

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

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days, Payments or Donations, should be sent to:

Mrs Elaine Wilson,  
30 Emu Road,  
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(Tel: 4739.2276).

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 eg YWCA, WCTU, Girls' Brigade :	\$15.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st Jan : \$10.00 per annum  
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CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the EDITOR:

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(Tel: 9869.2559)

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CHEQUES to be made payable to AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW UNIT and NOT to any individual person.



# NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

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 Janet Harrison Tel: 9744.8626

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MAY 2002

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

My Dear Friends,

I write my last letter to you as President of the NSW Unit, very mindful of God's help and strength over the past two years and of the support given to me by many Australian Church Women (ACW) members and friends.

Newsette offers a great opportunity of keeping in touch with both city and country NSW and for sharing our projects and activities through our little magazine which is very well presented. We trust that you in turn will talk about and encourage participation with ACW in your area. Our Special Days Services offer a great opportunity to invite friends or neighbours to an ecumenical service.

Our very worthwhile projects raise great interest. When friends have asked me "How is ACW going?" tied in with my answer I mention the Winifred Kiek Scholarship (WKS), enabling further theological or other study; also the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC). which really touches



people's hearts, and this in turn helps other people's lives through FLC grants - on many occasions I have taken a bundle of five cent coins back to Shirley Wells for the FLC fund. One friend whom I have known since teenage in church gave me a 9" tubular potato chip container full of five cent pieces! He had been collecting them for years and on hearing of FLC gave them and continues to save them - FLC really catches the desire to participate.

So my dear friends, talk about ACW and if you would like one or two from the NSW Unit Council to come and share about these projects in your area, contact the Newsette Editor (Beryl) or Manager (Nola) - see back page for addresses - and your request will be responded to.

It has been a privilege to be President and I ask that you will pray for Mrs Jean Porteous who becomes the State President on 20th May.

I close with the words from Jude verses 20 & 21: "But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life." (NIV)

*With my love, Jan Harrison*

### **BON VOYAGE ... MARIE !!**

Mrs Marie Majoor has been our very much valued State Treasurer for the past nine years and has now moved to Western Australia. Marie will be very greatly missed, not only for her expert oversight of our financial affairs, but much more for the warm friendship and loving fellowship we have all, especially the Executive members, shared since she came to ACW as one of the Catholic delegates.

We have rejoiced with Marie in the Lord's guidance and provision in making this move, and wish her abundant joy and blessing in her new home in the suburb of Perth called "Success" (!) and in being close to some of her family. Our loss is W.A's gain and we feel sure that one of her new involvements over there will be with ACW. God bless you, Marie, and continue to guide and use you.

### **OUR NEW TREASURER:**

At the Unit's Annual General Meeting in April, Mrs Elaine Wilson, one of the Churches of Christ delegates, was elected as our new Treasurer, and we welcome her to that position and assure her of our fellowship and prayers. Elaine was Treasurer for WCTU NSW for 9 years so is well qualified to make this contribution to ACW.

### **ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION and INSTALLATION OF MRS JEAN PORTEOUS AS PRESIDENT FOR 2002-2004**

at 10.30 am

at AUBURN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
(90a Auburn Road Auburn)

on MONDAY, 20th MAY, 2002

Followed by light luncheon

### **WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:**

Janet Watts, the National WKS Convener received a letter from 1980 Scholar, Rev Mary Au, who is the Vicar of Calvary Anglican Church in Hong Kong. Many of us remember with affection Mary's visit to the ACW National Conference in Tasmania - she has such a joyous personality and such a love for our Lord. Mary wrote that she had been elected a Director of the Hong Kong Christian Churches Union - the only female among 19 members! She asks for our prayers.

Rev Catherine Byong-Ok Min (1983 Scholar) from Korea was ordained on 25th April 2001 - the first woman priest in Korea. She still works for the Mothers' Union and is busy setting up a new Mission Church at Busan for young people. She also seeks our prayers.

No recent word has been received from Rachel Sobana Kanly (1991 Scholar) from Nagercoil, India, who is now in Kuwait. My friends who visited her aunt and father in Nagercoil were assured that Rachel and her husband were well and enjoying being together at last.

Our scholar for 2002 is Lai Mui Ching (April), who is to study in Hong Kong. We look forward to some news of her progress in due course.

The scholar for 2003 is to be from Australia. Applications are sought for a Christian woman aged between 25-40 wishing to undertake theological studies or religious leadership training during 2003. The Scholarship provides course costs, travel and accommodation. Applications close on 31st May 2002 and application forms are available from the incoming WKS Convener, Mrs Judith Cayzer (Tel 9896.3758).

*Mina Whybourne, WKS Convener*



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#### FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

I have been delighted to hear that our Grant Application for "Train The Trainers" has been successful and it will now be possible to bring four East Timorese Health Workers to Cairns for training in Basic Health Education. They will then return to East Timor to train others in their acquired skills. This application was made by the Catholic Women's League and Sister Josephine Mitchell (Sisters of St Joseph). Sister Josephine spends much time in East Timor and will assist the Carmelite Sisters there with the administration of the Grant. Please pray for this project and for all who will be involved in the training.

Two other grants have been given to Australian projects. One is to the Girls' Friendly Society of the Anglican Diocese of North Queensland, for National and International Conferences. The other successful application is for "Embracing People With Intellectual Disabilities" in Morley, Western Australia.

We do not know the total amount given in Least Coins last year, but sufficient money was received to allocate 33 grants worldwide.

As this is my last report as NSW Convener for FLC, may I thank you all for the wonderful support you are giving to the Fellowship. Thank you for the opportunity of getting to know so many dedicated people and for the privilege of visiting so many groups and being able to share the FLC story. To God be the Glory - great things He has done, and will continue to do through this wonderful prayer fellowship.

*Shirley Wells, FLC Convener*

FLC Grants for 2002. apart from the three for Australian projects quoted above, are listed as follows:-

#### AFRICA:

1. Creating Awareness of HIV/AIDS in Kadjebi District, Volta Region, Ghana.
2. Promotion of Women's Participation in Education Towards Enhancing Their Economic Empowerment, Methodist Church in Kenya, Kibira Slums, Nairobi.
3. Sustainable Integrated HIV/AIDS Management Program, Ruiru Division Thika District, Kenya.
4. Tamuyou Women's Development Association, Makeni, Sierra Leone.
5. Training of Women in Small Scale Business Management, Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.

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#### ASIA:

1. Myanmar Council of Churches Women's Dept Wholistic Development Project, Yangon, Myanmar.
2. Group Training for the Master Trainers and Upliftment of the Lambadas (Association of Theologically Trained Women of India), Narayanked, Medak District, India.
3. Regional Women's Program "Women Doing Theology" Asia Pacific.
4. PROVA (Peoples' Resource-Oriented Voluntary Association), Bhatapara, Luvmpur, Rajshahi, Bangladesh.
5. Education for Ecumenical Women Leaders in Local Churches for Promoting Gender Justice, Seoul, Korea.
6. Social Welfare Corporation Ruteru Home, Japan.
7. The New Home Project, Chiang Mai, Lampoon, Thailand.
8. Asian Church Women Conference 12th Assembly, Seoul, Korea.

#### EUROPE:

1. Called To Compassion and Freedom - Christian Women Sharing the Future of Europe, Celakovice, Czech Republic.
2. The Hope and Struggle of Women in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Czech Republic.
3. Lydia Project Training - Black Sea Region, Crimea.

#### LATIN AMERICA:

1. Educational Training Project For Children and Family, Ecuador.
2. Project of Social Service Support Centre For Women, Colombia.

#### MIDDLE EAST:

1. Training to Prepare Women for Ministry, Egypt.
2. "Help Needed" A Call From Pastors' Wives, Jordan & Palestine.
3. Women Empowerment and Awareness Raising/Gender Equality, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, Damascus.
4. "Help Me Grow" Leadership Training for Women, Lebanon.
5. Women's Health, Christian Centre for Physiotherapy, Homs, Syria.
6. Domestic Violence, Amman, Jordan.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

1. Church Women United Aunt Maggie's Kitchen Table Inc. Georgia.

#### WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WOMEN'S PROGRAM:

1. Regional Workshop on Gender Awareness and Leadership Development for South Asia, New Delhi, India.
2. Women to Women Solidarity visits in contexts of war and conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo.

#### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE:

1. Peace and Reconciliation Workshop for Women in French-speaking Countries of Central and West Africa, Cameroon.



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#### **ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:**

The ACWC Quadrennial Assembly is to be held in October 2002 in Korea at Seoul Women's University. The theme for the gathering is to be "Restore ... Reconcile ... Rejoice."

ACW NSW Unit has been asked to provide 20-30 Aussie postcards, of our State flora and fauna, so members and friends are asked to buy one (or more) of these, and write a personal greeting: "Dear ACWC member/sister/friend" and a little about yourself; if you include your address you could have a penpal for life! Bring to any meeting or send to Newsette Editor (address on back page) - the deadline is August Council meeting, after which they will be taken to the Assembly by Lisa Jackson, our Australian delegate to ACWC.

Following is a letter from Lisa published in the recent ACWC Bulletin:

*"I'll See You In Korea ...*

*Greetings from Sydney, Australia. My name is Lisa Jackson and I have the honour of representing Australia at the Assembly in Korea. I guess you want to know a bit about me. I am an indigenous woman; my father is from the Bundjalung language group in New South Wales and my mother from the Bibbleman language group in Western Australia.*

*I currently live in Sydney and work with the Catholic Education Office as an Aboriginal Education Worker in three Catholic High Schools. My job is to help the indigenous students with their school work, with pastoral care, and be a friend to them. Our students face a daily struggle in our school system, ranging from low self-esteem to racism. If I can help make their lives easier in school then I believe that our children have a better chance of achieving their goals, both personally and professionally.*

*I have always had a love for my people and for God. My mom took us to different churches to experience the different ways people worship God and this helped me when I worked with the National Council of Churches in Australia in the Aboriginal & Islander Commission.*

*It was through the NCCA that I came to know about Australian Church Women. In 1999, the World Council of Churches chose me to be a steward for the Central Committee in Geneva. I approached Australian Church Women and under their sponsorship, went to Geneva. I spent 25 life-changing days there, meeting people from all over the world and learning more about how awesome God is.*

*At the beginning of 2001 God closed the door at the NCCA and opened*

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*another door for me with the Catholic Education Office, to be of service to my people through education. I firmly believe that education is the key to the future, and if our children want to be leaders of the future, then they must get a first class education, and it is now my job to help these future leaders of my community to get that education.*

*I am looking forward to going to Korea to the ACWC Assembly, and I am looking forward to seeing how God has touched people's lives in different ways, and how we as an ecumenical community can come together to worship our Lord.*

*Yours in Christ, Lisa Jackson, Australian Delegate"*

#### **SNIPPETS FROM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:**

Following the ACW National Conference last September in Adelaide, the National Executive moved to Western Australia, the National President now being Rev Lee Edwards.. Lee is a retired Uniting Church Minister having been ordained some 23 years ago. Lee ministered in one rural and two metropolitan parishes in Western Australia and in a Methodist circuit in Yorkshire UK for 3 years and is now involved in ministry at the Wesley Mission in Perth. Lee is an "ecumaniac" (her words), enjoying involvement in groups and activities ecumenical since 1960.

Barbara Lacy, the retiring National Representative to Asian Church Women's Conference has reported from a letter from Shunila Ruth from Pakistan, ACW Australia's Prayer Partner Country, how greatly our prayers and partnership are valued, particularly in the present time of hardships due to the war on terrorism continuing. We are urged to pray for peace in that troubled country. Mrs Pat Walker (S.A.) is the new Australian Representative and will join Barbara and delegates Lisa Jackson (NSW) and Jean Thomson (ACT) at the Assembly in Korea.

#### **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:**

Mrs Peg McEntee, Immediate Past President of National Council of Women NSW, was recently commissioned as National President of CWL Australia in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Wollongong. In her message as she with her new National Executive commenced their 2-year term, Peg said "Our membership is one of faith-filled women who strive to live the Gospel Message every day. Our theme for the next two years is "Launch Into The Deep." As a new stage of the journey begins, our hearts ring out with the words of Jesus when one day, after speaking to the crowds from Simon's boat, he invited the apostle to "put out into the deep" for a catch. Peter and his companions trusted Christ's words and cast the nets and when they did this they caught a great number of fish."

*From CWL Diocese of Wollongong Magazine "The Flame"*





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### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NSW:

#### NEWS OF AWARDEES SPONSORED BY ACW NSW.

##### INDONESIANS HONOUR AN 'ORDINARY' AUSSIE:

The Indonesian Government will honour an Australian woman for her humanitarian efforts to help the poor of Indonesia and East Timor. The Indonesian Department of Foreign Affairs invited Fiona Collins to Indonesia for an official 10-day visit in April 2002.

In 1999, as part of the 'OzIndo' Project, Fiona cycled 16,455 km around Australia, raising over \$65,000 for impoverished families in Indonesia and East Timor. The funds raised were used to carry out targeted relief and development programs in six focus areas in Indonesia and East Timor, some of which are still ongoing.

The visit has been organised following the overwhelming positive response Fiona attracted when she was interviewed on Indonesian National Television in December 2001 about 'The OzIndo Project' which she founded.

While in Indonesia, Fiona will promote Stage Two of the OzIndo Project; with the support of the Uniting Church in Australia, she and a small band of volunteers have been developing an interactive website to encourage dialogue and debate between Australians and Indonesians. The website aims to be a 'one-stop shop' with independent content drawn from multiple reliable sources, providing an exhaustive reference point for Australia-Indonesia issues.

Fiona says: "In the current climate of fraught government-to-government relations between Australia and Indonesia, Internet technology offers a unique, affordable and immediate opportunity for strengthening people-to-people relations between our two nations. Content will be available in both English and Indonesian, and interactive components such as our Discussion Board and Live Internet Relay Chat Facility will encourage exchange at a grassroots level." The site to be launched on 1st May 2002 is at the URL: [www.ozindo.org](http://www.ozindo.org)

##### ACCOLADE FOR NURSING STUDENT:

Oakdale nursing student Joanne Cohen's commitment to her studies has earned her an acknowledgement in the 2002 National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Awards, for which she was sponsored by the Australian Church Women, NSW Unit.

When interviewed, Joanne said "When I reflect on the past three years of

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study I recall more than sleepless nights and challenging days. I remember why I chose nursing as my new career and what nursing means to me. It means I can provide unconditional help and care ... and collaborate in an open and constructive manner with other health care workers."

Joanne previously worked with the Housing Industry Association and then with the Liverpool Health Service. Her recent marriage has coincided with a health care position with the Corrections Health Service.

(From the Macarthur Area 'Chronicle')

### ( REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS . . . .

#### SMALL WAYS WE CAN HELP:

When Sister Lorraine Phelan, who works with the Refugee program, and regularly visits Villawood Detention Centre, spoke to the Council meeting in March, all who heard her were very deeply touched by her accounts of the suffering, separation and trauma being experienced by so many, especially women and children.

Sister Lorraine's work is very stressful and she told of really heartbreaking situations with which she tries to deal every day. At the same time, she told us of some small ways we may be able to help. The detainees usually arrive with nothing but the clothes they are wearing, without the simplest of necessities.

Soap, shampoo, other toiletries are all very much needed and gladly received - also sewing needs and material so that the women can make clothes for themselves and their children.

Our incoming State President, Jean Porteous, also visits Villawood, which is quite near her home, and she has told us of a 'shop-front' venue being opened shortly in Carramar, where it is planned to teach the women English and offer help in various ways. Jean has offered to deliver anything that we are able to contribute and these items may be brought to a Council meeting to be taken by Jean or sent to Sister Lorraine.

So, readers - check out your cupboards and sewing baskets and bring along material, needles, cottons, knitting wool, or toiletry items; another much needed item is jeans.

Another avenue to help is by donating Phone Cards or cash towards buying them; the four suggested types are Global Gossip, Quick & Easy, Phone Away, Local - these also can be brought to a Council meeting.



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### NUNGALINYA COLLEGE NEWS:

**END-OF-YEAR GRADUATION ...A Time Of Pride And Rejoicing.**  
The staff and students of Nungalinga enjoyed a wonderful end-of-year graduation in December 2001. They were grateful to all who made the night special - those who sang, danced and spoke, and above all the students.

The guest speaker was Barbara McCarthy, the news presenter for ABC TV in Darwin. Barbara is a Yanyuwa woman from Borroloola. She spoke with honest eloquence of the challenges Indigenous people face. She reminded the listeners that many Indigenous people live in abnormal situations where problems of alcohol, domestic violence and health have become the norm. So, to see an Indigenous person 'make go of it' in the Western world, is to see someone who has risen above enormous obstacles and who carries the weight of responsibility to their culture. Barbara said "This isn't about winning, but about enduring.."

13 students were awarded their Certificate in Textile Arts, 16 with Statements of Attainment; 15 with the Certificate 111 in Community Organising; 4 with Certificate 11, 9 nine with Statements of Attainment; 4 with Certificate 111 in Theology, 5 with Statements of Attainment; 3 received their Diploma of Theology.

Following the presentation students performed some fabulous dances. One, performed by ladies from Galiwin'ku, was particularly moving. It was a ceremony created by a person suffering from cancer - it was about farewelling family and friends, but saying hello to God.

### **PAST STUDENT HONOURED FOR MINISTRY:**

*Nelson Varcoe* graduated from Nungalinga College with a Diploma in 2001. He is continuing his studies at Luther Seminary in Adelaide.

Along with his theological work, Nelson is a hospital chaplain for the four main hospitals in Adelaide. We understand that he is the only Aboriginal hospital chaplain in Australia. However, Nelson does not limit his work to just Indigenous people - he will minister to anyone who has a need who will accept his services.

In October 2001, Nelson was recognised for his chaplaincy work. At a reception hosted by the Governor-general Dr Peter Hollingworth at Government House in Canberra, Nelson was presented with the Fred McMasters Award for Chaplaincy. Congratulations Nelson!

*(From Nungalinga News)*

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### **SCRIPTURE SUPPORT at SEPTEMBER 11TH WALL of DEATH:**

Even the death of his daughter and the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993 did not prepare Gerald Sillcocks for the terrorist attacks and the rescue efforts at the WTC on September 11th. It was only his faith in the Lord Jesus and his reliance on God's Word that gave him strength to go on.

Twelve storeys of unsupported steel wall stood behind Gerald, of the New York Fire Department, as he ventured into an area to retrieve the bodies of his fellow firemen after the September 11 attack on the WTC Towers. Gerald had clambered across a matrix of ladders to reach the centre of the destruction.

"I turned around, took a look at that wall leaning toward me and every inch of me wanted to run," he said later, "I really started to panic, because if you work under unsupported steel beams like that, you're just asking for trouble. But I knew we had to be up there this night. There was a dire need to get these bodies back to their families, even if a fireman was lost."

This infamous area was where the foundations of the WTC had collapsed down into a hole 2 storeys deep, with rubble rising 5 storeys high on one side and 10 storeys high on the other. Gerald said that he was just about to suggest to his supervisor that they should retreat when he remembered the Bible passage he and his wife had read two nights before.

"We were reading through Psalm 46" he said. "Verse 10 really hit me. I had no idea how much it would stick with me until this night. I began to remember the verse, "Be..." and turned around and looked at that beam, got a little scared and at that moment I really believe God put that verse in my mind.

"I went back to that Scripture: "Be still and know that I am God." And I said "He's in control of this whole thing. Even though standing up here on this tower, it's a bad situation only looking worse, I was able to stand there and do my job."

That night, Gerald Sillcocks and his company brought out three bodies. Yet equally important was the way in which the events opened the hearts of his fellow rescuers to God's Word. "Many of the guys in the fire house who had never opened a Bible in their life now know that Scriptures have answers" he said. "They come to me to ask about God. So I'm able to take them to the Scriptures - powerful Scriptures - where God says he's our protector, our strength and our fortress."

*(From The Bible Society Magazine The Sower)*