN** Mrs. Beryl Robinson presented the Report of the Mothers' Union and spoke of the difficulty that still exists regarding having one National body representing all Anglican Women's Groups. She highlighted the investigations being made re work among Aboriginal women, "Message Home" scheme as described in Working Documents and the 1983 Consultation of Mothers' Unions to be held in the Solomon Islands.

#### **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Margaret Pollard highlighted the following -  
1980 World Convention of Churches of Christ in Honolulu when Gloria Santos was guest speaker at the C.W.F. session.  
1980 Federal Conference of C.W.F. and the discussion on "CWF - Where to from here ?"  
World Christian Women's Fellowship - Alice Saunders of South Australia is Australia's representative.  
1982 Federal Conference to be held in Adelaide and its theme "Count it all Joy".

#### **PRESBYTERIAN**

Mrs. R.Skalicky presented the F.W.A. Report and made special mention of the organisation's magazine operating between States.

#### **SALVATION ARMY**

Mrs. R.Callander, in speaking to the Report of the Southern Territory, highlighted the 1980 Centenary celebrations of SA, including the display of work done by women of the different women's groups within the Salvation Army; the Women's Rally in S. Australia with Mrs. Gen. Brown as speaker; the Salvation Army Training College and that, since January this year, all women officers are now officially ordained.

## UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Heather Stevens brought this Report and commented on the fact that it is the only Report to have been prepared, in part, by a man. The reason for this is, of course, that the United Church Fellowship takes in all adult fellowship groups. Heather also spoke of the recent Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist Women and resolutions that were passed there.

## CATHOLIC

Marie Price presented the Report of the C.W.L. on behalf of Ivetta Rayner, the Catholic Women's League appointed observer. Marie expressed the satisfaction and joy experienced because of the participation of 3 of their members having been on the National Working Committee of A.C.W. 1979-81.

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Deaconess Mary Andrews.

During her term of office as the National Liaison Officer Deaconess Andrews has been able to visit all States except N.T. and has been able to speak of both organisations, Women's World Day of Prayer and Australian Church Women. In 1982 the International Committee will meet in Germany and we were asked to remember the Committee in prayer as they meet to consider the themes for Day of Prayer for the ensuing 4 years. She asked that any who have suggestions for themes present these for consideration. Deaconess stressed the importance of prayer - "To pray is to work" - may we live, work and pray that we all may be truly one in Christ.

## APPOINTMENTS TO A.C.C.

D.Hartam nominated (seconded R.Hickman)

- Mrs. Win Dougherty as A.C.W. representative to A.C.C.
- Mrs. Margaret Ralph as her alternate. Carried

## RECOMMENDATION FROM NSW UNIT:

MOVED G.West/M.Ward THAT the full details of the Project for World Community Day be included in the printing of the Order of Service. Carried

PRAYER PARTNERS: Mrs. Clive Ackland reported on behalf of the appointed sub-committee and advised that a list of prayer partners had been drawn up and is available for action. President expressed thanks to sub-committee members.

## 7th BUSINESS SESSION

FOR DISCUSSION presented by Qld Unit - National Bible Studies for Women - Queensland members intimated that they are, at this stage, unprepared to proceed. The National Committee agreed to defer the matter until such time as the Qld Unit is prepared to re-submit it.

ACWC 1986 ASSEMBLY; MOVED P.Crosby/J.Middleton (South Australia) THAT Australia issue an invitation to ACWC to hold its Quadrennial Assembly in 1986 in Adelaide, South Australia. In speaking to the Motion Mrs. Crosby pointed out that in 1986 S.A. will be conducting celebrations for its 150th Jubilee and organisations have been urged to seek to hold special functions in the State during this year. 1986 is also the 50th anniversary of the beginning of ACW in that State.

ACW NATIONAL PADGE

MOVED J. Easter/D.Nibbs THAT this NCM supports the concept of a national emblem which could be used on a pendant and/or badge Carried

MOVED P.Crosby/J.Middleton THAT all States be invited to submit designs suitable for an ACW emblem and that these be circulated to all States to indicate order of choice. Carried

ACW RESOURCES (including promotions and publicity)

L.Green, Tasmania, presented her ideas and papers covering an explanation of the concept of a Resources Kit.

MOVED L.Green/D.Nairn THAT Resources and Promotions become a vital part of ACW and that provision for a convener in succeeding Working Committees be made. Carried

MOVED H.Stevens/L.Meadows that Standing Orders be suspended in order that the foregoing question may be discussed. Carried

A number of participants expressed thanks to Lyn Green for her enthusiasm and the work she had undertaken in order to present this concept and proposition to us today. Following further discussion, Standing Orders were resumed.

THURSDAY EVENING

PUBLIC MEETING

President welcomed all present and introduced Mrs. Bev Holland who led in a time of singing praises to God. Bev in turn, introduced her pianist, Kathy Rochester, and thanked her for her willingness to assist in this way.

Rachel Cocks, following prayer, introduced Bev as our first speaker. Bev shared with us how God had led her into her ministry among migrant people and told something of the ongoing work of 'Friends of all Nations' and the Migrant Friendship and Resettlement Scheme.

The second speaker, Deaconess Judy Warn, a Welfare Officer with the State Government Housing Division, is a graduate of Deaconess House in Sydney. Judy, in speaking of her work and the tragedies she sees time after time, daily, said that she sees the outworking of the Holy Spirit through people in their care of and for those in need.

Rachel explained for the visitors present something of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship project and introduced Dien Sumiyatiningsih, the 1980 scholar.

Malini Weerasinghe also motivated by the Holy Spirit within her, our 1981 scholar, told us firstly of her family life in Sri Lanka where she was brought up in a Christian home. She spoke of the increase in her faith following the trauma of the death of her loved father who had had a great influence on her early life. Malini's love for Christian education and her love for children had led her into the field of Christian education and it was through this work that the opportunity later arose for her to apply for and be granted the Winifred Kiek scholarship so that she may be better equipped to extend the area of her work as guided by God and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Speaker No. 4 was Rathi Selveratnam, wife of the Rector of the Anglican Parish of Marysville in Victoria. In introducing Rathi Rachel explained a little of her involvement over many years with ACWC, FLC and ACW, and of her recent tour of Australia as WKS Visiting Fellow.



Rathi also told of her childhood and growing up years in Singapore, her war time evacuation experience, during which time God set her feet on a new path. She shared with us her life as a teacher, her musical experience and aspirations and her marriage. In 1962 she attended the first Asian Church Women's Conference in Bangkok and went the following year to Africa to promote FLC. Rathi has subsequently travelled many times to many countries in her work for God with the Christian Council of Asia and Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Supper was served at approx. 9.45 by the ladies of the Hobart Church of Christ.

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#### FRIDAY 28th AUGUST

##### WORSHIP - BIBLE STUDY (3)

This session was again led by Athlea Sansom and again Roslyn Langlois gave great joy in her leading of our time of praise and singing. Kan Kuplis read Psalm 92 & 103, after which Athlea spoke briefly about the thoughts that have been coming through throughout the Conference - commitment - obedience - expectancy - willingness to step out for Christ's sake. Do we accept the challenge of Pentecost? She directed us to Romans Ch. 8 which she described as the meeting point of all the great truths that we might study - the source and the resource within the Spirit.

We then broke into six groups under the leadership of previously appointed leaders and discussed this chapter of Scripture.

Rachel expressed to Athlea and Roslyn the appreciation and thanks of all of us for their worship leadership and to Honor for her Bible teaching on Wednesday morning.

##### 8th BUSINESS SESSION

##### Unfinished Business - Isolation of Women in the Northern Territory

The President asked the meeting if there were anything that could be done in the isolated regions of the outback. Mrs. Lyn Green said that the most pressing thing for N.T. women was to show them that we are aware and understand. Lady Leila Wilson said that it is known that this isolation exist; what needed to be done was to find people who could be given something to work on. Mrs. F. Sullivan, ACT, stressed that access to the media is limited to these women. Mrs. T. Dobber suggested letter-writing. Deaconess Mary Andrews suggested that tape-recorders could be used. Mrs. McIntyre told the meeting that people are isolated, many being itinerant, and suggested that we contact them by tape, letter, etc. and give them some indication of what is going on in the Units. Mrs. Lyn Green thought perhaps individual women could become "proxy grandmothers" and 'adopt' a family.

Mrs. Rachel Cocks said it should be borne in mind that there would be many people who have no communication with the church, and she stressed that the object of the exercise would be friendship. Mrs. Pauline Crosby, S.A. wondered if Mrs. Di Johnson could supply each State Unit with names. Mrs. Cocks thought that it would be up to the individual States to look into this.

At this point Mrs. Cocks apologized to Mrs. Naomi Neville and welcomed her to the meeting.

Mrs. Di Johnson said that one of the most important things that has happened in this particular meeting was that it has been brought to people's attention just what isolation is like. She asked if certain articles of interest in newspapers and magazines could be sent up to the Northern Territory. She pointed out that there was also isolation of ideas and of the mind, and she asked that prayers for the women of the Northern Territory be remembered. From this discussion arose the motion THAT this National Committee Meeting affirms its interest in, and awareness of, the isolation of women in outback parts of Australia and requests State Units to ask their members to take practical steps to form links of communication with these women. MOVED D.Hartam/D.Johnson. Carried

Motion THAT this National Committee records its deep appreciation for the loving, harmonious and efficient way in which the Working Committee has planned and carried out a most enjoyable and challenging National Committee Meeting. MOVED Deaconess Andrews/Brigadier M.Ward. Carried

At this stage Mrs. Ruth Thomas made a presentation to the President, Mrs. Rachel Cocks, on behalf of the members of the Working Committee.

#### APPOINTMENTS

The President presented the incoming Working Committee to the meeting:

President	Deaconess Elizabeth Alfred
Vice Presidents	(Mrs. Lt.-Col. Isabel McIntyre
	Mrs. Doreen Strack
Secretary	Mrs. Freda Morris
Treasurer	Mrs. Myra Dixon
W.K.S. Convener	Mrs. Jean Hughes
F.L.C. Convener	Mrs. Fran Downes
Special Days Convener	Mrs. Clive Ackland
'Women at Work' Convener	Mrs. Brig. Rita Callander

MOVED D.Hartam/T.Dobber THAT all the ladies as listed be elected to office. Carried

The incoming President, Deaconess Elizabeth Alfred, then addressed the meeting. She told of some of the important decisions of the Anglican Synod, held this week in Sydney.

Some slides of the Asian Church Women's Conference and the Fellowship of the Least Coin Silver Jubilee celebrations were shown by Mrs. Barbara Grealy and Mrs. Rathi Selveratnam.

#### CLOSING WORSHIP AND HANDING OVER TO INCOMING COMMITTEE

All joined together in singing the Songs of Praise "He is Lord", "How lovely on the Mountains", and "Thou art Worthy", after which Rachel expressed something of the joy and satisfaction she and the members of the Working Committee have experienced during their term of office and during these meetings - "To God be all the Glory". Deaconess Elizabeth Alfred, the new President, said that she and her committee are already experiencing a sense of love and unity and they are looking forward to this new service for the Lord.

Rachel led in a prayer of thanksgiving and dedication and the Conference closed with the singing of the song "Join your hand with mine, let our faith combine, for in prayer there is nothing impossible", followed by the Grace.

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Signed ... *R. Cocks*

Date ..... 16-8-83..