

Did you know?

All ACW Monies—Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the

TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson

33 Lynwood Avenue, Dee WHY NSW 2099

Phone: 9971 0278

However, **please note**

- 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 are due **1st March** each year.

Denominational Groups: \$25 per annum

ACW Local Branches: \$15 per annum

Organisations: \$15.00 per annum

The Girls' Brigade

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due **1st March**: \$15 per annum

(this includes subscription to Newsette)

For further details contact Jennifer Pepper (9874 4056)

Newsette is the journal of Australian Church Women

NSW State Unit Inc. and is published four times a year

in February, May, August and November.

The Annual Subscription is \$10.00.

Contributions to *Newsette* are requested from readers and should be sent to the Editor:

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Changes of Address should be sent to the

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Newsette

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN—NSW UNIT INC.

ACW Website: www.acwnational.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 of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

President: Mrs Nola Dickson Phone 9869 2559

Email: nmdickson@tpg.com.au

Number 127

May 2011

President's Message

Recently I received a letter from an old Primary school colleague who had recognized my maiden name in my resume some time ago. We had lived in the same vicinity and her father had owned the butcher's shop. Being the one in the household whose chore it was to do the messages, I visited it often.

As I read the letter, memories came flooding back, to the time when I trod the pavement back and forth to school each day, a reminder of my youth.

I was fortunate to have a happy family life; the upbringing I received taught me the difference between right and wrong but, more importantly, I was taught, at a very early age, the truth of the gospel, and for that I will ever be thankful. Living through the days of the Depression, we did not enjoy luxuries, but I can't remember that we felt cheated, or thought that we had anything to complain about.

Memories, as I have written before, can be full of joy, or sorrow.

As my mind was triggered back to those happy times, I wondered about Jesus' mother and her memories. How did she survive the horror of watching her son dying so terribly? As she stood there, watching, trying to understand, feeling the pain of all that was happening around her, did that memory stay vivid in her mind for the rest of her life? Or could she go past it to the times she held him on her knee, watched him in his growing years, working alongside his earthly father,

A son she loved and enjoyed was tortured, beaten, ridiculed and nailed to a piece of wood in front of her eyes. Although she knew he was God's son, she never envisaged the ending that was to come. I am sure that even in remembering the days of his youth, she never forgot the events of that awful day.

While I am grateful to my earthly parents, I am more than grateful to my Heavenly Father, for his love and sacrifice, so cruelly and unjustly perpetrated. I can never ever give him enough love to show him how thankful I am.

He wants us to remember. As we participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we are reminded that he told us, "Do this in remembrance of me." Remember what I offer you, what I have done for you..

At our service on Good Friday we mourn all that happened to the one sinless Son of God, and it is difficult not to be emotional. The joy of Easter Sunday takes that sadness away as we joyfully sing "Alleluia, Christ is risen." He is risen, indeed.

Nola Dickson



Winifred Kiek Scholarship

Please continue to remember our two new scholars for this year:

ARPENA in Assam doing her final year of Bachelor of Divinity course, and **SISARET** in Cambodia preparing to come here in June to the Alan Walker college for her Course.

The use of modern technology enables greater contact with past 'scholars' as they continue to use the knowledge they gained. Email makes distances irrelevant.

LEINAMAU (2007) - her third term of office for her position will be due in August at the General Assembly. She would like to undertake further study to keep her up to date, preferably in another Pacific

Island, possibly the Pacific Theological College in Fiji.

IMELDA (2008) is still teaching Arabic language to a Muslim community in Manila whilst waiting for her next placement back to the Middle East. She is concerned for her daughter, back from studying in the US, who is emotionally and spiritually low.

INISE (2009) will finish her course later this year—continuing in her work with AMP and heavily committed to work with her family and church.

CHRISTY (2009) is in Melbourne busily preparing for her overseas placement mid year. Security surrounds her details and communication but she values ongoing prayer.

The National WKS Convenor has also sent on news received of -

REV. TANIA EICHLER (2006) now serving in her own parish in Brisbane focusing on outreach into the community supported by her husband and family.

SUSAN LIERSCH (2003) who works as a Child and Adolescent Mental Health worker using and increasing her skills in counseling etc. Her husband is Rector of Gundagai Parish which covers a large area and he also does Juvenile Justice Chaplaincy in Wagga Wagga.

DOREEN TIE CHIN BING (Tan) (1990) has taken on the additional role as Youth Adviser in her church as well as continuing to run the school catering for 134 students with special needs ... "indeed very challenging."

All these 'girls' continue to thanks us for ongoing prayers and encouragement and send their greetings.

Applications for the 2012 scholarship need to be with the Trustees by 31st May. They would appreciate prayer for wisdom and discernment.

Judith Payzer

Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor

Winifred..... the story of the first woman to be ordained to the Christian ministry in Australia.....copies available for \$15 contact Treasurer



Pastoral Care

It is our privilege as a Council to pray for members who face serious health problems or who have concerns about family members. We prayerfully support *Major Karen Ross*, whose father, Major Karl Banks, was promoted to Glory in April. *Jean Porteous*, a former President, has had heart surgery and has had to resign as a Churches of Christ representative to Council. We continue to pray for *Shirley Wells*, a National Life member and long-time Convenor of The Fellowship of the Least Coin, who is no longer able to attend Council meetings. We thank God that the very young grandchildren of *Shirley Mitchell* and *Sandra Wise* have responded well to treatment.

This prayer support is extended to all members and branches. If you would like to be included please email me johnhed@pnc.com.au or phone 9887 1846.

Olive Edmondstone

Pastoral Care Convenor

Social Issues

Social Issues affect us all, be we city or country dwellers.

The following are brought to your attention. The Elections are over—but you need to keep your politicians informed of your thoughts and remind them they represent YOU.

PRIME MINISTER: It is interesting to note that PM Julia Gillard has affirmed her support for traditional values eg. Marriage between male and female; no Euthanasia and Freedom of Religion. Good points to keep in mind and remind her when these subjects are next arise in Parliament again.

ADEQUATE WAGES are needed to meet the basic needs of families. The National Minimum Wage of \$569.90 is inadequate.

Watch for new proposals for High Care and Dementia Patients.

EDUCATION: The danger of CHARTER SCHOOLS MODEL that would see all non-government schools become fully funded by the government. It means Catholic and other Denominational schools would no longer be able to fulfil the purpose for which they were founded.

CHILD SAFETY. Vigilant monitoring of use of email, Facebook and Internet by parents and grandparents to protect the young.

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD should be protected from Narcotic drugs and Psychothropic substances (alcohol) - including the unborn child.

ORGAN DONATION. Vital organs can only be removed once death of a patient has been reliably diagnosed and the family of the deceased are able to see and sense that death has occurred. Does your Church support the current definition of death and Organ Donation? Have you considered Organ Donation? If so, you MUST tell your family.

Carol Keys

Social Issues Convenor

Asian Women's Christian Conference

Don't forget this year's ACWC celebration -

The Multicultural Concert of Praise

September 11 at 2.30pm at Eastwood Baptist Church

For those who remember:

It is with sadness that the ACWC Secretariat Office has to advise that Maya Michael passed away on 10th October 2010 after a short illness. She served as a member of the Executive Committee of ACWC and President of ACWC (1986-1990). She also was Chairperson of ICFLC for a period of four years (1987-1990).

Major Lyn Middleton ACWC Convenor



Special Days Report

During July, many branches will be observing *Fellowship Day*. This Special Day is held in honour of Winfred Kiek, who was one of the instigators in bringing Christian Church Women in Australia together, more than 60 years ago. Thus it is customary to hold a day of *Fellowship* each year at the end of July. In 2011 the theme is *Living in the Light*.

As a perpetual memorial, monies from the offerings received on this day are sent to the Winifred Kiek Memorial Trust. The interest from these investments provides the funds for the bursaries given to scholars each year.

Please see the report from the NSW State Unit WKS Convenor for further details about these scholars in 2011.

At the time of the printing of this copy of *Newsette*, branches in the following places are preparing to recognize this Special Day:

Armidale contact	- Annette Schafer	Ph 6772 5918
Bathurst	- Margaret Gordon	Ph 6331 4020
Bellingen	- Nell Lee	Ph 6655 1996
Cooma	- Deidre Clarke	Ph 6452 2296
Cootamundra	- Dianne Turner	Ph 6942 1398
Dee Why	- Helen Richardson	Ph 9971 0278
Epping	- Olive Bolliger	Ph 9484 6829
Kincumber	- Bev Elliott	Ph 4342 8043
Mayfield/Newcastle	- Janet Kellett	Ph 4963 3717
Narooma	- Margaret Mashford	Ph 4476 3135
Strathfield	- Bonnie Lyons	Ph 9745 3736
Sutherland	- Brenda Dickinson	Ph 9542 6507
Tamworth	- Lorraine Furze	Ph 6761 7371
The Entrance	- Mrs B Randall	Ph 4333 3837
Taree	- Mrs Molly Unicomb, 7 Amaroo Drive, Taree	2430

We hope that you may be able to join with others near you.

For further information contact Pamela Freeman at 9873 1701.

Pamela Freeman

A C W NSW State Convenor for Special Days.

News from Pan Pacific & South East Asian Women's Association

Edith Ridge advises that PPSEAWA have been held two meetings so far in 2011.

Peter Berry and Edna Thompson from Glenbrook told of their visit with a group from New Lambton Uniting Church to the Kangra Girls' Hostel in Himachal, India. This hostel provides care and accommodation for 50 girls from remote areas so that they can gain access to quality education. This work is organised by the Church of North India. The meeting was impressed by this story and donated \$200 from funds to this work of the Kangra Girls' Hostel.

The Annual General Meeting was held in March. Mrs Margaret Groenewegen was re-elected to the Presidency, Miss Marjorie Wood as Secretary and Mrs Heather Sulerzyski as Treasurer. Vice-Presidents are Mrs Joan Egan and Kaye Payten.

The International Women's Day Luncheon was again a successful activity of PPSEAWA with some 90 in attendance including some pupils from Abbotsleigh and Hornsby Girls' High Schools. The speaker was Rebecca Eckert who told of the work of ANCORW (Australian National Committee on Refugee Women) and the risks in resettlement faced by refugee women and children.

Funds distributed—\$500 appeal for flood victims; \$500 ANCORW and \$1000 to UNWOMEN (previously known as UNIFEM—an organisation promoting gender equality and empowerment of women which also organises International Women's Day.

Resiliency is an important factor in living.

The winds of life may bend us, but if we have resilience of spirit., they cannot break us.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

A global movement of

Prayer for Justice, Peace and Reconciliation

Do you sometimes wonder where these "least coins" we collect go?



BLOCK GRANTS \$120,000

All Africa Conference of Churches	\$10,000
Asian Church Women's Conference	\$20,000
Christian Conference of Asia	\$10,000
Caribbean Conference of Churches	\$10,000
Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women	\$10,000
Latin America Council of Churches	\$10,000
Middle East Council of Churches	\$10,000
Pacific Conference of Churches	\$10,000
Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada	\$ 5,000
Church Women United USA	\$ 5,000
World Council of Churches Women in Church & Society	\$10,000
World Day of Prayer International Committee	\$10,000

TOTAL BUDGET \$427,710

Project Grants	\$181,710
Block Grants	\$120,000
Emergency Grants	\$15,000
Circle of Prayer	\$10,000
FLC Scholarship Award for Young Women	\$ 5,000

A new leaflet is currently being prepared which gives full details of monies expended.

If you would like to have Major Lillian Hodges come and speak about FLC.....even if you are in country areas ...please contact her.

Major Lillian Hodges (Phone : 9533 6082)

Darkness

Turning Darkness into Light is the topic chosen by ACW National Executive for their two years in office. In keeping with this, the theme for Fellowship Day in July this year will be *Living in the Light*

For many of us we are still coming to terms with darkness, perhaps becoming more conscious of it as we travelled recently through the events leading up to Easter and the poignant reminder, during the Maundy Thursday "Service of Shadows", of the 'darkness' Christ himself endured.

Recent readings reminded me of the various types of darkness those in our community face.

There is *NATURAL DARKNESS*—We all need night as much as day—for rest, to enjoy the cool of the evening, gaining the perspective of seeing the stars and recognising our place in the universe. Psalm 8:3-4

There is the pain of *PSYCHOLOGICAL DARKNESS*—through the distress of depression or trauma, possibly physical pain or illness. Whatever the cause there may come a time in any of our lives when we are clouded in darkness. We cannot see the way ahead and others observe "we are not ourselves." At such times we, as Christians, can "hold the Christ light for you, in the night time of your fear" as the hymn writer so aptly put.

There is also *MORAL DARKNESS*—Human beings are capable of incredible violence and evil against each other and God's created order. We should remember that Christ too knew the *DARKNESS OF HUMAN HEARTS*—He suffered disloyalty and broken promises of his followers and indeed the evil purposes of those who wanted him dead. He lived with that darkness and yet still continued with his love for all people. As Christians we always insist on facing the truth. Our good intentions cannot save us from this reality. Scripture teaches us that only Christ can save us from the darkness within. Read Romans 7.

Whatever form of darkness we are currently experiencing we must seek to *FIND OUR WAY IN THE DARK*. Take heart, remember Jonah, he must have found the darkness of the belly of the whale daunting.....but God had sent the whale to prevent him drowning. We can claim the promise from John 1:5

"....the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it..."

ADJUST YOUR FOG LIGHTS, have faith, be open to God's Word and the witness of His people to help you through the darkness and may you come to that place where you can *LIVE IN THE LIGHT*. It doesn't stop there—we are to share that light with others still in darkness.

Ed.

Office Bearers for the following 12 months for the NSW
State Unit Inc.

Executive Committee:

President	Nola Dickson	Presbyterian
Past President	Jennifer Pepper	Baptist
President Elect	Isabel Hewitt	Uniting
Secretary	Helen Hill	Presbyterian
Treasurer & Public Officer	Helen Richardson	Uniting

Convenors:

Social Issues	Carmel Keys	Catholic
Pastoral Care	Olive Edmondstone	Baptist
Winifred Kiek Christ	Judith Cayzer	Churches of
Fellowship of the Least Coin	Major Lillian Hodges	Salvation Army
Newsette Editor	Jennifer Pepper	Baptist
Publicity	Isabel Hewitt	Uniting
ACWC	Major Lyn Middleton	Salvation Army
Membership	Martha Noel	Baptist
Special Days	Pamela Freeman	Salvation Army
Anglican Representative	Janet Harrison/Heather Badgery	

Newsette : Manager and Sub Editor & Website Manager
Brenda Dickenson

Representatives were appointed to:

State Council of World Day of Prayer (3 representatives)

PSEAWA (2 representatives)

National Council of Women (2 representatives)

Ecumenical Council (1 representative)

ACW Council Meetings Level 2 , 222 Pitt Street Sydney

June 20 August 15 November 21

Executive Meetings

June 6 August 8 November 14

ANNUAL DEDICATION DAY, MONDAY MAY 16

10.30am Epping Presbyterian Church

Light lunch to follow RSVP 9869 2559

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY ,

MONDAY JULY 18

Commencing with Morning Tea at 9.30am

Concluding by 1pm

Scots Church, Margaret Street, Sydney

Theme: Psalm 139:14 "I praise you, I am fearfully and wonderfully made"
NRSV

Speaker: Luke Armstrong, Scientist on
'Your DNA, your Genes'



July—Fellowship Day— "Living in the Light"

Winifred Kiek Scholarship Offerings

refer to local branch for meeting locations

September 11 ACWC Multicultural Concert of Praise

2pm Eastwood Baptist Church

October 10-14 ACW Inc. National Conference

Emanuel College, Adelaide

October— World Community Day

"Reflecting the Light of Christ"

Fellowship of the Least Coin Offerings