

**** 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
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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
Bible Society;	
The Girls' Brigade	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$15.00 per annum
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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

ACW Website: www.acwnational.org.au

ACW 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: Mrs Jennifer Peffer Tel: 9874 4056
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NUMBER 122

FEBRUARY 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the threshold of a new year and a new decade I am sure many of you, like me, will welcome a blank canvas to embroider with the hopes and heartaches, the joys and blessings that we will face in the months ahead.

In January I decided to go through cupboards and boxes and eliminate what was unnecessary to keep, but I am not sure that my actions were as radical as I intended....."you just never know when you might need this" or "it may be useful to someone else" or "I might read that book again - sometime". In the writing desk I came upon three booklets, obviously kept from a previous tidy up: *A New Start*, *Open Door* and *New Beginnings*. I quote from *Helen Steiner Rice* the cover piece of the last-mentioned:

*It doesn't take a New Year to begin our lives anew,
God grants us new beginnings each day the whole year through -
So never be discouraged for there comes daily to all men
The chance to make Another Start and Begin All Over Again!*

January also brought *Australia Day* and the opportunity to celebrate the

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birthday of our beautiful country and the many peoples who now call it home. The Australian Coat of Arms is unique to our nation and the fauna depicted on it have exclusive attributes. Unlike the lion or the eagle of England, USA and Germany, which are mentioned in the Bible for their strength and endurance, our *Kangaroo* and *Emu* are only able to move forwards - not backwards. We pray that our country will always move forward and that our leaders will seek God's guidance to that end.

As we step into this new year may we not waste time and energy reflecting back on 2009, dwelling on disappointments, heartache or discouragement either in our personal lives or maybe in organisations in which we are involved..... but thank God for the times of encouragement, joy and blessing..... go through the *Open Door*, make a *New Start*, and like the kangaroo and the emu keep moving forward in our Christian walk.

The words of this chorus keep coming to mind.....

*"I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus - NO TURNING BACK, NO TURNING
BACK!"*

When we move forward in our Christian walk - be it slowly or quickly - then we will not only have a closer relationship with our Lord, but the ripple effect will extend into our families, our churches and to ACW, as a result. I urge you to "GO FORWARD" in 2010 with confidence -

"Fear not tomorrow, God is already there."

Jennifer Peffer

A TRIBUTE TO PAST-PRESIDENT LUCELLE KING:

Lucelle went "quickly and peacefully to heaven" in the early hours of November 3 after a short time in hospital - she had maintained a keen ongoing interest in ACW even as her health declined in recent years.

Lucelle first came as a Baptist Representative onto the ACW Council in 1977 and contributed to the organisation in many roles, becoming President in 1994. She was a lady whose reputation was legendary - she had exceptional talents and was popular in many fields - as a Song Leader, Soloist and a very able Speaker, often incorporating her sketching and in demand for Special Days in local branches. Using her artistic skills she was responsible for the design of the ACW Banner and the cover for the National World Community Day Order of Service.

In 2000 Lucelle was awarded Life Membership - we now have only 6 remaining State Life Members.

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Two of Lucelle's enduring contributions were:

The writing of our 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."

One of our members has the original hand-written version of this as Lucelle created it. Anglicans, Baptist, Catholic, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and Uniting were all comfortable and wholeheartedly in agreement with this Statement. To gain such an endorsement was no mean achievement.

In collaboration with her daughter, composing the music and lyrics of our ACW Theme Chorus:

*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 through Jesus Christ His Son
Tho' we are many, yet in Christ we are one
We being many, in Christ we are one.*

The full emotional impact of these words is felt when large groups of women of diverse forms of worship unite to sing it with great feeling at our functions.

Lucelle's family acknowledged ACW's special place in her heart by including mention of her Life Membership in her Death Notice. It was an honour to be asked, as the current State President, to speak at her Thanksgiving Service, held in Forster, at which I concluded by using the letters of her name:

*Leader
Uncompromising in her Christian beliefs and values
Committed, creative, caring, crusader
Energetic
Loyal
Liberal with the use of her time and talents
Enduring to the end.*

Such ambassadors for any organisation are very rare.

Jennifer Peffer

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PROFILE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT:

I was born at Dulwich Hill, *Nola Margery Weeding*. At the age of two my family moved to South Strathfield, and worshipped at Croydon Park Presbyterian Church. I made my first commitment to Jesus Christ at that church and remained there until my marriage. I remember the long walk up to the tram on Sundays for morning worship, Sunday school in the afternoon, and back again for fellowship and church at night - three times a day! Our trips up and down that street inspired one neighbour, who was often at his front gate to say: _ "Gawd, yer a 'oly family!"

In 1948 I married *Cliff Patten*. We built a house at West Ryde and were members of the Baptist Church there. We had five children, two girls and three boys, all now married. I have fifteen grand-children and ten great grand-children, with number eleven due in February. After Cliff's death in 1974 I returned to my roots and transferred to Epping Presbyterian Church.

In 1988 I married *Frank Dickson*, a retired music-store owner of Chatswood, moved to Neutral Bay and transferred my membership once again, to St John's Uniting Church. Frank died in 1997. (I didn't have a lot of luck with the men in my life!) After his death, I returned to Epping, where I now live, and rejoined Epping Presbyterian Church.

I have always belonged to a church choir as I just love singing, even though I was not gifted with a solo voice I can blend with others. From an early age I have served my Lord in various ways. Commencing with Kindergarten Superintendent, I followed with Sunday school teaching, Adult Sunday School leader, Bible Study leader, elder, delegate to Synod, Secretary and President of various church and secular organisations. As an ACW associate member I have been involved with the NSW Ecumenical Council, as Newsette manager and as treasurer of the National Executive. I have always loved being active in church life and I look forward to serving my Lord as your President from for the next two years. In God's strength and with your prayerful support we will survive.

Nola Dickson

An Advance Date for your Diary:

DEDICATION SERVICE & INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT

For 2010 - 2012

17th MAY 2010

at EPPING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(Further details of time etc. in May Newsette)

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Christmas cards were sent to past Scholars, with some replies. The National WKS Convenor, *Maureen Clarke* also had replies, from *Siok Cheng* (Malaysia 2004) and *Susan Liersch* (Australia 2003).

Mary Au (Hong Kong 1980 - keeps in touch and always remembers ACW; had a busy year with her church and ecumenical work and Christmas events were for neighbours, schools and elderly folks - Mary is the only female director of the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union ... men are eager to fight for the positions "to be leaders in the churches." Mary's mum, now 97, is frail and still lives with her. She sends love to all.

Nighat Gulzar (Pakistan 1994) - still in Philadelphia USA - also faithfully in touch ...no news but card and gift of fold-up bag and angel-pin brooch, then a letter came telling me to remember to thank the ladies for their remembrance of her...a blessing for us; *Numbers 6:14-15*.

Imelda Aquino (Philippines 2008) - back in the Philippines helping in the AOG World Mission Department, also on deputation visiting churches to raise support funds. Language studies finished for now. She is preparing for long term in the Middle East. Security tight and a big prayer point.

No recent news from *Inese Foiakau* (Sydney 2009) but hopefully she enjoyed holidays with her family after a big year with work and studies.

Christy Ferguson (Melbourne 2009) A busy but enjoyable year - results with High Distinctions - Victorian WKS Convenor, Una, attended her Graduation Service and sent me program and photos - Christy is now overseas for a Conference and brother's wedding - back to Melbourne late February and will look for some work while processing her application for long term placement with *Interserve*.

Leinamau (Vanuatu 2007) - having some holidays, but writing up Bible Studies and resources for the Christian Education Department... "something to bless our people, I hope ." She knows she needs to have dental and medical check-ups...has not done so since coming to Australia. She is working out costs and having plans drawn up to build a house ...a BIG step for her. I assured her of our prayers in all this.

Monique Crabtree (Australia 2003) - graduated from Tabor Bible College in Perth with a Bachelor of Ministry in 2006, winning Dux of the College - worked voluntarily at Tabor for 2 days a week in 2007, then offered the role of Registrar at the College for 2 days per week. The college is expecting three African, one Polish and 20 Australian students next year. What great news on Monique!

We must keep in prayer for the 2010 students - *Ruth Marsipal* (PNG) and

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Tonu Faknaufon (Fiji). They will be doing studies from home by computer and internet, then mid-year coming to Sydney to the Alan Walker College of Evangelism. More on them as news comes to hand.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

Greetings to all for this first edition of Newsette for 2010.

My first words must be of thanks to so many people from all parts of New South Wales, who have given to our great FLC movement. As I read the notes which came with the money, I gave thanks to God that so many people wanted to share in such a wonderful way.

When we consider the economic times we are living in, together with some branches who have had to close, people have still responded with their least coins and the result has been amazing. To God be the glory!

I will have the opportunity to visit three different church groups in the early part of the year to share the FLC story with them. I leave these verses with you from 1 Peter 4:10,11 from The Message Translation. *"Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way, God's mighty presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and He'll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything."*

God bless you each one.

Lillian Hodges, FLC Convener

SPECIAL DAYS:

During 2010-2011 the theme to be explored on the Special Days, which was introduced at the National Conference held in Canberra in September 2009, is *Turning Darkness Into Light*.

The National Executive, now based in South Australia, has invited the NSW State Unit to prepare the Service for *Fellowship Day* in July this year, for which the theme is *Let There Be Light*. The committee has worked well, incorporating many suggestions from last September's National Conference including an ideas page to accompany the Service, to encourage branches to make their services relevant to the community in which they operate. It is anticipated that the materials for Fellowship Day will be sent out to the branches in June.

We welcome Taree branch as they host the Special Days in their area.

Pamela Freeman, Special Days Convener

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ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP of NSW STATE UNIT:

This item has been on the Agenda of the State Executive for almost two years. There has been much discussion; we heard presentations about what had happened in the past and what some denominations/organisations found helpful in encouraging Associate Members and keeping them informed and interested. These were all prayerfully considered and debated as to what would best suit ACW.

We needed to be able to offer "Associate Membership" not just to retiring Council Members but also to those who attend Branch Special Days and other gatherings - people who are genuinely interested and supportive of Australian Church Women and want to be kept in touch.

At November Council Meeting recommendations from the Executive were adopted and in the coming year will begin to be implemented. In this initial period the procedures will be my responsibility of, but once up and running will become part of the brief of the Membership Secretary.

New Associate Membership Forms have been designed and include not just the aims and objectives of the organisation, but also explanation of the benefits and Application Form.

What the changes actually mean:

- Greater participation from local branches in making/maintaining contact with people who are in their area.
- Local branches are to be encouraged to push Associate Membership at their Special Days Functions with literature and Application Forms clearly visible.
- If there is no local branch? Well, contacts will be followed up by myself and ultimately the Membership Secretary.

Associate Members may attend Council Meetings and would be covered by our Public Liability Insurance but would not be entitled to vote. As at present, their membership subscription of \$15 per year would include receiving Newsette. Personal contact will be the key to maintaining their interest and hopefully will encourage wider involvement - maybe from these ranks in the future we will see future Denominational Delegates!

Please pray for all aspects of the implementation of these endeavours to make Associate Membership more meaningful, especially that Branches will catch the vision and use their friendship to others to make the changes work.

Jennifer Peffer, State President

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

Happy New Year! I would like share some of the thoughts from ACWC Executive Secretary *Shu-Wen Chiang's* Christmas greeting:

"My dear ACWC friends:

Greetings in grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a God-blessed 2010.

For me, 2009 seems to pass faster than any other year. This is not just a greetings for Christmas but also a kind of update and prayer request for the ministry of the ACWC:

We are preparing for the 14th ACWC Assembly. It will be special because we will have the Young Women's Forum before the Assembly meeting. This new program is for the continuation of ACWC from generation to generation. We are to produce a history book for the celebration of the ACWC Anniversary History... Some member countries had civil war and/or hit by natural disasters in this year. We helped them with ACWC Emergency Fund. ... I will finish my second term by the end of 2010. The ACWC is in the process of looking for a new Executive Secretary. Please pray that our Lord will provide a proper person for this position.

Shu-Wen Chiang, Executive Secretary, ACWC"

May I encourage you to visit the ACWC website: acwc.blogspot.com and read the latest reports - there is an interesting update on the WEAVE project in Timor which was sponsored by ACWC.

Let us be in prayer during this year for the 14th Quadrennial General Assembly of ACWC. This is to be held at *Kinaseh Outound & Resort Conference Centre* at Bogor, Indonesia, from 15-20 October, 2010. The Theme for that Assembly is:

*"Asian Women Moving Forward:
Non-Violent World/New Earth/Life In Its Fullness"*

Lyn Middleton, ACWC Convener

SOCIAL ISSUES:

Greetings! I wish you every blessing for a holy and healthy New Year.

Social Justice Issues have not stood still

NSW is still 82% in draught despite the recent heavy rains and flooding in the north and north-west - more rain is needed for the flow to reach the Murray/Darling and save the livelihood of farmers there and in S.A. regions. Can we help? What needs to be done? The extreme heat and

bush fires have with the grace of God not taken any lives.

Ecology is important - much more than a human problem but a conversion in our lives to reflect on the delights of the natural world that God created.

Raising the Drinking Age - will this lead to less violence, fewer road accidents? Or more use of other drugs?

Suicide - a tragedy not only for the one who dies but also their family and friends left behind. A recent survey by Lifeline Australia records that a quarter of adults believe that suicide is not preventable. Education programs are necessary, as well as compassion, attention and prevention.

Homelessness continues to increase even though jobless numbers have dropped. Costs of rent and access to reasonable accommodation are rising. Fair wages need to be available to cover living costs. Youth assistance is necessary Do you know what is being done in your area, your church?

Health Issues - keeping our hospitals in good repair, conditions, staff.

Young Disabled - suitable care and accommodation - mentors or volunteers to visit young people in care.

Migrants - what are their needs? Do you welcome them in your community? Christians are fleeing Iraq as well as Africa because of persecution, lack of jobs and services.

Death Penalty - Write to your Federal Member, C/- Parliament House, Canberra and ask him or her to remind the Prime Minister of his promise to appeal to Indonesian President if Scott Rush's Appeal is denied in courts in April.

Protection for Seafarers - Ask the Australian Government to ratify the International Bill protecting seafarers rights, including minimum age limit, regulated watch-hours, wages and leave, medical attention, food and safety regulations - the same conditions other workers take for granted.

Please keep in your prayers the people of Haiti.

Carmel Keys, Social Issues Convener

PUBLICITY REPORT:

As I write this I am very conscious that it is the last report that I will write as the Publicity Convenor before I move away from Sydney. As Salvation Army Officers my husband and I have been transferred to Armidale in northern NSW to take up the roles of Divisional Leaders (Diocesan leaders) after having been in our ministry roles for the last 9 years.

In March 2001 I attended my first ACW Council Meeting in Sydney and

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have thoroughly enjoyed these last 9 years. Having accepted the position of Fellowship of the Least Coin Convenor soon after that first meeting I have had the privilege and opportunity of meeting with and sharing lovely times with many of you in your different denominational meetings and gatherings. What a privilege to share in this wonderful ministry and to know that our prayers and coins joined with many others around the world have helped to bring a little joy to others. Keep up this great ministry.

Moving to this role as Publicity Convenor allowed first *Janet Lang* and now *Lillian Hodges* to undertake that great FLC ministry and gave me the joy of helping to get the message out there of the Special Days and other functions and activities associated with ACW.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the different ACW Presidents-over these last 9 years for the privilege of serving Christ through ACW and especially the privilege given to me of being nominated to fulfil the role of National President for ACW 2003-2005 and leading the fantastic group of women who made up the National Executive during that time.

I will try to always take the opportunity to promote ACW no matter where I serve the Lord and try to encourage other women to see this area of ministry as both a personal and corporate way of serving the Lord and others. If any readers of *Newsette* live within the area from *Tamworth* to the Queensland border on the western side of the range, and from the border south to *Port Macquarie* and areas within that top part of the State, I may have the privilege of meeting with you and sharing with you in worship at one of our ACW Special Days. God bless you richly,

Nancy McLaren, Special Days Convenor

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

The half-yearly meeting of the NSW Ecumenical Council in November was held at Newcastle in an attempt to emphasise that it is a Council for NSW and not just for Sydney.

Rev Dr Gerard Kelly from the Catholic Institute spoke on "*Receptive Ecumenism*" - stating that although formal divisions remain between churches, more is being done and many church people find a new energy when they come together with others. He suggested we should be self-critical and open to change, considering what we might learn from others, looking at what we do and seeing how others do some things better.

Doug Hewitt spoke of a visit by ten Australians to Israel and Palestine, meeting with Palestinians and Israelis, and becoming informed in an

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attempt to see what can be done to promote the possibility that justice might prevail in that country.

Other speakers told of initiatives on the local level to promote ecumenical activity. These included coming together in a suburb for the great Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas, and combined services perhaps when there is a fifth Sunday in a month. Another successful venture was the opening of church properties to allow the revival of a community jazz festival which had lapsed because insurance had made costs excessive.

The participation of ACW in the work of the Council is encouraged, and in return we are pleased to have Council staff attend our functions.

Isabel Hewitt, ACW Representative to NSW Ecumenical Council

PAN PACIFIC & SEASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

In the final months of 2009 our PPSEAWA meetings continued to be interesting and challenging.

In *August* the speaker was *Dr Bronwen Gould*, a Guide leader working with children who have had a raw deal, with research into child death, also in homeless women. Around The Domain a band of 35 women and men help those in need, some with mental health problems, others with intellectual disabilities or just family problems. Dr Gould told some heart-breaking stories.

At the *September* meeting *Dianne Madden*, told of *Camp Kookaburra*, a program that offers free weekend camps and activity days for children 8-16 years living in families affected by mental illness - some of these children become 'carers' at an early age and miss out on the fun of childhood. The program, has been operating in the St George area of Sydney for 10 years and now has 147 children on its books

In *October* the President's Luncheon was held and several of the corporate organisations presidents attended. *Biljana Milosevic* spoke of the *Jannawi Family Program* at Lakemba. *Family Centre*, established in 1978, was one of the first child protection services in Australia - it is a specialist non-government child protection service, working with children at risk of harm of abuse or neglect, aged 0-9 and their families. *Community Connections* is a bi-lingual program to support vulnerable families with children 0-8 years living at Wiley Park, Lakemba and Punchbowl.

The *November* meeting wound up the year, looking at plans for 2010.

Edith Ridge & Sr Joan Bird, ACW Representatives to PPSEWA