

**ALL A.C.W. MONIES** — Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Subscriptions for Newsette or ACWC News, Offertories from Special Days, Payments or Donations, also changes of address for Newsette subscribers, should **ALL** be sent to the **TREASURER**:

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**ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to '**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**' and **NOT** to any individual person.

**FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS** are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups:	\$15.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$10.00 per annum
Organisations eg YWCA, WCTU, Girls' Brigade :	\$10.00 per annum

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES** due 1st June: \$10.00 per annum  
(includes subscription to Newsette)

**NEWSETTE** is the official journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women, which is published four times a year on 1st February, May, August and November. Annual Subscription is \$5.00 (payable to Treasurer as above).

**CONTRIBUTIONS** to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the **EDITOR**: Mrs Beryl McLaughlin  
2/15 Morwick Street  
STRATHFIELD 2135  
(Tel: 9744.8609)

#### SOME DIETARY NOTES . . . . .

"Be careful of the words you say to keep them soft and sweet,  
You never know from day to day which ones you'll have to eat!"

"A woman is like a tea-bag -- you cannot tell  
how strong she is, until she's in hot water!"



# NEWSETT

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW 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.

**PRESIDENT:** Mrs Peg Blake Tel: (02) 9524.9997

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#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Loving Greetings to you all!

There is nothing like a bout of serious illness to remind us that as our lives are in the hands of an all-wise, all-loving, all powerful Heavenly Father, we can face any difficult situation with confidence.

If we put our trust for our well-being in a person, any person, we are putting it in the wrong place. Ultimately, our faith must be in God. In his book "The Business of Heaven", C S Lewis wrote: "At first it is natural for a baby to take its mother's milk without knowing its mother. It is equally natural for us to see the man who helps us without seeing Christ behind him. But we must not remain babies. We must go on to recognise the real Giver. It is madness not to. Because, if we do not, we shall be relying on human beings. And that is going to let us down. The best of them will make mistakes; all of them will die. We must be thankful to all the people who helped us. We must honour and love them. But never, never pin your whole faith on any human being."

The author of Psalm 146 said not to trust in mortal men - even princes (v 3). Instead, he wrote "Happy is he who has

2.

the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God." (V 5). God never lets His people down, even if things appear to be against them. His promises are sure. We can trust our Master, Jesus, as we follow in His way.

Thank you for all the prayers, the messages of love and the care and concern shown to my husband and to me during our difficult month. We were greatly upheld by the love of so many friends.

With my love, Yours in Christ, Peg Blake.

#### REPORT OF ECUMENICAL LUNCHEON:

This year's Ecumenical Luncheon was held on 7th July in the Salvation Army Function Centre, Liverpool Street, Sydney and was attended by 77 ladies and one gentleman.

Ms Shelley Reys had been invited as Speaker but left unexpectedly for overseas two days prior to the date. At Shelley's suggestion, Mrs ELAINE TELFORD, Assistant Co-ordinator (with Shelley and Mr John Telford) of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, was available to speak to the gathering on cameos from her life which showed seeds of reconciliation being sown. The attentiveness of those present during her thought-provoking talk, and the relevant questions asked afterwards, were indicative of Elaine's excellent presentation and obvious sincerity. Unfortunately Elaine was not able to remain for lunch owing to a previous commitment at mid-day.

We were all very concerned that our President, Peg Blake was absent due to illness. Immediate Past President Lucelle King stood in for Peg and also led us in spirited chorus singing, ably accompanied by Brigadier Ruth Smith. Major Joan Tong brought words of welcome to all present from each of the denominations. Mina Whybourne read a scripture portion selected by the speaker. Marie Majoor, who represents ACW & CWL on the Reconciliation Network, gave a profile of, and introduced Elaine to the gathering. At the conclusion of the talk and question time, Janet Harrison sealed the thought-provoking talk with a compassionate prayer, and Margaret Collier gave a vote of thanks and presented a gift to Elaine.

A well-presented and delicious light lunch followed, when we were able to join in fellowship; a letter of thanks has been sent to Mrs Elaine Whittaker and her catering team for their attentiveness.

Margaret Collier, Functions Convener.

#### AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

Visitors will be welcome at ACW National Conference, which will be held from Monday 22 to Friday 26 September, at John 23rd College, Aust. National University, Canberra. NSW Sta Unit will have two Voting Delegates (President Peg Blake and Secretary Janet Harrison) and two Observers (Treasurer Mari Majoor and President-Elect Elizabeth Walker). In addition, some Executive and Council members are planning to attend as visitors.

Full-time Live-In is not the only way to go - day visitors are welcome, and are encouraged to choose Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th as the two most interesting days.

On Tuesday 23rd the preacher at an Ecumenical Service in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 10.30 am will be Mrs Janet Wood. This will be followed by luncheon, after which delegates and visitors will return to the College for interest sessions, where the 1997 Winifred Kiek Scholars will be introduced, and the Executive Secretary of Asian Church Women's Conference, Rev Illuminada Domingo, will address Conference

On Thursday 25th, there will be Bible Study, Reports and other business, and Senator Jocelyn Newman, the Minister for Women's Affairs, will address the Conference. The day will conclude with the Conference Dinner and the Induction of the new National Executive for 1997-1999 - women drawn from the Queensland State Unit.

Other highlights are - an afternoon coach tour of Canberra (Parliament House etc.) or a visit to Floriade - you choose which - on Wednesday 24th. On the Friday morning, members of Conference will attend a Reception at Government House, Yarralumla.

It is a pleasant trip by train or car (and very quick by plane!) Why not combine a visit to Canberra in springtime for Floriade with participation in this first ACW National Conference to be held in the A.C.T. ?

Registration Forms are available from Secretary, Mrs Janet Harrison, 5/7 Gilmore St. West Wollongong 2500. (042) 27.69 Day Visitors cost is \$15, which includes Morning & Afternoon Tea & Lunch each day. Evening meals are charged separately on entry to Dining Hall. Plan to join our NSW team and enjoy a time away in our lovely National Capital.

Contributed by Edith Ridge on behalf of Evonne Sullivan, National President

**FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:**

I would like to acknowledge and say thank you to all who have continued to send in Least Coins and all who keep assuring us of their prayers for peace, justice and reconciliation and for those in special need. God is blessing us all, and through prayer is bringing us closer to Him and to each other.

You will be interested to see that some US\$ 302,500 was given in Least Coins world-wide in 1996. This enabled the grants that are listed on the other half of this page to be given in 1997. Unfortunately, we do not have a "break-up" of the individual projects, but I am sure that this summary will be of great interest.

We look forward to the World Community Day Services in October when our Least Coins will be offered and dedicated. Thank you again for your wonderful support.

Shirley Wells,  
FLC Convener.



**Summary of  
Fellowship of the Least Coin Grants  
for 1997**

Region	Amount	No. of Projects
Africa	US\$26,000.00	5
Asia	50,000.00	9
Caribbean	5,000.00	1
Europe	15,000.00	3
Latin America	16,500.00	6
North America	19,000.00	4
Middle East	27,000.00	8
<b>Ecumenical Body</b>		
WCC	5,000.00	

**BLOCK GRANTS FOR 1997**

1. Africa	US\$10,000.00	
2. Asia, ACWC	US\$20,000.00	
CCA	US\$05,000.00	
3. Canada	US\$05,000.00	
4. Europe	US\$10,000.00	
5. Middle East	US\$10,000.00	
6. Latin America	US\$10,000.00	
7. Pacific	US\$10,000.00	
8. USA	US\$05,000.00	
9. WCC	US\$10,000.00	
10. WDP	US\$10,000.00	
11. Caribbean	US\$10,000.00	
12. Caribbean	US\$10,000.00	for 1996

<b>Block Grants</b>	<b>US\$125,000.00</b>
<b>Emergency Grant</b>	<b>US\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>Project Grants</b>	<b>US\$167,500.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>US\$302,500.00</b>

**FORWARD NOTICE - STATE CONFERENCE, 1998:**

The Salvation Army Leadership Training Centre at Stanmore, which was such an ideal venue for our last year's State Conference has been booked again for May 14-15, 1998 - Why not put this in your diary now!

**WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:**

Newsette readers will recall that the Course for the 1995 Scholar, RACHEL ROLLAND from Vanuatu had to be postponed owing to the volcanic eruption in Rabaul. Rachel has now been able to complete her course and the following report is from an interview conducted by Jenny Charlesworth in Rabaul before she returned to Vanuatu.

Although very shy and tentative at first, Rachel soon warmed to the opportunity of expressing her gratitude for all that she learned during her time in Rabaul. It was obvious that she suffered from homesickness, as she spoke in loving terms of her two married sisters and three younger brothers still at school.

She was on a steep learning-curve during the course, as she had to learn Melanesian Pidgin in order to communicate with her classmates, and she jumped that hurdle very well.

Her course covered topics as diverse as writing business letters and understanding office structures, to theology, sermon preparation, leading services, evangelism and mission. On the recreational side there was craft work such as basket making, crochet, patchwork and making children's clothing. Much of this craft work is sold at a fete to raise money for the college. Of the electives offered, Rachel chose a course in co-ordination of women's ministry, as this is her area of special interest.

Rachel enjoyed her times of sharing with other students in Bible Study and loved the sporting activities, picnics and singing. She explained that in her Presbyterian church at home they do not have "sing-a-longs" and she hoped to introduce this innovation on her return, also the use of instruments to accompany singing. She concluded by saying how much she enjoyed her time in Rabaul and expressed her hope and prayer that other women might be encouraged to take up the challenge of further study as she did.

(Adapted from ACW National News)

Beth Finlay, WKS Convener.

**SYMPATHY** was sent from the NSW Unit to Margaret Knauerhauf of Adelaide, on the death of her husband Oscar. Margaret is the daughter of Winifred Kiek, the first ordained woman minister in Australia, whose life and ministry we remember in our Scholarship named after her.

**CONGRATULATIONS for WELL-DESERVED HONOURS:**

ACW friends were delighted when MARIE McCANN was awarded an Order of Australia Medal earlier this year and even more so to share in her surprise and pleasure when, at the recent Annual Dedication Service at Chalmers Church, she was made a Life Member of NSW Unit, in recognition of her more than 20 years service with and for Australian Church Women, including holding the offices of State President, National President and other responsibilities and convenerships. Congratulations, Marie, and our love as you continue in your witness and service for your Lord and Master.

**ACW NATIONAL COMMITTEE MATTERS:**

National President, Evonne Sullivan, will represent ACW at Senator Jocelyn Newman's Australian Round-Table Conference, a 2-day forum in late August in Canberra. Women's organisations were asked by Senator Newman to submit issues they saw as priorities concerning women. The following is a summary of the list submitted by ACW National Committee:

1. Equal Pay for work of equal value (still a current issue!)
2. Recognition for Women not in paid employment for their contribution as mothers, carers, volunteers etc.
3. Better health facilities for isolated, rural, migrant, and aboriginal women.
4. Affordable child care. Increased availability of facilities for day/occasional care of handicapped children.
5. Domestic violence - protection; provision of refuges.
6. Discrimination against women at all levels of society.
7. Proper pay and conditions for "Outworkers."
8. Palliative care and funding thereof - better support for carers, nursing services, affordable day-care for disabled/handicapped people;
9. Banking - people with disabilities have difficulty in accessing ATM's - banks reducing personal service.
10. Medical Research - more funding for prevention and cure for breast cancer. IVF programs should be available to only those in stable heterosexual relationships.
11. Mental Health - especially suicide prevention.

MOTIONS sent to National Conference by NSW Unit:

1. That ACW Australia apply for membership of International Committee of Fellowship of the Least Coin;;
2. Change of name of ACW to Church Women United (Australia).

**AUSTRALIAN RECONCILIATION CONVENTION:**

I would like to thank ACW and CWL for enabling me to attend this Convention in Melbourne from May 26-28th.

Participation in the Convention was not in order of application, but to get as wide a representation of Australian organisations as possible. Over 2000 were eventually accepted some 500 of whom had to watch proceedings on a screen in an overflow room. I was fortunate to be in the main auditorium.

Following traditional welcome by the Kulin Nation, Chairman Patrick Dodson lit a candle to signify the healing power of fire and a light to go forward. There were speeches by politicians telling us what had been achieved. Keeping in mind that the Australian Democrats could not tell us of any achievements, Senator Cheryl Kernot asked "Are pastoralists sacrosanct and indigenous people not? It is not hard to see sorry, a sign of emotional maturity. Do we want to be a nation united or divided?" This was followed by a presentation of Rhythm of the Nation, with the Bangarra Aboriginal Dance Group and other ethnic groups, accompanied by the rhythm of drums of various types, the most colourful being Spanish Flamenco Dancers and 14 beautifully-dressed Irish dancers. Then all performers returned to the stage, each group danced its own style to the same rhythm while an aboriginal woman weaved in and out to unite them as one group. It was colourful and effective. Two young people, a boy and a girl, spoke as the voice of Young Australia. The boy who was educated at Redfern Public School spoke of the avenues open to him as a white Australian but denied through circumstances to so many of his Aboriginal classmates.

There was a video message from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who spoke about us being a "Rainbow" people, as it takes all the colours to make a rainbow. Dr Alexander Botaine, Vice Chairman of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission in Sth Africa said the acronym of Australian Reconciliation Convention was ARC, and Noah's Ark was the foreshadowing of the rainbow which is reflected in Australia through multiculturalism. Like the Ark of the past, ARC should be not merely a place of safety, but a new beginning.

The format of the Convention was that used at the Regional meetings which preceded it which were attended by more than 10,000 people across Australia - one I attended was reported

in the last issue of Newsette.

Plenary Session 1: Reconciliation in the Community - What Does It Mean? Of those who spoke, Her Excellency Lady Deane (Women & Reconciliation) and Mr Hugh Mackay (Reconciliation & Traditional Australian Values) gave the best vision.

Plenary Session 2: Indigenous Self-Determination. The three panellists were from overseas - Grand Chief Ted Moses of the Crees in Canada, Ms Miliani Trask, the Governor of Ka Lahui Hawaii, and Prof. S James Anaya, Indian Law Resource Centre, Iowa USA. The main message was that indigenous people were entitled to self-determination. This is a universally-held principle and is not conditional.

Plenary Session 3: Renewal of the Nation - Citizenship In Australia. Dame Roma Mitchell mentioned the biggest health problem with Aborigines & Torres Strait Islanders today is diabetes and kidney failure. She spoke of their need for education. She said that in 1848 Sir Earl Grey stated that leasehold was only for grazing and pasture and that Aborigines had the rights for moving across the land and subsistence hunting.

Hon Sir James Gobbo, Governor of Victoria said there should be participation and equality of citizens. One of the big problems in proving Native Title is that people were removed from stations and put in missions so they lost contact with the land they belonged to.

Noel Pearson, Legal Adviser, APSIC, said we must come to terms with Aboriginal history; the express policy of Australian Governments for 30 years has been that Aborigines & Torres Strait Islanders receive self-determination.

After each Plenary Sessions Seminars were held.

Tuesday, the second day of the Convention marked the 30th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, which was supported by 92% of voting Australians. Dr Lois O'Donoghue was Master of Ceremonies and the stage was occupied by many indigenous and non-indigenous people who had worked hard to achieve the results of that referendum, which enabled the government to pass legislation for indigenous people. The main speakers were Sir William Deane, Governor-General, and Faith Bandler, who is not an indigenous Australian.

During that day, Sir Ronald Wilson gave us a summary of the 700-page Report which had been tabled in Parliament on the

night before. This summary was called "Bringing Them Home". It is available from the Human Rights Commission.

At the Tuesday night Dinner, Awards were presented to 5 of the 15 finalists for work being done towards reconciliation in communities, for which there were over 300 nominations from across Australia, 150 of them from NSW. As we hear so many negative stories, it is surprising to hear so much that is being done in a positive way. Awards were won by groups as diverse as a small country primary school in Victoria, Hammersley Range Iron Company in WA, Ipswich City Council, Cape York Peninsula Aborigines, pastoralists and environmentalists in Queensland. The aboriginal women sitting near me were asking "Why can't we have this positive news printed for a change?"

On the Wednesday afternoon Fr. Frank Brennan gave a summing up of the 3 days, which gave a feeling of hope for the future in the sharing of stories and the recognition of each other's rights. At the closing ceremony at night, the candle flame was extinguished, the people of the Kulin Nation were farewelled. This was followed by a concert, the final song being "I Am Australian" sung by all present.

There was a significant Christian presence and contribution and it was good to see young Australians participating and representing their schools. It was a very emotional three days, and we certainly had plenty of exercise in the number of times we stood to give standing ovations!

Marie Majoor (ACW & CWL Representative  
on Aboriginal Reconciliation Network)

#### FLOWER FESTIVAL -- ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL:

This 19th Flower Festival will be held from Friday 12th to Monday 15th September. The Official Opening will be by Mr Janette Howard, wife of the Prime Minister, at 12.15 on Friday 12th. Music; posies; food; souvenirs; gifts....

Theme of the Festival: "The Promises of God." ACW will have an arrangement, which will be done by Mr Cec Werry of the Salvation Army, and the Theme for this, suggested by President Peg Blake, is from 1 John 2:25: "...and this Christ has promised us - Eternal Life."

Entry is \$5.00 - Do call in and enjoy this glorious display and give thanks to God our wonderful Creator and Redeemer.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN SEMINAR:****WHAT HAVE WOMEN BEEN DOING FOR THE LAST 100 YEARS?**

This was the title of a most enjoyable day in the Medcalfe Auditorium of the NSW State Library, which I attended as representative of Australian Church Women NSW Unit. As NCW had so many exciting events last year to celebrate their 100th birthday, it was decided to hold this Seminar to honour a century of Australian women in Literature, Science, Women on the Land, in the Theatre, and in Law.

In her opening remarks NCW President Clare Cusick pointed out that at the turn of the century 30% of women were employed, and this number was not reached again till the 1960's.

Professor Elizabeth Webby spoke of women in Literature, who from early colonial times, through to the present day, have charted our history and culture, some even making a living from their writing.

Mrs Beryl Ingold, a Farmer & Grazier, told of the role women have played both in the home and on the farm, today more than ever with our rural crisis.

Next we heard the Artistic Director of the Ensemble Theatre, Sandra Bates, who took over in 1968 from the founder, Hayes Gordon, when he retired. She charted the rise and fall of the travelling troupes in the early 1800's through to the emergence of J.C. Williamsons. This saw the demise of the actor/manager troupes where whole families toured the country and provided a living for women who had to support a family. With the rise of Williamsons many overseas actors, often "has-beens" were brought out to Australia, and this forced Australians to go overseas to obtain a reputation.

Next we heard from a "living treasure" Janet Coombs AM BA LL.B, Barrister. In 1959 Ms Coombs was admitted as the first woman to practice as a barrister and it was 18 months before another woman was admitted. In 1902, Ada Evans was the first woman to graduate from University and in 1918 she was admitted to the Bar, but she never practised. Justice Mary Gordon was the first woman appointed as a Judge and then to the Industrial Arbitration Commission in 1975. Janet Coombs has worked and been active in the Right To Life Movement and the Festival of Light, and was awarded a Papal Cross in

1995 for her work in Canon Law. She is the longest-serving Barrister in New South Wales.

Dr. Cathy Foley, a Research Scientist with the Division of Applied Physics, C.S.I.R.O. spoke about the lack of women doing Science, especially Physics, and how women were not employed in a full-time capacity until after the Second World War.

The day was most enjoyable and I really felt I had touched our Australian History, with several of the speakers being real pioneers. Heather Reid, Social Issues Convener.

**From BIMBADEEN COLLEGE** - Special Project to receive support from 1997 World Community Day offertories:

**WHO ARE WE?** We are a Christian Training College, set up by the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship, which has been training men and women for the 'work of ministry' since 1979. We rely upon God to provide through His church all our needs.

**WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?**

1. To provide Biblical Educational Programs to Aboriginal people that will enhance their leadership and employment skills.
2. To train and equip Aboriginal people for the work of Ministry (Ephesians 4:12).
3. To provide on-going Biblical Educational Programs for those involved in the 'work of the ministry.'

**WHERE IS BIMBADEEN?** We are nestled on the south-west slope of the Great Dividing Range in Cootamundra NSW, which is on the Sydney-Melbourne rail-line and under 2 hours by road west of Canberra. Our 900 acres makes for a peaceful setting to study God's word. We offer courses in: Discipleship; Biblical Studies; Pastoral Studies; Vocational Training with emphasis on farm work.

**An UP-DATE from MAY NEWSLETTE on Temple Prostitutes:**

As a result of the distribution of 20,000 scriptures to the Devadasis, dedicated as children to the goddess Yellana, at least 70 of these women have become Christians, giving personal testimony as they are now worshipping in the churches. Many more of these women are involved in literacy classes, for which Bible Society has provided New Reader Scriptures