



# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

## *"women at work"*

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From Eileen Dingle -

**WARANA** - "Fun in the Sun". The Sunshine State is enjoying perfect spring weather and seasonal festivals have been held under blue skies. In quick succession in the southern part of the State the Potato Festival in the Lockyer Valley, the Carnival of Flowers in Toowoomba and the Brisbane "Warana" have brought people together for celebrations. Each year in Brisbane during the spring festival a Women's Thanksgiving Service is held. Our A.C.W. President, Mrs. Dennis, inspired the W.I.C.C. to ask the festival committee to include such a service in their programme. The request was granted and each year the W.I.C.C. has a representative on the Committee and is responsible for preparing the order of service. This year it was compiled by Mrs. McChesney Clarke and last year our secretary, Mrs. Connell, was the author. Again this year appreciation was expressed of the service and of the address by the president of the National Council of Women, Mrs. John Wilson.

**WOMEN IN THE NEWS** - The Melbourne Herald featured Mrs. MARY WHITEHOUSE in a recent issue. She is the English campaigner for cleaner T.V. and literature. Though she was said to be "a voice crying in the wilderness", reforms have been effected and many have rallied to her cause. We await with a good deal of interest and anticipation the publication of her autobiography "Who does she think she is?" which is to be released in England on October 14. This book could perhaps inspire someone in Australia to start a similar campaign - surely one is needed.

Miss MARY GEORGE from the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore, Southern India, is in Melbourne. She has just started a three-month course in pastoral counselling at the Austin Hospital. Miss George is a chaplain of the Church of South India, taking up her position at Vellore in 1960. Patients come to the hospital from Africa, Ceylon, Malaysia, Nepal and the Persian Gulf States. Peoples of all religions are treated there.

Miss George says "We talk about Christianity to the patients, but we do not condemn other religions. According to their response we lead them to deeper levels."

The course at the Austin Hospital is the only full time pastoral counselling course available in Australia. It is open to people who have had theological training.

Miss VIOLET SAMPA was featured in the Color Magazine of a recent Sunday Mail in Brisbane. A large picture was published together with an outline of the studies Violet is undertaking and something of her home background.

Violet continues to make friends wherever she goes - Toowoomba-ites have joined the ranks which include women from in and around Brisbane, Southport, Nambour, Gympie, Caloundra and district, Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville, as well as those in and around Sydney and Canberra. Before the end of the year other States will have the pleasure of entertaining her and listening to her story.

Advice has been received that Violet has been accepted as a student at the Congregational Theological Hall to complete her training for the ministry at the Joint Faculty of Theological Studies at the University of Queensland.

The United Church in Zambia was anxious that Violet should complete her studies in Australia and negotiations with the Immigration authorities are in hand to make this possible.

Violet will fulfil her commitments to visit southern States and Western Australia, after which she will return to Queensland. In Victoria she will attend the meeting of W.I.C.C. on November 26 when there is to be a "TALK BACK" with the Rev. A. W. Kenworthy, M.S., B.D., M.Th.

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DEACONESS NANCY DREW, family relations officer of the Church of England, Morwell, has written a book, "The Art of Being Single". The deaconess tells spinsters to forget their hang-ups and get on with living. There are many positive compensations to being single. She also has something to say about the public attitude toward spinsters. "I want society to accept the right of a woman to be single", she says. "A girl might be better off to remain single than rush into marriage for fear of being left on the shelf".

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN is to hold its 25th national biennial conference in Brisbane from October 10 to October 16. Delegates, observers and visiting clergy from all parts of Australia will attend. Most of the conference will be held at Holy Spirit Hall, New Farm, but delegates will also hold meetings at the Gold Coast and Toowoomba. The theme of the conference is "The Responsibility of Catholic Women's Organisations in the Australian Environment of Today". - surely a complementary theme to the one for our national council meeting in February, "For such a Time as This".

PUBLICATIONS TO PURCHASE - The Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society has produced the second leaflet of a series entitled "CHILDREN ARE PEOPLE". As was the first leaflet, "Parents and the Teenage Revolution", this second leaflet will be of considerable value for study and discussion groups. Copies of both leaflets can be obtained from Mrs. Enid Stephens, Unit 4, 24 St. John's Avenue, Mont Albert, Victoria, 3127, at \$1.20 a dozen, post free.

The Methodist Women's Federation has published "AN AUSTRALIAN VISION" by Joyce Trickett which is a dramatic presentation featuring a new and significant interpretation of the Floral Emblems of the Australian States. This was given its premiere with the aid of six beautiful banners designed by Esther Paul, at the World Federation Seminar held in Fiji last year. This is highly commended, too.

Congratulations to MRS. E. A. WELLS of Brisbane, on the publication by Rigby's of Adelaide of her prize winning novel, "Men of the Honey Bee". The original manuscript took a special prize in the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING - The list of inward and outward correspondence was a lengthy one again, indicating the continued interest of women in all States and beyond. The receipt of the pictorial history of A.C.W. prepared by Mrs. Joan Coates with the skilled assistance of the Rev. Brian Walsh was greatly appreciated. The members of the committee saw and heard the documentary comprising 50 coloured slides and a tape recording. They were enthusiastic in their praise of this addition to our historical records. It was suggested that it be up-dated year by year, by the addition of items of interest. It is to be used in Church groups in and around Brisbane during the next few weeks and will be presented at the National Committee meeting in February.

SCRIBAL PENS still maintain steady sales and further order has been placed.

NOTELETS - Mrs. Gray sent a report which indicated that sales have not been brisk - at least returns from States have been meagre. As the profits from sales augment the travel fund, it is vital that sales should be pushed. Could the State Councils try some method of sales promotion? Do you use the stationery for your personal letters? A packet of stationery, a pen and calendar would make a useful and attractive Christmas present for a friend.

DIARIES - Sales have been encouraging and it is expected the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund will benefit considerably from this venture.

FROM THE MAILBAG - Another letter from New Guinea was received by Mrs. Muschamp - this time from Mrs. Bache of Port Moresby. The Women's Fellowship of the United Church of Papua, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands has joined the Fellowship of the Least Coin as a separate group and is in direct communication with Mrs. Shanti Solomon. Mrs. Bache says, "At present we are very busy here preparing the first Inter-Regional Conference to be held in Lae in October. This conference has been proposed and organised up to date by the Urban and Mainland regions, who have worked together for many years. It is our desire to get all seven Regions together for an opportunity to share ideas,

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etc. and promote friendship and to try to unify the work of Women's Fellowships. We hope to form a National Executive which will be responsible for keeping in touch with all seven Regions. It seems incredible but it is going to cost about \$2,500 for just three women from each of the seven Regions to get together in one place. We have appealed to the women in our three corresponding churches in Australia and they have been wonderful in response .... I will let you know the outcome of the Conference." Mrs. Bache included a copy of the appeal which was sent to the women of the Australian Churches - Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR 1972 - The 1972 Scholar has been chosen! She is MISS TERANI AISAKE of Fiji, a Methodist Deaconess. One of the main items of business at the September meeting was the awarding of the scholarship for 1972. The W.K.S. Committee had met the previous week and painstakingly considered the 34 applications. In order of preference 4 names were submitted to the Working Committee. Oh, that more money were available so that more than one scholarship could be given each year! Miss Aisake is 28, has had 2 years deaconess training, 6 years experience in office work and 1½ years in deaconess service. She speaks English, Roturuan, Fijian and Hindustani. She seeks further training to enable her to undertake the supervision of deaconess training in Fiji. It is expected that she will study at the Methodist Training College, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, from January 24 to December 3. There will be an opportunity for her to visit N.S.W. in May and Victoria in August.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING 1972 - MISS JEAN SKUSE will deliver the Opening Address introducing the theme, "For Such a Time as This", and will also lead one of the day sessions. DEACONESS MARY ANDREWS will illustrate her travel talk with colour slides taken during the trip to America in May for the Assembly of Church Women United. REV. DR. H. D. WOOD (much appreciated at the '71 Meeting for his Bible Studies) will take one evening session as also will MISS PAMELA GRUBER, who has been on the staff of W.C.C. for some years and will arrive in Australia shortly to spend 12 months on the staff of Action for World Development, specialising in the field of leader training. (Pictures of her appear in "Risk" Vol 7 No. 1, pages 24 & 28). The A.C.W. PICTORIAL HISTORY prepared by MRS. JOAN COATES will be presented.

PEREGRINATIONS OF OUR PRESIDENT - Mrs. Jessie Dennis is to go to far North Queensland before the end of the month. Her visit is primarily in connection with the P.W.M.U. of which she is State President, but wherever she goes she stimulates interest in A.C.W. - and sells pens, diaries and notelets! This time she will visit Malanda, Millaa Millaa and Cairns. We hope the weather won't be too hot. Cairns has a truly tropical climate - hot and humid; however, Millaa Millaa and Malanda are on the Atherton Tableland which is cooler, especially at night time.

Mrs. Dennis sends this cutting from her scrap book - "To God, everything is possible". Mark 10:27.

I said, "Let us walk in the field"  
He said, "Nay, walk in the town."  
I said, "There are no flowers there."  
He said, "No flowers, but a crown."  
I said, "But the skies are black  
There is nothing but noise and din."  
And He wept as He sent me back -  
"There is more", He said, "there is sin."  
I said, "But the air is thick,  
And the fogs are veiling the sun."  
He answered, "Yet souls are sick,  
And souls in the dark undone."  
I said, "I shall miss the light,  
And friends will miss me, they say."  
He answered, "Choose tonight  
If I am to miss you, or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.  
He said, "Is it hard to decide?  
It will not seem hard in heaven  
To have followed the steps of your Guide."  
I cast one look at the field  
Then set my face for the town.  
He said, "My child, do you yield?  
Will you leave the flowers for a crown?"  
Then into His hand went mine,  
And into my heart came He,  
And I walked in a light divine  
The path I had feared to see.

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