

## Australian Church Women National Life Member

Mrs Marjory Irene Gordon Verco [nee Hare] - NSW – 1973



Born: September 25<sup>th</sup> 1914 at Essendon, Victoria

Education: Fintona Girl's School. [1932 School Captain]  
Tertiary Studies with Victorian Board of Social Studies.

Denomination: Churches of Christ

Married – March 1938 to David Verco, who later became Director General of Education NSW – died August 12<sup>th</sup> 1972.

1958: Active in NSW Churches of Christ Christian Women's Fellowship, especially at local level [Chatswood] – spent 3 months in USA with husband and there learnt of United Church Women of USA, Friendship Press. Christian women of all denominations were united in study program of the year - on her return passed on information and material to women's groups in NSW.

1959: Served as Counsellor during Billy Graham's Crusade and later on Women's Follow-up Committee.

1960: Invited by NSW Churches of Christ CWF to accept nomination of President-Elect of NSW Women's Inter-Church Council.

1961: Appointed President NSW WICC. Spent much time visiting local Church Women's groups – urging them to form interdenominational groups at local levels.  
Contacted similar WICCs in other states suggesting a great co-operation of such councils at National level.

1962: Appointed Promotion Officer of NSW WICC.

1963: Spent 6 weeks in the USA – met Church Women United groups at all levels – studied their organization in detail – returned to Australia full of enthusiasm for greater co-operation of Church Women.  
Interim Committee of ACW was formed - appointed Vice-President .

Special Days adopted and promoted

Fellowship Day

World Community Day

Sought to stimulate participation in Women's World Day of Prayer which was administered by a special Committee in Australia.

Special Projects introduced

Fellowship of the Least Coin and Prayer – which was operating in Asia and USA.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship

Local Inter-Church Fellowships were formed and each appointed a representative to serve on State WICC. Local projects were also developed according to local needs [eg hospital visitation, libraries etc]

Study Material was prepared for use in local fellowships.

1964: March – National Consultation was called and representatives invited from all states to meet at Deaconess House, Sydney.

The late Mrs Commissioner COUTTS made this statement: *"As Australian Church Women we have learnt to pray together through Women's World Day of Prayer. Now let's work together!"*

1964: Appointed Chairman of Promotion Committee of NSW.

WICC formed to extend work of promoting ACW at all levels.

1965: First Meeting of National Committee of ACW held at Wesley College – Sydney University – appointed a Vice- President.

Conclusion: I served on Promotion Committee until 1974, when following my husband's death, I went into full time employment.

Those years were challenging and very busy, but the most exciting years of my life.

I thank God for this most rewarding spiritual experience. My prayer is that God will continue to bless all who share in ACW and may its influence continue to grow and flourish for the extension of His Kingdom and the fulfillment of our Lord's prayer *"that they may all be one"*.

[The Inter-Church Councils of each state have now become units of ACW.]