

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

WOMEN AT WORK



SEEKS:

- 1) To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;
- 2) To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the Church.

FEB 1978

New Year greetings.

The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one towards another, and towards men, even as we do towards you.

.1 Thess 3.12

I bring you this verse as we enter another year with thanksgiving and further opportunity for loving service. We have just celebrated the birth of Our Lord, the fulfilment of God's promises who opened the way of salvation for all people .. that we might be one in him.

Now a future and a hope are ours. Therefore, let us not live in idleness nor dwell in the past, but work diligently together whilst we wait the fulfilment of our hope, rejoicing in that life more abundant which is Christ's desire for each of us.

As we begin this New Year, we should remember especially women in less privileged circumstances, both in our own land and elsewhere. Pray for those who are very much a minority in countries torn by war and political unrest, that the strength of the Lord may be theirs to sustain and encourage. May this New Year greeting bring joy to your hearts and show forth in your lives.

Glad West, Vice President.

Report from the Q'land Unit of A.C.W.

"Warana" Blue Skies Festival. The Women's Thanksgiving Service organised by A.C.W was held in St John's Anglican Cathedral on 29th September, 1977. The Order of Service was centred round the theme, "Swing into Sprint" and prepared by Mrs. (Col.) Cairns, and called for 'New Life', 'I'm Singing my Song', 'New Vision' which used an acrostic on the word "SPRING".

S for Sunshine

P for Perfume

R for Radiance

I for Influence

N for New Life

G for God's Goodness.

"New Vision" - let us go out into the world with faith in our hearts, with Christ in our hearts. The speaker took as her subject "Come Alive in Christ". A combined choir led the praise and rendered items.

Uniting Church. The first Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia began in Brisbane on 7th October, 1977. The Women's Service "Let's Sing and Celebrate" held in Albert Street Church was led by Mrs. Mavis Busch, wife of the Moderator of the U.C. in Q'ld. and the speaker was Mrs. Isabel Douglas, M.A., Dip. of Social Services, President of the National Women's Guild of Scotland, and wife of Dr. Hugh Douglas, Dean of the Chapel Royal, who has been guest preacher at St. Andrews U. Church. Mrs. Douglas spoke of the similarities of work in Dundee to what she had seen here, and related incidents in countries she had visited.

The singing of choruses led by a combined choir set the tone for a happy gathering in the crowded church. Happy fellowship was enjoyed at the basket lunch.

An affirmation and Commitment drew everyone into the spirit of the Service. Dialogue, a soloiste with her guitar, prayers for Mission, Education and Care led by representatives from these Committees and responses by the congregation, provided an inspiring service.

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Catholic Women's League 28th Biennial National Conference held in Adelaide during October, 1977. Precis of an address given by Mrs. Fran Bailey, Vice President Asian Christian Women's Conference.

"It is wonderful to see so many observers with no right to speak - this speaks for itself. I commend your National Executive with great joy in their organising. I know you have all heard of the Least Coin so I will not elaborate. I have sent invitations to you to our World Assembly to be observers; we hope it is for Christians and not for leaders alone; each and everyone is a seed of hope.

We stop hoping when we stop suffering - when suffering comes to an end, we have achieved our hope. Do we see the value provided for us by God's love? My heart has been warmed and enriched by the welcome you have extended to me. I wish you well and the blessing of God on the work you do. I greet you with love in the name of the Asian Christian Women's Conference.

The next Conference will be held in Japan in October, '78.

From Mrs. Jessie Dennis Resource
Officer, A.C.W. Q'ld, State Unit.

Report from the Victorian State Unit of A.C.W.
Mrs. Olive Ackland.

Australia Day provides an opportunity for Victorian women to recognise the debt we owe to the strivings of our pioneer women. Representatives from the many organisations affiliated with the National Council of Women gathered at the Pioneer Women's Gardens in Melbourne on Wednesday, 25th January, 1978, the seventeenth occasion on which this Service has been held.

The speaker was Miss Patricia Kennedy of the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Miss Kennedy began by quoting the words of Dame Mary Gilmour - she traced the influence of women on the development of the Australian Theatre. We were given insights into the history behind the Theatre from the beginnings in the early days until the present era/ The melodramas of the 1800's and earlier, to the development of an indigenous theatre,

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the efforts of Nellie Stewart, Marion Dun, and on to the women who are working in the Theatre today such as Pat Lovell, producer, and Jill Armstrong, Director. Miss Kennedy, quoting again from Dame Mary Gilmour, concluded a most interesting glimpse into this facet of our history.

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Members of A.C.W., Victorian State Unit were pleased to be able to take Mrs. Win Dougherty, President of A.C.W. Working Committee to this occasion. Later, other members joined us for lunch and further discussion during the afternoon. Another visitor to Victoria who joined us was the new Secretary of the West Australian Unit, Mrs. Andrea Strack.

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The event commemorating Australia/Day also received mention in the Melbourne Press

"The history of the little known Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden is fascinating. It was built from funds raised during Victoria's centenary celebrations in 1934. The fund-raisers were a group of women incensed at the all-male membership of the official Centenary Council.

Land for the garden was given by the State Government, after representations from the National Council of Women. It was built by unemployed people, with money raised by the women's group paying for the fountain, the grotto and the pool.

Buried under the sundial, there is a collection - no one knows how many - of sheets of paper bearing the names of the women of the day and of their ancestors. Each woman paid one shilling for the privilege of adding her sheet to the pile.

WE ARE WOMEN. who rejoice in our opportunity to be a visible force in the world as we worship ecumenically. Together we discover the fullness of our faith as we search for deepened spiritual insights.

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From our Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor.
Mrs. Betty Davis.

News of our Scholars, present and past.

Our first 1978 Winifred Kiek Scholar, Miss Tapati Das from Bangladesh, is on a 4-months Observation Tour, studying the development and distribution of handicrafts in the Philippines, Taipei, Hongkong and India, in order to assist her work as manager of the YWCA Craft Centre at Dacca.

Tapati has been visiting YWCA Government centres in the Philippines and is now in Hongkong. She writes:-

"I do not know how I could express my feelings. But I want to tell you thanks from the core of my heart for giving me the opportunity to visit different YWCA handicraft projects in other countries. Please ask the ladies to pray for me. With prayer we can all get together even when we do not see each other. Thanks again for giving me the opportunity of having new experiences in different countries."

The second Scholar, Sister Barkat Dass is still in Pakistan awaiting her Visa to come to Australia and further her studies in midwifery and theology. We hope for good News of her very soon!

Mrs. Jackie Vele (nee Kini), our 1968/69 Scholar writes of her marriage in 1976 to a Provincial Superintendent for all the schools in Port Moresby. "I continue as a Professional Assistant Superintendent Operations with the Education Dept. Besides work, I have a 14-months old daughter LABILLA who stays with my sister while I work. My interest remains with Youth Activities, Sunday School, Girls' Brigade, Girl Guides, etc.. Sporting events are still enjoyed. My prayers with you all.."

Mrs. Sabita Kumar (nee Swarup), the 1966 Scholar, writes, "very happy New Year to you all. Many thanks for your Xmas greetings and for all your thoughts and prayers. I have not forgotten all you good ladies who did so much for me, and are continuing your good work. I now have three children, the youngest Aashish is 16 months, Aarti a girl 7 and Yogita 4. Much of my time is taken up by them. Please con-

vey my greetings to all who remember me. My thoughts and prayers go with you all as you continue your work for the Lord."

Putting Spice into your Life!

Cooking with Herbs & Spices: Rosemary Hemphill.

People are able to grow basil and other herbs in their window boxes and kitchen garden plots abound with borage, chervil, lavender and thyme. Rosemary grows herbs and spices in Dural, NSW, and in her book, she has cleverly reversed the usual order of such books by featuring each herb in turn and listing suitable recipes after the description of its properties and growing habits. So if someone presents you with a bunch of bergamot, you will have learnt from the book that its young leaves, added to salad, give a delightful and scented flavour; and that sausages taste delicious with bergamot and apples. More common herbs such as sage, dill and parsley each have a section devoted to their special properties, and the whole book is delightfully illustrated with drawings and colour plates.

Reviewed in the "Sydney Sun" 11.11.77

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+           In Lighter Vein.           +
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+ Two men were praying earnestly in theChurch. +
+ one obviously rich, the other obviously +
+ poor. Suddenly, the rich man rose and +
+ addressed himself to the poor man. "Tell me, +
+ my friend, what is it that you are so earnest- +
+ ly asking of God?" The poor man replied, "I +
+ owe $40.00 rent, and I am praying to be shown +
+ a way out of my difficulty." The rich man +
+ replied, "My good man, here are $40.00. Now +
+ please leave, so that I may have God's +
+ undivided attention". +
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Asian Christian Women's Conference Programme for 1978

During the past two years, several attempts have been made by theologians (both men and women) to interpret Pauline passages to prove that women should be equally involved in church programmes and policy making decisions, and that they should not be barred from the ministry of priesthood because of their sex.

As a followup of this, plans are under way to help the theologically trained women in Asia to be aware of their role in the Church. Each member of the Executive Committee has been designated to co-ordinate and facilitate the national or sub-regional consultation for the theologically trained women, and to help them to discover the relevance of their training in the life and mission of the Church. Convening such a consultation for Australia is Mrs. Fran Bailey, and it will take place in Adelaide in April, 1978.

Reading with profit!

Discipleship: The Discipleship Studies by Melbourne Baptist Theologian, Dr. Athol Gill (Dean of Whitley Theological College), are now available from the ACC and State Councils of Churches. The series of five challenging studies :-

- The Call to Discipleship;
- The Cost of Discipleship;
- Discipleship and Possessions;
- Discipleship and Community;
- Discipleship and Community;
- Discipleship and Mission.

are based on Christ's call to Discipleship as recorded in the Gospels. These excellent studies were commissioned by the Brisbane ACC General Meeting and will be widely used throughout Australia. Ideal for an ecumenical study group, they should prove very rewarding and profitable.

From the Secretary's Desk.

The President and members of the Working Committee take this opportunity to send New Year greetings to all our State Units and others involved with us in the work of

A.C.W with good wishes for a time of interesting and satisfying activity together in 1978.

We are grateful to those members of the Chester St. Epping (NSW) congregation of the U.C. in Australia who prepared the Order of Service for Fellowship Day, "THE WAY AHEAD". Master copies are being sent out now to the Secretaries of State Units who will be responsible for printing and distribution.

The Order of Service for World Community Day has been prepared by the Canberra Church Women to whom we say a very sincere "Thank you". The theme "THE THIRD WORLD AMONG US" is surely a reminder of our responsibilities and opportunities.

Word has been received from several State Units regarding the "areas of concern" to which they propose to give attention this year. Western Australia will look at the Multi-Cultural Society, with special emphasis on Greek migrants and vietnamese refugees; Queensland has chosen Family Life; NSW will undertake some studies in Simpler Life Style. Victoria will continue to examine questions relating to Women and Trade Unions, with particular reference to the problems of migrant women.

I should like to thank all those who kindly sent information regarding theologically trained women (ordained and unordained) in the various States, in response to the request made in the last issue of "Women at Work". In addition to being able to supply names of possible participants in the A.C.W.C Consultation to be held in Adelaide in April, we now have a great amount of valuable resource material on our files. Further information will be welcomed at any time.

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