

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

NO. 14

MAY, 1977

ANNUAL REPORT - 1976-1977

It is with pleasure that I present the Annual Report for the year ended February 28, 1977, a period of considerable activity for the Council, marked by the spirit of happy Christian fellowship.

At the Annual Meeting on April 12, 1976, Mrs. Lt.Col. E.K. Baker assumed office as President, and the other office-bearers were re-elected for a further term. The Annual Service, at which the new President was installed, was held on May 24, 1976 in the Salvation Army Citadel, Chatswood. It was largely attended and was followed by a delightful luncheon, prepared and served by the ladies of the Home League.

Six general Council meetings were held during the year, at several of which we had the pleasure of listening to most interesting addresses from our speakers. In August, Mrs. M. Somerville told of her experiences as a missionary in India and Fiji, and of her encounters with young people, while a post-graduate student at University. The September meeting provided opportunities to learn of the activities of our local branches and of the organisations with which we are affiliated. In addition, two of our members, Mesdames H. Stevens and G. Udy, presented an impressive account of their participation in the World Conference of Methodist Women held in Dublin. At the meeting in February last, Deaconess M. Andrews delighted all present with her lively account of a recent tour in S.E. Asia, illustrated by examples of the arts and crafts of the countries which she visited.

In place of the November meeting, a "Day of Renewal" was arranged at Christ Church, Lavender Bay, by the courtesy of the Rector, the Revd. Canon B.R. Horsley, who, with Mrs. Horsley and the ladies of the parish, welcomed the large number of members and friends who attended. At the Church Service in the morning, the Revd. Canon H.M. Arrowsmith delivered a thought-provoking address on the Theme of the Day - "Living the Gospel in Today's World". Following luncheon, a further session, held in the Parish Hall, provided the opportunity for a panel of speakers to share with us their views on three aspects of the theme - "In the Home", "In the Church" and "In the Community". All who attended enjoyed the experience of worshipping together and appreciated the opportunity for interchange of ideas.

The Executive Committee has met monthly, giving careful attention to the affairs of Council and taking responsibility for planning activities. Perhaps the most important matter with which we were concerned was the proposal, agreed to at the last Annual Meeting, that the title of the Council be changed to "Australian Church Women - N.S.W. State Unit". The approval of the member Churches having been obtained, steps were taken to amend the Constitution, where it was deemed necessary or desirable, and arrangements were made for Special Resolutions to be brought before members, enabling the changes to be made. It is pleasing to report that these were agreed to at the meeting of Council held on March 21, 1977.

The National Working Committee of Australian Church Women has continued to function in Western Australia, and we have been kept in touch with their activities by receiving Minutes and copies of "Women at Work", issued monthly. The next meeting of the National Committee of A.C.W. is to take place in Perth in July next, and we are hopeful of being fully represented on that occasion. To help cover costs, a National Travel Fund has been established and is receiving good support, from Council members, local branches and member Church organisations. Following the National Committee Meeting, the Working Committee will be established in N.S.W. for the ensuing two years. Much prayerful thought has been given to the selection of the personnel of the Working Committee; the N.S.W. State Unit will, we are sure, give full support to their colleagues as they undertake this important national responsibility.

It was with great regret that we said "Farewell" to Mrs. Nancy Pfeiffer, a Council member and former President, who left Sydney in February to make her home in Melbourne, following the death of her

N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTERCHURCH COUNCIL

HON. TREASURER'S STATEMENT

1st MARCH, 1976 TO 28th FEBRUARY, 1977

GENERAL FUND

RECEIPTS

Opening Balance at 1.3.76	241.40
Affiliation Fees	44.40
Sale - Circle of Prayer	55.90
Sale of Notelets	1.00
Gift for Kalpana Airan	24.00
Donations	9.00
Bank Interest	75.90
Transferred from Fellowship Day Offerings	249.97
Transferred from World Comm- unity Day Offerings.	167.96
Offering: President's Install- ation.	104.26

\$973.79

OVERSEAS TRAVEL FUND

\$138.83

PAYMENTS

Duplicating
Promotion and Publicity
President's Honorarium
Secretary & Treasurer's Exps
Gift for Kalpana Airan
Australian Church Women, Circle of Prayer Booklets
A.C.W. Postage - "Women at Work"
Affiliation Fees - N.C.W. - Childrens Films & T.V. Council
Donations - Methodist Dept. of Admin., use of room. - Pitt St. Congreg Church, use of church.
Closing Balance.

NATIONAL TRAVEL FUND

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN.

Opening Balance At 1.3.76	16.23
Receipts	1926.45
	<u>\$1942.68</u>

Australian Church Women
Closing Balance

FELLOWSHIP DAY

Opening Balance at 1.3.76	5.00
Receipts - W. Kiek Scholarship	101.26
- Offerings	833.23
	<u>\$939.49</u>

Epworth Press - Printing
Transfer to General Fund
Australian Church Women
Closing Balance

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

Opening Balance at 1.3.76	nil
Receipts	559.85
	<u>\$559.85</u>

Epworth Press - Printing
Transfer to General Fund
Australian Church Women
Closing Balance

SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	575.34
O/S. TRAVEL FUND	138.83
NATIONAL TRAVEL FUND	212.63
INTEREST BEARING DEPOSIT	500.00

61426 80

L. Perriam, Hon Treasurer

\$1426.80

CONVENORS' REPORTS

Winifred Kiek Scholarship ... Through the Winifred Kiek Scholarships, Australian Church Women are seeking to express the truth that the Gospel concerns the whole person, the whole human society and the whole of creation. Through the scholarships, Christian women engaged in different spheres of work are enabled to obtain training and experience, which cannot be provided in their own countries. In 1976, for the first time two scholarship holders participated in training courses outside their own countries but not in Australia. Miss Sarrah Ah You, a Samoan teacher, attended the South Pacific Commission Training Centre in Suva, Fiji, gaining practical training and experience in a number of fields, even learning how to make concrete!

Miss Jennifer Yeo, a graduate of Trinity Theological College, Singapore, has been working with the Presbyterian Synod. As the Winifred Kiek Scholar for 1977, she began further studies at the China Evangelical Seminary in Taiwan. In addition, she is receiving practical training with the Campus Evangelical Fellowship, one of the most advanced movements in Asia.

News of former scholarship holders: Miss Sabita Swarup, who did a secretarial course in 1967, is now married and living in Suva, where the knowledge gained is still proving useful in her work. Deaconess Terani Aisake, the 1972 scholar, has married a Samoan Methodist minister; at present they are serving in Brisbane. Rev. Violet Bredt (nee Sampa) was married in Zambia in August 1976, and is now in Ratigen, Germany, with her husband, who is doing a three-year course of study. While on a visit to India, it was a great joy to visit Miss Kalpana Airan and her family in Satara. The excavations for the foundations of the Narmada Academy were being carried out by a team of men and women. The new building will provide more suitable facilities for the needy mothers and children involved in the special project in which Kalpana has been engaged during the past three years.

Pray for the W.K.S. Committee, that members may be given wisdom in the choice of the Scholar for 1978; she will be selected from the region covering India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Mary M. Andrews.

Fellowship of the Least Coin ... Father, let it not be with a careless hand that we give our 'least coins' but always with sincere prayer that your peace may dwell in our hearts and between all your people wherever they may be. Approximately 120 letters have been written during the year, seventeen centres have been visited where addresses were given and opportunity taken to promote the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The total amount received in N.S.W. was \$1,942.68; over 100 copies of "Circle of Prayer" Book VI were distributed, also fifty copies of "Small Beginnings", plus other pamphlets.

The Asian Church Women's League allocated \$45,900 to 9 different projects, e.g., Singapore for Continuing Education for Ministry/Church Workers; Sri Lanka to the Baptist Women's League for unemployed girls; South African Women's Refuge for Rehabilitation, to name but three. Mrs. Shanti Solomon presented the F.L.C. account to Asian Church Women's Working Committee showing income from January 1, 1975 to October 3, 1976 as \$85,729.00. Total receipts (including Balance carried over from January, 1975) = \$303,213.77.

We offer thankfulness to God for this generosity (amazing when one recognises that it represents 'least coins' from faithful hearts with sincere prayerful concern for peace on earth, and between family, friends and neighbours). Deaconess Mary Andrews was able to visit Shanti during her own Indian tour and brought back Shanti's loving greetings.

"This is His command: to give our allegiance to His Son Jesus Christ and love one another

as He commanded." 1 John 3, 23.

M. Stanhope.

Promotion ... My first words must be words of appreciation to the Secretaries, Treasurers or Presidents who have been responsible for the organisation of Fellowship and Community Days. 1976 has been a good year for these special days and I would say a very sincere 'Thank you' for the hard work and excellent publicity to make these days the success they have been. When we think that during 1976, in the months of July and October over 2,000 women gathered at 24 City Centres and 20 Country Centres for these special meetings, this adds up to a lot of people being inspired in their spiritual lives. The influence of these meetings I feel sure does not simply remain with those who were privileged to attend them, but must spread to families, friends and neighbours. The subjects for these two days were, "Confessing Christ Together", and "Encounter". These themes both proved to be inspirational and challenging.

1976 saw the commencement of a very enthusiastic and vigorous group at Chatswood - Willoughby under the dynamic leadership of Mrs. D. Woodhouse. We are very grateful to Mrs. Woodhouse for the fine P.R. job she has done in presenting the aims and purposes of the Australian Church Women's groups. The ladies whom she has inspired to join with her in this great work will I am sure be a powerful Christian influence in the community. What a great day we had together at Lavender Bay. We would all like to say 'thank you' for those responsible for making this day possible.

As we commence a new year of service and witness to others I do pray that we each will be challenged to witness more for our Lord and Saviour. We are God's representatives and He is depending on you and me to tell that neighbour of ours about His love for them. I was challenged about this when I read Colossians 4:5&6. "Make the most of your chances to tell others about the Good News. Be wise in all your contacts with them. Let your conversation be gracious as well as sensible, for then you will have the right answer for everyone" (The Living Bible.) May God bless you all with a very real sense of His Presence and Power within you.
Iris Hill.

Publicity ... Constant effort is maintained in bringing to the press news of the activities of our Council. Advance information of our two "Special Days", Fellowship Day in July and Community Day in October are always forwarded to the press and reports of these are forwarded to The Working Committee in Perth for inclusion in "Women at Work". Our Day of Renewal has been publicised in many and varied ways and this has been met with an appreciated response. During the year, guest speakers are invited to our meetings to tell of their travels, report on conferences they may have attended or inform us of work undertaken to help the underprivileged or migrants. Accounts of these are sent to denominational press, which has been most generous in allotting us space in their columns.

Having no Winifred Kiek Scholar visit us for some time, has been felt as a great lack in our news as these were always an interesting side light and something from which we were always to profit very considerably by having our horizons broadened and new insights given on the work of the church in other areas far from our shores. The new scheme whereby scholars took out their grants in their own country or an adjacent one was introduced to give more flexibility and serve the needs of the students better. Where courses sought by students are offered only in Australia we will be seeing the Scholars again, and as the Working Committee will be located in Sydney from August, our Council would then be hostess to our visitors and reports on their activities will be forthcoming.

J. Curtin.

