

Nola Margery Dickson

Born 12 October 1924 Dulwich Hill NSW

Education South Strathfield Primary
Ashfield Girls' High School
Ultimo Technical College

Family Married Clifford Patten 1948
Five children
14 Grandchildren, 14 Great Grandchildren
Married Frank Dickson 1988



Nola has been involved with church work from early age, in roles in the Sunday School departments and as a Home Group Bible Study leader.

Nola has undertaken a theological Bible course and been a voluntary church office typist.

In the Presbyterian Church at Epping she has held office as President of the Presbyterian Women's Association branch, and President/Secretary of the Kirk Club. At Neutral Bay Uniting, as well as being an Elder, Nola was President/Secretary of the Fellowship Group. Since her return to Epping, Nola has been President of the Kirk Club. In each church Nola has participated in the choir.

Nola joined Australian Church Women as an Associate Member in 1988, later becoming a Presbyterian representative to the NSW State Unit Inc Council. She has served capably as *Newsette* Manager, ACW Representative to NSW Ecumenical Council, National Treasurer 2003-2005, and State President in NSW 2010-2012. In her roles within ACW Nola has shown herself to be an accomplished presenter of the Word.

In the wider community, Nola has served as President of Ryde Ladies Probus, worked as a volunteer with Eastwood Community Aid Meals on wheels, and has sung in the *Messiah* for many years in the Sydney Town Hall massed choir, choir singing being one of her greatest loves. Nola has worked as an office typist, wages' clerk, doctor's receptionist, and as a nursing home office secretary.

In later life Nola has taken up painting and shares her completed works with her family members.

Marie Craddock, a Catholic representative to NSW State Unit Inc Council, writes that Nola has been a worthy representative of the Presbyterian Church and all-embracing in her role as President. Nola's faith has shone through her devotions and in presiding at meetings. Her warm heart has been reflected in the regard she had for each person. Her light-hearted humour was never far below the surface of her outgoing personality. Marie sees Nola as humble, ready to work with others, conscientious in her preparation, generous, dedicated, caring and prayerful.

NSW State Unit Inc. ACW

Janet Robin Harrison

Born 6 October 1938

Education Meriden Girls' School
Metropolitan Business College

Family Husband: Graham
Sons: Philip
Stuart & Isabella, grandchildren



In her early days her church was St Andrew's Anglican Church at Strathfield where she attended the Sunday School, Fellowship and Bible Studies. After marriage to an Anglican minister, Jan was involved with women's ministries in the Hawkesbury area, Enfield and Wollongong.

She has had membership of Mothers' Union Sydney Diocese for more than 40 years having been made Life Vice-President in 2005, Head of Prayer Department in Sydney, and on Australian Executive.

Jan commenced involvement with Australian Church Women at the Burwood/Concord branch from the late 1970's. In 1995 she became the Mothers' Union Diocese of Sydney representative on NSW State Unit Council, and in 1997 took on the role of Secretary. From 2000 to 2002 Jan was State President, and then National Vice President 2003-2005. She has attended all National conferences since 1995.

Jan enjoys her family and friends and is deeply committed to praying for them. She likes to crochet.

Others have observed that ecumenism is a special part of her life. Jan has been noticed as being totally community minded and dedicated to her faith, a witness of her love and service for the Lord. Jan readily mixes with people of all denominations.

NSW State Life Member 2015

NSW State Unit ACW

Carmel Keys

Born 8 August 1927 Sydney

Education St Scholastica's High School – Glebe Point
 Tertiary – Pharmacist
 Certificate in Archaeology, Victoria
 Courses in Moral Theology, Philosophy, Ethics.

Family 3 brothers, aunt to 16, great aunt to 16 children
 Adopted family in the Philippines.



Carmel has served on Parish Councils in NSW and Victoria, as well as on Liturgy Committees. Foundation member of Catholic Women's League in the Parish and has had a major role in the development of Manly Parish – Parish Council, Caring Service, Social Committee.

She has been the Diocesan President, State President for Catholic Women's League and secretary of Manly CWL, and a representative on the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission.

Carmel has written histories of the parishes in Victoria and at Manly, and a history of the Catholic Women's League in Manly NSW.

Carmel joined ACW as a Catholic representative in 2005, becoming the President of NSW State Unit Inc. 2006-2008. Social Issues convener has been another role, and she is at present the Catholic representative on the NSW Executive.

Carmel has held the position of President of the Ex-students Union for St Scholasticas.

She has been noted for her commitment to ecumenism and her care and concern for those around her. Her willing spirit to take on responsibilities and do her best are attributes that are admired by others.

NSW State Unit Inc. ACW

Jean Porteous

Born Condoblin NSW

Education General Nursing, Midwifery
 Psychiatric Nursing
 Graduate of Sydney Missionary & Bible College

Family Married to Henry



Jean's family attended the Methodist Church in Condoblin and monthly the Baptist minister from Parkes held a communion service and Bible Study in Jean's parents' home. From an early age Jean participated in inter-denominational gatherings. When the family moved to Sydney they attended the Carramar Church of Christ which remains her home church.

Over the years she has enjoyed teaching children in Sunday school, after school clubs, and school holiday clubs. Jean and Henry have taught Special Religious Education at school.

Jean has served a term as President of the Churches of Christ Women's Fellowship as well as 7 years on the CWF Executive.

Jean spent eight years as a missionary nurse in a Leprosy Mission hospital in North India. On her return to Sydney she worked full time in a public hospital until her marriage.

Jean has been a Churches of Christ representative to Australian Church Women, and served as NSW State President from 2002-2004, also being the Social Justice Convener on National Executive from NSW 2003-2005.

Jean and her husband have led Leprosy Mission prayer meetings at home. They have served on the Leprosy Mission NSW State Advisory Service Committee and on the National Council. Jean has been a member of the Churches of Christ Aged Care Committee.

NSW State Unit Inc. ACW

Major Lynette Middleton

Born 23 May 1944 Merewether NSW

Education Leaving Certificate
 Teacher's Certificate
 The Salvation Army Officers' Training College

Family Married to Ken
 Two daughters, Yvette and Karen
 2 grandchildren



Lynette is a lifelong member of The Salvation Army, her faith journey beginning as a small child in the Sunday School. Lyn has always made herself available for service in her local church area, such as Sunday School, Pastoral Care, Coffee Shop Coordinator, Prayer Room Facilitator, as well as singing in the songsters (choir). She has been the Corps Sergeant Major (Head Elder) for her church.

After her commissioning as an officer of The Salvation Army, Lyn served on the Training College Staff then as a teacher in charge of the school within a Vocational Training (Detention) Centre for girls.

Following her marriage to Ken in 1972, they served in corps throughout NSW, ACT and Queensland before being sent to Pakistan for four years, then four years in Seoul, and three years in London. There were short relieving terms in Chisinau, Moldova and Taiwan.

Lyn has also held a number of appointments at Territorial Headquarters in Sydney, including Employee Training Coordinator, Community Services Consultant and Chairman of the Moral and Social Issues Council.

Her first involvement with ACW was with the Southport, Queensland branch between 1973 and 1975. She was a member of the ACT Unit 1979-1981.

Lyn served as President ACW NSW State Unit 2004 -2006. Later Lyn held office as Asian Church Women's Convener (NSW), and then State Special Days Convener. Lyn has been National President for the term of office for the National Executive from NSW 2013-2015

Lyn has served as The Salvation Army's representative on National Council of Women NSW and ACT, and on the NSW Council of Churches.

Lyn is noted as a Godly woman, faithful and loyal, and a great encourager.

NSW State Unit Inc. ACW

Denise Louise Secomb

Born 13 June 1938 Waratah Private Hospital NSW

Education Newcastle Girls' High School
Newcastle Tech College Laboratory Asst. Cert.
Newcastle Business College Shorthand, Typing,
Book keeping

Family Husband Allan, 3 children
Karen, Grant, Alison



Denise is an active member of the Trinity New Lambton Uniting Church where she has been Convener of the Elders' Council.

The Uniting Church Adult Fellowship has been a special focus for Denise, taking leadership roles as opportunities came. These have included National Corresponding member of NSW/ACT Synod UCAF, and Immediate Past Deputy Chair National Committee UCAF. She is Past Chairperson NSW/ACT Synod, and Hunter Presbytery UCAF. She is a Member of Hunter Presbytery Adult Fellowship.

Based in Newcastle, Denise has been a member of teams from UCAF who visit others around New South Wales, especially those in isolated areas, or groups in country areas recovering from natural disasters.

In ACW, Denise has been a representative of the Uniting Church to the NSW State Unit Council for 12 years from 2003. The Newcastle area is indebted to her ongoing support and encouragement that has meant Fellowship Day and World Community Day services have been held regularly.

She has held the position of National Executive Vice President 2013 to 2015, with special responsibility for National Conference, a position for which she is well suited, having attended many conferences, including those for Australian Church Women.

Denise is known for her enthusiasm, her willingness to assist those in need and her Christian example.

NSW State Unit Inc. ACW

Olive Edmondstone

Born 15 June 1931 Stanmore NSW

Education Bathurst Public School
 Bathurst High School (Intermediate Certificate)
 Bedford Baptist Business College

Family Married to Rev John Edmondstone for 57 years
 1 Son and 2 Daughters, all married
 Grandchildren



Olive worked as a Secretary, and later worked for 20 years at Sydney Rescue Work (now Integrecare) as a Pay Mistress and Confidante to staff whilst supporting her husband in pastoral ministry.

Olive's parents were both Christians (Congregational & Baptist involvement). After marriage they attended Stanmore Baptist, and when transferred to Bathurst with work, they were committed to Bathurst Baptist Church. A move, back to Sydney, several years later to Haberfield. Both parents had leadership roles and Olive taught Sunday School, was an officer in the Girls' Brigade, and together with John was the Superintendent of Christian Endeavour.

Olive and John were married when John concluded his Theological Training and they subsequently served in pastoral roles in both NSW and Queensland Churches. Olive always enjoyed working with women which led to her active involvement in Denominational Women's ministry.

She went on to be invited to the council of Baptist Women of NSW & ACT where she was Secretary for a period of time and then elected President in 2000.

Olive was introduced to Australian Church Women by Mrs Glad West, a member of their church at the time, and became a Baptist representative of the ACW NSW Unit in 1979. From that time she has been a loyal member, still reporting back regularly to the Baptist Women NSW & ACT, promoting the work of ACW and recommending new representatives as required.

During the past 36 years Olive has regularly attended meetings, represented ACW on the State World Day of Prayer Committee, been a member of ACWC Committee and Convenor of Pastoral Care – roles which she has carried out in a quiet, efficient manner whilst still supporting John who has served a term as President of Baptist Union of NSW, and one as National President.

Be it in an elected role or as an ACW Council member Olive's ministry has been "pastoral" giving love, care and prayerful support to the women she comes in contact with - having the ability to sense a need and give the appropriate response without a fuss.

NSW State Unit Inc. ACW