

# NEWSETTE

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



A.C.W. seeks:

to unite Australian women 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.

President: Mrs. Edith Ridge  
(Tel. 76-6093)

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

This is the time of the year when people say to each other "Isn't it lovely weather? I do like the Autumn, don't you?" So I want to say to you, "Don't you love the Autumn time?" Autumn means several things to me. It is the time when the long, hot, sticky summer days give way to balmy, dewy mornings and crisp evenings; when we remember with sadness the sacrifice of those killed in wars when we keep Anzac Day; my birthday comes in the autumn and so does Mother's Day. But most important of all, we celebrate in the autumn the Christian Festival of Easter.

I believe the people who are used to Easter in the springtime when they tell us that there is a special significance to celebrating Easter then, but to someone raised in this hemisphere there are many signs in the autumn to bring our thoughts to the sacrifice and death of our Lord.

Have you noticed the Royal Purple of mourning in the beautiful bushes of Tibouchina? These shrubs more than any other sign always bring my thoughts to the suffering and death of Jesus. On Good Friday, in the church where I worshipped, there was a simple arrangement of four deep red roses on the table in the front of the sanctuary area. The shape of the arrangement was a flat cross

## 2. President's Message (Cont.)

and this spoke to me of the death of our Lord. A friend who studied Ikebana under a Master in Japan told me that the Japanese never use four flowers in their arrangements, because to them the number four means death. How suitable, then, was this simple arrangement with its four roses reminding us of the most important Death of all.

On Easter Day, came the triumph of the Resurrection, in the heart-warming Sunrise service; in the joyful hymns, in the traditional greeting "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" and in the glory of the white and yellow chrysanthemums blazing in the vases.

I have forgotten the name of the famous preacher who always had an Easter hymn at every Sunday morning service, to remind the worshippers of the glorious fact of the resurrection, but I often remember the fact that he did it. As the words of the hymn tell us "Easter makes our Sundays shine". Indeed, to those of us who have believed Him and who have been born to new life in Him, the resurrection makes not only our Sundays, but every day of the week "shine". So it is not too late to say to you "A happy Easter!"

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.  
Go in peace, to live and serve the Lord.

Amen.

Edith Ridge  
President.

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### THE ANNUAL SERVICE of the AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. UNIT

will be held in the Wesley Chapel, 139 Castlereagh St. Sydney  
on Monday, 27th May, 1985 at 10.30 a.m.

Speaker: Deaconess Irene Mok

Theme: Featuring International Youth Year.

Donation - to assist with expenses of Asian Church Women's  
Conference to be held in Adelaide 1986.

(Would Council members please bring a plate of sandwiches  
or slice/cake. Thank you.)

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OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1985-1986.

3.

PRESIDENT: Mrs. E. Ridge, 51 Burlington Road, Homebush  
2140. (76 6093)

PAST PRESIDENT: Mrs. Y. Davis, 1003 Canterbury Road, Lakemba,  
2195. (759 1364)

HON. SECRETARY: Brigadier M. Ward, 10/3-79 Robertson Road,  
Bass Hill, 2197. (644 9472)

MEMBERSHIP  
SECRETARY: Mrs. M. Baker, 79 Wongala Crescent, Beecroft,  
2119. (84 3046)

HON. TREASURER: Mrs. E. Walker, 19 Ontario Avenue, Roseville,  
2069. (46 2176)

CONVENERS.

FELLOWSHIP OF  
LEAST COIN: Mrs. G. West, 8 Stewart Street, Artarmon,  
2064. (419 8654)

WINIFRED KIEK  
SCHOLARSHIP: Deaconess M. Andrews, 18/250 Jersey Road,  
Woollahra. 2025. (32 2023)

PROMOTION: Vacant

PUBLICITY: Mrs. L. King, 7/94 Bland Street, Ashfield,  
2131. (799 1352)

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REPORT from UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS INTERCHURCH FELLOWSHIP  
Affiliated with AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

Each year in order to remind the community that Easter is more than Easter eggs, buns and bunnies, the Laura Churches, part of the Upper Blue Mountains Branch, arrange a visual presentation of Easter in the local Branch of the Westpac Bank. The Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian and Uniting Churches are rostered to put a "display" depicting Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Day. We are grateful to the Bank Manager who opens the premises on the evening of Easter eve to enable an Easter presentation to replace that of Good Friday.

Helen Stutchbury,  
Hon. Sec.

4. FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN - ANNUAL REPORT.

Let us give thanks for the ever widening network of interest in the Fellowship of the Least Coin which is emerging throughout our State. The hard work of our previous Convener, our past President and our Secretary has built up strong links in the west and south west of the State, while our President, Executive members and speakers have helped in promoting the Fellowship throughout the metropolitan areas. Leaflets and copies of 1984 grants have been widely circulated this year and when the 1985 grants become available, these also will be printed. Slides with script are still available on request from the Convener and these have travelled inter-state this year for the first time, helping with promotion.

It has been a thrill to have a new edition of "Circle of Prayer" which is already proving popular and will fill a need for new information and inspiration. The theme of "Peace - Seek and Share" is particularly applicable, as we have endeavoured to look inside the various countries and share the needs of women in desperate circumstances, thus helping us to pray more effectively.

Australia's special Prayer Partner is Burma and in N.S.W. our month of particular emphasis was March. (See separate report re: Burma-Australia Prayer Partnership - page 6 ).

The response at World Community Day Services where women bring their F.L.C. offerings for dedication was really wonderful. To all those gracious givers, known to God alone, I send my heartfelt thanks. Likewise to those with whom I have had more personal contact by mail, may I extend my thanks for your wonderful gifts and your continued interest in the lives of God's children everywhere. Praise the Lord, the records have been broken once again this year, for which we must be truly grateful when we consider the needs created by politics, wars and drought in our world today.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin continues to offer us a world wide prayer partnership which crosses national and racial barriers unhindered. Let us rejoice ... and pray with thanksgiving.

Glad West  
Convener.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The new edition of "Circle of Prayer" is available on request from the Convener. Price .. 75 cents per copy or \$1.00 mailed. These will also be available at the Annual Service to be held in Wesley Chapel on 27th May 1985.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS.

5.

TAPATI DAS, a W.K.S. Scholar from Bangladesh has been appointed World Consultant for small industries managed by Y.W.C.A. During the past 18 months, Tapati has visited 7 countries in Asia, 5 in Africa and 7 in the Caribbean where she has seen about 80 projects in action.

Pray for God's guidance and protection for Tapati as she travels.

DARO LILLIAN KHA NAU, 53A Insein Road, University P.O. Rangoon, 11041, Burma - one of our Burmese Prayer Partners - writes that last July she attended the Church Womens Assembly in Purdue University, U.S.A. and then was at the American Baptist Assembly for six weeks. Lillian said the Burmese Church women had chosen her as a delegate to participate both at the Women's Forum and the General Assembly of the Christian Council of Asia in July in Korea. She has to find her own funds for travel and accommodation. She says "It's absolutely impossible for me to buy an air ticket from here and if God is willing, I hope to be there. I have full faith that a door will be opened for me with God's help. I've read about the Winifred Kiek Scholarship in A.C.W.C. News Bulletin. Are you still on the Board? Burma applied for it in 1982. Should we apply for it again? Do we have any chance of getting it? We really need leadership in almost every field and we are trying to get scholarships from abroad to enable our younger generation to have more training in their respective fields."

Let us pray with Lillian for this great need.

Mary M. Andrews  
W.K.S. Convener.

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PERSONAL PARS.

Mrs. Yvonne Davis, Past President, has been appointed Convener for Christian Education, P.W.A. Standing Committee, and as such is finding herself fully involved.

Mrs. Peg Cameron, a Council member, is the President of the Women's Auxiliary of the Christian Television Association, another important segment of Christian service.

Our loving sympathy is extended to Mrs. Mavis Burtenshaw (Uniting Church member) in the call to Higher Service of her husband, Rev. Arthur Burtenshaw.

6.

BURMA-AUSTRALIA PRAYER PARTNERSHIP.

On March 18th, the N.S.W. Council had the joy of meeting Miss A. Gulliver, an ex-missionary and nurse who had served in Burma from 1933, during the second world war under British rule when she was evacuated when the Japanese invaded Burma, and again until 1967 when all missionaries were asked by the Burmese Government to leave the country.

We heard experiences of her younger days with Mothers' Union in Burma, of days when travel to the northern Naga Hills was forbidden because the people there were headhunters. However, because of one small boy being brought down to the hospital for treatment, things began to change. Today there is rejoicing over hundreds of Christians in the Naga Hills. (There are 400 confirmed Anglicans there.)

Miss Gulliver has been privileged to make return trips into Burma and recently spent a week in Rangoon on her way home to Australia after a visit to the land of her birth, England. Rangoon she told us, was once the Queen City of the East and very beautiful now is broken down for lack of repairs to the damage suffered during the war. In a land with a wealth of precious stones, teak artifacts and even oil, the people are still very poor. The country is varied with many tribes, but it is a beautiful land and the Burmese are a beautiful people.

During this latest visit, Miss Gulliver was thrilled to be part of a celebration at the Church of St. George which had been closed as a church for 40 years and was now being restored to the Church. The building had been cleaned and renovated and hundreds of people had travelled from afar for its re-dedication. Opportunity was taken after the services to hold a special Mothers' Union meeting and Miss Gulliver was able to be present and to speak with the women who had come from many areas, learning of their outreach and teaching programmes. They expressed concern for knowledge of other parts of the world of whom they hear very little, and they also covet our prayers for the Christians of Burma. Prayer is needed for the Church in Burma as the Christians learn to "Render to Caesar the things that are his and to God the things that are God's" It is hard for the people to realise that to be allowed to be the Church, there are times when they must co-operate with the Government. The church leaders do not see this as a denial of their faith but as a reasonable compromise and obedience to Christ's word.

Miss Gulliver described the church in Burma as a "running church" for though they are materially poor, the Church in Burma is spiritually strong.

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

7.

This year 1985 has been designated International Youth Year by the United Nations Organisation. By recognising this "year" and by planning to take part in it in some way, we are joining with people all around the world in endeavours to understand and co-exist with youth.

Australian Church Women have recognised the year in planning for World Community Day services in October. Our National Committee chose the theme "God's children" and invited the N.S.W. Unit to write the service. This we were happy to do, and we pray that many people will be blessed by taking part later in the year.

Our committee was very aware that not many young people have opportunity to attend our services. In spite of this, we included a segment intended to be prepared, and where possible, presented by a young person. When you are planning your World Community Day service, please make every effort to keep this part in the order of worship.

Perhaps this is a good year for us, Australian Church Women, to look at ways of attracting young women to our Special Days. If you have any ideas, Council would be delighted to hear from you.

Happy and successful I.Y.Y!!

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## WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SPECIAL PROJECT OFFERINGS.

1984, 1985.

Many of you will know that N.S.W. Unit of A.C.W. has long advocated the continuing financial support of our Winifred Kiek scholars through the World Community Day special offering. It is therefore with joy that we can announce that the offering this year will be sent to Kalpana Airan, our 1973 Winifred Kiek Scholar to help her initiate a new project in her work at Narmada College at Satara in India. There will be information about this work available with W.C.D. services. Please continue to pray for Kalpana and all our scholars.

The 1984 Special Project Appeal for re-housing in Tonga, following cyclone devastation, was one appeal that really "appealed" to our members. We in N.S.W. are thrilled to be able to tell you that the amount of our contribution to this appeal was \$1,975. This represents the cost of almost two complete houses (each house costs \$1,000). Thank you, A.C.W. of N.S.W.

8. FUNCTIONS ATTENDED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS.

Feb.20 Grape Festival, Womens Christian Temperance Union.  
President.  
Feb.27 National Council of Jewish Women Annual Luncheon  
President and Secretary.  
Feb.28 National Council of Women meeting.  
March 1 Women's World Day of Prayer service  
" 9 Pan Pacific & South East Asian Women's Assoc.  
Conference Opening - President  
" 16 N.C.W. Seminar  
" 22 Mothers' Union Annual Service, St.Andrew's Cathedral  
President  
" 25 Strathfield-Homebush Branch Meeting, A.C.W.,President.  
" 27 Anglican Board of Mission Aux. Annual Meeting.  
President and Secretary.  
" 28 N.C.W. Meeting  
" 29 Annual Rally, Salvation Army Home League  
President and Secretary.  
April 15 P.W.A. Rally,  
Miss Evelyn Blackwell.

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A card received from Catherine Min (Korea) gives news of her  
busyness with Parish & Mothers Union work in Masan, and she sends  
joyous Easter greetings to all.

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Subscriptions and donations may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer,  
Mrs. E. Walker,  
19 Ontario Avenue,  
Roseville, 2069. (Tel.46-2176).  
Cheques should be made payable to "Australian Church Women".

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Contributions to Newsette are requested and should be sent to  
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2229, (Tel.525-4339) before the 15th day of the month prior to  
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