

Please Note:

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However....

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.

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Denominational Groups: \$25 per annum
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES \$15 per annum

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For further details contact Jennifer Pepper (9874 4056)

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Changes of Address & Contributions to Newsette should be sent to the Editor:

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**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.**

ACW Website: www.acw.org.au



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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,

Interim President: Mrs Isabel Hewitt

Phone: 4969 6336 email: doug.isabel35@gmail.com

Number 144

August 2015

Dear Ladies,

It is with the saddest of hearts that I write to inform you that Mrs Natalie McLeod, NSW State President of ACW, died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday 28th June. This was totally unexpected and has come as a great shock to us all.

Natalie, an Anglican representative, was in her second year as state president and had brought to the role much grace and spiritual discernment. We are going to miss her greatly. Natalie was a long serving member of Mothers' Union, having previously been their state president.

Please uphold her husband and family, and the NSW Unit of ACW in prayer at this time.

Sincerely,

Lyn

Lyn Middleton, National President, ACW Inc.





Natalie McLeod
(1938-2015)

Natalie McLeod, the incumbent President of the NSW State Unit died suddenly and peacefully at home on 29th June 2015. Natalie was also serving as a co-opted member of National Executive.

A graduate of the Conservatorium of Music, Natalie's life was filled with music; teaching and leading choirs, in schools, privately and in the church. Natalie's devotion and commitment to the church was evidenced by 30 years teaching Scripture Class in schools and 23 years on the Executive of Mothers' Union Sydney Diocese where she gave inspiring leadership in the prayer and hospital visiting departments and was MU Sydney President from 2001-2006.

While Natalie was known to many in ACW because of her involvement in Women's Ministries her association with ACW began just four years prior to her being nominated President Elect in 2013. Natalie was installed as NSW State President in May 2014 and led the Unit with a graceful, Godly presence which has blessed us all. We will remember Natalie because of her personal interest in each one of us, her love of a laugh, her gentle compassion and her encouraging nature. LM

Pastoral Care



Please keep the families of Natalie McLeod and Beryl Kirkwood in your prayers. These ladies were such important figures in the lives of family, friends and the wider fellowship of their churches and our ACW NSW Unit. Their passing will leave large gaps.

We are delighted to hear that Jean Porteous has recovered and is looking forward to attending council meetings at some point in the future. The past few months have been very worrying for both Jean and her husband.

And talking of husbands.....many of our ladies are currently being 'challenged' with various health concerns of their partners. We all value the prayerful concern and encouragement of our ACW friends at such times.

Many will remember Rhylis Davey who represented the Bible Society at our ACW meetings. She has now returned to NZ where she continues to have treatment for the tumours which have invaded her body and has extended family to give her the physical support she needs.

If there is news of anyone needing prayer please let us know, we are all so important to our Lord who loves and cares for us all.

Helen Hill,
Convenor

Special Days

As you read this article Fellowship Day for 2015 will have been celebrated. The service prepared by the Tasmanian Unit of ACW with the theme *Building Up in Line with God's Design* provided an opportunity for us to reflect on God's will and purposes for our own lives; that we are using to His glory the gifts he has bestowed upon us. I hope you were able to share in a service in your area and that it was a time of rich ecumenical fellowship and ministry of the Word.

We look forward to the celebration of World Community Day in October. The material for this service will shortly be received by the branch representatives. The theme is *Building for Peace and Reconciliation* and has been prepared by the Queensland Unit of ACW.

The Special Project that 50% of the general offering will be going to support is **Cana Communities** based in Sydney. This group builds relationships, and companions people who are lonely, homeless, suffering from mental ill health, addiction or other factors marginalising them from mainstream society. It has operated for 40 years with no Government funding. The project funds will be directed to their Nagle House, in Redfern Sydney, for marginalised women. This project was put forward by the Mosman Branch of ACW NSW. If you are aware of a project that is worthy of consideration for a Special Project grant please contact the editor of *Newsette* and we will forward an application form to you.

The other 50% of the general offering goes of course to support the international scholarship projects of Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC).

World Community Day is usually held the last Friday in October. For a list of where services are to be held you can go to our website: www.acw.org.au, closer to the date, and click on State Units – NSW – Special Events. If you are organising a service and are able, please send details of your service to brendad2@optusnet.com.au for inclusion on this website.

World Community Day is also the ingathering for Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings.

Lyn Middleton
Special Days Convenor

Fellowship of the Least Coin

I would like to relate to you some thoughts from the ICFLC Executive Secretary Cora Tabin-Reyes.

"There is an urge to make a list of countries where groups of women, no matter how small they are, are actively practicing FLC and sending their contributions to the World Office.

During the 60th FLC Anniversary next year, standing to be counted may mean a lot for those who are concerned that FLC remains a miracle movement of the century. What pushes and pulls us to a work more serious than before and more passionate than ever?

That must be the legacy given to us by Shanti Solomon, the work of the Holy Spirit to make us one as prayed for by Jesus Christ, and what lies ahead in the future of our children and grandchildren. Thus, to all FLC women, country convenors and regional representatives, I send my gratitude for faithful support and compassionate work.

May God's mercy continue to flow through you as you serve Christ through FLC."

Thank you for your message to us Cora. I have been asked that question before of how many countries are participating in FLC., so it will be good to hear those results.

By the time you receive this Newsette, many of you will be starting or continuing to plan for World Community Day in October. I pray that you will have a rich time of fellowship as you consider the theme for the day.

Thank you for all you are doing to promote FLC in your area.



**25th National Conference
7-11 September 2015**

**The Salvation Army Collaroy Centre
Collaroy Beach NSW**

Please pray for the Conference.



Winifred Kiek Scholarship Report

It has been good to have news from **Caryn Rogers - 2015 Scholar**. She is currently working on her PhD in Linguistics and is thankful for our interest and prayers. Her studies are progressing well but it has taken time to get the outline for her thesis. She hopes to have 3 chapters completed by the end of the year. Caryn hopes her research content will be useful to both secular and university students...also that she will stay in touch to share her progress.

The following was sent to share with those who take an interest in WKS...it featured in a Daily Devotional Guide on 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

The gift with the most street cred at Corinth was the ability to speak in tongues, but with it came control over others. Paul argues that for a healthy fellowship a variety of gifts was required, and that no gift was 'better' than another. The gifts instanced are in broad categories and the flexibility of his description allows, what we know to be true, that there is a variety of giftedness even in one person. Different opportunities bring out different gifts. One wonders if we would be today commemorating Winifred Kiek, the South Australian Congregationalist, if the Lancashire girl had not experienced a new culture with its subtle differences in attitudes and values (moral, spiritual, social), or found herself, on marriage to a minister, in a public position in congregation and theological college, organising, communicating, caring

persuading. The outcome in the generosity of the Spirit, was her role in championing sexual equality in church and society, including through the World Council of Churches, her wider work in relation to social questions and peace issues, her writing, her political involvement, her chairing of the Congregational Union, her spiritual exploration, and her skills in puppetry! For us, too, when one door closes, a resilient Spirit open another. ...Winifred Kiek—Christian pioneer.

Pray for those in public life, that they may be confirmed in the good they do.

Judith Cayzer,
Convenor

Social Issues

Over the last months our members have been lobbying for a higher profile for domestic abuse.

We have congratulated the Anglican Church on their public stance for protecting those suffering this form of abuse inside and outside the Church. Other denominations are being encouraged to follow their example.

We have also highlighted the damage being wreaked on society by the use of the drug methamphetamine(ice). One example of this is the horrific road accidents resulting from its use by drivers.

The current public debate concerning same-sex marriage has encouraged us to contact our local politicians to express our Biblically based opposition to any such legislation.

Rae Goth, Convenor

NSW State Unit Executive - Dedication Day at St Alban's Epping May 2015



On a cool day, visitors and members of the NSW State Unit Council gathered at St Alban's Anglican Church for the dedication service for the incoming Executive from NSW State Unit Inc of ACW for 2015/16.

Visitors and ACW members were welcomed to the day by President Natalie McLeod. Her husband,

Ian McLeod was the organist for the day.

Executive Members were introduced:

Past President	Mrs Isabel Hewitt
President Elect	Mrs Pamela Freeman
Secretary	Mrs Elizabeth McEwen
Treasurer	Lt Pat Cory [absent]
Winifred Kiek Scholars	Mrs Judith Cayzer
Fellowship of the Least Coin	Major Lillian Hodges
Membership	Mrs Martha Noël
Pastoral Care	Mrs Helen Hill
Newsette	Mrs Jennifer Pepper
Special Days	Major Lynette Middleton
Social Issues	Mrs Rae Goth

Mrs Jan Harrison was acknowledged as a State Life Member and duly presented with her badge. A profile of her service on behalf of ACW and other Christian organizations was given by Pamela Freeman.

Following the singing of the ACW Theme Chorus, Natalie explored the reasons why we meet together in this way. Major Lillian brought an exciting report regarding the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin [ICFLC], giving a grant to *Mums' Cottage*. This is a program begun at Holmesville, a depressed area of Newcastle, where the mums in the district are encouraged and empowered to take the reins of life. One mum who originally came seeking help for herself and her disabled child, now shares with other parents who have a similar experience. It is an exciting place to observe Christian compassion in action.

At the conclusion of the service the invitation was given to join together for



Marie with Mrs Linda Hurley, wife of the Governor of NSW

Marie McCann, OAM was honoured at the Jean Arnot Luncheon



NSW ACW ladies who attended



Carmel Keys, a Past ACW NSW State President, not Mary Poppins...the broley was a prize!

The Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon is held at Parliament House, Sydney each May and women who attain the age of 90 may be nominated by the organization that they have been involved with. The ACW NSW Unit were delighted to have Marie as our nominee and she received a Certificate of Appreciation.

Born in July 1925, Marie was educated at Presentation College to Matriculation, earned a BA at the University of Melbourne and M.Theol, BD at the University of Sydney. Marie is the mother of five children, and a grandmother.

Marie's many church activities include National Catholic Girls Movement, Parish of Chatswood, convener and organiser Meals on Wheels; President Parish Ball Committee; Secretary Chatswood Catechists for five schools and 29 catechists; President Loreto Parents and Friends Committee, Member Catholic Women's League; Organist East Roseville Church and Star of the Sea Milson's Point.

In 1977 Marie became a Catholic representative to Australian Church Women NSW State Unit and held a number of positions before becoming State President in 1979. From 1989-91 Marie was ACW National President. For over 30 years she

has been actively involved in ACW in many ways. She has given her time, abilities and gifts generously, and has been a great influence and encouragement to many along the way. Because of Marie's involvement with ACW and ecumenism, she was made the first woman Director of the Catholic Weekly.

Marie was made a NSW State Life Member in 1997 in recognition of her leadership and friendship in Christian Service.

Marie attended the 1982 Asian Church Women's Conference Assembly in Bali, and was a delegate to the 1990 ACWC meeting in Bombay. She toured China with nine theologically trained Asian women, and was a speaker on the position of Australian Children and their concerns in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She also attended the 1980 Fellowship of the Least Coin Silver Jubilee in Manila Philippines, and the 2006 ACWC Assembly in Kuala Lumpur.

Recognition of Marie's contribution to Australian Church Women, Melbourne Alumni [Sydney Branch] and Australian (NSW) Children's Film and Television was given in 1997 when she was awarded an Order of Australia Medal.