

NEWSLETTER

NEW SOUTH WALES WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

(State Unit of Australian Church Women)

NO. 12

MAY, 1975

FROM THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

How quickly this year has passed - and how happily, in our working together to implement the aim of the Council, the promotion of fellowship and cooperation amongst Churchwomen. To have held the office of President has been for me not merely a high honour but a most rewarding experience, providing opportunities to learn much about the activities of our member organisations and to appreciate the value of their association with our Council.

Looking back over the thirty seven years of the Council's history since its foundation in 1938, we must all be aware of our heritage - the contribution made by so many fine Christian women who "followed the gleam", building up a fellowship of those who, while cherishing the ties that bind them, constantly look outwards towards the community and the world in which they live - God's world - and recognise their responsibilities there.

And yet, a past is valueless unless it provides the basis for a future. In these days when the role of women in Church and community is being closely scrutinised and the need for "organisations" is being questioned, it is worthwhile to consider the value of a Council such as ours and the part it may be called on to play in the future. Insofar as it represents the coming together of many concerned and caring women and is characterised by that warmth of fellowship which we have all experienced, I cannot but feel that it has a future full of opportunity.

I want to offer my sincere thanks to the office-bearers and Executive members, whose loyal support and wise counsel have always been available to me, and to all Council members for the friendship and help so generously given.

"God bless thy years, thy coming in, thy going out, thy rest, thy

travelling about, the rough, the smooth, the bright, the drear, God bless thy years".

Doris M. Mitchell

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Gladys M. Bent was born in Maitava, New Zealand, daughter of well-known Churches of Christ minister, the late Geo. D. Verco.

Gladys came to Australia in 1935 where her early association was with both the Lane Cove and Mosman Churches as a Sunday School Teacher ...her love of music has found expression as an enthusiastic member of the Conference Choir.

Mother of five children, at present in fellowship with the Church of Christ in Caringbah, where she has been actively involved in C.W.F. work as Secretary and President, and currently leader of an Adult Christian Education Group, Deaconess, and a Committee member of the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board.

In the years 1973-74 it was her privilege to serve as State President of C.W.F. here in N.S.W.

Participating for a period of five years as a member of the Cronulla Toastmistress Club International, Gladys held several positions on the Executive including Treasurer and President.

We welcome Mrs. Bent as our leader and assure her of our loyal support during her term in office.

HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE

At the Annual Meeting of the Council, held on 21st April, Life Memberships were conferred on two members who have rendered fine service, Mrs. J.B. Montgomerie and Mrs. R.H. Dougherty. Both have had a long association with the Council, ably representing their respective Churches and taking a vital interest in Council activities. Mrs. Montgomerie held the office of President in 1963-1964 and Mrs. Dougherty in 1973-1974; earlier she had for several years been Hon. Secretary.

To them both we offer sincere thanks and good wishes for future happiness.

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

The 1975 scholar is Mrs. Mary Weme, a teacher and social worker from Kenya. She is our first married scholarship holder, is 37 years of age, and the mother of five children, two of whom are adopted. She holds the Kenya Primary Education Certificate, Teachers' Training Certificate and a Diploma from the Kenya School of Social Work. She was nominated for the scholarship by the National Christian Council of Kenya.

Mrs. Weme taught in Kenya Primary Schools for seven years before training as a Social Worker. She then joined the staff of the N.C.C.K. to work at the Nakuru Community Centre, where she has worked among destitute people, has established a home industries group for women and organised community care for needy children.

While in Australia, Mary will study group work and community organisation; she is also learning the practical skills of spinning and weaving, which will enable her to stimulate the growth of cottage industries in her area.

We expect that Mrs. Weme will visit N.S.W. during August; in this connection we should be glad to hear from any of our member organisations who would care to invite her to meet their members.

FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICES

So far, we have received information about the following services:

- July 23rd. 10.30 a.m. - Methodist Church, Carrington St., Strathfield.
- 11.00 a.m. - Pitt St. Congregational Church, City.
- July 25th. 10.30 a.m. - Church of Christ, Bridge Rd., Epping.
- 10.30 a.m. - St. Peter's Church of England, 110 Tryon Rd., East Lindfield.
- July 31st. 10.15 a.m. - Presbyterian Church, Kenneth St., Longueville.
- 10.30 a.m. - Methodist Church, Illoura Ave., Wahroonga.

Offerings at Fellowship Day Services support the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund.

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N E W S -- From Here and There

The Girls' Brigade: In 1974 the Girls' Brigade, Pacific Fellowship, received a grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin to assist in the training of indigenous leaders in Papua New Guinea. Here is an extract from the report submitted to F.L.C. in 1974 on the project:-

"You will be delighted to hear that our training programme in Papua New Guinea is progressing very well.

"Miss Susanna Karava, whose home is in Kerema, Papua, has been travelling constantly since March of this year, conducting training classes throughout the Western Districts of New Guinea, including Manus, Madang, throughout the Sepik area, Balimo, and Baiyer River. She writes of great interest by the women and girls in Girls' Brigade since it gives them an opportunity of learning skills of use to them in their village life, stimulates them in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus and promotes a desire to live a more full Christian life. Susanna will be back in Port Moresby in August for training courses there, and all who have participated have expressed their thanks for the fact that she has been enabled to do this.

"Miss Emily Saerson has continued in her area of the Bougainville districts where she is responsible through the Christian Education Department of the United Church to work and oversee women's work and Girls' Brigade. The same applies to our third training officer Miss Linda Edoni whose area embraces the Papuan Islands.

"These three local young women are doing a really fine Christian service for their Lord."

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Y. W. C. A.: The Young Women's Christian Association is a world-wide movement expressing its Christian concern for human needs by responsible action. It knows no barriers of race or creed and welcomes to its membership people from every walk of life, who are willing to share their time and their ability to enrich our community.

The Y.W.C.A., which began in England in 1855, grew out of a recognition of the special needs of women and throughout the social changes of the last 120 years, has continued to respond to, and help women adapt to, the changing nature of both their needs and their social role.

During this International Women's Year, the Sydney "Y" is arranging a series of "Talk Ins", designed to give women an opportunity to get together and talk over the things they are concerned about. The "Talk Ins" held in March and April proved popular and interesting. Here are details of the two remaining ones. Thursday, June 5th - "Our Changing World"; Wednesday, July 2nd - "Women as seen through the Media". Further information from Sydney Y.W.C.A. - 26.2451.

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Woman's Christian Temperance Union: During the past two years, the W.C.T.U. of N.S.W. has gained 400 new members, bringing the total membership to the highest for 10 years. We have three Fruit Drink Production Centres, staffed entirely by voluntary workers, at Pennant Hills, Baukham Hills and Wollongong; each year over 1,000 gallons of fruit drinks are made for commercial and private consumption. We have a panel of fruit drink demonstrators, who are available to organisations in the metropolitan area for day or night functions; country Unions promote the sale of fruit drinks at Agricultural Shows.

We are proud of our history. The W.C.T.U. World Union recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary; N.S.W., the oldest Union in Australia, has been active in the cause of Temperance for 93 years. In 1974 a Children's Holiday Camp was held and a one-day "Holidate", attended by over 100 children from the Northern suburbs.

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National Council of Women: At the Biennial Meeting held in October, 1974, Mrs. P. Bernard, B.Ec. was elected President; delegates elected to the Executive included two members of our Council, Deaconess Mary Andrews and Mrs. Joyce Bragg. Miss Doris Mitchell, who had completed her term as Vice-President, remains on the Executive as Convenor of the Standing Committee for International Relations & Peace. During April, Mrs. Bernard attended a meeting of the I.C.W. Executive held

in Paris. We thank Mrs. Dougherty and Mrs. Pfeiffer who have been our delegates to N.C.W. during the past year. Our newly appointed delegates are Mrs. G. Bent and Mrs. M. McCann.

Good Neighbour Council: The Annual Conference was held in Newcastle in July, 1974. Mrs. M. Marsden Smedley, our representative, presented a most interesting report of the Conference at our Council meeting in August, referring in particular to addresses given by Mr. J. Cross on the Canadian Immigration Programme and Mr. T. O'Brien on the Australian Assistance Plan. The Good Neighbour Council is much involved in the Home Tutor Scheme, designed to assist non-English speaking migrants to learn English in their homes, and has enlisted a large number of tutors, with Mrs. Norma Loy as Organiser. This year the Good Neighbour Council of N.S.W. is celebrating 25 years of service to migrants; the occasion will be marked by the holding of a Conference on 14th June.

Children's Film & T.V. Council: The aim of the Council is to stimulate and maintain public interest in the provision of suitable films and television programmes for children. During the past year film programmes have been presented regularly at the Sydney Opera House and at Macquarie University. During May an International Film Festival has been organised, providing programmes at morning and afternoon sessions in several centres.

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Some Thoughts on Happiness

Happiness is not solitary: it joys to communicate, it loves others, for it depends on them for its existence.

-Robert Louis Stevenson.

True happiness consists not in the multitude of friends, but in their worth and choice.

-Ben Jonson.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- June 23rd. - Council Meeting -- discussion in preparation for the National Committee Meeting of Australian Church Women.
Following the Council Meeting, the Promotion sub-Committee will meet.
- July 14th. - Morning Tea, 10.30 a.m., Pitt St. Congregational Church.
Speaker - Mrs. Heather Stevens will report on the Family Life Seminar held recently in Penang, at which she represented Australian Church Women. *Members and friends will be very welcome. Donations will assist our Overseas Travel Fund.*
- August 19th. - Council Meeting -- Mrs. Mary Weme, Winifred Kiek Scholar for 1975, will be our special guest.
- September 15th. - OPEN DAY -- 10.30 a.m. Pitt St. Congregational Church.
Reports from the National Committee Meeting of A.C.W.
A special invitation is given to members of branches and other interested friends.
- October - WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICES.
- November 17th. - Council Meeting.
Guest Speaker - Mrs. Joy Cooke, National Christian Women's Convention.
Visitors will be welcome.
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N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL
(State Unit of Australian Church Women)

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1975-1976

President:

Mrs. G. Bent, 45 Kitchener St., Caringbah, 2229.....524 9086

Hon. Secretary:

Miss D.M. Mitchell, 33/250 Jersey Rd., Woollahra 2025...328 7119

Membership Secretary:

Mrs. W.S. Chambers, 5a James St., Northwood, 2066.....42 3029

Hon. Treasurer:

Mrs. C. Perriam, 6/37 Ormond St., Ashfield, 2131.....798 6481

CONVENORS:

Fellowship of the Least Coin:

Mrs. R.W. Stanhope, 36 Dettman Ave., Longueville, 2066...42 6078

Promotion:

Mrs. Major I. Hill, 60 Patrick St., Hurstville, 2220...57 2096

Winifred Kiek Scholarship:

Deaconess M. Andrews, Deaconess House,
58 Carillon Ave., Newtown, 2042.....51 1172

Publicity Officer:

Mrs. J. Curtin, 7 Upper Cliff Rd., Northwood, 2066.....42 6191

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LIFE MEMBERS:

Mrs. G.H. Briggs; Mrs. R.H. Dougherty; Mrs. A. Hall;
Mrs. G. Knight; Mrs. M. Miller; Mrs. J.B. Montgomerie;
Mrs. E.G. Pearson; Mrs. C.W. Stolz; Mrs. W. Wyper.

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