

**\*\* INFORMATION PAGE \*\***

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson  
33 Lynwood Avenue,  
DEE WHY, 2099.  
(Tel: 9971 0278).

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- ⇒ For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word "Treasurer" when addressing envelopes.
- ⇒ **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to "Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc." and **NOT** to any individual person.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups:	\$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations:	\$15.00 per annum
WCTU NSW	
The Girls' Brigade	
Bible Society NSW	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$10.00 per annum  
(includes subscription to Newsette)

**NEWSETTE** is the journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women and is published four times a year in February, May, August and November. Annual Subscription is \$5.00.

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the **EDITOR:**

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# NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT INC

A C W seeks:

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

Mission Statement

*Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.*

PRESIDENT: Major Lyn Middleton Tel: 9529 6744

NUMBER 103

May 2005

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

My Dear Friends,

Events of recent days have brought me to reflect upon the words of the Apostle Paul from Philippians 3:14 - *I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*. A little later in this chapter it is recorded that Paul went on to say, *Join with others in following my example...* (v.17 NIV). This was not Paul saying 'Be like me!' but rather it was Paul saying 'Be like Christ!' for the example Paul set for himself was the example set by Christ. Paul is very specific about this in his writings to the Corinthians where he says, *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ* (1 Cor 11:1). Be imitators of Christ! This is indeed an awesome calling but also our divine responsibility, towards which we must strive.

The world has just said goodbye to one who was faithful to these words of Paul's. Exemplified in the life of Pope John Paul II was the passion to live like Christ, to be an imitator of Christ! This was so symbolically portrayed by the placing of the Book of the Gospels upon his coffin - the

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life and teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ the pattern and motivating power of this great church leader.

We can rejoice that God's call to Christlike living is accompanied by the promise of his enabling (Luke 24:49). Paul testifies to this further on in the letter to the Philippians when he says, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me* (4:13 KJV). When Paul challenged his readers to 'imitate me as I imitate Christ' there was never an expectation that this be done by human effort but by dependence on the grace and power he himself relied upon: the strengthening power of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is equally available to every one of us. May the assurance of this Mighty Power at work within us inspire us each to *press on* by God's grace to bring Christ to a world so much in need of his message of love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Many of you may be familiar with Oswald Chambers work "*My Utmost For His Highest*". What a great personal motto! At the March meeting of the NSW State Council it was agreed to recognise a number of our members who over years of association with Australian Church Women have demonstrated a real commitment to such a personal motto as this. This will be done by medium of the 'HONOURING AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN' book (previously called the WKS Bursary Book) in which their names, photos and personal profiles will be recorded, and by a donation of \$250 to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund. We have been pleased to recognise the following Life Members in this way: *Lucelle King, Peg Blake, Mina Whybourne, Marie McCann and Edith Ridge*. On your behalf I pass on to them our congratulations!

It is said of Oswald Chambers that he was "never content with low attainment (but was) always climbing the mountain peaks! In the Alps there is a grave of a climber who died trying to climb one of the highest peaks. Inscribed on his grave are the words - *He died climbing*. Inspired by these examples of others may this be true also of us.

God bless you, everyone! *Sincerely, Lyn Middleton*

**ACW NSW UNIT ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION**

*Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005 10.30 am followed by lunch.*

**THE SALVATION ARMY CHATSWOOD**

*(Cnr Johnson & Archer Streets)*

**Guest Speaker National President Major Nancy McLaren.**

*Travel Directions (Changed from last Newsette): BUS 273 from Wynyard, York St; alight opposite Chatswood Chase walk down Archer Street 2 blocks.*

**TRAIN** to Chatswood: From Station walk to Chatswood Mall, follow Victoria Rd (2 blocks) turn right into Archer St (2 blocks to Johnson St).

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**MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**NSW UNIT SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY:**

On Monday, 18th July 2005, commencing with Morning Tea at 10 am.

As our usual venue for Council Meetings would have been too small and crowded for the planned program, a different, very pleasant and attractive venue, has been arranged. This is the Hall of St James' King Street, which is not in the church precincts in King Street, but on Level 1, 169-171 Phillip Street, just along Phillip Street from King.

Morning Tea provided; Bring Your Own Lunch & \$2 to defray expenses.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE:**

From 14<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at the Salvation Army Conference Centre at Homestead Avenue, Collaroy Beach. Set in spacious grounds at one of Sydney's beautiful northern beaches, the Centre overlooks the ocean. It is accessible by car or public transport, with frequent buses from the city, about a one hour journey.

There will be three types of shared accommodation - "Hotel-style rooms, Deluxe Rooms (all with ensuites), and Cabin Rooms (some with ensuites).

For those arriving in Sydney prior to the Conference, accommodation will be available at the Conference Centre on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Some program highlights include:

- \* Cameo Speakers bringing up-dated information on projects receiving FLC Grants;
- \* Bible Study Leaders - Robyn Collins, Sister Colleen O'Sullivan;
- \* Free Time to enjoy the lovely grounds of the Centre and to visit the beauties of the northern beaches;
- \* It is hoped our guests will have the opportunity to be introduced to our gracious New South Wales Governor, Professor Marie Bashir.
- \* Meet interstate members and friends and overseas participants.

Registration Forms are now available, in all State Units, with details of cost of full-time or day participation. Do plan now to attend and share in a wonderful time of friendship, fellowship and inspiration at this 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference, in a year which marks and celebrates 50 years of *Fellowship of The Least Coin*, 40 years of *Australian Church Women*, and 40 years of the *Winifred Kiek Scholarship*.

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**PRESIDENT ELECT FOR NEW SOUTH WALES UNIT:**

*Mrs Carmel Keys* has been nominated by her denomination as President-Elect to follow Major Lyn Middleton and we are delighted to welcome her to the Executive and Council. Carmel is already well-known to many of us but here is a profile for those who don't know her.

Carmel recently completed a 4-year term as State President of Catholic Women's League NSW and State Delegate on Catholic Women's League Australia. She is a former President of CWL Broken Bay Diocese; foundation member & member of steering committee of Broken Bay Ecumenical Commission, also of Diocesan Planning Project; parish rep to NSW Ecumenical Commission; convener Manly District World Day of Prayer Committee; Secretary CWLA Manly; 15 years secretary Catholic Chemists Guild (15 years).

Carmel attended St Scholastica's College, Glebe, then studied Pharmacy at Sydney University, also obtained Certificate in Archaeology, Victoria. She worked and managed pharmacies in Sydney 1952-1970; Hospital Pharmacy London 1956/57; Holiday & Emergency Relief in Melbourne and Sydney 1970-1996 until retirement

Involved in Parish in Victoria as it grew from a block of land to a Church, Presbytery, Hall and two schools; taught Migrant English; now, from 1987 to the present, serving in parish in Manly.

Her publications include Histories of Gladstone Park Parish (Vic) and CWLA Manly, and regular articles for Vine and Beacon; she has studied Moral Theology and Philosophy, Ethics and Morals relating to Pharmacy; communications and media courses; has worked on archaeological 'digs' in Victoria and The Philippines. As a result of the latter, Carmel and her husband have an adopted family there whom they have educated.

Carmel has no children but enjoys regular contact with her three brothers families and a growing tribe of nieces and nephews. Occasionally she is 'Farmer Carmel' when her brother and his wife travel overseas.

Hobbies are swimming, dancing and walking, reading, visiting friends, bird-watching, opera and theatre. She lobbies appropriate government and other groups on moral and social justice issues, and is interested in the environment and ecumenical activities.

Carmel says she is a 'person' person and looks forward to working with us in ACW to assist others in a spirit of Christian love to see the face of Jesus in those around us and to promote the dignity of women and family.

We look forward to having Carmel as part of our State Unit.

**FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:**

*"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...."* John 3:16.

Easter, one of the most significant events of the Christian Calendar, has passed. To many, it was a weekend of chocolates, but to countless thousands, we remembered that over two thousand years ago the much-loved and only Son of God traded His life for ours. He died on the cross for our sins, so that we may have eternal life.

The Fellowship of The Least Coin is a part of the new life we have received in believing that Jesus died for our sins, and His promise to give us new life in Jesus eternally.

Thank you all for your continued contributions to the Fellowship of The Least Coin, to help keep alive the vision of *Shanti Solomon* ("peaceful wisdom") who has taught many to have and care for the things which are small and of least value, but can be used to magnify the love of Jesus Christ.

This year is the Golden Jubilee, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. This Anniversary will be incorporated into one or two of our functions, namely the Service of Dedication in May, and the Spiritual Enrichment Day in July, and of course will be remembered at the National Conference in October.

Please remember "the impact of FLC cannot be measured by the number of projects and the sums of money given to the projects; the Fellowship of the Least Coin is rooted in prayer, faith and love."

It is with pleasure that I can announce that the FLC International Committee has awarded grants to two Australian applications this year:

1. *"Journey To Wholeness"* - A project of Uniting Care of Kwinana, a township 40km south of Perth, which has received a grant of \$US3000;
2. *"HopeStreet Urban Compassion"* in Woolloomooloo (formerly Baptist Inner City Ministries) has been given \$US4000 for the Women's Space Project 'Grace in Restoring Life.' - those of us who attended our State Conference last September heard a presentation about this ministry.

*Janet Lang, FLC Convener*

**NEW GROUP AFFILIATED WITH NSW STATE UNIT:**

The Bible Society of New South Wales was accepted as an affiliated group with ACW NSW Unit at the March Council Meeting and we look forward to having their representative sharing in our activities and fellowship.

### WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Our 2004 Scholar, *Mereani*, has concluded her course and returned to her homeland in Fiji. We have received an excellent, detailed report on her time with Project Respect in Melbourne, which has input from her and from her placement supervisor. A one page summary of this 12-page report will be included in each of the packages of services to be sent out for Fellowship Day in July.

Some highlights showed Mereani faced challenges with great spirit and humour and was always thoughtful. She understands that working with women in the sex industry needs consistency and to listen to women's stories without judgement. She often accompanied the Outreach Worker. She learnt of difficulties the women faced such as mental and physical health concerns, homelessness, isolation and exposure to crime.

Project Respect offers free English lessons; recreation activities; advice about the law, migration, housing and other issues; provides workshops and training.

Mereani feels that as Christians and in church ministries, we all have much to learn in understanding and caring for the women, so they too might come to know the love of God. She came to Australia thinking she would do her learning and studies in a College, but she is thankful it was in the place of ministry and work where she learnt new skills to return home to share with her place of ministry. Mereani is very thankful for her WK Scholarship and to Australian Church Women.

Remember our 2005 Scholars. *Anjou Borgoary* in India, an evangelist in villages and helping to train other women in leadership - a background profile for Anjou, contributed by one of our Baptist delegates, follows this report, and *Siok Cheng Chew* in Malaysia, supporting staff and improving care for disabled people. Pray that they will have balance of time with work and studies.

The National WKS Convener, *Joan Tong*, has sent us a letter from our 2001 Scholar, *Celestial Lusi*. She is in her homeland, Solomon Islands, busy in her church and Christian Education, but on 9<sup>th</sup> July will marry *John Prasad* from India, and they will be living in Papua New Guinea. She will let us know about her ministry there.

I still have Application Forms available for WKS 2006 for a woman between 25-40 years of age in the area of Multicultural Australia. These need to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005. For copies of letters etc. please contact me on (02) 9896.3758.

*Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener*

### PROFILE OF ANJU BORGOARY:

The 2005 Winifred Kiek Scholar, *Anju Borgoary*, is a Boro, the name of a plains tribal group in Assam, North East India. They come from a Burma-Tibetan ethnic group and belong to the Bodo language group of people. They were animists but have through the years become syncretistic, combining spirit worship with some Hindu observance. Since 1947 they have responded warmly to the Christian Gospel and have a passion to share Jesus with their own tribal non-Christians and other groups. They live in scattered villages in rather a remote area and part of their territory borders Bhutan, divided by the Ai river. Trade happens between the two peoples and the Boros have carried on a medical ministry to them for many years. With this they have also shared their Christian faith and both men and women have come to faith. *Anju*, as a women's evangelist, would also have been involved in this outreach.

All missionaries had to leave Assam in 1969 but as the Boros are a progressive tribe, they have trained indigenous leaders, professionals and workers. Tukrajhar is the centre of the Boro work, and it is where Anju is based and where she worships. At his centre there is a small hospital, medium and high schools and a Bible College. Many thousands of Christians gather therefore their annual meetings.

Whilst many Boro women are literate and are trained, in many villages there are those who do not read or write. The ministry of Anju will be to such women and also to train future leaders. There have been political troubles, floods and persecution by non-Christians to this group but they have stood firm under many adverse situations. Please pray that as Anju has further training, enabled by the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, that God will continue to use her in special women's ministry.

*(Contributed by Beryl Kirkwood)*

### ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

Our yearly PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON, which celebrates our affiliation with the other 17 Asian countries in ACWC will be on *Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September*. The host church, *Crows Nest Japanese Christian Church*, is in Northside Baptist Church, 65 Willoughby Road, Crows Nest. Since the Japanese Service finishes at 3 pm, we will have Afternoon Tea at 2.45 at the nearby Baptist Centre, then the Japanese congregation will join us for our Service at 3.30 pm with other Christians from different ethnic backgrounds. Bus 273 from Wynyard stops right in front of the church. *Ramona Cowle, Retiring ACWC Convener*



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### SOCIAL ISSUES:

I attended "*Integrating Justice*" which was a one-day public lecture and discussion. The presenters were an aboriginal woman, *Elsie*, and two nuns from USA, *Sister Helen Prejean* (Dead Men Walking nun) and *Sister Marya Grathwol OSF* who is a cosmologist. Elsie spoke about her journey as an aboriginal woman and the attitudes she had experienced as a child and how she had often asked "Why is this happening to us and what have we done?" As an adult woman she pursued her education and is able to see that while much needs to be done and there are still deprivations, there are also small pockets of reconciliation here and there. When she spoke about inadequate health services for aboriginal people, especially in remote areas, Sr Helen commented that she saw that as a death sentence for aboriginal people in those areas.

*Sr Helen* is a passionate, dynamic and articulate defender of human rights. She believes strongly in the need for a transparent and accountable justice system that treats people with dignity and fairness and which breaks the cycle of violence in our societies. She believes in the power of redemption and forgiveness. Her own journey towards social justice and social compassion has seen her working with all the victims of crime in ways which bring healing and hope and which offer an invitation to live beyond anger, despair and revenge. When asked about "compassion fatigue" in the face of so many issues of injustice, she replied that it was not success that was primary but rather our fidelity to our integrity in speaking the truth according to the values we profess. This calls for endless creativity but the path is made by walking. We also need "time out" (a change of pace and a change of place) in an atmosphere of solitude and prayer and often in nature which can re-energise us for the struggle.

*Sr Marya* spoke about the Spirit of Place and our reverence for the environment which Francis of Assisi saw as our brothers and sisters. She teaches creation spirituality and environmental ethics. She is a strong advocate of ecological justice and works with groups to explore the possibilities for sustainable living and working. She challenged us to ask ourselves "What is my moral code with regard to the environment?" "How do I act out of that?" Our passion for people and our passion for the land should be part of the same passion. Getting involved in one situation of oppression and imagining a different way can lead us to actions where we can make a difference.

*Sr Joan Bird jimm, Social Issues Convener*

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### NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

Thank you, ladies. This will be my last report as your representative on the above council. I wish my successor the very best and hope that she enjoys it as much as I have. My reports have always been well received by you, even if I have not always managed to convey the work that this council is trying to achieve. For this reason I pass on to another voice, that it may be heard louder and clearer.

The *Ecumenical Council* is involved with Local Initiatives, Taizé Pilgrimage, the Christmas Bowl Appeal, the House of Welcome for Refugees, and Social Justice Issues. Their theme is from Christ's words in John 17, "*That they may be one.*" Christ, the one foundation of the church.

The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* will be held this year from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of May. The initial preparations of material for 2005 was done by members of the Theological Committee of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia.

This week of prayer is an appropriate time for local churches, as they get together for worship and study, to ask how they might enter into an agreement - how they might covenant together - to live more visibly the unity they have in Christ.

The signing of the Covenanting Document by churches of the *National Council of Churches in Australia* last July is a great stimulus for similar things to happen locally. One initiative is that the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn has passed a resolution acknowledging the national covenanting and to ask the Bishop to establish a working group to explore local possibilities.

If you would like to travel, there is a China Tour planned in 2005, from 17<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September, cost approx \$4000 (twin share) or one to South America in 2006, cost approx. \$9000. Enquiries NSW Ecumenical Council.

*Nola Dickson, Retiring Representative to Ecumenical Council*

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NSW:

At the March Council Meeting, it was a privilege to have *Lady Martin* to speak about the *Sir David Martin Foundation* which was established as a memorial to her late husband who was the Governor of New South Wales. She spoke of the encouraging results they have been getting from the *Triple Care Farm* at Robertson, a project

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working in partnership with *Mission Australia* to help the thousands of teenagers and young adults who each night bed down in refuges, inner city squats or on the street. Their goal is to get more young people off the streets, away from unhealthy situations and into care and rehabilitation. Sir David was a compassionate, community minded man who deeply admired the work of Mission Australia and Lady Martin was a delightful speaker.

*Shirley Wells, ACW Representative to NCW NSW*

#### **PAN PACIFIC & S.E.ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:**

The speaker at a recent meeting was *Kath Fear*, who is Donor Relationship Manager of *Opportunity International*, and her talk focused on what her organisation does for women.

A picture was shown of *Diana Basco*, who used to live on a rubbish dump, scrounging fabric pieces and making mats by hand - she is now an exporter of fabric mats from Manila to China, employing ten other women using sewing machines.

A DVD featuring the work of a Trust Bank in *Ghana* was shown. It demonstrated how a small loan with reasonable interest rates could turn a subsistence worker into a moderately prosperous business person and increase the wealth and wellbeing of the whole area. The Trust Banks are administered by the people of the area, with a loan officer who teaches them business principles and about health and nutrition. The loans are not necessarily large - it is surprising what a loan of \$70 can do. In 2003, of one million loans given, 900,000 were given to **women**.

*Opportunity International* operates in 26 countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia, including the Philippines, Indonesia and East and West Timor.

A new scheme is being trialled in *Ghana*. The custom there is that if a man dies all family assets revert to his parental family, leaving his wife and children destitute. O.I. is introducing a "Smart Card" with a thumbprint ID, so that if a woman receives a loan and builds up savings, no-one but she can access them.

O.I. is up front about its Christian persuasion, but donations are accepted from, and loans made to, people of any faith. They are happy to provide speakers to address groups or churches.

*Contributed by Edith Ridge, ACW Representative to PPSEAWA*

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#### **A TESTIMONY FROM INDONESIA:**

*Meulaboh* in Aceh was one of the towns hit hardest by the Tsunami in December - 80% of the town was destroyed and 80% of the people died, but from this place there is also a fantastic testimony that God protects His own.

In that town are about 400 Christians, who wanted to celebrate Christmas on December 25, but were not allowed to do so by the Muslims, being told they would have to go outside the city to a high hill. So the 400 believers left the city on December 25 and after their Christmas celebration, they stayed overnight on the hill.

As we know, on the morning of December 26 there was an earthquake followed by the Tsunami waves destroying most of the city and thousands were killed. The 400 believers were on the mountain and were all saved from destruction. Now the Muslims are saying "The God of the Christians punished us for forbidding them from celebrating Christmas in the city" while others are questioning why so many Muslims died but not even one of the Christians.

Had the Christians insisted on their rights they would have all died, but because they humbled themselves they were spared destruction and can now testify of God's marvellous protection

*(Thanks for this contribution - I cannot recall who gave it to me - Newsette Editor)*

#### **THE DEATH OF SUPERMAN:**

*Christopher Reeve*, the actor who played Superman, died last October after being a quadriplegic for nearly 10 years. His death triggered much media attention to his pet cause - embryonic stem cell research. Christopher Reeve believed that embryonic stem cells would eventually repair his damaged spinal cord and enable him to walk again.

Sadly, with him, many have swallowed this misinformation about embryonic stem cells, which when transplanted into humans, are subject to rejection, hard to control and may cause tumours. In contrast, adult stem cells, obtained from cord blood or cultured from patients themselves, have already achieved remarkable cures, whereas after 20 years and many millions of dollars, embryonic-destructive research has not successfully treated a single patient or a single disease. Adult stem cell research has treated thousands of patients and more than 100 diseases. In fact, adult stem cell therapy has already helped some with severe spinal cord injuries to walk again, two of whom recently testified before the US Senate.

*(From Festival of Light Magazine 'Light')*