

# NEWSETTE

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. STATE 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. Yvonne Davis  
Phone: 759.1364

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No. 13 Registered for posting as a publication November  
Category A. Publication No. NAR 3566 1982

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Christmas draws nearer we turn our thoughts to the "Festive Season" and all the involvement of this time of the year. We plan where and how we will spend Christmas and with whom. It is a family time, so our thoughts go back to other years and our memories are mixed - some happy, some sad - yet all with that special emphasis we are not likely to forget. These days many families are separated by thousands of miles as travelling overseas has become an everyday event. For others there will be great rejoicing as plans are made to "go home" for Christmas.

Yet in many homes Christmas is a time of dread and of sorrow. Mothers will struggle to give their children a "happy Christmas;" some will long for young sons and daughters who have left home and not been heard of again. Fathers unemployed, frustrated that there will be few joys in their homes. Lonely young people, too afraid or ashamed to return to their families - most unemployed since leaving school - their future bleak and empty.

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EVENTS ATTENDED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- 13. 8.82 Support Group, Uniting Church Home and Inland Missions, Chatswood Church - President and Secy.
- 19. 8.82 Presbyterian Womens Missionary Union, Service and luncheon, Epping - President and Secretary.
- 22. 8.82 Centenary Service of W.C.T.U. in St. Andrew's Cathedral - Secretary and Mrs. G. West.
- 24. 8.82 Meeting to recommence inter-church group at Balranald - President.
- 13. 9.82 Federal conference of P.W.A. and luncheon - President and Secretary.
- 22. 9.82 Baptist Women's Annual Service and luncheon - President and Secretary.
- 27. 9.82 Y.W.C.A. Annual Meeting and luncheon - President and Secretary.
- 7.10.82 Uniting Church Synod, St. Stephen's Church, City - Secretary.
- 8.10.82 World Com. Day Service, Pres. Church, Young - President Guest Speaker.
- 19.10.82 World Com. Day Service, Balranald (as above)
- 24.10.82 Broadcast on 2CH for A.C.W. at 2.15 - President
- 27.10.82 Aust. Board of Missions, Bible House - President
- 29.10.82 World Com. Day Service, Nth. Ryde, Macquarie Presbyterian Church - President Guest Speaker.

Several other Executive members were involved actively in World Community Day Services, some as guest speakers.

The Annual Ecumenical Day of Prayer and Reflection was held on September 11 at the Society of Friends' Meeting House. Several council members attended and expressed appreciation of this time of spiritual benefit.

NEWS ITEM: The members of A.C.W. attending the Baptist Women's Service were both proud and delighted at the news of our Newsette Editor, Mrs. Evelyn Ridley, becoming President-elect of the Baptist Women's Fellowship of N.S.W. I know you will all join with me in wishing Evelyn every blessing as she prepares to take up this most important office and assure her of our prayers and support.

- Yvonne Davis, President.

President's Message (cont.)

There will be homes where the festive season only increases the intake of alcohol causing violence, terror and suffering. This is a time when our social workers give of themselves to spread comfort and cheer to the lonely and distressed, not to mention the ever-increasing road toll. Then there are those from other countries and cultures who feel alone and homesick at this time of the year.

But God sent His only Son to fill our hearts with joy, love and peace; to offer us salvation and forgiveness of sin through His perfect gift - His life given freely on the cross for His chosen ones.

As we attend the Christmas services let us pray for the peace of the world and for a future where men and women will turn to their Maker and Redeemer in genuine love and humble obedience, where family life will be strengthened through respect and understanding, with parents being examples of Christian truth, trust and love.

My wish to all members of A.C.W. is for a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness and good health and abounding in opportunities for service to our Heavenly Father.

YVONNE DAVIS  
President

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VISIT OF N.Z. PARTY

From 31st August to 3rd September a group of Christian women from a number of denominations in New Zealand were given hospitality by members of A.C.W. in Sydney. On the evening of 1st September Council members met with their guests at a special reception at 139 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Warm fellowship around a delightful buffet meal was enjoyed by all. Many strong links of friendship were formed during those days.

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The programme for the September Council meeting was varied and interesting. An international visitor, Mrs. Vasiti Raiwalu, Area President from Fiji of the World Federation of Methodist Women, brought a devotional greeting. Her message was based on St. Paul's words in 1 Cor. 1:5: "That in everything we are enriched by Him in all utterance and in all knowledge."

A letter of thanks together with a cheque for \$187.50 was received from the New Zealand women who visited Australia as an ecumenical group (see separate report).

Another item of interest was the firm desire expressed to bring to Australia a selected candidate from Burma as a Winifred Kiek Scholar.

Reports were received from several Branches and these are summarised separately.

Miss Christina Richards, a representative of Trading Partners, had quietly arranged her display of attractive goods at the back of the meeting room, so that when the appropriate time arrived the ladies turned their chairs around to view a variety of goods for sale. These were presented in a charming and informative way by Christina who sold \$269.40's worth to those present, thus helping women in underdeveloped countries. Tea was served by the Churches of Christ ladies at the conclusion of activities.

- Mabel Ward, Secretary

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Readers of "Newsette" are reminded that this is the last issue covered by the 1982 subscription. Please use the enclosed form to renew your sub. for 1983 and send, together with \$2.00 to our Hon. Treasurer before the end of this year. Some subscribers paid twice during this year and their second receipt has been marked as for 1983, so that no further payment is required.

-Doris Mitchell, Hon. Treasurer

BRANCH REPORTS

NORTH RYDE. A small committee is responsible for the annual services which are held. The branch enjoys good ecumenical fellowship. (Reported by Mrs. Goodwin)

PARRAMATTA. World Community Day, 1981, was held at Northmead when Mrs. Marie McCann was the speaker. Fellowship Day at North Rocks involved members from new churches in that growing area. Miss Doris Mitchell was the guest speaker. World Community Day, 1982, is to be held in The Salvation Army Citadel, Parramatta, when Brig. Mabel Ward is to be speaker. (Reported Mrs. Udy)

CHATSWOOD-WILLOUGHBY. An A.C.W. Promotions leaflet declares: "All endeavours of A.C.W. find their real meaning in the grass roots involvement of members of local branches." This we have proved in this branch. Services are well attended, offerings have increased and able speakers bring stimulating messages. A worthwhile time of discussion followed the luncheon after the Fellowship Day service. The committee shared in the planning for the World Day of Prayer service held at the Roman Catholic Church. The street stall held each year gives the branch funds to distribute to worthy causes in the community. (Reported Mrs. D. Woodhouse)

LANE COVE-LONGUEVILLE. This branch, now in its 15th year organises the World Day of Prayer in addition to A.C.W. special days. The 1981 Community Day Service was held in St. Andrew's Longueville Uniting Church when the 50 folk attending were inspired by the message given by Mrs. Haberfield. The collection for the Korean victims of the atomic bomb was \$86, and the F.L.C. offering was \$160.92. W.D.P. service was held in the Finlayson Street Uniting Church with an attendance of 110. Fellowship Day was celebrated on July 30 at St. Columba Uniting Church. Mrs. Helen Kerle's address was an inspiration to the 70 ladies present. An offering of \$87.55 was given towards the W.Kiek Scholarship. (Reported by Mrs. E. Chambers)

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Someone has said that "Intercession is basically love praying. Intercession is love on its knees. When we begin to pray for another we begin to know, to understand and cherish him as never before."

As members of Australian Church Women our greatest responsibility is to place ourselves in God's hands to be used in a ministry of prayer which will lead to action for the building of God's Kingdom.

We praise God for news of the W.K.Scholars who, like Sister Barkat Das in Karachi, West Pakistan, experienced a miracle of healing and was able to witness to a Parsee and two Muslim doctors. She shared with them her faith in Christ.

Miss Violet Bredt (nee Sampa) has returned to Zambia from Germany to a very busy ministry. Miss Malini Weerasinghe has returned to a very full programme in Colombo, teaching and training Sunday school teachers.

Pray for Deaconess Sala Kavarac as she completes her course at Alcorn College in Brisbane and later returns to Fiji.

An applicant from Korea has been chosen for next year's W.K.S. Pray she may get a visa and suitable arrangements may be made for her training.

The N.S.W. Unit is hoping that some means may be found for the applicant from Burma to be sponsored for training, as the Church in Burma needs trained women leaders. It was my privilege to meet Mrs. Lillian Tin Oo at the International W.W.D.P. meetings in Tutzing. She is one of the leaders in the Church in Burma and works in the University in Rangoon. Pray for her and her ministry on behalf of the W.D.P. She was delighted to hear the A.C.W. ladies were praying for Burma.

- Mary M. Andrews, W.K.S. Convenor

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X F.L.C. REPORT (cont.) An Audio-Visual with 31 slides, script and tape is available on request to the Convenor of F.L.C. This can be posted if required.

- Dorothy Woodhouse, Convenor.

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

7.

Many prayers are offered by individuals and groups as "least coins" are set aside during the year. They are dedicated at World Community Day Services in October then sent to an international fund belonging to Christian women who participate in the ecumenical movement of prayer called The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Applications are received from all countries by the International Committee based in Asia, which approves grants in the name of the whole Fellowship. Grants are allocated for: the International Committee's administration; block grants to regional ecumenical organizations of women; projects to any ecumenical group of Christian women; emerging opportunities; and emergency grants for unforeseen natural disasters.

The Committee may take the initiative in making allocations, but usually does not favour giving grants for buildings. Normally the grants allocated to any single project will not exceed US\$6000 and are usually non-recurring. The Fund supports programmes which promote evangelical and ecumenical concern for world peace and reconciliation.

Priority is given to programmes enabling women to come together internationally and ecumenically. Grants are given in many areas of the world to "Conferences of Churches" and the International Committee of World Day of Prayer. The total given this year is US\$251,700.

Following are some projects receiving grants allocated for 1982:-

|                     |                           |         |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| New Zealand         | NCC Project on Racism     | \$3,000 |
| Edinburgh, Scotland | Central Area Minibus Grp. | 2,000   |
| Taiwan              | Consultation of Theol.    |         |
|                     | Trained Women             | 3,000   |
| Yugoslavia          | Ecumenical Women's Work   | 2,000   |
| Kenya, Africa       | Church Women Leaders Sem. | 2,000   |
| Gambia, Africa      | Mothers Union             | 3,000   |
| Angola, Africa      | Josie Vocational Training | 3,000   |
| Caribbean           | Church Community Hall     | 1,000   |
| Caribbean           | Trinidad Voc. Training    | 2,000   |
| CWU, U.S.A.         | Global Network            | 5,000   |
| CWU, U.S.A.         | 40th Anniv. Birthday gift | 4,000   |



8.

The luncheon on October 6, by the Ukranian Women's Association of N.S.W. (Lidcombe Branch) was a friendly gesture towards many women's organisations to avail themselves of the opportunity to learn something of the Ukraine, its history, its people and its culture. In 1983 they will be celebrating 1,000 years of Christianity.

The parade of national costume as worn by past royalty, nobility, the married and unmarried women of lower class varied from richly embroidered and jewelled brocades to equally colourful hand woven woollen and cotton materials of most feminine design. Tiny dolls were on display wearing replicas of the dresses, also boxes finely carved and attractive plates where each colour of a flower was baked separately.

All the food spread out on the table bore a flag proclaiming its name. Most present took a little of all and the variety and flavour were quite an adventure because one had no idea what it contained.

Donations given were presented to the National Council for Women, whose President, Mrs. Peters, expressed the gratitude of the Council and conveyed the delight of all present of the warmth of the hospitality extended by these women who are so anxious to share with other women's groups the rich culture they are preserving and the uniqueness of their nation's history.

Reported by Joan Curtin

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Contributions to 'Newsette' are requested and should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Evelyn Ridley, 23 Hannah Street, Beecroft 2119, before the 15th day of the month prior to publication

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"NEWSETTE" is the official journal of the N.S.W. State Unit of A.C.W. It is published four times yearly during the months February, May, August and November.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: \$2.00

All subscription monies should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss D. Mitchell, 33/250 Jersey Road, Woollahra 2025.