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However....

for safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word "Treasurer" when addressing envelopes.

- **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to "Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc." and NOT to any individual person.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS

Denominational Groups: \$25 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches: \$15 per annum
Organisations: \$15.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES \$15 per annum
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For further details contact Jennifer Pepper (9874 4056)

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Changes of Address & Contributions to Newsette
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Newsette
AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.

ACW Website: www.acw.org.au

ACW 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.

Mission Statement:

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God-Father, Son and
Holy Spirit; one God, Three-in-One. We believe that Scripture teaches
that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection

President: Mrs Natalie McLeod

Phone: 9484 1615 Email: McLeod.natalie@bigpond.com

Number 141

November 2014

The President writes.....

Dear Members and Friends of ACW, Another year is flying by--
daylight saving has arrived again and lovely spring blossoms are in
my garden. One pink Camellia has been magnificent. It usually
flowers in July but held off until we had rain and then a wonderful
display in September, shedding cascades of petals everywhere.

We had a lovely concert at Epping Baptist Church in August. Rev.
Andrew Hall the minister there, made us very welcome. The
performers played and sang well and the audience enjoyed it all.
Thank you to everyone who provided and helped with afternoon tea -
it was a feast!

Conference Day in September went well too. Several people have
told me how much they enjoyed the talks about Logosdor and Global
Recordings. Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend as I was recovering
from foot surgery, and I am grateful to everyone who coped with
everything on the day especially the ladies from St. Andrews who had
had special celebrations the day before.

World Community Day comes up later this month. The service has
been prepared by the women of Cootamundra, and I do like the
drawing on the front of the service order, of a church building made up
of lots of faces of people like you and me. We are Christ's church
here

on earth and we have the job of keeping it continuing!

When you read this copy of Newsette it will be almost Advent again. Advent was set down in the Church's calendar as a time to prepare for Christ coming again as He promised. Nowadays our supermarkets sell Advent calendars for children to count down to presents and feasting with a chocolate each day! When my children were small, an English friend sent us some calendars which focused on Jesus. One showed a village scene in Nazareth, another showed a map of Israel with readings setting out the Bible message. I used them later as teaching aids for Scripture classes.

Jesus was a babe in Bethlehem and it is easy to sing carols about that, but He became a man who taught of God's salvation for us. Let us focus on that this Advent, and if He returns on December 25th, we will be ready to say, "come Lord Jesus - welcome"

Thank you for all your prayers for me and for the Executive.

Natalie McLeod, President

Special Days

By the time you read this Newsette Report you will have already celebrated your World Community Day.

I hope that you were inspired by the theme –*Building With Godly Wisdom*, and enjoyed the service as prepared by the Cootamundra Branch of the NSW Unit of ACW Inc. I will be speaking at World Community Days Services in Perth and the suburb of Mandurah.

It has been good to read the reports from Fellowship Day held in July, as they have been sent in. Not all the reports have come to me yet, but from those that have it is apparent that a lovely day of fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended the various services across our state. It was good to read your comments on the service.

I noticed that many places took the opportunity to especially remember in prayer the war torn areas of our world and the persecution being suffered by so many. Those bereaved by the Malaysian air disaster were also remembered in prayer at services. It was good to see the freedom to adapt the service to meet current concerns being exercised.

I was also pleased to read that in many centres the skits were used to good effect, helping to bond the fellowship through shared laughter while still presenting a pertinent message. I want to thank you for your generous giving to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship fund with \$3,443.80 having already been receipted.

Pastoral Care



Hopefully all the winter virus' and flu bugs have moved into another hemisphere, leaving us all in peace and better health!

We are sad that Peg Cameron has resigned, but the travelling into meetings had become too difficult. We are grateful for her wonderful contribution to the Australian Church Women's committee over the years of her membership.

We pray for Beryl Kirkwood as she returns home after a spell in hospital, may she regain her strength and perhaps we will see her at our November meeting.

Val Hazelwood has broken a toe, amazing the pain and restriction to movement such a small part of our body can make to our life. Val's father is in Westmead Hospital following surgery, so we pray for a speedy and complete recovery for them both.

My dear husband has excelled himself this last month, having had four trips to hospital. We know that many people were praying for him. We are grateful for his recovery and the wonderful care he received in Westmead emergency. My prayers are for the staff who care for so many people and remain cheerful and always alert. He is home now and being a very good patient!.

I pray for safe travel for Pamela Freeman as she represents the ACW at a conference in the Philippines, may she receive blessings from all she sees and hears and in turn be a blessing to those with whom she comes in contact.

Our thoughts remain with Isabel's family after the death of her daughter's partner and grandson's father. May the weeks and months bring solace and healing to all the family. We pray that Natalie McLeod makes a complete recovery after surgery to her ankle and for our National President, Lyn Middleton who will have surgery as this issue is mailed out. May all recover speedily..

*If we learn how to give of ourselves,
to forgive others, and to live with thanksgiving,
we need not seek happiness—it will seek us.*



Winifred Kiek Scholarship Report

We continue to remember the 2014 Scholars, **Seng Ja** [Myanmar] as she completes her studies for a Master of Divinity at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Singapore AND **Wasana** [Sri Lanka] studying in the UK for a Masters Degree in Transformative Theologies of Gender .

Thank you for your continued prayer for **Leinamau** [2007 Vanuatu] . In a recent email , Leinamau gives thanks to God that for the next 3 years she will be going to study in Fiji at the Pacific Theological College [Suva] . She will be sponsored by some women in the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand.

Leinamau is still coming to terms with this surprise blessing and "I really must pull up my socks to prepare." She will resign from her position , but the church is sending her out to study and on return will take up the Christian Education Directors post. They have their own Theological College needing teachers too, Leinamau will be praying and seeking God's guidance for the next steps after the studies [the BD program].

Leinamau is very busy finishing Sunday School lessons - Kindy up to Junior Youth, 6 books to complete . It has taken nearly 18 months to do them, with some help, they need to be printed by early October. She will then take them out to the Islands ready for teachers to use in 2015 . They are all in their National language - Bislama.

What an amazing woman of Godwe are " in partnership "

News of Girls' Brigade

Elizabeth Neale reports that June saw the affiliation of the newest Girls' Brigade Company in Deniliquin Uniting Church

July—the International Conference of Girls' Brigade was held in Perth

July—a Pioneer Leadership Training Course in Gerringong

August— Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO presented Queens Awards.....it's great to be part of Girls' Brigade!!

Social Issues

"Four men were applauded recently for coming to the aid of two Muslim women as they were being attacked by a bigoted tirade in Newcastle.

"The anti-racism heroes said ' more people need to take a stand against weak and cowardly vilification'

The offender was refused bail after local Magistrate described the verbal assault as 'made on a racial basis upon persons who were innocently going about their business' "

As Christian women we are called to 'stand up and be counted' against racial vilification. We may not always be in a position to intervene physically, however we can offer other ways of support. In conversations with friends, we can be a dissenting voice in support of views which oppose our own; we can stand alongside a woman on the fringe of society or being poorly treated by storekeepers or their staff; we can encourage our children to befriend children who are 'different' at their school.

Where DO we stand? Does what we say, pray, sing bear any resemblance to how we actually live?

Shirley Mitchell, National Convenor

In recent months many of us have been challenged about the disadvantaged and unemployed youth, the decrease in child care subsidies, the slaughter of Christians and other minority groups in Syria and Iraq, CSIRO cutbacks, foster children seeking permanent homes and Asylum Seeker conditions in Nauru.

We can continue to pray about these issues however if we feel deeply about any (or all) we can express our concern to Local, State & National politicians and other community leaders and ask pertinent questions.

Rae Goth, NSW Convenor

God has always used ordinary people to carry out His extraordinary mission



ACWC CONCERT of PRAISE

Sunday, 24th August 2014—Epping Baptist Church

ACWC = Asian Church Women's Conference

A Star filled Programme

Over 200 people were welcomed by Rev Andrew Hall in the Epping

Korean Salvation Army Band

A group of women from the Burmese Christian Church (South Granville) sang "How can I Help but Praise the Lord."

Soloist, Keiko Hughson, of Japanese heritage, delighted all with "Feed the Birds" - accompanied by Suzanne Ing.

The Ing family group gave wonderful classical presentations - Edmund (Violin), Candice (Cello). These young students were ably accompanied by their mother, Suzanne.

First time appearance was the Filipino Chaplaincy Chatswood Parish Choir who exhibited great talent with 3 song—one sung a capella and Amazing Grace with audience participation

Pamela Freeman (ACW-NSW) outlined the beginnings of ACWC and some of the programs they instigated. An offering to further their work was taken during a rousing band item

Items by The Sydney Chinese Assn. for Sacred Music choir were inspirational. 4 ladies from this group performed a gospel dance in national costume and later another gospel dance using large colourful fans.

The 2 congregational songs, accompanied by the band, were sung heartily and many sang in their native tongue.

Plan to share in our next concert to be held in 2016.

Day Conference 15th September 2014

Almost 40 ladies attended St Andrews Anglican Church, Strathfield to hear speakers from organisations on the theme – *Communicating the Message*.

With the President, Natalie McLeod recuperating from surgery, Past President Nola Dickson extended a welcome all to the day, before Jan Harrison led a short devotional Bible Study from Luke 2 referring to the presentation of the Baby Jesus at the Temple.



Women then discussed these verses in small groups.

Prior to morning tea, **Liz Groves** presented information about the history of **Logosdor**, [Word of Gold], a small organization which began in Sydney almost 20 years ago specifically to reach children for Christ.

Max7.org is the website where a variety of quality resources from contributors around the world can be accessed free of charge, with no worries about copyright, *Logosdor* being one of the key contributors to this venture.

Film clips, both silent and with script, were fascinating to watch. Many notes were taken and this subject was received with enthusiasm.



Carmel Keys expressed thanks to Liz.



Morning Tea was a busy time of discussion as well as taking time to converse with others, including 10 ladies who do not attend the Council Meetings. This was very encouraging to have these women with us for the day.

Settling into the seats again, the group listened intently as **Lucy Meyers** and her assistant, **Vivian**, from **Global Recordings Network [GRN]** demonstrated the development of the devices used to bring the gospel to the world through recordings at little cost. The various inventions were simple and easy to use.



A special project for North Sudan was introduced to the gathering, where people now living in Australia who speak the targeted language are to be used to assist with



the translation into those languages from North Sudan. The work of translating from English to the given language and then retranslating for several sessions was demonstrated. People were impressed by the amount of work committed to the true translation of the scriptures. This was most enlightening and well received.

Shirley Mitchell gave a word of thanks to both Lucy and Vivian.

The day concluded with the singing of the ACW theme song—*We, being many, are one in the Lord*, followed by prayer and benediction.

Thanks to the team from St Andrew's Anglican Church, Strathfield who gave willingly of their time and facilities to this event.

Pamela Freeman, Secretary



Can you help?

We are **missing copies of Newsette**....do you have any of these in a drawer or cupboard?

Issue No. 1 presumably November 1979

Issue No. 3 May 1980

Issue No.12 August 1982

Issue No.14 February 1983: No. 16 August 1983

Issue No 18 February 1984: No.19 May 1984 : No.20 August 1984

Issue No.24 August 1985

Issue No.26 February 1986:No.27 May 1986: No. 29 November 1986

Issue No.30 February 1987: No.32 August 1987

Issue No. 37 November 1988 ✓

Issue No.129 November 2011 ✓

Also Missing from our records are Orders of Service for

Fellowship Day Service for 1987



Fellowship of the Least Coin

Lillian Hodges, FLC Convenor writes

I want to share with you again some news from around the world, where countries have benefitted from assistance from FLC.

The '**All Africa Conference of Churches Women's Programme**' organized a 3 day workshop on "Gender and Leadership in the Christian Community for 26 women in Togo. Some of the topics covered concepts and benchmarks related to Gender and Leadership, concepts and tools for a better practice of female leadership, techniques of group management, of stress reduction and self-confidence, and to get to know FLC better.

The **Christian Conference of Asia** has held activities in India about Overcoming Violence, especially among women and children on the theme "Jesus gives Life, Dignity and Protection to Children".

In **Bangladesh and Pakistan** there was National Child Protection Training.

From **World Council of Churches Women in Church and Society**, stating that there are still so many gaps on how women and men participate in the life of the Ecumenical Movement. There is a need for an important strategy of bridging the existing disparities between women and men in church and society.

Coming back to our own state of **NSW**, I want to again thank you for your support for FLC. I have had the pleasure in recent weeks of speaking at Uniting Church groups at West Epping and Wollongong. I also visited a PPSEAWA meeting so that they could learn more about FLC.

May God bless us as we seek peace, justice and reconciliation.

*PEACE is not the absence of conflict
But the ability to cope with it.*



NOVEMBER is the time when the Annual Subscriptions are due for Newsette!

The price remains the same—\$10 per year.

Please complete the blue form in with this issue and include it when making your payment.

Thank You

ALSO DUE are

*Associate Membership Fees \$15 which includes the cost of Newsette.

*Branch & Denominational Fees

'Hot off the Press' news for the next 4 years **Australia and Bangladesh** will be prayer partners. [Previously we were linked with Mongolia and East Timor)

Also **Dorothy Castro** from the Philippines is the newly elected **President of ACWC for the next 4 years.**



May the gift of Christ be the focus of our Christmas celebrations. Christmas thoughts.

Respond Now !

Expression of Interest

Australian Church Women Inc.



25th National Conference
7-11 September 2015

The Salvation Army Centre
Collaroy Beach NSW

National Executive would value your company at Collaroy. Please indicate your interest in attending by **1 February 2015** so we can ensure you receive a registration form.

We expect the cost will be in the vicinity of \$650-\$700
Monday lunch—Friday lunch.

Replies to
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or
Denise Secomb
30 Isabella Close