

**** 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:	\$35.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations eg WCTU, The Girls' Brigade:	\$15.00 per annum

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: Mrs Jean Porteous Tel: 9727.2580

NUMBER 98

FEBRUARY 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Friends,

During the past few weeks we have repeatedly heard the greeting "A Happy New Year." This time-honoured phrase is a conventional way of greeting friends and acquaintances at the beginning of a new year. In church on New Year's Day the leader wished us all a happy New Year, and for a few minutes I wondered what the new year would hold for us and how many people would know true happiness in the coming year. I quietly gave thanks to God that while we do not know what the future holds, we do know Who holds the future.

Within minutes of being wished a "Happy New Year" the happy, joyful atmosphere of the church was changed to one of concern and prayer, as one of our members collapsed and required transport to hospital by ambulance, where he recovered and was later allowed home. Just two days later, another member's house was robbed and her feeling of happiness was snatched from her. In both instances, trauma was experienced, but faith in God was strengthened and the peace of God

2.

which passes all understanding was also experienced.

Happiness is transient, but the peace which Jesus gives endures through sickness and sorrow, trial and tribulation (John 14:21). The Christian also has something more - the joy of the Lord. "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

As we look forward to a new year of service for our Lord, we may wonder what the future holds for us as Australian Church Women. We do know that it will be a busy year. We also know that as many younger women are engaged in various avenues of service, they are not able to join us. We know that we are not as well known in the churches as we would like to be and need to be more prominent.

We know that our goals, as stated above, are good and worthwhile. We also know that to fulfil these goals will take time and energy. As we look forward to another year of service, the words of the hymn "I know not what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future" are most appropriate.

May God bless and keep you. May you know His peace and joy this year.

Jean Porteous

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW UNIT

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION
and

INSTALLATION of PRESIDENT
for 2004-2006

MAJOR LYN MIDDLETON

on MONDAY, MAY 17 at 10.30 am

at THE SALVATION ARMY DULWICH HILL
(54 Dulwich Street)

(Bus 426 (Dulwich Hill) or 428 (Canterbury) from
Circular Quay via Castlereagh Street & Railway Square
or Bus 445 (Canterbury) from Petersham Station)

Followed by fellowship over Light Lunch

3.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Christmas greetings were sent to our three 2003 Australian scholars, *Monique Crabtree* (Western Australia), *Gaye Inall* (Queensland) and *Susan Liersch* (Wagga NSW), but I have had no recent news from them.

We received greetings from *Joan Tong*, our new FLC National Convener.

As reported in the last Newsette, our 2004 Scholar is *Deaconess Mereani Dinaeika Raque*, who works with the Methodist Church of Fiji. She is 37 and also a Social Worker. Mereani will arrive in Melbourne on March 1 and return home on August 16. She is enrolled in the course "Project Respect" at Fitzroy. The ACW Unit of Victoria is looking after local arrangements for her, including help from a Fijian congregation. She will spend a month each staying with different families.

The Winifred Kiek Scholarship was founded in 1964, so this year marks its 40th anniversary. It was the fulfilment of a dream Winifred had had on a visit to Ceylon in 1953. Now Australian and Asian Christian women can have the opportunity to study overseas and take back to their own countries new skills and insights.

It is always good to hear from previous scholars and to know how they are going in their respective spheres. It is exciting to know that we have been part of their lives in a special way.

Let us all continue to pray for these women.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

Once again as we come to the beginning of another year, we give thanks to God for His many blessings and look forward to what the New Year holds. One thing we can be assured of, we know who holds the future, and this we leave with God and trust Him to guide and direct us as we continue to pray for and give to the Fellowship of the Least Coin. 2003 was a wonderful year financially and I am sure that as we each gave, we prayed that God would bless and use our gifts to the enrichment of the lives which will benefit from these "least coin" gifts. Thank you to each individual and group who has participated in giving. On behalf of the recipients I want to say a big thank you for being part of their lives.

Further on in this Newsette (Pages 6 & 7) you will find a list of the Grants for 2003 and can see how people around the world have been blessed.

Nancy McLaren, FLC Convener

4.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL Annual General Meeting:

This was held at Pennant Hills Uniting Church on November 15. *Bishop Richard Hurford* of Bathurst had come to the end of his term as President. I had always enjoyed his leadership and his sense of humour, and he had a way of always challenging one, spiritually. In his report he commented that the church today presents a painful failure in morale. However, God is in control and will never cease to work the abundance of His grace. Every one of us can change things for Christ's sake if we are energised by the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

The Secretary *Dr Ray Williamson's* report spoke of his trips abroad during the year, visiting the Armenian Church in Turkey and to the Torres Strait. Meeting in other churches and with other Christians gave him a new vision of tradition, and what it meant in fellowship with one another.

The newly-elected President for the next two years is *Bishop Kevin Manning* of the Parramatta Diocese of the Catholic Church. Vice Presidents are *Archbishop Aghan Baliozian* of the Armenian Apostolic Church at Chatswood and *Revd Christine Shepherd* of Newcastle.

Some highlights from the reports:

1. Churches are fearful of taking risks but must remember that we are pilgrims on the journey and need to keep moving. It would be good if a big sign over a road read "*DANGER! ECUMENISM AT WORK, CHURCHES IN MISSION TOGETHER*" meant that big changes were happening.

2. The plight of displaced people and refugees does not improve. The Woomera detention centre was closed and a bigger and better one opened at Baxter, but that does not mean that people are being screened any faster.

3. *The House of Welcome* reports that they now know why the Government was happy to help them launch the scheme. It is immense. With 44 properties to oversee and 121 tenants to look after, offering counsel and help, more staff has had to be engaged to be able to cope. There are also a further 11 properties coming onto the books.

4. *The Christmas Bowl Appeal* was launched by *Ms Emele Duituturaga* of the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy of Fiji, a much travelled and interesting lady with stories of the plight, mostly of children, in different countries, and how monies given can help to ease their poverty. We were invited to take the literature and advertising posters with us and urged to support the Appeal.

The day was hot, the food was excellent, and the volunteer ladies and one gentleman serving us were very cheerful and friendly.

Nola Dickson, ACW Representative to NSW Ecumenical Council

5.

SOCIAL ISSUES --- PREVENTING OSTEOPOROSIS:

In a submission to the Federal Government the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC) of which Australian Church Women is one of the affiliated groups, detailed education and awareness programs which if implemented would enable a reduction in Health spending as well as a marked improvement in the quality of the lives of many older people.

Osteoporosis is responsible for more than 65,000 fractures annually - the risk of fractures increases after the first one with people over the age of 55 being the most susceptible.

Prevention strategies should begin early, but it is never too late to help prevent it or slow it down. A good diet with plenty of calcium, and a healthy lifestyle with regular physical activity (which should be discussed and planned with a medical advisor) are really helpful.

Women are urged to write to their local Federal Member, to the Minister for Health, *Tony Abbott*, and *Senator Kay Patterson*, the Minister for Women, requesting strongly that subsidised bone density screening and suitable medication on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme should be available to those in high risk groups before that first fracture, instead of becoming available only after one has sustained a fracture.

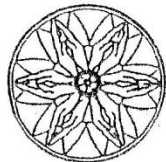
Cela Cooper, Social Issues Convener

SHERWOOD CLIFFS DRUG REHABILITATION FARM:

The ACW Central Coast Branch has a special interest in this Christian Community in their area at Glenreagh. *Sherwood Cliffs* began in 1978, its calling being to provide a place where people who had been caught up in the drug scene could come and have time to grow mentally, physically and spiritually. For the first five years men and women whose lives were blighted by drug abuse were accommodated but a major complicating factor was the combination of men and women and problems arose with relationships. It was therefore decided to concentrate on the men, which continued over the next 20 years. However, the desire to help women was never forgotten as not a week passed without phone calls from women desperately wanting help.

Now, through miraculous circumstances including some tragic events another property only three kilometres away has been procured and this, to be called *Sherwood Glen*, when completed and staffed, will provide a similar haven for women.

(Submitted by Bev Elliott, Central Coast Branch Representative)



ALLOCATED FLC GRANTS FOR PROJECTS, 2003

AFRICA.

1. Rainbow Children Day Care Centre (Kumba), Women's Empowerment Centre, Kumba PMB, Kumba, Cameroun.
2. Ugibio-Bamoo/Drying Fruits (Douala – Littoral), Douala (Littoral) Cameroun.
3. Lifeline Centre, Nairobi Eastlands – Kiambio Slum Village, Kenya.
4. Kpetema Water Well Project, Kpetema Malegohun Chiefdom Kenema District Eastern Sierra Leone
5. Mabaroh Farmers Association, Mabaroh Village via Yele Town, Sierra Leone.
6. Home and Family care, Ruharo Hill, Mbarara Mbarara Municipality, Mbarara District South West Uganda.
7. AACC Women's Pre-Assembly Meeting, Yaounde, Cameroun.

ASIA.

1. Raising up Self-esteem and Rehabilitation Program for runaway girls in short-term residential care, Chongno, Seoul, Korea.
2. East Malaysia WomenLeadership Workshop, Kuching, Sarawak.
3. The Salvation Army Booth Hospital Hospice Ward Volunteer Programme, 1-40-5 Wada, Sugunami-Somali Women's Sewing Group, Brunswick Baptist
4. Somali Women's Sewing Group, Brunswick Baptist Church; Melbourne, Australia.

5. Churches Together Aboriginal Partnership, (QLD Churches Together), Office P.O. Box 2045 Milton B.C. 4064, Australia.

EUROPE.

1. Transforming our Lives through New Ecumenical Spiritualities, Monastery in Anatoli/Agia, Greece.
2. Towards a just and inclusive Europe, Strasbourg, France.

LATIN AMERICA.

1. Women's Ecumenical Encounter, Mexico City, Mexico.
2. Working With Women in Dignity and Self-esteem, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
3. Living Together with Women and families of Alajeulita, Alajuelita, San Jose, Costa Rica.

MIDDLE EAST

1. Care for the Physically disabled, Eight Regions of Egypt.
2. A Regional Leadership Training Seminar for Women 11, Regional – Middle East.
3. Children stop playing war; play peace, Dhour – Choueir Evangelical Center, Lebanon.
4. Rehabilitation of women folk form financial insecure background, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, Damascus, Syria Women Program Group.

5. "Be aware" – young Ladies" Seminar, A Conference Premise – Lebanon.

PACIFIC

1. Rehabilitation and Awareness Program for Victims of the Cyclone Waka, Vava'u – Tonga.
2. United Church Women's Fellowship Guest House, Port Moresby, Capital of Papua New Guinea.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, (CWU) USA

1. Chevy, Chase Presbyterian Church/Shikokho Women's Group Shikokho, Kenya (Western Province) USA

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – WOMEN'S DESK.

1. Women Overcoming Violence, Women's Programme, WCC

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

1. To increase the Participation of Eastern European Women in WDPIC Meeting in Swanwick England, August 26 – September 3, 2002, Swanwick, England.
2. Women as Ecumenical Partners in Peacemaking, Swanwick, England.

8.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA:

In *"The Flame"*, the magazine of the Catholic Women's League of the Wollongong Diocese, a delegate reported on a Symposium she had attended at the Avillion Hotel in Sydney. which focussed on Ethics and the Journey of Dementia.

There were 260 participants, mostly professional people, with 12% being family carers, and some being people who had been diagnosed with early stage dementia.

The first session with *Professor Peteris Darzins* from Monash University in Melbourne covered Ethics in Dementia Care, starting with a hypothetical: *"If a loved one was in the last stages of Dementia and was taken to the Emergency Department with a life threatening illness requiring surgery, would we want all that could be done for them, e.g. surgery, intensive care etc?"* Our answer would probably be yes. If on the other hand it was oneself in the Emergency Department in the last stages of Dementia, would our answer be the same? Most probably not - we would possibly only want good palliative care. A survey was done of all walks of life, and the overriding answer was that "we would not do to others as they would want done unto them."

The participants spoke about this being the Disease of the Disconnected - we need to reconnect with family and ourselves. There is disenfranchised grief - no ritual - not socially recognised. We also learnt how to tell "loving lies."

We then broke into seminar groups covering the Ethical issues in Early, Middle and Late Dementia. I attended the Early Stream and an inspiring talk was given by a 75-year old retired Maths teacher on his experiences of diagnosis and the demeaning way he was treated by the specialist. He said he would re-write the tests!

Topics of Driving, Work, Safety and Family Issues were discussed, also: *When, Who or How* to tell the results of Diagnostic Testing.

After lunch, we heard *Professor Brodaty* speak on the Ethics and Cost of Research.

We had another hypothetical session on placement. *Dr Bernie Street*, who is both a Medic and an actor, added much laughter, but covered some very serious issues around family and placement as the facilitator of this session. As one former carer said, "I did not place my husband - I simply changed his address."

I would like to finish this report with a quote from *Mary Reddy*, one of the speakers: *"The person with Dementia is an intellectually sensitive living*

9.

physical being who is able to relate to people and situations in the present and the past; a person fully understood through their unfolding story experiences, which are connected through memory, family, social, spiritual and physical environment"

We need to enrich the personhood - the challenge is to normalise Dementia and minimise the stigma. *"I AM STILL HERE!"*

(From The Flame, Past Editor Cela Cooper)

UPDATE ON FIONA COLLINS:

ACW members will remember Fiona Collins, who in 1996 was the recipient of a National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Award which was sponsored by ACW NSW Unit to further her University course in Religious Studies. After spending 1998 in Indonesia and being intensely affected by the desperate poverty of many of the people, she undertook the *OzIndo Project* through which she raised money by riding round Australia on a pushbike and established an Australia/Indonesia project to help Indonesians to buy food that they could afford. This credit bank project in Indonesia still continues.

Fiona was welcomed to a Council Meeting last September, and told us that she is now working for the Fairfax Family Foundation, which distributes funds to charitable organisations. She is an accredited translator for Indonesian and is communications officer with the Red Cross. She has built her own Website and builds Websites for people and organisations.

Fiona is currently doing a Leadership Program Course managed by the St James Ethics Centre. In response to a letter she wrote which was published in an Indonesian newspaper, expressing condolences to Indonesian families after the Bali bombings, she received hundreds of mobile phone text messages saying that good Muslims do not condone violence under any circumstances and saying sorry. She wrote an article about this, which was published in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Fiona's talk was very well received; she was thanked for coming and prayer was said for her and her family - her father has been an invalid for almost all of Fiona's life.

BIBLES & CHRISTIAN BOOKS WANTED FOR OVERSEAS:

Good quality Christian books and Bibles are urgently needed by *Book Aid (Australia)* for Christian workers, Bookshops and Libraries overseas. If you have unwanted Christian literature you would like to donate phone 9568.2813 and you will be put in touch with a local collector. Books donated which are not needed overseas are sold at BookAid, 11 Watkin Street Rockdale to cover shipping and other costs.

FULL HOUSE AS CHURCHES UNITE:

This was a headline in the Illawarra Mercury newspaper last October, when "Rise Up" Combined Churches Prayer & Praise Night was held in the WIN Entertainment Centre in Wollongong.

A message of Christian unity rang out loud and clear as more than 5000 people packed the Centre to pray for the city. Rise Up, involving at least 90 churches and 800 volunteers from Wollongong and the wider region was considered a huge success. The organiser, Pastor Scott Hanzy of Gateway City Church said: "It was a full house. We expected about 3500 people, because it was the first event, but to fill it the first time exceeded expectations."

A highlight for many was when 80 members of the clergy walked up on to the stage holding lighted candles. Pastor Hanzy said it was quite a moment for people to see the church leaders working together. Two combined church choirs, one of 100 adults and the other of 120 children took part, as well as Lighthouse Christian Centre Singers and a Salvation Army Band. A Youth version of Rise Up followed. The event raised \$16,000 for the Lord Mayor's Light & Hope Schizophrenia Awareness Appeal.

The Rise Up Concept evolved out of two prayer breakfasts at Wollongong City Council attended by 75 members of clergy and organised by Lord Mayor Alex Darling. The aim was to get all the churches together and allow the community to see it happen.

Plans are under way for an even larger Rise Up in 2004, at the WIN Stadium. They also want to use the crowd of 5300 to do something practical for the city.

The Rise Up Steering Committee includes the Lord Mayor, the Anglican and Catholic Archbishops and the ministers of the Baptist, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Salvation Army, Gateway City Church and Lighthouse Christian Centre.

Reach Illawarra - Christian Churches in Unity was formed in 2002 to enhance the regional networking of churches and to develop combined approaches to communicating the gospel more effectively in the Illawarra; to strengthen relationships between all the churches; to further develop a citywide prayer movement and promote positive relationships between people in the churches and in the various institutions and centres of influence in the region, including such areas as government, media, education, youth, health, industry, business, law, sport, arts, welfare and others.

(From The Illawarra Mercury and Reach Illawarra Brochure)

PRISON FELLOWSHIP - CAMP BREAKAWAY:

As a social service effort, WCTU (*Woman's Christian Temperance Union*) hosted a Christmas Luncheon at the very pleasant venue at the Salvation Army Function Centre in Sydney. Apart from having a most successful financial outcome, from which \$600 was given to a very worthy cause from donations received, the function was a very pleasant time with lovely musical items, carol-singing shared by all and a most enjoyable Christmas lunch.

The guest speaker, *Ian Minnis*, told of the development of the Prison Fellowship over the 27 years since it was founded by *Charles Colson* after he served a prison term for his involvement in the Watergate scandal as a member of President Nixon's staff, following which he returned to his faith.

Prison Fellowship is now active in many countries and works not only with men and women in prison but also in their re-adjusting as they re-enter their families and the community - some 15,000 face this traumatic experience each year in NSW alone; after long years in prison, things like plastic card banking, roundabouts in roads are examples of things they have never experienced. Prison Fellowship also works with prisoners' families and their carers - often grandparents, many of whom have alcohol and other problems of their own. Ian shared some heart-breaking stories, which challenged his hearers to give support in any way they could to this work.

He then told of the particular ministry of *Camp Breakaway*" which is a joint activity of Prison Fellowship and *The Scripture Union*, to give primary age children with parents in prison a brief (4 days) holiday - for some the only one they have ever had; one boy said that he had had one holiday before - when his family went to Junee to visit Dad in gaol.

Ian explained that Prison Fellowship finds the children and Scripture Union, who have the expertise, run the Camp. The cost to sponsor a child is approximately \$165, and they are hoping this Easter to extend the ministry by also having a camp for secondary age boys and girls, some of whom have gone for two or three years whilst of primary age, and have begged for a High School Camp, being so disappointed at the thought of no longer having "camp" to go to.

Sponsorship comes from individuals or groups, and efforts are made to keep in touch with and follow up campers, by both leaders and sponsors, and if possible link them to a nearby church where they can find friendship and encouragement.

(Reported by Beryl McLaughlin WCTU State Secretary)