

## ACW NSW STATE UNIT INC—EXECUTIVE 2007-2008

PRESIDENT	Mrs Carmel Keys	9977 5156
PAST PRESIDENT	Major Lyn Middleton	9529 6744
PRESIDENT ELECT	Mrs Jennifer Pepper	9874 4056
TREASURER	Mrs Helen Richardson	9971 0278
SECRETARY	Mrs Isabel Hewitt	4969 6336
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 Pamela 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

### **Annual Service of Dedication**

will be held at  
St Brigid's Catholic Church  
Millers Point  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 10.30 am**

### **Fellowship Day in July** theme: ***Heaven's Bread***

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** theme: ***Enough for Each Day***

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



# ***AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN***

***NSW STATE UNIT INC***

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**No.44**

**April 2007**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Carmel Keys

It is with pleasure that I present the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. 2007. May I thank, most sincerely, all the members who have shown me so much love and support throughout the year, and especially the great warmth and encouragement received at my installation. Your prayers were and always are appreciated as we work together in the Lord's service, and I trust this report will celebrate another good year for ACW.

Thank you to our secretary, Isabel Hewitt who keeps me on track, and Helen Richardson who watches the finances, and all the State Executive for their dedication and commitment. Thank you to Lyn Middleton for your welcome and guidance as I took up the reins from you. Thank you to all Council and Branch Members whose faithful attendance at functions is an inspiration. I have enjoyed many opportunities to attend functions as your representative. Welcome to Jennifer Pepper who has accepted nomination from the Baptist Church as our President Elect.

ACW is represented on National Council of Women, Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association, World Day of Prayer and NSW Ecumenical Council and reports from these organisations keep us well informed.

The Special Days services are held throughout the State in July and October and I have welcomed the invitations to attend and speak at as many as possible, sharing the blessings with all attendees. The organisers of these gatherings make a great effort to guarantee their success. Our Branch Members are invaluable and it is their work which keeps ACW strong. A sub-committee from NSW has met to prepare the World Community Day service for 2007.

The day conference – spirituality day – was held at the Salvation Army Centre on Monday 18 September. Sister Patricia Stephenson presented the morning devotion on prophetic women with examples of two unusual figures from the Bible. Very thought provoking! In the afternoon Mr Ian Minnis spoke about Camp WerX, an initiative of the Prison Fellowship which provides time away for children of prisoners—Council members contributed \$250 to sponsor a child. Vivian Cheung, Winifred Kiek Scholar for 2006, a new mother of son Alex, spoke of her appreciation of her scholarship and her plans for future ministry. On Sunday, 18 March, our new scholar, Pastor Leinamau Seru arrived from Vanuatu. She will be studying at Alan Walker College of Evangelism with placement in various churches.



Marie McCann



Phyl McKinnirey



Edris Manefield



Lyn Middleton



Doris Mitchell



Jean Porteous



Edith Ridge



Gertrude Roseby



Marjorie Stanhope



Regina Stolz



Joan Tong



Marjory Verco



Marianne Vines



Elizabeth Walker



Glad West

## PRESIDENTS BY DENOMINATION

### Anglican

Brucinda Montgomerie	1963-64
Mary Andrews	1969-70
Doris M Mitchell	1974-75
June Graham	1986-88
Jan Harrison	2000-02

### Baptist

Effie H Baldwin	1960-61
Joyce O Gilbert	1968-69
Gladys West	1980-82
Lucelle King	1994-96

### Catholic

Marie McCann	1978-80
Phyl McKinnirey	1992-94

### Churches of Christ

Ruby W McCallum	1941-2, 1946-7
May Greenhalgh	1954-55
Marjory Verco	1962-63
Marjorie A Stanhope	1970-71
Gladys Bent	1975-76
Marjory Baker	1988-90
Jean Porteous	2002-04

### Congregational

May Renwick	1939-40
Gertrude A Roseby	1939-40, 1944-5
Annie B Deans	1950-52
Reta E Farr	1959-60
Olga G Badger	1966-67

### Lutheran

Regina Stolz	1948-9, 1957-8
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### Methodist

Amy Gertrude Bowden	1940-41
Elsie E Deane	1945-46
Sylvia J Lew	1952-54
Edris M Manefield	1961-62
Grace Cowled	1967-68
Winifred Dougherty	1973-74

### Presbyterian

Hannah Jennings	1939
Mary Eliza Clouston	1943-44
Mary Millar	1949-50
Marianne Vines	1958-59
Thelma M Adam	1965-66
Nancy M Pfeiffer	1972-73
Yvonne Davis	1982-84
Peg Blake	1996-98

### Salvation Army

Kathleen B Garlick	1956-57
Hazel V Cross	1964-65
Olive Carpenter	1971-72
Edna Baker	1976-78
Joan Tong	1990-92
Lyn Middleton	2004-06

### Society of Friends

Rebecca Swann	1942-3, 1947-8
Kathleen Lowry	1955-56

### Uniting

Edith Ridge	1984-86
Elizabeth Walker	1998-2000

'A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon' was enjoyed at Eastwood Baptist Church. This annual occasion in fellowship with the Asian Church Women's Conference featured music and artists from many Asian communities and the Salvation Army band from Parramatta. Thanks to Beryl Kirkwood, Olive Edmondstone and the Pastor and Parishioners. A marvellous attendance on an extremely hot day in September concluded with an enjoyable time of fellowship with refreshments.

Guest speakers during the year included Norma Dumbrell, on her trip to Myanmar, and Isabel and Helen on their visit to the ACWC Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, and travel in Malaysia. A special collection at the April Council meeting raised \$300 to send to National Executive to assist with fares for four Bangladeshi ladies to attend this Assembly.

Sadly we said farewell to Cela Cooper who has moved to Canberra. A longtime faithful member she had been Social Issues Convener and also served on the National Executive. One of our National Life Members, Marjory Verco, went to God recently. Rest in peace, Marjory.

As we complete another year let us commence a new one with an awareness of the social issues which affect us all. May the Holy Spirit give us the wisdom to see the needs of our neighbours and let us respond in love, peace and friendship.

### MEMBERSHIP Heather Reid

The attendance at Executive and Council meetings is excellent, with an average of 48 representatives being present at Council.

All denominations are well represented, including Branches and organisations such as The Girls Brigade, Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Bible Society.

### PASTORAL CARE Olive Edmondstone

It has been a privilege to play a very small part in the pastoral care of our members. During the year we have been saddened to hear of the death of \_\_\_\_\_ and quite recently of our much loved Marjory Verco a National Life Member of Australian Church Women. There have been those who have faced very real challenges with the loss of loved ones. There are those who have faced serious health problems. Some have had to face major changes in their home situations and their need for more specialised care. There are those who have experienced real joy. We are all tied up in the 'bundle of life' and thank God for the consciousness of His presence in every situation.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Isabel Hewitt

At the Service of Installation and Dedication on 15 May 2006 at St Mary Immaculate and St Athanasius Church, Manly, we thanked Major Lyn Middleton for her excellent presidency, and welcomed Mrs Carmel Keys into office. A large congregation shared in the fellowship of the service and the lovely lunch prepared by the Manly parishioners.

Certificates of Appreciation were prepared by Major Nancy McLaren and presented to members/associate members who had a record of 15 years or more with the NSW State Unit. Those recognised were: Judith Baker, Marjory Baker, Patricia Burke, Peg Cameron, Nola Dickson, Olive Edmondstone, Dame Monica Gallagher, Margaret Ralph, Heather Reid, Helen Richardson, Helen Stutchbury, Joan Tong.

As National Executive sets up an Australian Church Women Website we have been required to submit information for the NSW home page. Brenda Dickinson has taken the major responsibility for this task both at National and at State level.

During the course of 2006 it was agreed that we endeavour to compile Profiles of Presidents of NSW Women's Inter Church Council/ACW NSW State Unit, dating from 1938. Each denomination undertook to find the information requested and a photograph to accompany each entry. After 12 months the information gathered for 24 of the 48 Past Presidents is almost complete, about seven others are well on the way, leaving 17 to be followed up. Those undertaking the research are encouraged by their findings and look forward to sharing their results with fellow Council members. 'Thumbnail' photos are included later in this Annual Report along with lists of past presidents by date and denomination. Further information about any of these past presidents would make a welcome contribution to the history of the NSW Unit of ACW.

With thanks to all members of Executive and Council for their support of the work of Australian Church Women at all levels.

### 2007 Winifred Kiek Scholars

**LEINAMAU SERU—Vanuatu**

**CATHY PARAKA—PNG**

## PRESIDENTS 1938-2006

### NSW WOMEN'S INTER CHURCH COUNCIL/ACW NSW STATE UNIT

1938-1939	Hannah Jennings	1965-1966	Thelma M Adam
1939-1940	May Renwick	1966-1967	Olga Badger
	Gertrude Amy Roseby	1967-1968	Grace Cowled
1940-1941	Amy Gertrude Bowden	1968-1969	Joyce O Gilbert
1941-1942	Ruby McCallum	1969-1970	Mary M Andrews
1942-1943	Rebecca Swann	1970-1971	Marjorie A Stanhope
1943-1944	Mary Eliza Clouston	1971-1972	Olive Carpenter
1944-1945	Gertrude Amy Roseby	1972-1973	Nancy M Pfeiffer
1945-1946	Elsie E Deane	1973-1974	Winifred Dougherty
1946-1947	Ruby W McCallum	1974-1975	Doris M Mitchell
1947-1948	Rebecca Swann	1975-1976	Gladys M Bent
1948-1949	Regina Stolz	1976-1978	Edna H Baker
1949-1950	Mary Millar	1978-1980	Marie J McCann
1950-1952	Annie Deans	1980-1982	Gladys West
1952-1954	Sylvia J Lew	1982-1984	Yvonne A Davis
1954-1955	May Greenhalgh	1984-1986	Edith B Ridge
1955-1956	Kathleen E Lowry	1986-1988	June Graham
1956-1957	Kathleen B Garlick	1988-1990	Marjory Baker
1957-1958	Regina Stolz	1991-1992	Joan M Tong
1958-1959	Marianne Vines	1993-1994	Phyl McKinnirey
1959-1960	Reta E Farr	1994-1996	Lucelle King
1960-1961	Effie H Baldwin	1996-1998	Margaret (Peg) Blake
1961-1962	Edris M Manefield	1998-2000	Elizabeth Walker
1962-1963	Marjory I Verco	2000-2002	Jan Harrison
1963-1964	Brucinda Montgomerie	2002-2004	Jean Porteous
1964-1965	Hazel V Cross	2004-2006	Lyn Middleton





Mary Andrews



Olga Badger



Marjory Baker



Effie Baldwin



Glad Bent



Peg Blake



Mary Clouston



Grace Cowled



Yvonne Davis



Win Dougherty



Joyce Gilbert



June Graham



Jan Harrison



Hannah Jennings



Lucelle King



Sylvia Lew

## WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Judith Cayzer, Convener

It has been an interesting year with the two scholars being in Australia. VIVIAN CHEUNG [NSW] visited our State Conference Day in September, she had just had her first baby, Alexander, and was always appreciative of our prayers. Her husband, Eric has now graduated from Moore College, Sydney, and they are ministering in the Sydney area. Vivian will continue her studies part-time. TANIA EICHLER [QLD] and husband and family have just moved to Ministry in the Parish of Bundaberg. Tania will continue studies finishing with her Ordination 2008, to be Priested in December 2008.

Letters, Christmas cards and phone calls have kept us up-dated with past scholars also: Siok Cheng [2005], Monique Crabtree [2003], Susan Liersch [2003], Doreen Tan [1990], Rachel [Mc.Manus] Otto [1997], and others. Reports are given at Council Meetings and in the *Newsette*. Please contact me for copies of full letters - phone [02] 9896 3758. Thanks go to Una Birtchnell, our National Convenor WKS [Victoria]. We have kept in touch by mail and phone for up-to-date information. I appreciate her friendship and care. Una attended S.A. Unit 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September 2006 and met Winifred Kiek's daughter, Margaret Knauerhase, and then sent us photos of them together. Please remember the WKS Trustee Committee in Adelaide as they receive applications and choose scholars for next year 2008.

Meanwhile the pamphlets are being prepared for 2007 scholars with following details known: CATHY PARAKA [PNG]. Details for her studies are being worked out for her home region. LEINAMAU SERU [VANUATU] is to arrive in Sydney 19 March and will do a course at the Alan Walker College of Evangelism. She will live-in at the College Hostel. Her scholarship will cover her tuition, accommodation, meals, pocket money, flights home mid-term breaks. She will do courses at the College and will have two Field Placements at Grantham Heights [Seven Hills] and Springwood [mid Blue Mountains] Uniting Churches. Her year's plans look very interesting and we look forward to contact with her. Please pray for appropriate timing of contact and her needs. She will finally return to Vanuatu on 16 December after the previous day's Commissioning.

Remember the past and present scholars - your prayers in partnership are so valuable to them. They are all busy usually balancing family, studies and ministry. "Thank you" from them. Still for sale are copies of the book "Winifred". It is very interesting and inspiring, each new scholar receives a copy. Thank you for your support.

## **FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN** Janet Lang, Convener

It is with pleasure that I present the annual report for the Fellowship of the Least Coin for 2006-07. What a great year!

The culmination of the Fellowship of the Least Coin Jubilee was held at the ACWC quadrennial general assembly in Kuala Lumpur in October. Two NSW members attended, out of a total of twenty-two Australians. There the FLC history book was launched by Esther Byu, executive secretary of ICFLC.

As well, a new member country was welcomed: Mongolia. Letters from all over the world have been received, congratulating the Fellowship of the Least Coin on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, recognising its work and contribution in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

On the NSW front, your generosity in sharing your small coins—symbols of prayers offered—continues. The result makes a huge difference to the lives of people in need. Thank you all so much. Donations during 2006 have amounted to \$14,564, which includes \$6,714 from World Community Day.

The new Circle of Prayer Book, number 17, “To Soar Like an Eagle” has been well received and many people have purchased them for their groups or for their own personal use. I believe volume 18 is being prepared, titled “Living the Jubilee”.

## **NEWSETTE** Beryl McLaughlin, *Newsette* Editor

The four issues for 2006 were duly produced and expressions of appreciation of our little magazine come to me from time to time, sometimes from country readers who are unable to share the friendship and fellowship that we enjoy as we meet together in Sydney, so it is a worthwhile like with them.

I am grateful to the various conveners and others who are faithful in sending me their reports, and especially so to *Newsette* Manager, Brenda Dickinson who maintains the mailing list and prints the address labels for each issue, and to Heather Badgery for her assistance to Brenda and me with the folding, enveloping and mailing.

## **GIRLS' BRIGADE**

Ruth Dickenson

Once again Girls' Brigade has had a very busy year full of varied activities and learning experiences for both girls and leaders. An exciting day at the Zoo in April was attended by 1000 Brigaders and their families from all over NSW. A cheque for \$2000 was presented to a representative from Westmead Children's Hospital which will assist in the renovation of the bathroom at Ronald McDonald House. A St. Johns First Aid course was also undertaken by many leaders and older girls in Brigade.

Several leadership camps were attended by our older girls and many of these girls are using the skills learned back in their own companies. Our National conference was held in Queensland in October and a new National Commissioner elected, Mrs. Coral Anderson from W.A. Many long standing friendships were renewed and we studied God's Word from Nehemiah, enjoyed bright singing, learnt new crafts and attended many business sessions. A real time of rich fellowship was enjoyed by leaders from every state in Australia. A special visitor joined us from PNG, telling us of the very different ways her companies are run – with so few resources. She sought penfriends from Australia for her girls.

As in previous years we have been able to assist at the two Premier's concerts for Senior Citizens during the year and a good number of girls are working on their Duke of Edinburgh Award in bronze, silver and gold. Six girls received their Queens Award from Professor Marie Bashir Governor of NSW. Our Youth Forum has been helpful in encouraging many young leaders to attend conference and voice their suggestions on ways of making the programmes more appealing to the girls in the companies

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Lily Hanlon

The World Day of Prayer Service this year was written by the women of Paraguay, entitled *United Under God's Tent*. Let us all hope we can live that every day of our lives. The service was very moving and thought provoking—we should thank God that we do not have to live as some of these women do. The lace making of the women of Paraguay was used to symbolise the interconnectedness of our life in community. Photos were available to help us understand the country, its people, and the dilemmas they face at this time. We were privileged to join our prayers with theirs, and those of people around the world.

## National Council of Women

Celebrations for a very special 110 years Anniversary have been the highlight of 2006, culminating in the Lord Mayor's Reception at the Sydney Town Hall on 30 November. Eighty delegates and members assembled in the Lady Mayoress' Rooms and enjoyed a most delightful evening, bringing together long-term members and more recent delegates and members.

The winners of our Anniversary Essay Competition on 'The Life and Work of Mrs Jessie Margaret Scotford' – a past President of NCW was won by three year eleven students from Sydney Girls High School, and a presentation was made to these girls.

At our meetings many social issues have been addressed and action taken. Guest speakers have been interesting and stimulating, keeping us up to date with current happenings and needs.

We are saddened that our much loved president, Mrs Beverley Pavey has been so ill and our thoughts are with her as we pray for a complete recovery. Helen Richardson and Shirley Wells

## WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION OF NSW

Beryl McLaughlin, WCTU State Secretary

It is 125 years since WCTU began in NSW in 1882 as a vigorous voice in the community against the social evils of that day, especially the depredations of alcohol and its dire effects on women and children, which motivated its members to campaign for, and finally succeed in obtaining the right for women to vote.

But with aging, dwindling membership in spite of many efforts to find younger active women to take up the temperance cause, we are now investigating the possibility of setting up a 'Foundation' or 'Trust' so that the considerable resources that we have may continue to be used on into the future, when we are no longer here.

As we are at this crossroads in our history, we recognise and are thankful that there is a much greater awareness in the wider community of the hazards of alcohol and other drugs, with other voices being raised—for example, the Australian Medical Association pressing for warnings to be placed on alcohol labels, and also of the recognition and publicising of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and the permanent, lifelong damage that can happen to a baby if a mother drinks any alcohol during pregnancy.

## SOCIAL ISSUES

Sr Joan Bird fmm, Convener

The Social Issues we decided to act upon were Mental Health and the situation of Young People in Nursing Homes. These were within the context of New South Wales, regardless of which political party is in power. Our decision to act is taken after a process which takes time and involves these steps:

- ♦Research on the issue—often determined by it being a topic of public debate incessantly in the media and with relevant information and statistics. The seriousness of the issue is then evident.
- ♦Social Issues convener then considers whether further information is required from the organisations most concerned with or involved with the people being disadvantaged by the issue.
- ♦Correspondence on behalf of the ACW is then undertaken and time elapses for a reply being received from the organisation as to what points could be made by ACW with regard to the reforms desired by the organisation, according to determined needs being neglected or inadequately responded to.
- ♦The ACW Executive then discusses the content of a proposed letter to be sent to the relevant Government and Opposition Members of Parliament.
- ♦The ACW Council members are then asked for their approval for this correspondence and action is taken accordingly.
- ♦The response from the relevant Ministers is reported to the Executive and the Council members.

**Mental Health Care Needs** – Letters were sent to Minister for Health, Shadow Minister for Health, Assisting Minister for Mental Health and Shadow Minister for Mental Health. Replies were received from Shadow Minister for Mental Health and we also received the NSW Government Plan with a sector on mental Health Care. Budgets and specific plans were stated and we hope they will be implemented successfully. In any case our voice was heard and we spoke up for those disadvantaged by present situations

**Young People with disabilities in Nursing Homes:** After contact with the National Alliance for Young People in Nursing Homes we noted their suggestions concerning what to state in our letter expressing our concerns. Correspondence went to The Prime Minister, The NSW Minister for Health and the NSW Minister for Ageing and Disability Services, the Shadow Minister for Health. Replies were received from: The Shadow Minister for Health referring us to the Shadow Minister for Disability Services who has not responded; the Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister on his behalf; the Director General of Ageing, Disability and Home Care on behalf of the Minister for that portfolio. All stated the amount of funds available and the proposals for their use. In much of this correspondence there was the conditional clause concerning accommodation "where this can be made available"! Parents and immediate family members with a person with a severe disability were asked to contribute to a Special Disability Trust together with Government assistance.

## ACWC REPORT

Beryl Kirkwood, Convener

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Asian Church Women's Conference was held in October 2006 and was attended by women of many Asian countries including two from our ACW NSW Unit. Our gift from Australia to ACWC went towards helping women from Myanmar and Bangladesh to attend. Pat Walker, from South Australia held the position of Assembly secretary for four years as well as the ACWC Representative for ACW National Executive. Pat has been commended for her diligent and efficient service in this role. At the conference, Donna Bryan, from Victoria, our new Australian representative, also became the Assembly secretary and we wish her God's blessing in these roles.

National ACW has as its current prayer partner South Korea – a replacement for Hong Kong where the women have a ministry to those suffering domestic violence. As part of Asia we do need to be concerned and in prayer about women who have suffered. Again, in Indonesia there is widespread homelessness due to the gas explosions and consequent flood of mud, plus the aftermath of the Jakarta floods when 300,000 became homeless. East Timor needs stability and guidance about the Christian women becoming part of ACWC. It is good to know that there are Mongolian Christian women who became members of ACWC at the Assembly in Malaysia. We need to pray for them too.

Our NSW Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Concert was held in September at Eastwood with many Asian items, and we were indebted to the artists who participated to make this a musical delight. Many helped in the preparation, in particular Olive Edmondstone. I thank each one who contributed in some way to make it a success. The occasion was well attended and different Asian groups were reached. The offering through ACWC will help disadvantaged Asian women in some way.

It was decided that our next concert might be in a different area so plans are in hand to hold this at Hurstville Salvation Army on Sunday 21 October 2007. The aim is to contact other groups of Asian Christians and artists as well as gain some interest from local churches. Further away, in this, we are able to help women of Asia and encourage them under often hostile and poor conditions. What a privilege we have under God!

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

Edith Ridge, ACW Representative to PPSEAWA

With Mina Whybourne as the second representative I have been pleased to attend meetings of PPSEAWA for another year.

Six of the 2006 meetings followed the UN International Year of Deserts. In February we heard from Perdita Herbert, who worked as a Nomad for the Bush Church Aid Society of the Anglican Church. In May, Robyn Riley, the Assistant Principal of Stewart House at Curl Curl told of the work among rural children and their families who holiday there. At the June meeting, Rev David Thiem, Associate Director of Frontier Services was the speaker. In July Rev Paul Dew from the Bush Church Aid Society told their story of work in isolated areas of Australia. In August Jenny Rosalky spoke on behalf of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

At the Spring Luncheon in September, Jann Kingston, Chief Executive Officer of the Far West Children's Scheme was the informative speaker. Other meetings were also filled with interest. The March meeting was the Annual General Meeting. The Election of Officers resulted in the appointment of Marjorie Wood as President, Yvonne Chamberlain as Secretary, and Joan Egan as Treasurer. As is customarily done at the AGM corporate members reported on their organisations. I was pleased to present a report on the work of ACW.

In April the guest speaker was Hind Karouche who shared insights into the varied ways Muslim women cope in Australian society. At the May meeting, the affiliation of a new organisation, the Muslim Women's National Network of Australia was accepted.

In September, members joined in a *Day of Peace Service* at St David's Uniting Church, Lindfield – an inter-faith service attended by people from eight different faiths. Continuing this theme, members joined with National Council of Women when 100 women visited the Auburn Mosque, where they were given an interesting tour of the mosque and were hosted for lunch at a restaurant.

In October we had a workshop on *Improving Maternal Health*, one of the Millennium Goals. These Goals will be studied at the International Conference of PPSEAWA in New Zealand during March, 2007. The November meeting gave opportunity for fellowship as we prepared for Christmas. In February 2007 the speaker was Margo Wagner who told the story of *Friends of Farming Families* and the way that this organisation assists people in rural NSW through Opportunity Shops.

Readers of this report may read more about the activities of PPSEAWA during 2006/7 in copies of *Newsette*.



## BIBLE SOCIETY NSW

Julie Bryant

The Bible Society is a non-profit interdenominational organisation. It is a member of the United Bible Societies, a world wide fellowship of 142 organisations working in more than 200 countries. Our mission is to achieve the widest possible, effective and meaningful distribution of the Holy Scriptures, by providing the Word of God to people in a language they can understand, in a format they can use, and at a price they can afford, and helping people to interact with the Word of God.

As Coordinator of Women for the Word, a ministry of Bible Society NSW, I am in a strategic place to help women in particular, become equipped in their churches for ministry. To encourage women in their walk with the Lord, to help women interact with the Word of God and in doing so, women grow, wanting to help other women, children, families (men included – but women are often the leaders when it comes to heart matters), in countries overseas.

To encourage fundraising for different areas of Bible Society's work I speak to groups, many through your contacts, hold showcases sometimes with garden parties, sometimes with Devonshire teas, lunches, morning/afternoon teas and also hold mini fetes at retirement villages.

There is a great need around the globe for Bibles. All our Mission Organisations and missionaries need Bibles in their work, and often they need them either at a cheaper price or free. With your help and prayers we are able to do that.

I have also been working on a Women's New Testament which is now finished and we are awaiting shipment this month. It is to be used both for personal and outreach to the younger generation, as this is a great need in our churches – to encourage our younger generations. I have also finished a Luke's Gospel, (called "He loves Me, He Loves me **not**, He loves me") which is about to go to the printers. This publication is to be used as a tool for outreach and will lead women to a place where they can make a choice – to accept or reject that... "He loves me". You will all be invited to the launch – do hope you will be able to come.

Bible Society NSW works in many countries, in China, Egypt, PNG, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Iraq, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, South Africa, India, Bangladesh, South Pacific, South East Asia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand Burma, and Cambodia.

I am planning on launching, in Cambodia in July, a revolutionary new digital device with recordings of the Bible in Khmer, as well as Christian values, HIV/AIDS information; child protection advice; health and sanitation instructions; parenting information; and literacy aids. We will train women to take this back to their villages to teach the women in their villages. How exciting!

## PUBLICITY REPORT

Nancy McLaren, Convener

It's been a good year for Australian Church Women under the leadership of our President Mrs Carmel Keys.

Three very inspiring speakers shared with us at the Day Conference held at The Salvation Army Function Centre in September 06.

- Sister Patricia made the Scriptures come alive to us again
- Mr Ian Minnis from Prison Fellowship told us about the wonderful work they are doing with the children of prisoners and Camp WerX.
- Vivien Cheung (former WKS scholar) shared with us how she is using her study in ministry.

At our

### **Annual Service of Dedication**

at Saint Brigid's Catholic Church Millers Point

**ACW National President**

**MAJOR ELAINE JOHNSON**

**will be the speaker.**

**Make an effort to attend!**

Again, as each year, we enjoyed a very inspiring service with Asian congregations at the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon service for ACWC. Last year it was held at the Eastwood Baptist Church. **LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER ONE THIS YEAR. OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> The Salvation Army Hurstville. Watch out for the advertising at Service of Dedication.**

The theme taken by the current National Executive Committee is **Share the Loaf**, and for the Special Days this theme is coming through. We can enjoy the wonderful blessings at all the Special Days which are arranged for us.

National Executive based in Melbourne is hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> National Conference at Geelong Conference Centre 24-28<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

Applications will be out soon so start planning to be there. It will be great, wonderful fellowship and discussions.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR TWELVE MONTHS  
ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2006**

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Administration	1550.30	Administration	1186.26
Interest	230.77	Newsette	698.25
ACWC Bulletins	108.00	Travel Fund	300.00
Newsette	620.00	Fellowship of the Least Coin	13721.29
Travel Fund	150.25	Winifred Kiek Scholarship	129.00
Fellowship of the Least Coin	15295.64	Fellowship Day	4360.58
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	336.50	World Community Day	4070.20
Fellowship Day	4567.00	Asian Church Womens Conference	873.13
World Community Day	4106.40	'Winifred;	1250.00
Asian Church Womens Confer.	1136.45	State Conference	1208.85
'Winifred'	720.00	ACWC Bulletins	108.00
State Conference	1225.00	Bang'desh Women & Pris. Fellow.	550.00
Bang'desh Women & Pris. Fell.	551.90		
Balance 1/1/2006	<u>932.24</u>	Balance 31/12/2006	<u>3074.89</u>
	31530.45		31530.45

**AUDITORS REPORT:**

I have examined the Books, Documents and Accounts of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2006 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, 2006.

Signature:

*M. Hughes FCPA*

Date:

*6/2/2007*

**STRATHFIELD/HOMEBUSH BRANCH**

Beryl McLaughlin

The Special Days, including World Day of Prayer were celebrated, and each was a time of good fellowship and encouragement as some 40-50 women, and some men from our local churches came together in worship.

World Community Day in October was held for the first time in lovely old Trinity Church in the heart of Strathfield business centre, now the home of a Latvian Lutheran congregation whose women's ministry leader was our speaker. This historic church has beautiful stained glass windows which were donated by the David Jones family. As well as the Latvians it is used by other groups, including an Arabic speaking congregation and several Korean Christian groups. We hope that this initial contact will continue and grow in the future.

Towards the end of the year we lost a long and faithful member, Mrs Winnie Hall, from the Baptist Church, who served in the Branch as President and Secretary many times, alternating these offices regularly, until ill health prevented her involvement.

**NSW Ecumenical Council**

The Council continues to serve as a fellowship of 16 member churches from Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions. Its work is carried out through its four commissions:

**Theological Reflection** which focuses on ecumenical courses, inter-denominational and interfaith prayer, and is currently developing responses to a World Council of Churches document – *Called to be the One Church*

**Local Initiatives** encourages inter church cooperation in suburban, town and rural communities around the state

**Social Justice** continues to have an indigenous focus, supports the Peace March on Palm Sunday, and has a watching brief on the effect of government policies on those who need a voice to speak on their behalf

**Partnership for Development** maintains its promotion of Christmas Bowl and the regular giving program *Partners for Peace*, and continues important work among asylum seekers, particularly through the House of Welcome.

This year has seen the retirement of the Rev Dr Ray Williamson and the taking up of leadership by the Rev Dr Jonathan Inkpin.

**SEVEN HILLS/TOONGABBIE BRANCH**

Olive Beverley

Having only three of our five member churches available to host Special Day Services is still a problem but it is encouraging that these services are enjoyed by all who attend, and we have a lovely time of fellowship. Our members work together very ably to make our services truly meaningful with the added blessing of excellent speakers—each day brings its special joy.

We conclude our activities for the year with a Christmas party—an impromptu concert, contributions of gifts for needy children and the opportunity to convey thanks to all those who help with our activities.

**BURWOOD-CONCORD BRANCH**

Bonnie Lyons, Secretary

Office bearers re-elected February 2006:

President Mrs Yvonne Coorey, Vice President Mrs Lois Balleine, Secretary Miss Bonnie Lyons, Treasurer Mrs Heather Whitefield.

At our Fellowship Day Service in St Andrew's Anglican Church Strathfield Mrs Jennifer Pepper was our Guest Speaker. She presented a thought-provoking message, and we also greatly appreciated the musical contribution of soloist, Mrs Leanne Green, and the luncheon and fellowship shared after the service.

At the World Community Day Service at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Enfield we heard Ms Liz Snell, Global Education Adviser with Caritas Australia whose message was most challenging and inspiring. A delightful musical item by a group of Korean ladies added greatly to the spirit of love and fellowship which was evident. A happy time of sharing over lunch served by the local ladies was much enjoyed.

We are grateful to the Parish Priest at St Joseph's Enfield for the use of the small meeting room. Although the number attending meetings is small a great spirit of cooperation and fellowship is enjoyed, and warm and lasting friendships continue. Attendances at Special Services have been 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.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.  
SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2006**

**FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN**

Brought forward 1/1/06		575.15	
Received to year ended 30 November 2006		<u>13863.99</u>	
		14439.14	
Less expenses: Postage, etc.	82.00		
5% to ACW NSW	717.85		
Paid to ACW National	13639.29	<u>14439.14</u>	
Receipts to 31 December 2005 carried forward			1431.65

**FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE**

Receipts for year ended 30 November 2006		4567.00	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	428.55		
5% to ACW NSW	206.42		
Paid to ACW National	3932.03	<u>4567.00</u>	

**WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE**

Brought forward 1/1/2006		150.00	
Receipts to 30 November 2006		<u>4106.40</u>	
		4256.40	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	332.35		
5% to ACW NSW	186.20		
Paid to ACW National	<u>3737.85</u>	<u>4256.40</u>	

**WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP**

Receipts to 30 November 2006		129.00	
Paid to ACW National		<u>129.00</u>	
Receipts to 31 December 2006			207.50

**SPECIAL DAYS**

Pamela Freeman, Convener

During 2006, the theme for Fellowship Day was, *I am the Bread of Life*. World Community Day explored the theme *A Little Becomes a Lot in the Master's Hands*. These two subjects came from the National Executive theme, *Sharing the Loaf*.

Reports from the centres around NSW indicated that there were moments of inspiration as well as reflection and that the format for the services was appreciated. Many people assist with the ongoing presentation and organisation for these events. Their assistance is not taken for granted, but is appreciated and acknowledged.

May the influence and projects organised by ACW continue to flourish in the year ahead.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.  
CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31 DECEMBER 2006**

<b>BALANCES</b>		<b>FUNDS</b>	
Commonwealth Bank Account 06 2146 1000 7297	3074.89	<b>ORGANISATION A/c</b>	15878.90
Glebe Administration Board At Call Account 100024S1 100024S1.1	1500.00 <u>3000.00</u> 4500.00	<b>NEWSETTE</b> B/fwd 1/1/2006 Subscriptions Less Costs	1148.26 <u>620.00</u> 1768.26 <u>698.25</u> 1070.01
Uniting Financial Services At Call Account 2201520S10	247.07	<b>TRAVEL FUND</b> B/fwd 1/1/2006 Add receipts	376.43 <u>150.25</u> 526.68
Churches of Christ At Call Account 106940	<u>12017.97</u> <u>19839.93</u>	Paid to ACW National	<u>300.00</u> 226.68
		<b>STATE CONFERENCE</b> B/fwd 1/1/2006 Receipts	260.84 <u>1225.00</u> 1485.84
		Less expenses	<u>1208.85</u> 276.99
		<b>ACWC PARTNERS</b> B/fwd 1/1/2006 Receipts	361.75 <u>1136.45</u> 1498.20
		Paid to ACW National	<u>750.00</u> 748.20
		<b>WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP</b>	207.50
		<b>F/SHIP OF THE LEAST COIN</b>	<u>1431.65</u> <u>19839.93</u>

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT – 2006**

Australian Church Women Special Days have been well supported again this year. Our Fellowship Day Service in July was held at Jannali Uniting Church and the Speaker, Annie Lewis-Brammall spoke about her work associated with The Women's Space, Hope Street Urban Compassion. Part of the offering from World Community Day Service 2005 had been given as a grant to Hope Street and so it was particularly interesting for the congregation to hear about this ministry and how it relates to the Theme: "I am the Bread of Life" (John 6:35). Awareness was raised and we were challenged and humbled to hear how relationships with the women were resulting in souls being saved. We were blessed by the organist's gift of music and the soloist's contribution. Mrs Vivien Cheung, a recipient of a Winifred Keik Scholarship Grant was also able to attend and speak about how much the grant is helping her. Branch Treasurer Mrs Joy Small was acknowledged and thanked for her 25 years plus service.

World Community Day Service in October was held at St Catherine Laboure Catholic Church, Gympie and the Speaker was Cardinal E. Cassidy. Approximately 200 people came to hear the Cardinal speak to the Theme: "A little becomes a lot in the Master's Hands." The Cardinal spoke on how the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations have journeyed together in the cause of ecumenism, through much prayer, dialogue and a willingness to listen to what God is saying and doing in His Church. The offerings both for The Fellowship of the Least Coin and the Special project were outstanding, amounting to \$1,689.10. We were very blessed by the whole experience.

In coming together for these Special Days, we have been privileged 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.

Mrs Brenda Dickinson - (Branch Secretary)