

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC
EXECUTIVE 2003-2004**

PRESIDENT	Mrs Jean Porteous	9727 2580
PAST PRESIDENT	Mrs Janet Harrison	9744 8626
SECRETARY	Mrs Isabel Hewitt	9642 7137
ACWC	Major Joan Tong	9718 8640 9266 9593 (W) 9264 5835 (W)(F)
TREASURER		
MEMBERSHIP/PASTORAL CARE	Dss Heather Badgery	9642 3254
NEWSETTE EDITOR	Mrs Beryl McLaughlin	9744 8609 9262 5949 (W)(T/F)
FLC	Major Nancy McLaren	9555 2628 9266 9880 (W)
WKS	Mrs Judith Cayzer	9896 3758
SPECIAL DAYS	Dss Irene Carder	9787 1085
PUBLICITY	Aux Cptn Robyn Collins	9747 2492 9266 9523 (W)
FUNCTIONS	Mrs Helen Richardson	9971 0278
SOCIAL ISSUES	Mrs Cela Cooper	4285 3993
BAPTIST REP	Mrs Ramona Cowle	9958 6997
PRESBYTERIAN REP	Mrs Janet Lang	4975 5740

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**FELLOWSHIP DAY** is celebrated in July -  
*supports the Winifred Kiek Scholarship*

**WORLD COMMUNITY DAY** is celebrated in October -  
*Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings are received*

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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC

ANNUAL REPORT

No. 40

April 2003

President's Report

It is always a joy to look back over the year and see how God has undertaken for us and led us through the unknown.

Some of the changes in Executive positions which were to take place at the last AGM were mentioned by Mrs Jan Harrison in her report last year. These changes have now taken place, and we have welcomed Mrs Elaine Wilson as Treasurer, Mrs Judith Cayzer as WKS Convener, Aux Captain Robyn Collins as Publicity Officer, and Major Nancy McLaren as FLC Convener.

We regret that due to personal circumstances Elaine is not standing for re-election as Treasurer. She has served on ACW Council for five years, and will continue as a Council member. Her work as Treasurer has contributed significantly to the continued smooth running of ACW. We will certainly miss Elaine's gracious presence and help at our Executive meetings. On behalf of Council I express our sincere thanks to her.

It has been a pleasure to attend functions to which the President is invited. I would like to thank members of Council who attended those I couldn't.

ACW is represented on the NSW Ecumenical Council; Monitoring Media for Youth; Pan Pacific and South East Asian Women's Association; National Council for Women (NSW) and World Day of Prayer. Our sincere thanks to those ladies who represent us at these organisations.

We were delighted that Mrs Padma Ebenezer was able to attend our May service. Padma returned to Sri Lanka soon after the service. We miss our fellowship with her and our Sri Lankan sisters.

The Special Days services which were held throughout the state in July and October were a source of blessing to all who attended. We very much appreciate the work done by those of you who arranged these meetings.

The interest and work carried out by the Branch Auxiliaries is an invaluable part of our work. ACW would not be as strong as it is if it were not for the commitment of our Branch members.

Major Joan Tong and her committee again organised, in the form of 'A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon', a wonderful program for the ACWC service in September. This year the service was held in south western Sydney where it proved to bring joy and encouragement to the attendees as well as the host church.

We were delighted that Miss Lisa Jackson attended the service and spoke to us of her impending visit to South Korea for the ACWC Assembly. On her return to Australia Lisa shared with the November Council some highlights of the Assembly. We are happy to know that Hong Kong will be our prayer partner for the years 2003-2006.

Our Biennial Conference was held in September at the convenient and well appointed Salvation Army Congress Centre. 70 women enjoyed fellowship and the ministry of Mrs Robyn Claydon of Lausanne Women's Conference.

After the coming National Conference in October the National Executive will be based in NSW. Mrs Jan Harrison has had a busy year as Coordinator of the Nominating Committee. Many thanks to Jan for her leadership.

I feel privileged to be involved with ACW and take this opportunity to thank all members for their participation and support in the work. You will be blessed when you read the reports from the conveners who cheerfully give of their time thus ensuring that our work continues. A special thank you to our Secretary Mrs Isabel Hewitt, whose efficiency enables the ACW NSW Unit to run smoothly.

One cannot write a report in March 2003 without knowing that dark clouds are hovering over the world. It would be true to say that dark clouds have always hovered somewhere in the world, but for the most part we in Australia have been exempt from the fallout of such clouds.

As we think of our brothers and sisters at home and abroad, let us pray that their hearts will be comforted as ours are when we remember the words of our Lord Jesus. It was He who said, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age". (Matthew 28:20). And - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

Jean Porteous

Secretary's Report

The annual Dedication Service at Auburn Church of Christ in May was well attended, and we welcomed into office Mrs Jean Porteous as President for the next two years. Not all Executive positions were filled at this time, and we are grateful that Major Nancy McLaren and Aux Capt Robyn Collins have since taken on Fellowship of the Least Coin and Publicity convenerships.

Personnel on Executive has seen considerable change during the year, and this has included appointments to Executive by denominations who were otherwise not represented. We are hopeful that in the near future we will learn of the President Elect who will represent the Salvation Army. It is good to have new people on Executive, but we also value highly the contribution of those who 'know the ropes' and can give guidance as needed.

It was decided during the year that Australian Church Women NSW State Unit should become incorporated, and the necessary steps were taken to do so. Efforts to update our address list with the written consent of each person has proved to be a slow task and it is to be hoped it will be completed soon.

State Conference in September was a one day event which proved to be an opportunity for many to attend and be informed and challenged by the speakers:

Robyn Claydon, whose sessions "*Stepping into the Future*" and "*Seize Opportunities*" encouraged us to seek and grasp opportunities to spread God's love and word;

Helen Reudavey and Kathy Williams Barsoum from the Centre of Friendship at Merrylands, where people from the Middle East are welcomed and ministered to, made us think of ways we might give hospitality to 'the stranger'.

My thanks to all whose help makes the position of Secretary much more manageable than would otherwise be the case.

Isabel Hewitt

Special Days

Once again God has blessed us with very successful meetings. Fellowship Day Theme was *Rejoice in the Lord*, the Order of Service prepared by the Tasmanian Branch. Twenty four services were held throughout NSW and proved a great time of blessing to the many who attended. Participants felt that the service was well written and had a lovely selection of Scripture. It was very bright and joyful. Speakers were described as moving, challenging, delightful and enthusiastic. Church representatives took part in Bible Readings and leading hymns. Soloists, organists and pianists were wonderful. Fellowship was extended over morning tea, or in some cases, lunch.

World Community Day was held in October and the theme was *Be Still and Know that I am God*. The Orders of Service were prepared by the WA Branch. Those taking part felt that the Service was very meaningful and was enjoyed by all. Speakers brought out many different aspects and were inspiring and helpful. Beautiful solos, duets and choir items added to the spirit of peace, love and community which filled the service. Services were held in beautiful churches with a prayerful atmosphere. We all felt at one with Christ as the various denominations mixed over morning tea.

I would like to thank all those who helped me so willingly and capably during the year.

2003 themes:

Fellowship Day July: *Towards Community-Empowerment by Love*

World Community Day October: *Towards Community-Love in Action*

Irene Carder, Special Days Convener

Functions

Functions held last year included the Installation of our new President in May at the Church of Christ, Auburn. We were very well looked after by the Auburn ladies and Churches of Christ Christian Women's Fellowship who organised the catering. I was not able to be with you, but I am told that it was an inspirational and happy occasion.

The Spiritual Enrichment Day in July had Robyn Claydon as the main speaker and was held at the Salvation Army Headquarters in Elizabeth Street. A good number of members and visitors attended and enjoyed a tasty lunch provided by the Salvation Army caterers, for which we paid.

Thank you to all who made sure the functions ran smoothly while I was out of action last year.

Helen Richardson

Winifred Kiek Scholarship

Firstly, I need to thank Mina Whybourne, our previous WKS Convener, for her assistance. Mina has continued correspondence with previous scholars and has shared their replies with us. Janet Watts, National WKS Convener, has also passed on similar correspondence including the following:

Catherine Min 1993 - Korea

Rev Mary Au 1980 - Hong Kong (also 1993 WKS Fellowship Scholar)

Mai Zin Zin Wah 1999 - Myanmar

Malai Mahamaneerat 1993 - Thailand

Joanne Harries 1997 - Australia

Doreen Tie 1990 - Sarawak, Malaysia

Sue Nitrai 2000 - Australia

Nighat Gulzar 1994 - was Pakistan, now in USA

I will copy and send news that I have upon request.

Our 2002 Scholar was April (Mrs Lai Mui Ching) in Hong Kong. Janet Watts received a Christmas letter from April, news hadn't come before because of her ambition to write clearer English. She apologises for this. In September 2002, she started doing part time work as well as being a student of Women's Studies which gained our support. Being a mother as well puts her under much pressure. Age discrimination toward younger women emerges in her society, as they are regarded as slower to pick up new things and should be in family responsibilities. She hopes that women would be given a chance for development. She has presented 2 papers for assessment. One is to link up annotated bibliographies for women workers under globalisation, another on women and religion in Chinese literature. It is a challenge for her to express experiences and theories academically.

Her present occupation is with the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, as the Women's Christian Council is now under restructuring. Pray for April.

For 2003, the Scholarship has been divided between three Australian women:

Gaye Inall (Qld) 34 years old and born profoundly deaf. She is studying to further assist in ministry with deaf people.

Susan Liersch (NSW) 39 years old, will study to support her skills in working with soldiers and their families at the Army Recruiting Training Centre at Wagga Wagga.

Monique Crabtree (WA) is 36 years old. She is studying to broaden her skills to minister to her church and wider Christian community.

Regular updates are in *Newsette*, and as stated before, letters will be copied on request. It is wonderful to hear of the development in the lives of past scholars, as it's a privilege to be able to assist in their studies as they serve God and His people. They all express gratitude for ACW support. This all continues with the support from ACW Units nationally, including NSW groups and from offerings at Fellowship Day each year in July. Thank you sincerely.

New leaflets will be out for 2003. Let us continue to support and pray for these women.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

Fellowship of the Least Coin

It is with pleasure that I present to you the Annual Fellowship of the Least Coin Report.

Since 19 August 2002 to 17 February 2003 the amount that has been receipted by the Treasurer and recorded by the Convener stands at \$12,193.85. This monetary gift does little to show the generous gift of love that this represents by so many people in many areas of our State. Giving of our least coin is just a token of the prayerful support which goes on throughout our State of NSW. Generous hearts join with many others throughout our nation and world to bring support and love to those who will be the recipients of these gifts.

The Circle of Prayer Booklets are available (*Journeying Together . . . Rooted In Love*), also boxes and a limited supply of stickers and teaspoons. World Community Day is our opportunity to share and to present our gifts.

Quote from an early pamphlet, "The basis of belonging is concern for peace, justice and reconciliation. Intercession for those in special need of God's grace, to minister with mercy on every continent and for experience which creates Christian community among those of different national, racial, cultural, economic and denominational backgrounds. The least coins are tangible tokens of our prayers offered individually and collectively." These ideals and beliefs still stand today.

Thank you for the privilege of convening this fellowship.

Nancy McLaren (Major)

Membership & Pastoral Care

There has been an increased attendance at Council meetings in the past year. There have been several changes of delegates to Council. Those who have recently been appointed have been enthusiastic in their involvement. Associate membership has been accepted by the Rev Elizabeth Walker, Peg Blake and Ruth Moore.

We have mailed minutes of the Council meetings to absent delegates and associate members. This has been a useful means of keeping in touch with members.

It has been a year of great sorrow and difficulty for many, others have faced serious health problems. We have shared in these situations both by contact and prayers. God has surrounded us with His love and as always has been faithful to His promises. It has been a privilege to join our sisters in their time of trial.

Heather Badgery

Newsette

As Editor of *Newsette* for 13 years, it is pleasing that readers continue to find our little State news magazine helpful in keeping in touch with ACW matters and interesting in a general way. In producing the four issues each year I am indebted to my son Ian for access to his computer and the help of his expertise in presenting it. I do thank all the Conveners and others who have submitted reports and other items of interest in good time for each deadline.

Once again I express my appreciation to our *Newsette* Manager, Nola Dickson, in maintaining the address list, printing out labels, preparing envelopes and assisting with collating and folding, and we both thank Heather Badgery, Olive Beverley and Jan Harrison for their willing help on mailing days.

Beryl McLaughlin

Publicity

The brochure for ACW NSW State Unit was redesigned during August 2002 and was presented to members at the NSW State Conference in September. It was so well received that extra copies were needed before the conclusion of the Conference. The brochure now reflects the inclusion of "incorporated" into the name of the NSW State Unit, as well as the latest list of contact names for members of the Executive. Approximately 500 copies of the brochure have been produced.

A new logo and new letterheads were also re-designed in September to include the word "Incorporated".

Leaflets advertising the World Community Day Service held in the crypt of St Mary's Cathedral in the city on 22 October 2002 were distributed at the NSW State Conference in September. This leaflet was also well received and widely used, resulting in about 40 ladies attending the service.

In January, 2003 a batch of 200 leaflets were produced advertising "Dedication Day" to be held at the Church of Christ, Epping in May.

On 26 July I had the privilege of speaking at and representing the Executive at the ACW Fellowship Day held at the Willoughby Uniting Church.

I have enjoyed my time serving as Publicity Officer on the NSW State Executive and look forward to being able to serve in this capacity in the days ahead.

Robyn Collins

Social Issues

Receiving written and verbal reports, newspaper clippings and pamphlets from members on areas of interest and concern has been greatly appreciated in what is an often complex convenership.

Matters brought to the notice of Council have included Qs & As on Stem Cell Research; the need for Environmental Responsibility (with practical hints on how to REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE); suggestions for letter writing to the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers and the Australian Brewers Association for more responsible advertising campaigns; and to wholesalers and retailers re suggestive brand names and advertising which downgrades the dignity of women and children. The following statement by the Advertising Standards Bureau appeared in the SMH on 15 December 2002: when it found there were no grounds to ask for the removal of an ad featuring sexual imagery, which had brought just over 160 complaints, "Tolerance is a feature of prevailing community standards. The activity portrayed in the ad carries the

endorsement of current law." Should not more of us be prepared to voice our concerns when confronted with offensive, degrading advertisements?

Sample letters were provided for writing to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the local MP on hopes for a non-military solution in Iraq.

Members gave praise to managers of shopping centres and to suburban communities where the Nativity story was portrayed, and a number expressed disappointment where it was not.

The vision of "Australian Christian Lobby" was outlined in brochures provided. Newsletters have been tabled regularly from the Office of the Status of Women and the Attorney General's Department, and from the NSW Government on Family Matters - including, *How to approach drug issues in your family*. A guide for GE Free Shopping was made available.

Prayerful and practical support for Refugee and Asylum Seekers has continued and is appreciated by Sr Lorraine Phelan, Refugee Co-ordinator with the NSW Ecumenical Council.

Cela Cooper, Convener

Burwood-Concord Branch

At the Annual Meeting in February 2002 the following office bearers were re-elected: President - Mrs Marie Brady, Vice President - Mrs Yvonne Coorey, Secretary - Miss Bonnie Lyons, Treasurer - Mrs Hilda Miller.

The Annual Fellowship Day Service was held on Friday 26 July at St Ambrose Catholic Church, Concord West. Our Guest Speaker was Mrs Isabel Hewitt, Secretary of the NSW Unit of ACW, who presented an inspiring message on the theme *Rejoice in the Lord*. The soloist was Mrs Elizabeth Bentley, whose musical contribution was much appreciated. A happy time of fellowship was enjoyed over a light luncheon served by the St Ambrose ladies.

The World Community Day Service was held on Friday 25 October at St Andrew's Anglican Church Strathfield. The theme on this occasion was *Be still and know that I am God*, and the message of our Guest Speaker, Mrs Jean Porteous, President of the NSW Unit of ACW was challenging and thought-provoking. Following the Service the St Andrew's ladies served a delicious lunch which was greatly enjoyed, along with the fellowship shared.

As we attend these ACW meetings and Services we are very conscious of the wonderful spirit of cooperation and deepening fellowship between members and a desire to develop lasting friendships.

We give thanks and praise to God who has brought us together and given us a continuing sense of belonging to His universal family.

Bonnie Lyons, Secretary

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.**

Statement of Receipts and Payments for 12 months ending 31 December 2002

RECEIPTS

Administration	1319.35
Interest	367.33
Stock	457.00
Newsette	745.00
Travel Fund	300.10
State Conference	1525.00
Fellowship of the Least Coin	15654.31
Winifred Klek Scholarship	165.40
Fellowship Day	4731.15
World Community Day	5182.80
ACWC Partners	508.30
Suspense A/c	178.50

PAYMENTS

Administration	1210.00
Govt. Charges	4.60
Stock	130.00
Newsette	744.34
Travel	300.00
State Conference	1677.50
Fellowship of the Least Coin	14813.52
Winifred Klek Scholarship	252.63
Fellowship Day	4587.86
World Community Day	5398.90
ACWC Partners	500.00
ACWC	29.00
Printing/Stationery	232.24
Postage/Telephone	225.80
Special Days Convenor	24.75

Balance 1/1/01	31134.24	Balance 31/12/02	30131.14
Commonwealth Bank	6139.75	Commonwealth Bank	7045.54
Uniting Church Fund	1374.16	Uniting Church Trust	1471.47
	38648.15		38648.15

CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT

Commonwealth Bank	7045.54	Organising Account	9260.08
Glebe	6000.00	Newsette	1456.64
Uniting Church Trust	1471.47	Travel	356.18
		Stock	1327.00
		State Conference	628.41
		Special Functions	210.25
		ACWC Partners	8.30
		Fellowship of the Least Coin	1091.65
		Suspense A/c	178.50
	14517.01		14517.01

CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31 DECEMBER 2002

Balances

Commonwealth Bank	
Current A/c	7045.54
Glebe Administration Board	
Call A/c	3000.00
Call A/c	3000.00
Uniting Church Trust Association	
Call A/c	1471.47

Funds

Organisation A/c	9260.08
Newsette	
B/fwd 1/1/2002	1455.98
Subscriptions	745.00
	2200.98
Less costs	744.34
	1456.64

Travel Fund

B/fwd 1/1/2002	356.08
Add Receipts	300.10
	656.18
Pd to ACW - Nat. Exec.	300.00
	356.18

Stock

B/fwd 1/1/2002	1000.00
Add Sales	457.00
	1457.00
Less costs	130.00
	1327.00

State Conference

B/fwd 1/1/2002	780.91
Registrations	1525.00
	2305.91
Less costs	1677.50
	628.41

Special Functions

B/fwd 1/1/2002	210.25
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ACWC Partners

ACWC Service	508.30
Pd to ACW - Nat. Exec.	500.00
	8.30

Fellowship of Least Coin	1091.65
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Suspense A/c	178.50
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14,517.01	14,517.01
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SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2002

Fellowship of the Least Coin

B/fwd 1/1/2002		1180.15	
Receipts for year ended 30.11.2002		13115.21	
		14295.36	
Less payments - Postage/Stationery/Printing	269.04		
ACW National Executive	13044.48		
7% entitlement ACW - NSW	981.84	14295.36	
			NIL
Receipts for December 2002		1091.65	c/fwd

Fellowship Day Service

Receipts for year ended 30.11.02		4731.15	
Less Payments - Postage/Printing	392.82		
ACW National Executive	4258.04		
3% entitlement ACW-NSW	143.29	4731.15	
			NIL

World Community Day

B/fwd 1/1/2002		163.50	
Receipts for year ended 30.11.2002		5235.40	
		5398.90	
Less Payments - Postage/Printing	543.45		
ACW National Executive	4855.45	5398.90	
			NIL

Winifred Kiek Scholarship

B/fwd 1/1/2002		115.30	
Receipts for year ended 30.11.2002		165.40	
		280.70	
Less 10% entitlement ACW - NSW	28.07		
ACW National Executive	252.63	280.70	
			NIL

Auditors Report,

I have examined the books, documents and accounts of the Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc for the year ended the 31st December 2002 and find that, in my opinion, the attached Statements of Receipts and Payments and Capital Funds give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc as at the 31st December 2002.

F.M.Fryirs ASA

Honorary Auditor

12th February 2003

ASA

Dee Why Branch

Dee Why Branch has about thirty people who gather for the two services each year. It is the only service on the Northern Beaches and we have people from Palm Beach to Manly and west to Forestville who attend. We don't have regular meetings but just come together for the services. At Fellowship Day in July we had as our speaker Sister Trish Madigan, Catholic Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations and in October we welcomed Colonel Leah Davids of the Salvation Army.

Most of our visitors stay on to enjoy a time of fellowship and food after the services and have become good friends.

Helen Richardson

Kincumber Area Branch

We are happy to report that the Branch continued to enjoy fellowship and growth during the year 2002. Our two services have been well attended and awareness of what Australian Church Women are endeavouring to do is becoming more widespread.

We have had two wonderful guest speakers, Mrs Jenny Johnston for Fellowship Day, held at St Pauls Anglican Church Kincumber with 62 in attendance and an offering of \$251.50 for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship was received. We certainly do "Rejoice in the Lord". Also we were delighted to have Mrs Jan Harrison as our Guest for World Community Day held at St Andrews Anglican Church, Umina, with 77 in attendance and an offering of \$313.75 and Fellowship of the Least Coin \$354.25. Jan encouraged us very deeply to "Be Still - and know that I am God". It was a very timely and moving message. All denominations participated in the readings - our services commencing with the Theme Song and on World Community Day our President Dorothy gave an informative talk on how the Fellowship of the Least Coin came about. This was much appreciated by those in attendance. Our Branch was represented at the Dedication of our new President Mrs Jean Porteous in the Auburn Church of Christ in May and also at the State Conference in September when Mrs Robyn Claydon was an inspiring Guest Speaker.

We were deeply sorry to learn of the death of our most esteemed friend Mr Les Woodhouse just after Christmas. Our loving thoughts and sympathies were extended to Dorothy and family, and Branch members attended both the funeral service and a Thanksgiving Service for Les's life held at the Kincumber Uniting Church on Monday 30 December. His loving help to our ACW Branch will be greatly missed. He was a true servant of the Lord!

We thank God for the continued growth of our Branch and for the blessings He has bestowed upon us, and pray that He will continue to uphold us all in the days ahead.

Bev Elliott - Secretary

Strathfield-Homebush Branch

Our small committee of representatives from seven local churches has continued to meet for fellowship and to arrange for the Special Days Services, including World Day of Prayer, which rotate round the various churches, as does our Branch Presidency. For the past year this office has been held by Heather Badgery who is also on ACW State Council. At each Special Day Service great fellowship is enjoyed and blessing received in the inspiration of the Services and the messages given by visiting speakers. Attendances average 50-60 and offertories of several hundred dollars have been given, and we were also able to send a \$50 donation to the Drought Relief Appeal.

In December we were able to share in an evening of wonderful Christmas music with an 'Aussie' theme, arranged by a newly-formed local group called 'Churches Acting Together'.

Beryl McLaughlin, Branch Representative

Sutherland Branch

I am pleased to report that our Branch continues to function in a very happy and warm relationship with the members from the fifty plus Churches to which we send invitations to our two Services. We have a committee who meet together to plan the meetings, distribute invitations, organise publicity in their Churches, etc. Every denomination participates in the Services - Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Churches of Christ, Presbyterian, The Salvation Army, Uniting and sometimes, Congregational.

Services always commence with our theme song "In Christ we are one" and the President, Mrs Peg Blake gives a resume of the work of ACW, FLC, WKS and Asian Church Women's Conference, if applicable.

Fellowship Day was held in the Presbyterian Church, Caringbah where Mrs Evelyn Mill, Past President of PWA spoke on the theme Rejoice in the Lord. This theme provided the opportunity to be reminded of how we rejoice in the Lord and why we rejoice in the Lord. Prayers of Thanksgiving gave an opportunity to thank God for His many blessings. A choir, under the direction of Mrs Beverly Swift rendered several beautiful songs in harmony.

World Community Day was held in the Uniting Church, Jannali where Major Joan Tong, Past President ACW, spoke on the theme *Be still and know that I am God*. It was very appropriate and important for us all to be reminded that whatever events are going on in the world, God is still in control and we put our faith in Him. Major David Tong accompanied Joan in also bringing the message to us in song.

Attendances at both Services were in the vicinity of 80-100 and warm fellowship was enjoyed over luncheon following the Services. We are most appreciative to the ladies of the host Churches who so graciously served tea, coffee and very substantial refreshments. We really look forward to meeting up with friends from the various Churches of all denominations in the Shire.

The offerings taken up during the course of the above two Services reflect the congregations' generosity and level of commitment in their giving to the projects that have been decided on as part of the work of Australian Church Women.

At the conclusion of the Service, Mrs Peg Blake announced the retirement of herself as President and Mrs Mina Whybourne as Secretary of the Sutherland Branch, after many years of service, and introduced Mrs Norma Dumbrell and Mrs Brenda Dickinson (both Council members), who are happy to take over these positions.

Pat Sutton, our Branch Representative at Council, together with Mina Whybourne and Norma Dumbrell, attended the Asian Church Womens Conference annual Service in September.

We have been especially blessed by the leadership of Peg and Mina and wish to record Sutherland Branch's deep gratitude for the way in which they have so graciously inter-acted with all the people in the various churches over the years, providing opportunities for fellowship and proving the words of our theme song "In Christ we are one". Thank you Peg and Mina for all your hard work, so lovingly carried out. God bless you.

Brenda Dickinson, Hon. Secretary

National Council of Women

NCW was founded in 1896 and this, our 107th year has been busy, interesting and rewarding. Many social and family issues have been addressed and have been dealt with in Government Policy and community and commercial organisations and boards.

Helen Richardson and myself continue to represent ACW at these meetings, along with representatives from over 60 affiliated organisations.

We have been privileged to hear many interesting and varied speakers, among whom was Judith Ridge (Edith's daughter) who spoke about her year on a Churchill Fellowship, touring the UK, Ireland and USA to study children's literature. Judith not only held our attention: she carried us with her as she shared her experiences. We were encouraged to hear that Australian Children's literature is highly thought of overseas.

Parliament House lunches have been happy occasions when we celebrated 'being an Australian', honoured our 90 year old ladies and presented NCW awards at our Foundation Day lunch.

Mrs Marion Smith has been a warm, tireless and effective President and we in ACW are privileged to work with her.
Helen Richardson & Shirley Wells.

The Girls' Brigade NSW

The aim of the Girls' Brigade is "to help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find the true enrichment of life". Our further aim is to equip girls with leadership skills for their service to the Lord Jesus not only in Girls' Brigade, but also within the church and the wider community.

As the girls progress into their high school years, the Brigade provides opportunity for girls to attend weekend training focussing on the different requirements of leadership. These weekend training days are held throughout the year. Ladies are also equipped for their leadership in their Company covering the four aspects which make up the set programs, that is, Spiritual, Educational, Social and Physical. The Girls' Brigade NSW recently ran a Saturday Leader Workshop which was sponsored by the Asthma Foundation and gave the 95 Leaders who attended some valuable information to help in dealing with asthmatics, as well as the usual help with program achievement work.

The NSW Girls' Brigade Annual Conference will be shortened this year to one day on 3 May 2003. NSW is looking forward to hosting the National Girls' Brigade Conference later in the year, when 150 Leaders from around Australia will gather for a time of fellowship as well as the normal business sessions which necessarily comprise a National Conference.

The Girls' Brigade continues to work with the Boys' Brigade to support the outreach and leadership of the churches within the community and being fully committed to serve our Lord as we follow our motto "To Seek, Serve and Follow Christ".
Lorna Steel

NSW Council for Children's Films & Television Inc.

known as **Monitoring Media for Youth**

2002 . . . a somewhat quiet year, but a time of building on the activities of MMY as they concern young people.

An important occasion was the launch, in Sydney, of Young Media Australia Helpline (1800 700 357 free call) operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Staff of the Helpline have a strong child development and health background. Their focus is on assisting parents by improving both their knowledge about media impact and their skills in addressing these issues with their children - a new area in parenting. Young Media Australia is the national organisation and is based in Adelaide, SA.

The new direction of the hospital video 'library' - to **donate** videos - has been extended, with Hornsby Hospital Children's and Adolescent Unit being included.

A further extension was the inclusion of Yasmar Juvenile Detention Centre for girls up to 17 years of age. The Anglican Chaplain, Jan Syme, was guest speaker at the October meeting, telling of the Yasmar 'system' and of her involvement with the girls. Requested videos will be provided.

Contact is maintained with Kathleen York House at Glebe and assistance given from time to time.

The availability of suitable videos - a seemingly small item in the overall provision for children in residential situations, but something which gives their carers an added program possibility, not always simply for 'baby-sitting' entertainment.

Continued financial support from the NSW Health Department and the Central Sydney Area Health Service is very much appreciated.

The MMY newsletter, *The Monitor*, and information leaflets relating to various aspects of media as they affect children continue to be distributed. Our membership includes delegates from organisations concerned with family values and so provides a wider interested audience.

We have been glad to have ACW representatives, Lily Hanlon and Helen Hill sharing with us.

2002 . . . a year of achievement through the ongoing support of members and the specific contribution of each one.

Thank you to all - together, we are one!
Dorothy Kenning

Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (NSW Group)

PPSEAWA is an international, non-political, non-profit organisation, founded in 1928, accredited to the United Nations through four UN agencies. PPSEAWA International is comprised of 19 autonomous national member organisations. Its objectives are "to strengthen the bonds of peace by fostering a friendship and better understanding among women in all areas of the Pacific and South East Asia, and to promote cooperation among women of these regions for the study and improvement of social, economic, and cultural conditions".

At NSW PPSEAWA monthly meetings, guest speakers address issues related to PPSEAWA's concerns, interests and objectives. Over the past twelve months, topics included *Lady Angela Carrick's* memories of a return visit to the bridge over the River Kwai; the future and hope of East Timor, as assessed by *Sr Josephine Mitchell, RSJ*; *June Duncan Owen's* "Mixed Matches - Inter-Racial Marriage in Australia"; *Rev Paul Dew's* account of the Bush Church Aid Society's work in outback Australia. Meetings were enriched, too, by a sharing of members' own treasures of research and life experiences. During the past year, monies were raised to assist in the setting up of a PPSEAWA group in Papua New Guinea, and to support the work of the Mary MacKillop Institute for East Timorese Studies. Support was also offered for a Uniting Church's Multicultural Ministry project for leadership training of young women.

The NSW Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, February to November inclusive. Office-bearers elected at the AGM in March 2003: President - *Ms Edith Chase*; Vice Presidents - *Mrs Jennifer Bennett* and *Mrs Joan Egan*; Treasurer - *Mrs Helen Richardson*; Secretaries - *Mrs J. Bennett* and *Sr Marie Craddock, rsj*. Corporate members elected to the Executive in March represent Country Women's Association, and Guides Australia. ACW is represented by *Mrs Edith Ridge* and *Sr Marie Craddock, rsj*.

PPSEAWA Australia's AGM was held March this year in Canberra. National President is *Mrs Mary Cabrera*. PPSEAWA's 22nd International Conference scheduled for Singapore in August has been postponed until 2004.

A special effort was made, this year, to support PPSEAWA's UNIFEM Luncheon arranged and hosted by *Mrs Joan Elliston*, as the proceeds were for the benefit of women of Afghanistan. In the months ahead, guest speakers *Sr Pauline Rae, smsm*, and *Sr Josephine Mitchell, RSJ*, will update PPSEAWA members on developments in Intercultural Dialogue and East Timorese Studies. *Mrs Eileen Pittaway* will be the guest speaker in June at PPSEAWA's Winter Luncheon, and in this International Year of Fresh Water, members will look at that issue in relation to PPSEAWA countries.
Marie Craddock, RSJ

Woman's Christian Temperance Union NSW

"Winners Without Drugs"

In our 121st year, and as the oldest women's organisation not only in Australia but in the world, we continue to seek to educate men and women, and especially young people, of the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, of which more and more is becoming known and being published in the general media every day. Just one example - it has now been recognised that many of today's children show signs of having been affected by Foetal Alcohol Syndrome - even if the mother is a non-drinker, it can result from the child's grandmother, or great grandmother having been a user of alcohol, and not necessarily to excess.

Our highlight in the past year was the Reception at NSW Government House which opened our 120th Annual Convention. In this historic and beautiful venue, some 120 women and men heard challenging, informative messages from our State President, *Bernice Cardwell*, land our special guest speaker, WCTU World President, *Margaret Jackson* from New Zealand, who gave an overview of alcohol and drug effects in many different countries around the world, and the efforts being made to combat them.

Our great need, as in many other organisations, is for younger, active women to take up the task, as our present reducing numbers and aging membership must soon lay it down.

Beryl McLaughlin, WCTU State Secretary

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer Council was able to give \$50,000 from the monies collected at the 2002 WDP services throughout NSW. The Council held a Conveners Day 3 February to show slides and familiarise Branch and Council members with the service for 7 March from Lebanon. This proves a helpful session. The Service entitled *Holy Spirit, Fill Us* was a simple and moving service: 31,500 adult orders of service were printed and distributed, along with youth programs.

The new President is *Mrs Jenny Johnston*, an Anglican Representative.

Judith Baker