



NEWSLETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- N.S.W. UNIT

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.

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MESSAGE from THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Ladies,

As I write, I am very aware of the involvement you all have in your areas of commitment - in your own denominations and in ecumenical involvements and community activities. I am increasingly thankful in my prayers for "people like you" - people who are not afraid to go that extra mile, to give that extra bit of energy, to put others before self, showing genuine concern where there is human need and standing up to be counted where principles of righteousness need to be defended - and so I could go on.....

I now understand better than before what Paul meant when he said in Philippians 1:3 "All my prayers for you are full of praise to God."

It is so encouraging to see the work of God coming to fruition through you His servants. As I move around this great city I find so many faithful souls doing His work. ACW gives us all opportunities to do a bit more! If togetherness is strength, then let us be thankful together. Our aim to "unite Christian women in service" is taking on new meaning and your work and witness is having a profound effect on my heart and soul. "All my prayers are full of praise to God." God bless you each one.

Joan.

2.

PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS:

August 13: Packing Day.
September 7: Festival of Flowers, St. Andrew's Cathedral.
September 19: Baptist Women's Fellowship Annual Fellowship Day.
September 19: Y.W.C.A. Annual General Meeting.
September 21: Festival of Flowers, St. Mary's Cathedral.
September 21: Anglican Deaconess Institution Annual Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S JOTTINGS:

At both of the Flower Festivals mentioned above, our ACW contributions were excellent; our thanks to those who assisted, particularly Peg Blake for the St. Andrew's arrangement and Marjory Baker for the one at St. Mary's.

As I move around as President, it is very interesting to observe many ACW ladies to the forefront in their own denominational activities. I am also pleased to find that my knowledge of the work of each denomination and group affiliated with ACW is growing. The Annual Meeting of the YWCA showed me the many functions of this very worthy organisation; some of the speakers were young women who were part of the YWCA programme and I was moved as I heard their stories and learnt of the care and concern given them through YWCA programmes and facilities.

Likewise, the annual Fellowship Day of the Baptist women gave me insight into many areas of their work and witness. Great to see "our" Lucelle hyping up the proceedings as she led the singing and choir... (or is she "theirs?")

I was most interested in the Annual Report of the Deaconess Institution, from which I quote: "Through the various programmes it runs, Deaconess House demonstrates that there is a valid place for women in the ministry and in ministry."

Our own Council Meetings continue to bring inspiration and encouragement. Two State Convenors - Patricia Burke (Fellowship Of The Least Coin) and Mina Whybourne (Winifred Kiek Scholarship), who spoke at recent meetings, brought us up-to-date with the purposes and background of these services, which some of us didn't know before! It was also helpful to have a word of testimony from each of them - glimpses of their spiritual pilgrimage, families and associated circumstances, giving us a lovely insight and an added appreciation of their commitment.

(Editor's Note: At the end of Joan's President's letter in last Newsette, (August) her phone number was printed incorrectly; it should have been 264.1711 (Work) as it appears on front cover of each issue.)

3.
FROM THE STATE SECRETARY:

At September Council Meeting we welcomed an old friend of ACW, Thelma Skiller who is working in ACC Sydney office co-ordinating arrangements for the forthcoming World Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held in Canberra from February 7-20th 1991. Thelma's involvement with ACW began in the 1960's; in those early days she worked with such pioneers as Mabel Wyllie and Marjorie Vercoe. Thelma's work with ACC took her as far away as WCC HQ in Geneva for some years; on returning to Australia she continued to work with ACC. Her present position is an important one as the time for the World Assembly draws near.

Four thousand people are expected at this Assembly, the Theme of which is "Come Holy Spirit - Renew The Whole Creation" and which will be largest ecumenical gathering ever held in Australia. People are coming from many countries from the 200 member churches of WCC - from places as far apart as Europe, South Africa and the Pacific; large contingents from Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches will be there, with the tiny delegation from the Church in Tuvalu; the Vatican is sending a delegation and members of Councils of Churches right around the world will be present. 500 Press people from round the world will cover the proceedings, along with 200 Australian Press. 1,500 day visitors are also expected.

This large assembly of people will be housed in various places around Canberra. The meetings will be centred at the Australian National University and Canberra Convention Centre. On campus at the ANU will be a Worship Tent, for the Assembly will be worship-focussed. Special music tapes have been prepared so that people can prepare beforehand for total involvement with the worship sessions.

There is to be a Women's Space Tent, where women can meet, talk, rest or just share with other women; a Committee of women has been busy preparing for this Women's Space and the special presentations to be staged there.

Aboriginal people and people from the Pacific Islands will be sharing a tent for their interests; the eyes of the world will be focussed on our relationship with these Australians and Pacific neighbours. Prior to the Assembly, a Youth Happening of 200 young people will be held at Greenhills Conference Centre, just outside Canberra; many of these young people will stay on for the Assembly.

How can we be involved in this great World Gathering, with all its excitement?

.. Many churches and groups have joined the "Assembly Line" in order to be kept informed about the arrangements. Enquire from Thelma's office (02) 29.2215 and arrange to receive "On Line."

4.

.. Available from ACC office 37 Kent St. Sydney (same phone no.) is the Bible Study book "Come Holy Spirit - Renew The Whole Creation" with 6 studies on the Assembly Theme; perhaps you could interest your local church in study groups using this book?

.. Thelma will be glad of offers of office assistance; secretarial work will be welcomed and people to stuff envelopes are assured of a job.

.. Visit Canberra during the Assembly; best time would be during the first weekend - take part in the exciting opening worship and see the overseas visitors. Enrol for as many days as you can to be a Day Visitor - there is a wide variety of sessions you can attend.

.. Make a 'Patch' for the giant wall-hanging being planned. Interest people in your parish to have a workshop for making Patches. Information about these is printed below.

.. Everyone can be part of the Assembly through prayer. Pray now for it; for all who will come and for all the arrangements; continue to pray during the time, February 7-20th while it is being held.

MULTI-PATCH WALL-HANGING:

At least 1000 fabric "patches" will be tied together to make a wall-hanging for display at the WCC Assembly in February 1991. Australians are invited to create this by making individual patches to the following specifications:

Patches to be A3 paper size, with ribbons sewn to each corner. On the back put a pocket in which to place your letter of greeting to an overseas delegate. At the end of the Assembly the wall-hanging will be dismantled and each overseas delegate will take home a patch as a souvenir.

The theme of your patch should relate to the theme of the Assembly, or illustrate where you live or be wholly Australian in design - there are many ideas to explore. Send for a leaflet on the patches from the ACC office (address above). Patches are coming in quickly and there are some beautiful ones already. Do it soon, so you don't miss out.

WATAC - WOMEN AND THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH - is a project of women and men of religious orders in all States aimed at raising awareness of women of their potential role in the Church and society. Each State has developed its own way of working; NSW has a core group of representatives from each of the 11 dioceses; there are some 300 members; State Co-ordinator is Bernice Moore; a newsletter "Breaking The Silence" is produced 5 times a year.

In August, WATAC (NSW) held its second State Conference attended by 170 women. The papers presented were excellent. Conference proceedings have been printed and are available for \$8 from WATAC (NSW) 36 Collins Street, Annandale 2038.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR VISITS NSW COUNCIL:

At August meeting we welcomed this year's Scholar, Doreen Tie, who comes from Kuching, Sarawak in Malaysia. Doreen is the eldest of four sisters; next oldest, Jacqueline is in Perth at University; mother is a teacher, and father an accountant. Doreen attends Trinity Methodist Church which has 200 members; among other activities she teaches Sunday School. At school she did well in commerce & economics and thought she would follow her father's profession but God challenged her to be a teacher. Reluctantly she chose to follow this leading and has found that in yielding to God's will she has found her life's calling.

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, is a small city. Doreen works at school where there are 100 intellectually-disabled children; some are also disabled physically. This work is demanding, but challenging and rewarding.

Doreen thanked ACW for awarding her the Scholarship. She is enjoying the courses and finding them and the work experience most helpful, as we have better facilities for teaching such children because we have more finance.

In the short time that she has been in Sydney, Doreen has endeared herself to all who have met her. She settled in happily at the Baptist Hostel in Lewisham and has made friends there. Her studies are at the Lidcombe Hospital and she has spent valuable time at the Spastic Centre, Autistic Children's Centre and Fisher Road School Dee Why.

Some Council members have had Doreen home as their guest. On one such occasion she enjoyed a train trip to the Blue Mountains.

We were delighted to meet this Scholar, who is making the most of her opportunities here and will go home equipped to further her career in teaching in her special field. She is a good advertisement for WKS!

AUTHORITIES MESS UP OUR MAILING LISTS!

As if it is not hard enough for our Membership Secretary to keep our lists up-to-date with people moving and new delegates being appointed, Australia Post and Telecom have lately given some of us new postcodes and prefixes. Check your Postcode Book - if it's not this year's, you are out-of-date, as a number of new postcodes have been allotted to areas that previously shared the postcode of an older neighbouring area. For your records please alter as follows:

Secretary Edith Ridge - new postcode for West Pennant Hills is 2125.

Treasurer Dorothy Lumb - new telephone prefix - 743.3360.

DEACONESS MARY ANDREWS OVERSEAS MINISTRY:

Remember to pray for Mary during her visit to South Africa; recently she addressed the Annual Dinner of the Anglican Women's Fellowship Provincial Council and in forthcoming weeks will visit and address groups in five or six dioceses.

6.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Doreen Tie, our 1990 Scholar is a delightful lass, and as reported on previous page, is enjoying her course at Developmental Disability Services at Lidcombe and the practical work experience in visiting the different schools and centres.

Doreen recently visited Canberra with Lucelle King, the WKS National Convenor and enjoyed a wonderful weekend of hospitality and sightseeing, including seeing some of our flora and fauna at Tidbinbilla National Park; also meeting and speaking to the A.C.T Unit of ACW. Her term in Sydney finishes on November 23, after which she will visit the other State Units - Brisbane, then to Melbourne, Launceston, Adelaide, then to Perth, from where she will fly home to Sarawak on December 10th.

The 1991 Scholar has been selected - she is Rachel Sabana from Nagaccoil, Tamil Nadu, Southern India. Rachel is a Nurse, with a Bachelor of Nursing Degree; she is working as a Tutor Sister, and desires training in Nursing Administration. Our prayers are sought, that a suitable course will become available.

Do pray for all our Scholars. Pray too for the success of the Asian Church Women's Conference in Jakarta in November; for all delegates as they travel to Jakarta, including Marie McCann (ACW National President) and Joan Tong, our NSW State President.

Mina Whybourne (WKS Convenor)

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

The Story Of A Snowflake.

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake" a coal-mouse asked a wild dove. "Nothing more than nothing" was the answer. "In that case, I must tell you a marvellous story," the coal-mouse said. "I sat on the branch of a fir-tree, close to its trunk, when it began to snow. Not heavily, not in a raging blizzard; no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I had nothing better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch; the number was exactly 2,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped on to the branch - nothing more than nothing, as you say - the branch broke off." Having said this, the coal-mouse flew away.

The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself: "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for justice and peace to come about in the world!"

Perhaps OUR LEAST COIN and OUR SMALL PRAYER are what will bring about some of the great changes needed in our world.

Patricia Burke (FLC Convenor)

PROMOTIONS and PUBLICITY:

The Scriptures exhort us to ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER for the building up of each other and the whole body of Christ, namely the Church. Does this mean we are failing when we do not encourage one another? We believe the answer is YES. As Christian women living in a materialistic and humanistic society, there are many times when we wonder if we are totally alone. Elijah felt like this, but God told him it was not so, for there were many others like him.

It is important that you encourage us so that we may encourage others. Reports of your Special Days are one way of doing this. We are delighted to hear how your meetings went - how many attended - how many different denominations met together, crossing all boundaries - how was the Order of Service received - did we learn more of each other as well as worship our Lord together - what is your Branch doing apart from the Special Days? DO TELL US, PLEASE!! Did you obtain any local press coverage? any Church Bulletin coverage? Would you send us copies of your press coverage or publicity for our files?

Tell us also, please, of any small hitches (or great dramas!) One of our branches lost the hymn books on the way...another branch had an entire denomination who got lost on the way! We like to laugh, too, and so does God - He wants us to enjoy ourselves. All these little details enable us to write more informative press and promotion releases.

Here is some exciting news. When we totalled up we found that more than 1500 women met for Fellowship Day around our State, during the worst of weather, and had wonderful *Koinonia* together; offerings for Winifred Kiek Scholarship broke all records! For World Community Day we anticipate that more than 2000 women will meet in our State and we do eagerly look forward to reading your reports.

We are also excitedly anticipating Fellowship Day 1991, when the Theme will be "Praise The Lord With Gladness" - and we'll be sure to do that, with heart and soul and voice! There is added joy that it is the turn of NSW Unit to prepare the Order of Service for that Day. We are seeking God's guidance in our planning, and need YOUR help in publicising and promoting this Special Day. Secretaries or contact persons - please let your Speaker know the Theme as soon as possible, to help her in preparation. We are grateful for details, as soon as you can give them, of the venue and time of your meeting, as folk often ring us to locate the nearest Centre for this hour or two of fellowship which does so greatly enrich us all.

We will gladly assist you with any help we can offer in forming Press and Promotion releases for your branch ... please contact us.

Jeanne Sutherland (Publicity Convenor) Peg Blake (Promotions Convenor)
86 Bundarra Road Bellevue Hill 2023. 22 Parkview Street Miranda 2228.

**** INFORMATION PAGE ****

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Strathfield. 2135.
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in the first week of the month prior to publication month.

ALL OTHER A.C.W. MONIES such as Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of Least Coin, Subscriptions to A.C.W. National News, or Donations, should be sent to the Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Lumb,
69 Myall Street,
Concord West. 2138.
(Tel: 743.3360)

AFFILIATION FEES become due on 1st March each year, as follows:

Denominational Groups - State Level:	\$ 15.00 per annum
Local Branches of A.C.W:	\$ 5.00 per annum
Special Interest Groups e.g. YWCA, WCTU, Girls' Brigade:	\$ 5.00 per annum

ALL CHEQUES should be made payable to 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN'



As this is the last issue of Newsette for 1990, we wish every reader the blessings of a joyous Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE IS BORN !!