

Did you know?

All A.C.W. Monies—Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the

TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue, Dee WHY NSW 2099
Phone: 9971 0278

However, **please note**

- 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.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS

Denominational Groups: \$25 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches: \$15 per annum
Organisations: \$15.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES \$15 per annum
(this includes subscription to Newsette)

For further details contact Jennifer Peffer (9874 4056)

Newsette is the journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women Inc. and is published four times a year—in February, May, August and November.

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Contributions to *Newsette* are requested from readers and should be sent to the Editor:

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Newsette

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.

ACW Website: www.acw.org.au

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, God's only Son.

President: Mrs Nola Dickson Phone 9869 2559

Email: nmdickson@tpg.com.au

Number 131

Mat 2012

President's Message

As I thought about my last words to you in 'Newsette' as President, I wondered what more I could say. After two years of putting my thoughts down, I felt that I have said it all. But, that reminded me of a gift of a dictionary a male friend had given me many years ago. On the cover he had written "Presented to Nola Patten (my name then) lest she should want the last word and not be able to find it!"

That same male friend's last words in hospital were, "I am going home"! He put his head back on the pillow and breathed his last. Little did he know that he was about to meet his creator, his thinking was "I am being discharged today and am about to return to my own home, my own bed". The Lord had different ideas and called him home to be with him.

The thief on the cross knew his hours were numbered. In his last few moments he repented and heard those encouraging words, "today you will be with me in Paradise". We, mostly, have no idea when our last words will be said.

In Colossians 4:6, Paul tells us to "let your speech (words) always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer anyone". (Believe me, I am still trying to learn this.)

The last words spoken by a loved one, or anyone, for that matter, are remembered for a lifetime. I remember that friend's last words as if it were yesterday, as I do my husbands', and others I have been beside as they went to greener pastures. It would be pretty awful if those last words were ones of bitterness or anger.

Because Jesus' last seven words from the cross are not all recorded in any one of the gospels, and one needs to scour the four to find them, we do not know in what particular order they were spoken. But his triumphant cry "it is finished" could have been his last. He had completed the work his Father had sent him to do, allowing us forgiveness for our sinful human nature, even if we ask for it at the last moment..

In our lifetime and in our departing, may our words be pleasing to our loving Lord, and may we never cease to praise him.

Nola Dickson
Retiring President

NOTICE BOARD

Have you looked at the
Australian Church Women Inc. Website?
We can now be found at www.acw.org.au



DID YOU KNOW that **ACW –NSW Inc. is celebrating its 75th Birthday** next year? Plan to attend the special events we will be advertising in *Newsette* and at *Special Day Services*.

We have already had '**Special Visitors**' at our 2012 Council Meetings—
Major Nancy McLaren visited from Armidale in February. Nancy was a former NSW Council Member and National ACW President. We heard of the wide ministry she and her husband now exercise in the North of our State.

Major Laurel Pearce, the current National President of ACW Inc. joined with us at the March Council Meeting. She was able to spend time sharing with us the challenges and blessings of being part of the current National Executive. Then, at our April Meeting, **Sonya Pell**, the successful nominee from NSW, chosen to attend the ACWC Young Women's Forum in Bangkok later this year as our Australian representative.

We look forward to hearing Sonya again after her Thai experience.

Visit of Major Laurel Pearce National President for Australian Church Women Inc 2011-2013.



Major Laurel Pearce travelled from Perth into the Eastern Summer Time Zone on Sunday 18th March, arriving in Sydney about 1.00pm.

Pamela Freeman met her at the gate carrying an A C W sign for identification, and escorted her by train and car to her residence where Laurel would stay for most of the week. Sunday evening was spent in preparation for the Monday State Unit Council Meeting and reviewing the possible plans for the week.

Monday entailed an early start to catch the ferry and bus to the Council meeting.

Lunch was held with some of the Executive and then the bus was taken to The Salvation Army in Elizabeth Street where Sonya Pell met with a small delegation to discuss some of the ramifications of her recent selection to attend as the representative from Australian Church Women, for the Young Women's Forum in Bangkok as being sponsored by the ACWC. Sonya has been overwhelmed by this privilege and it was agreed by those present that she will be a worthy delegate to the short conference in May 2012.

Tuesday, Major Lillian Hodges escorted Laurel by car to visit West Head on their way to meet with Carmel Keys in Manly, where Laurel stayed for the evening.

On Wednesday, Carmel went with Laurel to view the *Bear Cottage* at Manly whose application for funding from the Special Project monies for 2012 is before the National Executive at this time. It was helpful to see what support is given to children and their families in this palliative care facility.

That afternoon Pamela brought Laurel back home to rest for the next day.

Thursday, Jennifer Peffer accompanied Laurel for the day exploring Sydney and the Eastern Suburbs by ferry and buses, and enjoying a Doyle's Seafood Platter at Watsons Bay before returning, somewhat weary, to North Rocks.

Friday morning there was an appointment at *Allowah Presbyterian*

Children's Hospital at Dundas, in the company of Nola Dickson and Helen Hill. Australian Church Women had given the Special Project money to this hospital towards a bed in 2010. Nola then attended a lunchtime engagement with Commissioner Jan Condon and Laurel in the city.

The AWC meeting, where there were representatives from women's groups around Australia, was on the agenda for Laurel on Saturday from 9 to 5. One of the topics was osteoporosis and how to encourage the government to assist with educating and diagnosing about this condition which affects both men and women. Sunday Laurel flew back to Perth after an informative and enjoyable tour of this part of the world.

*Pamela Freeman
Special Days Convenor*



It has been a special time for two of our Life Members. At the recent Jean Arnot Luncheon, a function of the National Council of Women NSW Inc., (held at Parliament House, Sydney) **Mina Whybourne** was honoured for her lifelong contribution to women through both ACW and Mothers' Union and **Dorothy Woodhouse**, also another of our Life Members, has celebrated a significant "O" birthday. Greetings on your behalf were sent to both ladies.

Several Council members have been overseas – a challenge for some and a delightful holiday for others.

Continue to pray for Shirley Wells and others of our membership who have a continuing battle with health issues.

Please let us know if you would like our prayerful support – there is a committed group of women who would pray for you! Remember, *Prayer changes things.*

*Olive Edmondstone
Pastoral Care Convenor*

Hello to everyone.



I have had a quiet time in recent months, with not a lot of news to report.

For those living in country NSW, please phone or email me for more supplies for your FLC needs, or any questions you may have. My mobile number is 0437 399 584. If you feel that it might be good for me to visit your group to speak about FLC, then that may be possible too.

Thank you for all you are doing to support FLC. There are so many needs in the world today. Let's be grateful for what we have and remember those less fortunate. God bless you all.

*Lillian Hodges (Major)
FLC Convenor*

POINTS TO PONDER (AND PRAY)

- * *National Disability Insurance* has been shelved by Federal Treasurer for time being
- * *Aged Care* - a priority for the future
- * *Health* is not a privilege, it is a human right
- * Killing of newborn- it is MURDER
- * *Education* is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty
- * Consideration is being given to changing times of school hours and is already being trialled.
- * *Gambling* - the best solution is counselling
- * *Future of Marriage*. Write to your local Politicians
- * *Same Sex Marriage*. A European Court has rebuffed the claims that same sex Marriage is a right- It does not exist in Common Law
- * *Legalising of Drugs*. There is no such thing as a soft drug. All drug use is harmful
- * *Sexual Exploitation* Typo Stationery are displaying A4 porno graphic notebooks at child eye level. A picture of a naked woman with DIRTY stamped across it. Children should know that women and children are not "dirty" Such a display in the workplace would be sexual harassment
Ladies be vigilant. We must stand up for our Christian values.
Who else will ????

*Carmel Keys
Social Issues Convenor*



Since my last report to *Newsette* I was advised from National Executive about a Young Women's Forum being conducted by *Asian Church Women's Conference* in Bangkok in May to which Australia (through ACW) was asked to send one delegate. Three nominations were received: two from Western Australia and the third, Sonya Pell, was nominated from our own NSW ACW State Unit Inc. I am delighted to be able to report that our nominee was the successful candidate. Sonya addressed the April State Council meeting telling us a little about herself. She will also report back to Council following the Forum and I will share something of that report with you in a future *Newsette*.

Sonya works at The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, Sydney in the Social Department. She is 31 year of age and grew up in Africa where her parents were missionaries. This set her course for the future in many ways.

She has always had an ingrown sense of justice and a heart for people. She did a social work degree at University and has followed that up now with a law degree. Her big dream is to work for the United nations.

She has worked in the area of community services; for the courts in the area of justice; and now in social services with The Salvation Army.

She organised a justice conference with 500 attending the first year.

She has a little African girl, Sarah, stay with her and her husband every weekend.

She mentors many young girls; gives her life to others in every way that she can; has known suffering in a very real sense; is a leader and a servant leader.

I would also like to pass on to you that following the severe floods experienced in many parts of Australia this year a number of our ACWC sister countries have sent messages assuring us of their prayer support, namely: Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia and Nepal as well as our Executive Secretary Rev Lee Moon-Sook, and ACWC Vice President Devika Ukwatte.

Finally, don't forget!

You are Invited to:-
The Asian Church Women's Conference [ACWC] Multi-cultural Concert of Praise to be held at
St Mary's Catholic Church, cnr Raglan & Whistler Sts Manly,
Sunday 21st October at 2.30 pm.
Enjoy a variety program by multicultural artists and church groups.
Afternoon tea will be served following the concert.
Contact person : Lyn Middleton 9529 6744

Lyn Middleton ACWC Convenor

ACW—NSW Inc. Executive for 2012

President: Mrs Isabel Hewitt (Uniting Church)

Past President: Mrs Nola Dickson (Presbyterian)

Secretary: Mrs Pamela Freeman (The Salvation Army)

Treasurer & Public Officer: Mrs Helen Richardson

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Major Lillian Hodges (T.S.A.)

A.C.W.C. Convenor: Major Lyn Middleton (T.S.A.)

Winifred Keik Scholarship: Mrs Judith Cayzer (Ch.of Christ)

Membership Secretary: Mrs Martha Noel (Baptist)

Pastoral Care: Mrs Helen Hill (Presbyterian)

Newsette Editor: Mrs Jennifer Peffer (Baptist)

***Positions Vacant—referred back to the Executive after the AGM
Special Days Convenor, Social Issues Convenor, Publicity Officer,***

Pray that there will be those who are willing to take on these responsibilities ensuring that all denominations are represented.

Mrs Brenda Dickinson is willing to continue as Website and Newsette Manager (Non Executive positions)

Winifred Keik Scholarship news

Please keep remembering these young women we partner-with. The three scholars for this year are busy with their ministry, families and studies.



Sarah Dingle [SA] is lecturing in Medieval and Australian History. She asks for prayer for balance with her studies with needed part-time work.

Kyoungee Cho [NSW] is looking forward to a Conference in Malaysia, Society of Asian Biblical Studies. She has to present a proposal for her thesis at the Post-Graduate Seminar in June. The topic is "Mary, Mother of Jesus". She too seeks prayer for balance with ministry and family life. I have spoken with Alison from Mosman Inter-church Group, who encouraged Kyoungee to apply. Alison attends the same church.

Remember **Denise Champion [SA]** also as the third scholar. I have sent encouragement cards and emails to the girls on our Units behalf. The new pamphlets have arrived and as you receive them, keep them handy for prayer.

Christy Ferguson [2009] on mid-east mission placement is full of praise and thanks to God. Friendships are developing quickly with neighbours who treat her as family and are so supportive. She has even helped with a wedding and has now begun some voluntary hospital work to help her with the language medical terms. This knowledge will enable her to be ready for her year-end relocation.

We look forward to our Fellowship Day Services in July where we support the Winifred Keik Scholarship scheme.

Thank You

to Convenors retiring from Executive
Olive Edmondstone (Pastoral Care)
Carmel Keys (Social Issues)
Pamela Freeman (Special Days) now State Secretary
Isabel Hewitt (Publicity) now State President

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

TIME. What an incredibly complex and ambivalent relationship we have with time!

We were born "once upon a time."

We grow up having "the time of our lives."

We pass time.

We invent clocks and calendars to measure time.

And when the end of someone's life comes, we say, "Well, I guess it was their time.!"

Periodically we become especially aware of our relationship with time.....a New Year, a Birthday - as we finish up a year, face an Annual General meeting?

We take an inventory, we remember "those things we have not done that we ought to have done," as the prayer of confession puts it.

But then new opportunities open up before us.

Time stretches out ahead full of promise and hope.

The sage of Ecclesiastes acknowledges our relationship to time. His litany in 3:1-8 celebrates the times of lives, tuning our awareness of life's rhythms. His timeless wisdom strikes a balance between human ambition and humility.

We alone of God's creatures have a sense of past and future, yet we cannot see the end from the beginning as God does. So the writer of Ecclesiastes counsels us to accept time as a gift, living it fully with enjoyment. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-13.

God has time for each of us. He created time, he created us.
Before all beginnings, beyond all tomorrows, He is Lord.

TIME. We are most appreciative of the time given by those members who faithfully represent us at the various organisations in which ACW—NSW Inc are affiliated. As time and space permit we try to include, in Newsette, snippets of their regular reports back to Council.

World Day of Prayer,
National Council of Women,
Churches Together and
Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association.

ACT FOR PEACE STUDY TOUR—MARCH 2012

Isabel Hewitt

Act for Peace, the overseas aid program of the National Council of Churches in Australia, organised a study tour that visited Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Tricia Graham and I were privileged to be among the group of 27 who took part.

In Ethiopia an orphanage for 250 girls caters for their care and education. Local children also attend the school, which to our eyes would be described as very basic. An extra opportunity was a visit to the Hamlyn Fistula Hospital, a wonderful oasis in Addis Ababa. Those who have knitted wrap with love blankets may be encouraged to know the blankets are colourful treasures for all the patients who receive one on admittance and one as they leave. On discharge the patients are asked to tell others of the existence of the hospital and its services and to return to the hospital for care when pregnant again to minimise complications.

To help arrest soil erosion at Nedatra village young people fashion wire for gabion cages. These are placed in gullies to help land become stabilised and productive once again. Plant nurseries, improved wells, and reforestation programs are encouraged.

On the outskirts of Nairobi in Kenya a self-help program aims to improve the outlook for women. One group whose welfare attracted our attention is made up of quarry workers, women who chip boulders into small pieces for roadwork. In the program they are learning how to grow food, and to produce saleable goods that will earn them an income. An education program adds support.

In Zimbabwe the benefits of mulching have enabled farmers in dry areas to double their crops of maize. The success of this venture can be assessed by the numbers of neighbours seeking advice.

The All African Conference of Churches works hard to bring leaders of African countries to the negotiating table in an effort to promote peace, justice and well-being. It was an honour for us to stay at the Desmond Tutu Guest House during our time in Nairobi, a reminder of his great contribution not just to Africa, but to the whole world.

The African church service we attended was a rich time with beautiful singing and warm hospitality. Meetings with the recipients of funds were joyous occasions marked by singing and dancing. We marvelled at their ingenuity and resilience, and pray that they will continue to be blessed by God in all their endeavours.

Dates for your Diary



Australian Church Women
NSW State Unit Inc.

Invites you to the
Annual Service of Dedication

Installation of the Incoming President
Mrs Isabel Hewitt
and
Recognition of the Retiring President

Uniting Church Strathfield
Carrington Avenue (off The Boulevarde)

Monday 21 May 2012 11.00 am

A light lunch will be served following the service
RSVP by 14 May 2012 for catering
To Mrs Helen Richardson 02 9971 0278
alan1helen2@bigpond.com

Strathfield is well served by public transport trains and buses. Limited parking near church, extra spaces available in shopping centre near railway station.



**PLAN
TO
ATTEND,
INVITE
OTHERS**

**Remember
To
RSVP**

**July...support your local ACW branch
Fellowship Day Service**

**Monday, September 17 State Conference Day
(watch this space.....details next issue)**

Sunday, 21st October ACWC Concert