

ACW NSW STATE UNIT INC—EXECUTIVE 2006-2007

PRESIDENT	Mrs Carmel Keys	9977 5156
PAST PRESIDENT	Major Lyn Middleton	9529 6744
TREASURER	Mrs Helen Richardson	9971 0278
SECRETARY	Mrs Isabel Hewitt	9642 7137
MEMBERSHIP	Miss Heather Reid	9746 5656
PASTORAL CARE	Mrs Olive Edmondstone	9887 1846
FLC CONVENER	Mrs Janet Lang	4975 5740
WKS CONVENER	Mrs Judith Cayzer	9896 3758
SPECIAL DAYS	Mrs Pam Freeman	9873 1701
NEWSETTE EDITOR	Mrs Beryl McLaughlin	9744 8609 (w/t/f) 9262 5949
SOCIAL ISSUES	Sister Joan Bird	9769 1211
PUBLICITY	Major Nancy McLaren	9555 2628 (w) 9266 9880
ACWC CONVENER	Mrs Beryl Kirkwood	9626 9600



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Service of Dedication & Installation of incoming President, Mrs Carmel Keys

will be held at
Mary Immaculate & St Athanasius Church Manly
Monday 15th May at 11am

Fellowship Day in July theme "I am the Bread of Life"

Offerings go to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship enabling a
young woman from Asia, the Pacific or multi-cultural Australia
to further her studies

World Community Day in October

dedicates Fellowship of the Least Coin Offerings
and supports a Special Project

No.43

April 2006

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Lyn Middleton

The last two years have been among some of the most personally fulfilling and spiritually enriching of my life. What a wonderful experience it is to live faith within the wider body of Christ, the one that transcends denominational and organisational boundaries. As I come to the end of my two year term of presidency of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. I want to give thanks to God for his enabling power and sustaining grace. My mind goes to the words of 1 Samuel 7:12 *Hitherto has the Lord helped me* and I would also raise my *Ebenezer* in testimony to God's help and guidance along the way.

We have enjoyed a wonderful journey together, sharing so much. Your prayerful support and encouragement each step of the way has been so great words inadequately express my sincere appreciation. I just thank God for every one of you.

I especially want to say thank you to the members of the Executive who have served with me. It has been a privilege to work with you. As you read the Conveners reports in the pages that follow you will see how blessed we have been with such a team. Particularly I want to acknowledge my indebtedness to Jean Porteous (Immediate Past President) and Isabel Hewitt (Secretary) for their gracious support and guidance throughout my term of office.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the past year was the National Conference held at Collaroy in October 2005. The conference being held locally enabled a lovely number of the NSW ladies to attend for either all or part of the conference and many happy reunions were experienced. The conference itself was an outstanding success, especially in terms of content and administration. We congratulate the NSW National Executive under the leadership of Major Nancy McLaren and thank each one for accepting the office on our behalf and for doing such a magnificent job under God.

It has been my privilege to represent ACW at a number of denominational and organisational state conferences, annual services and special functions throughout the year. May I say a special word of thanks to those of you who represent ACW in other organizations. Your participation is integral to the ongoing mission of ACW. My thanks too, to all Branch Presidents, Secretaries and members who work so hard throughout the year to perpetuate and grow the ministries of ACW. It is always great to meet up with you at our Special Days and I thank you for the invitations I have received to participate in these days.

GIRLS' BRIGADE

Ruth Dickenson

Girls' Brigade continues its ministry amongst the girls and young women of our State. The organisation is often perceived as old fashioned and out dated, but if you were to visit any of our Companies you would see many girls happily engaged in activities which are relevant to them and meeting their needs.

In an effort to modernise the image of Girls' Brigade to the

outside world, we have introduced **Gee Bee.**

Gee Bee appears on many of our promotional materials and a "live" Gee Bee is available for Companies to hire out for promotional events. This has brought a lot of interest to the organisation and provides a talking point when seen walking around. She also appears on many of our novelty items sold in the shop, So the girls can wear Gee Bee on a cap, sleep with her on a pillowcase, carry her around on a calico bag and wear her on a bracelet etc.

Our main focus is to help girls to find the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Our varied program bears this aim in mind and our training is geared to assist Leaders to program to this end. It is encouraging to see a number of teenage girls (our Pioneers) returning to complete several training courses to better equip them to lead the younger girls.

We thank ACW friends for their continued interest in Girls' Brigade.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Judith Baker

The 2006 World Day of Prayer Service from South Africa has brought before us the tragedy of HIV/AIDS and the flow-through effects on millions of people. The service was simple—a heartfelt plea for prayer for the families and orphans left behind.

The meeting held in the Salvation Army premises in Elizabeth Street in November took all attending through the service and advised the many ways people could highlight certain aspects. It was well attended and was of great help, especially in giving confidence to those hosting for the first time. A DVD was shown and was available for purchase by any branches to screen before the service or at any time suitable to them, also a CD was available of African music.

Each meeting of the committee is well attended and under the guiding hand of a new President Rae. The packing day was quicker than last year and runs like a well organised and oiled machine.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Shirley Wells

It has been a privilege for Helen Richardson and me to again join with delegates from over 50 Women's Organisations to represent ACW at NCW. Interesting meetings have dealt with many social issues, including health, water supply and conservation, disability funding, trafficking, alcohol regulation, rail transport and changes in nursing education being addressed. Our guest speakers have been informative and stimulating. At a very successful planning session in November many helpful ideas and suggestions were made and recorded.

Year 2006 is special as NCW NSW celebrates 110 years since its formation. On 26 June 1896 Margaret Windeyer met with 11 delegates from women's organisations, and support for the well-being of women and their families began. Various celebration functions are being organised.

It was an honour for ACW and WCTU to grant an award of \$1000 to Rev Melissa Baker to enable her to complete a Doctorate of Education at the University of Technology Sydney.

Your prayers would be appreciated as we continue to attend these meetings on the last Thursday evening of each month.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION OF NSW

Beryl McLaughlin, WCTU State Secretary

One of our WCTU projects in 2005 concerned a newly-launched book entitled *Uncorked! The Hidden Hazards of Alcohol* which was written by a doctor and a scientist, with factual up to date information on the subject as it is known today. We purchased 200 copies of this book which our members have donated to high school and community libraries who would accept a copy.

We invited ACW NSW to go halves with WCTU (\$500 each) to sponsor a National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Award. This was duly awarded to Rev Melissa Baker, who having herself come out of drug and alcohol abuse and living on the streets, is now an ordained Baptist minister, youth counsellor, school chaplain and part-time police chaplain.

We also supported the 'Shack' Youth Outreach Centre at Epping—a drop-in centre for young people in need which offers counselling, employment assistance, crisis accommodation, emergency food—also family support, court appearances etc. This support included sponsoring Melissa Baker to give workshops there.

Shirley Tapp continues to represent WCTU on Council, but Dora Quarmbay has been unable to attend due to ill health.

Finally may I commend to you Mrs Carmel Keys of Catholic Women's League NSW who will become President in May. Carmel has already endeared herself to us and we pray God's blessing upon her as she undertakes this responsibility.

May God bless you and keep you in his loving care.

MEMBERSHIP/PASTORAL CARE

Heather Badgery

The attendance at meetings this year has surpassed previous years and there has been a good deal of enthusiasm for the tasks we have undertaken.

We were saddened by the deaths of four of our long term members, Ruth Smith, Margaret Jessup, Heather Stevens and Olga Badger. They were faithful servants of their Lord and of Australian Church Women. I was privileged to attend the Thanksgiving Service of Olga where Margaret Ralph paid tribute to Olga for her work for Australian Church Women as President in 1966 and for her involvement with ACWC.

I am not seeking re-election for this role at the Annual Meeting. It has been a great blessing for me and I rejoice for all those who have shared their triumphs and struggles with me and have added another dimension to my life. For all those who have helped in large and small ways, many thanks.

SPECIAL DAYS

Valma Pethybridge, Convener

In keeping with the theme for NSW National Executive 2003-2005 of *Forward Together in Christ*, Fellowship Day 2005 had the theme "Forward Together in Love and Fellowship".

For World Community Day the theme was "Come let us celebrate together—Living the Jubilee", a reminder that Fellowship of the Least Coin this year celebrates its 50th Anniversary. The Special Projects supported The Parakaleo Retreat Centre in Sheffield, Tasmania, and the After-School Program for Indigenous Children in Broken Hill, NSW. As reports have come in it has been encouraging to hear of many blessings received through this service. The attendances were great, and as always, God was very good to us all.

Services this year will follow the theme chosen by Victoria of *Sharing the Loaf*.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Isabel Hewitt

The year under review has been different, especially because as a Unit we hosted the National Conference. I would like to record the names of the NSW National Executive 2003-2005 along with the positions they so capably filled:

PRESIDENT - Major Nancy McLaren
1ST VICE PRESIDENT - Mrs Cela Cooper
2ND VICE PRESIDENT - Mrs Jan Harrison
SECRETARY - Mrs Isabel Hewitt
MINUTE SECRETARY - Mrs Brenda Dickinson
TREASURER - Mrs Nola Dickson
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN - Miss Shirley Wells
WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP - Major Joan Tong
SPECIAL DAYS - Major Eileen Holley
SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES - Mrs Jean Porteous
PUBLICATION EDITOR - Mrs Edith Ridge
PUBLICITY CONVENER - Sister Marie Craddock
LIAISON WITH NSW UNIT – Major Lyn Middleton

Overseas guests at Conference were Dr Esther Byu, Executive Secretary of the International Committee of FLC, and Valamotu Palu, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches. Vala was able to meet informally with members of NSW Unit at a picnic held at Watsons Bay.

At National Conference each State/Territory Unit received a copy of *Honouring Australian Church Women*, so that at any time we have access to the stories of many women who over the years have served ACW. New South Wales added entries for Mina Whybourne, Peg Blake, Marie McCann, Lucelle King and Edith Ridge, all of whom have made a significant contribution.

We were entitled to another National Life Member, and this honour was conferred on Shirley Wells during the conference. At State level it was decided to give Life Membership to Beryl McLaughlin, and this took place at Council in November.

We are thankful for the leadership qualities brought to ACW NSW Unit Inc by Major Lyn Middleton. Lyn has worked unstintingly to ensure that our program has been carried out in the best possible way. As she steps down from office we anticipate her continuing wise counsel at Past President, looking forward to the leadership of our incoming President, Mrs Carmel Keys.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (NSW)

Edith Ridge, ACW Representative to PPSEAWA Meetings have been most informative and interesting. In March 2005 Corporate members gave talks on the organisations they represent. I spoke of the beginnings of ACW in NSW and in a "potted" history educated the group about ACW, its aims and projects.

Speakers during the year included Jennifer O'Hanlon from NATSIEC who spoke about the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and the history, needs and future paths of Reconciliation. Sarah Gaunt from Oxfam illustrated her talk with slides showing some of Oxfam's activities, especially in Africa, and spoke of Oxfam's work with victims of the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami. Juliana Nkrumah from Australian National Committee on Refugee Women was the speaker in June. Eileen Pit-taway, Director of the Centre for Refugee Research spoke on the Beijing Conferences, bringing us up to date.

Mary Cabrera reported on her work as the Peace Ambassador for International PPSEAWA—members have assisted Mary in providing cotton squares for Peace Quilts and 30 quilts will be assembled. The bells of St Mary's Cathedral and the Sydney University Carillon were rung at noon on UN International Peace Day, 21 September. Margaret Coleman spoke on her travels to Malta and jute bags were sold to members, proceeds going to help the women India who made them.

Members of the Sydney group travelled to Canberra where they participated in a Peace Church Service, met members of the two PPSEAWA groups in Canberra and visited Floriade. Stella de Saint-Salvy, Executive Assistant at the YWCA gave an informative address on the work of the modern "Y", and Meghann Everett spoke on Globalisation and Economic Rights, the effect on Vanuatu, and how that affects the women of that country.

PPSEAWA has been generous in its giving again this year: \$520 to Oxfam for work with Aboriginal people; \$365 to the Mary McKillop Institute for East Timorese Studies; \$365 to Manam Islands; \$200 to AN-CORW. The year finished with a 'fun morning' and festive food.

Meetings in 2006 began with an interesting talk from Perdita Herbert who has travelled around Australia. This was the first of an intended series of meetings where we will focus on the International Year of Deserts and the outback. I have been pleased to provide a copy of each of my reports to ACW for inclusion in Newsette. Readers of this report who would like more detail about the things I have reported briefly here are directed to read the fuller reports in copies of Newsette.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Work towards **Christian Unity** has received significant encouragement from the Covenant, signed by the leaders of 15 Australian Churches, as a pledge to work more closely together. Implementation of this commitment in NSW has seen local churches reaching agreement on new ways to cooperate, including the sharing of pastoral work, worshipping regularly together, and committing themselves to ecumenical programs of bible study and social action within their local communities. Such **Local Covenants** are a sign of the fulfilment of Christ's prayer, "*that they may all be one.*"

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Goulburn Uniting Church in June 2005. The term of Bishop Kevin Manning, from the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta, as President, concluded and members of the Council expressed appreciation of his visionary leadership towards Christian Unity over the past two years. Archbishop Aghan Baliozian, of the Armenian Apostolic Church was elected as his successor, with Captain Paul Kinder (Salvation Army), and the Revd Tara Curlewis (Uniting), as vice presidents. The Revd Dr Ray Williamson continues as the General Secretary.

During the past year, a major report, "***I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly,***" produced by the Redfern Research Project of the Council's Social Justice Commission, brought recommendations on more effective ways for the churches to support pastoral work within the urban Aboriginal community. Key issues included active encouragement for development of an authentic Aboriginal Theology, building on the previous work of the Rainbow Spirit Theology group; the necessity of training in racism awareness for all who work with indigenous people; and the commitment by the churches to the payment of reparations to the Stolen Generations. These were presented as critical challenges to the churches to show solidarity with Aboriginal people.

The Partnership for Development Commission has responsibility for the promotion of the annual **Christmas Bowl** and support for work among refugees. The **House of Welcome** attempts to compensate for the harsh treatment of asylum seekers by the Australian Government. Staff members at the House of Welcome provide emergency accommodation, medical assistance, and language tuition for refugees when they are released from lengthy detention without any means of financial support. At the same time overseas programs of aid and development, such as the rebuilding of communities after the Tsunami, and many community development projects, continue to be sustained through the Christmas Bowl, and the new monthly giving program, **Partners4Peace**. We urge your ongoing support for these practical examples of the churches working together to meet human need.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Judith Cayzer, Convener

A highlight was our Spiritual Enrichment Day in July when various prayer stations were set and the WKS one had past and present scholar pamphlets, letters, photos to ponder over, pray for, and paper and encouragement cards to be sent off collectively. This was successful in opening (and re-opening!) contact with the young women. Phone calls and email contact was received also. Some scholars are Doreen Tie Tan, Sue Nitrai, Captain Lily Politinio, Gaye Inall, Milise (Taipaleti) and others. Rachel McManus (mother of little Ivymay) married Craig in November and photos of the wedding were received.

It has been great to have this communication to pass on to you, Joan Tong our past National WKS Convener, and now to the present National Convener, Una Birtchnell in Victoria.

We have supported 2005 scholars: Siok Cheng Chew (Malaysia) who did Advanced Studies Autism, and Anju Borgooary (Assam, India), post graduate studies in Counselling—our contact and prayers for her have really encouraged her with several letters and cards telling!

We must remember the WKS Trustees Committee as Application forms will be going out for the 2007 scholar in the appropriate area. A Winifred Kiek Fellowship was awarded to Rev Valamotu Palu for the purpose of attending the ACW National Conference in October 2005. A group of us had a Picnic Day at Watsons Bay with Vala whilst she was in Sydney. Vala (from Tonga) is based Fiji and is the General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches.

Our two scholars for 2006 from multi-cultural Australia:

Vivian Cheung (NSW) undertaking post graduate bachelor degree in Theology full time at Moore College and working part time as a physiotherapist at Wollongong Hospital. She was to commence a Master or Arts in Theology in February.

Tania Eichler (Qld) for further training at St Francis' College, Milton to further equip her for ministry as a Deacon, in preaching, teaching RE, community chaplain, etc. Tania is married to Mark and has two children, Sonny (9) and Zoe (7).

We look to more news on these women, and it shouldn't be long and we will receive the pamphlets ready for Fellowship Day Services (July).

Thank you for your support for these women as we partner with them in prayer, practical ways and finances. Their communications always express love and thanks to Australian Church Women.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Janet Lang, Convener

It is with pleasure that I present the annual Fellowship of the Least Coin report for 2006, and what a blessed year we had, and what a milestone we reached. The 50th anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin was celebrated around the globe on all continents and in eighty countries.

In our NSW unit, it was given a special segment at our annual Dedication Service in May, at our Spiritual Enrichment Day in July, and also given significant coverage at National Conference at Collaroy last October.

National Conference special guest, Dr Esther Byu spoke of the uniqueness of this prayer movement. "It brings us down to the same ground, and we have to deepen our faith to trust that our little coin will make a difference. We must keep kindling this vision to the next generations."

Thank you all for your least coin donations and the many prayers that are offered with them.

Your donations during the last year have amounted to \$14,318, which includes \$7,226 from World Community Day.

The new Circle of Prayer book, volume 17, arrived last October, titled "To Soar Like an Eagle – Lord Lift Us in Your Spirit." It has been well received and I still have copies available if you would like one.

If you know of a group in your church community that would benefit from an FLC grant, please let me know. Applications have to be submitted to the national FLC convener by the end of April each year.

NEWSETTE

Beryl McLaughlin, *Newsette* Editor

I would like to record my appreciation for being awarded Life Membership of the NSW Unit, as I complete 17 years as Editor of our State magazine which goes out four times per year to more than 200 readers. It is gratifying to receive appreciative comments from time to time, that people find it interesting and worth reading.

I would like to express our gratitude to Nola Dickson for her contribution as *Newsette* Manager for a number of years, and to Brenda Dickinson who has taken over this responsibility of keeping the address list, preparing labels, envelopes for each issue. Thank you also to Heather Badgery for her faithful help with folding and collating each mailing day, and to Jan Harrison for help with this when needed.

I enjoy putting *Newsette* together, but as an octogenarian, I would be very happy to hear of any council member who would be willing and able to take over this task.

SEVEN HILLS/TOONGABBIE BRANCH

Olive Beverley

During the past few years three of our former member churches have withdrawn, leaving us with five supporter churches, only three of which are able to host Fellowship Day and World Community Day Services. Despite this loss, and the declining numbers attending, those of us who do participate, do so with enthusiasm and enjoyment. We found both services beautifully planned, bringing us closer in spirit with the women who had prepared them. On each occasion our Guest Speaker brought a helpful message, making our worship and luncheon a valuable time of fellowship.

BIBLE SOCIETY NSW

Julie Bryant

It has been a great privilege to sit on the Council of ACW NSW Unit as a representative of Bible Society NSW.

This year as my first has been mainly a learning and observing year. I guess the highlight...no, I don't think there can be one mere highlight. But I did enjoy enormously, the National Conference at Collaroy Conference Centre. I barely was there a day but met women across the continent who inspired and encouraged me. The women, yes, the women, are the highlight. So many, dedicated, godly, loving women. And like Bible Society, it crosses over denomination and race. Women who are great servants of our Lord and great advocates of His Word. We love and serve together, The One and Only, The Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It is also my first full year of going out and speaking at Churches as the Representative of Bible Society's "Women for the Word". During my contact with women's groups, I have noted a lack of Scripture Resources in your ministries. I have further researched and have prepared a New Testament/Psalms and Proverbs, especially designed for women. It will be cheap enough to use for giveaways at outreach functions and attractive enough to give as a gift or pop in a handbag. Following on to this comes an attractive little booklet specifically for outreach, in hospitals, sample bags, prisons, as well as for gift giving. It is a booklet called, "He loves Me, He loves me not, He Loves Me"- Jesus, an extraordinary Man according to Luke. Yes, a Luke's Gospel with an amazingly readable explanation of why Jesus Loves Me. Both of these resources will be available mid year. You will be invited to and I do hope you will come to the Launch. Stay tuned for the date of release.

I have also been encouraged by Lyn's devotions, enjoyed learning through the speakers, been saved by the trading table, and sustained by the morning teas. As Lyn states in the latest *Newsette*, "May we surrender to God fully and allow Him to continue His creative work in us".

STRATHFIELD/HOMEBUSH BRANCH

Beryl McLaughlin

Six local churches are represented on the Branch Committee which meets four times a year to arrange for World Day of Prayer, Fellowship Day and World Community Day services which are held in rotation in each of the churches. Each year the President of the Branch is from a different denomination.

The 40 or so women, and some men, who attend find blessing from the thoughtfully written services, and are encouraged and often challenged by inspiring speakers who in 2005 have been Major Lyn Middleton, Mrs Carmen Keys and Major Joan Tong.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE BRANCH 2005

Brenda Dickinson, Secretary

Australian Church Women Special Days have been well supported again this year. Our Fellowship Day Service in July was held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Heathcote, with 96 people attending. The Speaker, Mrs. Jan Corbett-Jones, gave a very enlightening and challenging talk on Kairos Prison Ministries, relating well to our Theme: "Forward Together in Love and Fellowship" and the Scripture verse "My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). The presentation of a short dramatic skit was a highlight. This demonstrated how we often hang on to our hurts instead of letting go and being healed. We were blessed by the organist's gift of music and the soloist's choice of songs.

World Community Day Service in October was held at St. John's Anglican Church, Sylvania with 80 people attending – Theme: "Come Let Us Celebrate Together – Living The Jubilee." This Service was celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Fellowship of the Least Coin and visitors were able to watch a visual presentation showing how the FLC Movement came into being and what a difference all those "least coins" and prayers can make to disadvantaged people around the world. The Founder of this prayer movement was Mrs Shanti Solomon. Our Speaker, Mrs Christine Jensen, reminded us of how the early church conducted itself and we were challenged to do likewise. Once again, we were blessed by the musical gifts of the pianist who, in this instance, was also the soloist.

In coming together for these Special Days, we have been very blessed to enjoy ecumenical worship and fellowship. The offerings have been gladly given and gratefully received. We say "Thank you" to God for the opportunity to share in fellowship with other Christians. "Thank you" also to everyone who participated, and to the Churches who so graciously hosted the events and provided refreshments.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Sr Joan Bird fmm, Convener

Committee members: Pam Freeman, Lily Hanlon, Rosalyn Bemrose

During the months since our last Annual General Meeting we have found it necessary to clarify the guidelines for the Social Issues Committee Convener and Committee as some issues raised for consideration and action did not elicit a unified response from Council Members. There was also the need to clarify the role of the Executive and the role of the Council with regard to actions taken. Some of the questions which were discussed at Executive level and then brought to the attention of Council members were:

- a) Is there a common understanding of what we consider as Social Issues and are they the same as Social Justice Issues?
- b) What issues do we consider we should focus on because of the nature of our organisation as followers of Christ and Australian Church Women
- c) What is the most appropriate way to deal with issues once identified and what role do the Executive play as differentiated from that of the Council?
- d) Should ACW NSW only look at issues in New South Wales?
- e) As most social or social justice issues are dependent on Government policies, do we as ACW NSW speak out against injustices or neglect of legitimate needs regardless of which political party is in Government?
- f) What is the link between National and State in dealing with Social Issues?

After discussion at Executive and Council level it was clear that we would deal with issues affecting situations in New South Wales. The executive would propose actions to be taken on social issues and the Council members would take action individually. If an issue was considered to need an official communication from the Executive then such action would be proposed to Council members and individual votes taken for approval of such action by the Executive. Council members are also requested to alert the Social Issues Committee about matters of concern. Requests from National for action would be also considered and State could alert National Executive about issues of concern which require action at that level.

There is still need to clarify at national level concerning the term Social Issues as to whether it should be Social Justice Issues.

Some issues of on-going concern are: Mental Health care/funding; Trafficking of Women; Young Disabled Adults in nursing homes, Young Carers; Pregnancy counselling, abortions & the RU468 medicine.

ACWC REPORT

Winsome Penn, Convener

How quickly this year seems to have passed and how very busy it has been, but as I sit pondering the speed I wonder if our sisters in Asia who have suffered so much have felt it was a fast progression. Waiting for aid, or a friendly smile or a meal can surely seem endless as one day blends into the next day. Floods, earthquakes, terrorism and famine seem to have evaded us here in New South Wales, but we are still enduring the effects of the lack of rain.

We thank God for the endurance and tenacity of our Christian sisters in Asia who have set us such a fine example during the past year. Despite difficulties they have held meetings, sometimes having to change venues at the last moment due to inclement weather conditions, but they still praise the Lord. Photos which come to us via the Newsletter magazine from Asia overall show smiling faces!

Our National Convener, Pat Walker, was able to visit Cambodia in May last year for the Executive Committee Meeting, planning the program and events for the 13th ACWC Assembly and 50th Anniversary Celebration of ACWC and FLC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 2006. It promises to be time for rejoicing as women from many nations gather as one in the Lord. Australia is planning to send delegates and also manage a small tour of the region as well.

Our Annual ACWC Service and Concert was held in September 2005 at Crows Nest. This was certainly a service of thanksgiving and praise to God for His love for us all. Wonderful items were presented by people of different nationalities representing eight countries. A freewill thanksgiving offering was taken and this generously covered our affiliation fees for the year. The large crowd represented many denominations and countries, and all mixed and blended well, being of one accord.

The Trading Table at our monthly ACW Council meetings continues to raise dollars for ACWC. Thank you to the lovely ladies who run the stall throughout the year and to those who donate goods. In a small way we can all make a difference to someone else's situation in Asia.

Shu-Wen Chiang the Executive Secretary for ACWC was married to Mr Chia-Lin Chen an artist, last September and our love and prayers are for their good health and happiness as they work tirelessly for the Kingdom of God.

In Australia we have so many reasons to give thanks and praise to God. May we be ever mindful of the needs of others much less fortunate than ourselves and uphold those who tirelessly give and work for the building up in Christian faith those who live in countries where other religions dominate the day to day living and activities of their inhabitants.

BURWOOD-CONCORD BRANCH

Bonnie Lyons, Secretary

At the Annual Meeting in February 2005 the following office bearers were elected: President—Mrs Yvonne Coorey; Vice President—Mrs Lois Balleine; Secretary—Miss Bonnie Lyons; Treasurer—Mrs Heather Whitefield.

The annual Fellowship Day Service was held on Thursday 28 July at Burwood Uniting Church. Our Guest Speaker was Major Lyn Middleton, President of the NSW Unit, who presented an inspiring and challenging message on the Theme "Forward Together in Love and Fellowship". The musical contribution by our Soloist, Mrs Julia Hobbs, added greatly to the spirit of love and worship which was evident. A happy time of fellowship was enjoyed over a light luncheon served by Burwood Uniting ladies.

The World Community Day Service was held on Friday, 28 October, at Concord Church. Our Guest Speaker on this occasion was Mrs Carmel Keys, President-elect of the NSW Unit, whose message was both inspirational and thought-provoking on the theme "Come let us celebrate together—Living the Jubilee". A solo presented by Mrs Julia Hobbs was much appreciated. Following the service the Concord ladies served a light luncheon which, along with the fellowship shared, was greatly enjoyed.

We are grateful to the Parish Priest at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Enfield, for allowing us to use their small meeting room for our meetings.

Although the number attending meetings is small a great spirit of co-operation and fellowship is enjoyed and warm and lasting friendships continue. Attendances at Special Services have been quite satisfactory and indicate support from member churches.

We give thanks and praise to God who brings us together and gives us a continuing sense of belonging to His universal family.

DEE WHY BRANCH

Helen Richardson, Convener

Fellowship Day and World Community Day services have been held during the past year with a gathering of people from the Northern Beaches. Some travelled from as far as Manly and Palm Beach, and many places in between to attend. Our speakers have been excellent—State President Major Lyn Middleton in July and Miss Shirley Wells, who had just finished her term of office as National Convener of Fellowship of the Least Coin in October. We look forward to enjoying these services with ecumenical friends again this year.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31 DECEMBER 2005**

BALANCES		FUNDS	
Commonwealth Bank Account 06 2146 1000 7297	932.24	ORGANISATION A/c	14177.82
Glebe Administration Board At Call Account 100024S1 100024S1.1	1517.58 <u>3035.16</u> 4552.74	NEWSETTE B/fwd 1/1/2004 Subscriptions	1354.77 <u>690.00</u> 2044.77
Uniting Financial Services At Call Account 2201520S10	181.99	Less Costs	<u>896.51</u> 1148.26
Churches of Christ At Call Account 106940	<u>11383.28</u> <u>17050.25</u>	TRAVEL FUND B/fwd 1/1/2005 Add receipts	547.88 <u>128.55</u> 676.43
		Paid to ACW National	<u>300.00</u> 376.43
		STATE CONFERENCE B/fwd 1/1/2005	260.84
		ACWC PARTNERS B/fwd 1/1/2005 Receipts	93.75 <u>768.00</u> 861.75
		Paid to ACW National	<u>500.00</u> 361.75
		WORLD COMMUNITY DAY F/SHIP OF THE LEAST COIN	150.00 <u>575.15</u> <u>17050.25</u>



PUBLICITY REPORT

Nancy McLaren, Convener

2005 was a good year for Australian Church Women NSW Unit as we were the hosts for the National Executive and the ACW National Conference which was held in Sydney at The Salvation Army Collaroy Centre October 9 -14th. Celebrations for the Ruby year (40th) of ACW & WKS and 20th year National Conference were incorporated into the National Conference and we acknowledged the Golden Jubilee for Fellowship of the Least Coin which will be held internationally this year 2006.

Major Lyn Middleton, NSW Unit President has presided over Executive and Council meetings and has blessed us with guest speakers and wonderful devotions and meetings. God's Treasury was the theme for the 2005 Spiritual Enrichment Day held in July and a challenging and encouraging day was felt by all.

A very inspiring, enjoyable service for ACWC was held in September at the Crows Nest Japanese Christian Church. **LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER ONE THIS YEAR, SEPTEMBER 24TH.**

Special Days were again well attended and for each who attended many blessing were felt as we joined with fellow Christians to witness God's love and blessings.

KINCUMBER AREA BRANCH

Bev Elliott, Secretary

Our branch held two successful services during the year, with Fellowship Day held at the Kincumber Uniting Church attracting both men and women from the surrounding area, as well as from the Woy Woy Peninsula. Our Guest Speaker was Mrs Julie Bryant, representative from the Bible Society who spoke to the theme 'Forward Together in Love'. Julie was extremely well received by all, with many very interested in the novel way she promoted "God's love" and our love for one another. Two talented ladies from the Kincumber Retirement Village, Brentwood, entertained us with beautifully sung duets, and \$250 was received for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

We held a wonderful service of praise and thanksgiving for World Community Day at the Anglican Church in Kincumber. We really celebrated the Jubilee of Fellowship of the Least Coin. Guest Speaker was the FLC Convener, Mrs Janet Lang, who inspired everyone with her message based on Acts 2: 42-47. We enjoyed extra special music and a lovely item from the Church Choir. A record amount of \$458.30 was collected for FLC plus further money for Special Projects. We praise God for His goodness to us throughout the year and pray that He will uphold us in the days ahead.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR TWELVE MONTHS
ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2005**

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Administration	2737.53	Administration	3899.45
Interest	169.47	Newsette	896.51
Newsette	690.00	Travel Fund	545.00
Travel Fund	128.55	Fellowship of the Least Coin	13544.88
Fellowship of the Least Coin	13241.58	Winifred Kiek Scholarship	137.70
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	137.70	Fellowship Day	4530.28
Fellowship Day	4530.28	World Community Day	4207.56
World Community Day	4032.16	Asian Church Womens Conference	584.00
Asian Church Womens Confer.	840.00	Balance 31/12/2005	<u>932.24</u>
Balance 1/1/2004	<u>2770.35</u>		
	29277.62		29277.62

AUDITORS REPORT:

I have examined the Books, Documents and Accounts of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2005 and find that, in my opinion, the attached Statements of Receipts and Payments and Capital Funds give a fair view of the affairs of Australian Church Women NSW Inc. as at the 31 December, 2005.

Signature: *M Liggins FCPA* Date: *6th February 2006*

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2005**

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN			
Brought forward 1/1/05		978.45	
Received to year ended 30 November 2005		13272.20	
		14250.65	
Less expenses: Postage, etc.	135.20		
5% to ACW NSW	705.77		
Paid to ACW National	13409.68	<u>14250.65</u>	
Receipts to 31 December 2005 carried forward			575.15
FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE			
Receipts for year ended 30 November 2005		4748.50	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	383.94		
5% to ACW NSW	218.22		
Paid to ACW National	4146.34	<u>4748.50</u>	
WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE			
Brought forward 1/1/2005		325.40	
Receipts to 30 November 2005		4087.65	
		4413.05	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	303.18		
5% to ACW NSW	205.49		
Paid to ACW National	3904.38	<u>4413.05</u>	
Receipts to 31 December 2005 carried forward			150.00
WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP			
Receipts to 30 November 2005		137.70	
Paid to ACW National		<u>137.70</u>	



**FLC Fiftieth Anniversary Jubilee
October 2006, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

**Celebrating the Legacy,
Visioning the Future,
Living the Jubilee**