

OUR CHOICE IS LOVE



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.  
24<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ST JOHN OF GOD RETREAT CENTRE  
SHOALWATER  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
7-11 OCTOBER 2013**

**MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS**



**National Conference 2013 "Our Choice is Love"**



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS  
TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2013**

**Front Row**

**Eunice Reidy, Aileen Eldridge, Janet Watts, Lee Edwards, Lorna English, Esther Kilaghbian, Phillis Dolling, Margaret Florence, Maureen Clark, Laurel Pearce, Lorraine Hughes, Marie Byrne, Leeola Loughnan, Jennifer Pepper**

**Row 2**

**Bev Macri, Margaret Lawton, Barbara Bennewith, Peg Sanders, Barbara Paterniti, Marie Majoor, Isabel Hewitt, Judith Dell, Helen Raymond, Wanda McKeand, Jan Harrison, Natalie McLeod, Dulcie French, Denise Secomb, Brenda Dickinson, Loyola O'Donohue, Lynette Green**

**Row 3**

**Helen Lloyd, Jan Abrahamffy, Barbara Grear, Gill Muir, Helen McMillan, Margaret Colls, Doreen Hall, Beatrice Kay, Lillian Hodges, Lola Adam, Elaine Johnson, Nita West, Marj Dredge, Mel Stephens, Fran Moss, Pamela Freeman, Helen Richardson, Tricia Graham, Lyn Middleton, Donna Bryan, Margaret Ker**

**Back Row**

**Karyn Kammann, Olive Dell, Angela McCarthy, Marion McCall, Kaye Seeber, Jean Thomson, Meryon Goode, Anjali Abbot**

*Photograph reproduced courtesy Bill Van der Pal*

National Executive 2011-2013 gratefully acknowledges the printing of these Minutes by The Salvation Army.



## MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2013

### CONFERENCE SESSION 1

CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE

#### WELCOME

The session began at 2.20 PM with National President Major Laurel Pearce extending to all present a very warm welcome to this beautiful venue for the 24<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Australian Church Women.

**OPENING PRAYERS** National Vice President Marie Majoor offered "*A Prayer for Meetings*".

#### GREETINGS

Greetings were received from

- Corazon Tabing-Reyes (ICFLC)
- Canon Libbie Crossman (MU Australia)
- Jean Tanzer (CWLA)
- Tanna McKenzie (Lutheran Women of Australia)
- Commissioner Tracey Tidd (The Salvation Army)
- National Committee Uniting Church Adult Fellowship
- Karyn Kammann (Catholic Women's League of Western Australia)
- Pacific Region of World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

#### APOLOGIES

Apologies and best wishes were received from

- Mrs Olive Ackland National Life Member
- Mrs Shirley Brooks National Life Member
- Mrs Ruth Burmester National Life Member
- Sr Marie Craddock (New South Wales)
- Miss Margaret Flint OAM (past National President)
- Mrs Margaret Greenslade (South Australia)
- Mrs Juanita Miller National Life Member
- Mrs Barbara Mondon (Victoria)
- Miss Shirley Wells National Life Member

all of whom sent their best wishes for a successful Conference.

#### MINUTES OF 2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

That the Minutes of the previous National Conference, held in Adelaide in 2011, be confirmed



**National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”**

**Moved** Lee Edwards (National Executive)

**Seconded** Marie Byrne (Tasmanian Unit)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE None**

**ADDENDA AND CORRECTIONS TO WORKING PAPERS 2013**

**Margaret Ker** (National Executive) advised of the following additions and corrections to the Working Papers as circulated.

**P.3** Add to Participants List:

**NSW**

Mrs Marie McCann OAM

VISITOR

**P.4**

Major Elaine Johnson now Observer The Salvation Army Southern Territory

*Add to Day Visitors:*

Mrs Bev Macri

Mrs Barbara Paterniti

**P.5** *Add to Honours Awarded:*

**SA**

Mrs Eva Cooper 2012 West Torrens Citizen of the Year

*Add to In Remembrance:*

**ACT**

Patricia Dorothy Buckley

**NSW**

Dame Monica Gallagher

**VICTORIA**

Carmel Blanton

**P.39** Martha **Nöel** should be Martha **Noël**

**APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS AND REFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**That the following be appointed as the Reference Committee**

**Maureen Clark (National Life Member/South Australian Unit Observer)**

**Moved** Marie Majoor (National Executive)

**Seconded** Lee Edwards (National Executive)

**Helen Lloyd (National Life Member elect/Australian Capital Territory Unit Observer)**

**Moved** Jean Thomson (ACT Unit)

**Seconded** Elaine Johnson (The Salvation Army Southern Territory)



## National Conference 2013 "Our Choice is Love"

### **Fran Moss (Queensland Unit)**

**Moved** Mel Stephens (Queensland Unit)

**Seconded** Margaret Florence (Queensland Unit)

There being no further nominations the above were **ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**That the following be appointed as scrutineers:**

**Elaine Johnson (The Salvation Army Southern Territory)** nominated by Lynette Green (Victorian Unit)

**Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit)** nominated by Margaret Colls (South Australian Unit)

There being no further nominations the above were **ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Note: in Business Session 4 by agreement of Conference Tricia Graham (Incoming National Executive) replaced Aileen Eldridge as Scrutineer during debate on Motions 2 and 3.*

**Gill Muir (Western Australian Unit)** was appointed as timekeeper.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SELECTION COMMITTEE**

#### **Asian Church Women's Conference General Assembly 2014 Voting Delegates**

Units were reminded that each Unit should nominate two members for this Committee, which would meet at 3pm on Thursday afternoon.

### **PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

#### **NATIONAL PRESIDENT (Working Papers p. 12)**

National President Major Laurel Pearce presented her report, reiterating her thanks to all who had supported National Executive during their term of office.

#### **NATIONAL SECRETARY (Working Papers p.13)**

National Secretary Margaret Ker presented her report, expressing her appreciation for the privilege of serving in this position, and for all the support and encouragement she had received.

#### **FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (Working Papers p.24)**

Fellowship of the Least Coin Convenor Major Olive Dell presented her report, reminding participants of the availability of a wide range of FLC material at Conference.

#### **SPECIAL DAYS (Working Papers p.25)**

Special Days Convenor Major Olive Dell presented her report, expressing particular appreciation to all those Units involved in preparation of services. In relation to World Community Day services she noted that it was important that organisers made clear that there are two collections to be taken up.

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE (Working Papers p.35)**

Major Laurel Pearce presented this report, paying particular tribute to all the work undertaken in this area at Unit level.



### **AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S COALITION (Working Papers p.37)**

Major Laurel Pearce presented this report, emphasising the value of our ongoing membership of the Coalition both for the networking opportunities it offers and for the information provided on social justice issues.

### **WEBSITE (Working Papers p.37)**

Margaret Ker presented this report, noting that other commitments had precluded the Outgoing National Executive from making full use of this resource. She noted that two Units in particular, New South Wales and South Australia, were proactive in their use of the website and that she hoped other Units would consider giving this higher priority. She paid tribute to our website administrator Ewan Arnolda for his helpfulness.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

**Moved** Jean Thomson (ACT Unit)

**Seconded** Jan Abrahamffy (ACT Unit)

**CARRIED**

### **HOUSEKEEPING**

**Prayer Room** Olive Dell explained the various areas of the Prayer Room.

**Prayer Partners** Marie Majoor asked anyone still wishing to have a Prayer Partner to see her as soon as possible.

**Song Book** Lynette Green (Victorian Unit) handed out Conference song books, to be returned at the end of Conference.

**Photographs** Anjali Abbot (Western Australian Unit) is available to take photographs of groups.

The session was adjourned at 3.30 PM for afternoon tea.

## **CONFERENCE SESSION 1 continued CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE**

The Session recommenced at 4.40 PM.

Laurel asked all to join in extending a very special welcome to our international guest Mrs Esther Kilagblian.

Esther brought greetings from International Committee of the Least Coin Executive Secretary Mrs Corazon Tabing-Reyes. On behalf of ICFLC she presented to the Conference a beautiful wooden carving of the Fellowship of the Least Coin emblem, for which National President Laurel Pearce expressed thanks on behalf of us all. This will be passed to successive National Executives.

Esther spoke to our theme “Our Choice is Love”, saying that her own choice has always been love. She thanked Australian Church Women for the support it has always given to Fellowship of the Least Coin, and prayed that we would all continue to choose love.

National Executive then presented opening Devotions, and a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance, with the theme *A Patchwork of Love*.

During this service National Life Membership was conferred on

- **Mrs Helen Lloyd (ACT Unit)** whose profile appears on p. 59 of the Working Papers



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

- **Mrs Leeola Loughnan (Western Australian Unit)** whose profile appears on p.60 of the Working Papers.

both of whom were acclaimed as very worthy recipients of this honour.

<b>CONFERENCE SESSION 2</b>	<b>CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE</b>
-----------------------------	-----------------------------------

The Session commenced at 7.15 PM.

### **PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS continued**

#### **NATIONAL TREASURER (Working Papers pp.14-23)**

Acceptance of report **moved** Leeola Loughnan (National Executive) **seconded** Dulcie French (Tasmanian Unit) **CARRIED**

#### **ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (Working Papers p.36)**

Before speaking to her report Donna Bryan drew attention to the beautiful bamboo cross presented to Australian Church Women in June on the occasion of the Executive Committee meeting in Perth.

She also mentioned that Esther had been at the first overseas meeting she had attended as Australian representative to Asian Church Women's Conference.

Donna expressed gratitude for all the support that has been offered for the work of ACWC, including responses to prayer requests, embracing of the prayer partner concept, and the hosting of the Executive Committee meeting in June.

She also told us about the beading project for marginalised women in Thailand. Some of this work was available for purchase at Conference.

### **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM UNITS**

#### **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (Working Papers p.38)**

Jean Thomson spoke to her report, highlighting the Unit's organising of the three annual services (Fellowship Day, World Community Day and World Day of Prayer) and their pleasure at the acceptance of the Special Project suggestion for 2013. Jan Abrahamffy made further information on the project available to Units. Jean had been very pleased to represent the National President at some Australian Women's Coalition meetings, as she believes our participation in the Coalition is very worthwhile.

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES (Working Papers p.39)**

Pamela Freeman spoke to the report, highlighting the May dedication service in Newcastle and the Day Conference in September 2012, as well as the visit by National President Major Laurel Pearce.

She noted that members without their own email addresses had been encouraged to set up email addresses at their local library.

The recently held Spiritual Enrichment Day had been very successful.



## **National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”**

### **QUEENSLAND (Working Papers p.40)**

Mel Stephens spoke to the report, introducing herself as a new member newly elected as President earlier in the year.

Three other participants at Conference - Tricia Graham (NSW) Loyola O'Donohue (Victoria) and Anjali Abbot (WA) – also identified themselves as new members attending their first Conference.

Mel noted that Unit membership numbers are falling, with an average of 10 attending meetings, but they are happy to continue their work and had been proud to have the National President visit for their Annual General Meeting in February.

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA (Working Papers p.41)**

Aileen Eldridge presented the Unit report, highlighting the Community Concern events (an excellent fundraiser and outreach), the work of Jubilee 150 (set up for the sesquicentenary in 1986), and social justice projects.

Five dear and valued members had died during the last biennium and the Unit deeply valued the prayer support received from other Units.

### **TASMANIA (Working Papers p.42)**

Dulcie French presented the Unit report as submitted by Unit Secretary Juanita Miller who was unfortunately not able to attend Conference.

### **VICTORIA (Working Papers.43)**

Lynette Green presented the Unit report, noting the Uniting Church's use of a Presidential team 2012 – 2013 and the success of a country Fellowship Day service where a deceased member who had been very active in organising past services had been especially remembered.

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Working Papers p.44)**

Lee Edwards highlighted our pleasure in welcoming two new members to our Unit this year, and our sadness at losing Leila Wilson and Barbara Bourhill.

The Unit is very grateful to the Anglican Church for providing meeting accommodation.

The contribution of Unit members to the organisation of the Conference has been greatly appreciated by the National Executive.

Acceptance of these reports was moved by Lyn Middleton (Incoming National Executive), seconded Margaret Lawton (ACT).

**CARRIED**

**Evening Devotions** The New South Wales Unit presented these on the Conference theme.  
Scripture reading: 1 John 4:7-21



## TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2013

**Morning Devotions** The Australian Capital Territory Unit presented these on the theme of Love. Scripture readings: Colossians 3: 12-14, 1 Corinthians 13:4-10, 13, Psalm 23.

**News:** presented by Gill Muir (Western Australia)

National Vice President Revd. Lee Edwards welcomed Dr Angela McCarthy, our leader for our Conference Bible Studies.

### **Bible Studies (Dr Angela McCarthy)**

**See pp. 49-52**

Morning Tea followed.

### **11AM Keynote Address:** Mrs Esther Kilagblian (Winifred Kiek Fellowship 2013)

Esther was introduced by Donna Bryan, who first met Esther in 2006 at the Quadrennial Assembly in Kuala Lumpur.

Esther said how grateful she was for the opportunity to visit Australia.

She is the daughter, sister, wife, mother in law and cousin of a pastor. But most of all she is a child of God. And God's choice is always Love.

She grew up in a godly home and welcomed Jesus as her Lord at a very early age. When she was just a child in school a bomb destroyed the building in which all the examination papers were stored.

She studied English Literature at University and took the opportunity offered of an extra class to study the Old Testament.

She then married, became more involved in the church and had 2 children. Her father, her spiritual hero, died when Esther's daughter was only a baby.

In 1995 she and her family left Syria for Lebanon. Esther studied for her Diploma in Theology. Psalm 33 became her inspiration as she coped with her continued heavy workload and learned patience, obedience and love, and to trust in the Lord's timing.

Esther said that it is easy for us to expect rewards, rather than to say "God is doing this through me". If we do our part, we can be sure that God will do his. We should pray not for an easy life but to be a strong person.

Esther then spoke about the situation in Syria and Lebanon.

In Lebanon 59% of the population are Moslem and 39% Christian. The Armenians came to Lebanon and Syria after the 1915 massacre in Armenia and built churches and schools.

There are now 1.3 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon and the Lebanese are beginning to feel like strangers in their own country.

Esther offered 4 very practical prayer points:

- Mothers to teach their children to act peaceably in schools and streets
- The Lebanese people to remain patient with refugees and maintain traditional hospitality



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

- The financial situation and its impact on women
- Christians and churches to keep hope alive in spite of threats.

Every day the decision is ours. We must believe we are powerful and capable. God sees the little things we do for others and he smiles. May God smile on our lives always.

Esther shared with us the beautiful story of her father's church, purchased by the Moslem Brotherhood with a view to demolition. When the family returned 8 years later they found the church had been kept for lectures and exhibitions and one of Esther's students living there had kept a photo of the family.

Laurel offered prayers for Lebanon and for Esther and her ministry.

**12 noon Conference Photograph** followed by lunch.

### 2 pm Ecumenical Service

Guest Speaker <b>Archbishop Roger Herft</b>	Anglican Archbishop of Perth
Other Special Guests included	
<b>Rev. Frances Hadfield</b>	Ecumenical Ministry Officer Council of Churches of WA
<b>Rev. Ron Larkin</b>	Moderator Uniting Church in Western Australia
<b>Bishop Don Sproxton</b>	Auxiliary Bishop, Catholic Archdiocese of Perth
<b>Mrs Barbara Bennewith</b>	National Committee Uniting Church Adult Fellowship
<b>Mrs Kathy Coulson</b>	President World Day of Prayer WA Committee
<b>Mrs Jennie Edwards</b>	Lutheran Church of Australia Western Australia District
<b>Mrs Denise Elvish</b>	State President MU Australia
<b>Rev. Ray and Mrs Aladina Foster</b>	Uniting Church Adult Fellowship
<b>Dr Angela McCarthy</b>	University of Notre Dame Australia
<b>Mrs Maria Parkinson</b>	Catholic Women's League WA
<b>Major Kaylene Robinson</b>	The Salvation Army Women's Ministries
<b>Mrs Marion Ward</b>	President National Council of Women of WA

In his address Archbishop Herft said that the ecumenical movement depends on the relationships we form.

Focusing on the theme of the Conference he identified three kinds of love to which we are called in following Christ:

- suffering love
- saving love
- serving love.



## **National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”**

As we look at the situation of Christians world wide it is worth noting that in the hour over which our service extends 11 Christians will have suffered and died for their faith. Yet the secular media persists in its preoccupation with very different issues. In the Holy Land itself the proportion of Christians has fallen from 20% to 2% in the past 20 years.

In the face of such suffering for faith we all need to consider the question: where are our wounds?

Saving love: a test is our attitude towards refugees and asylum seekers.

Serving love: an example is to be found in the Quaker woman who offered a family burial plot for the young man accused of the Boston Marathon killing because “I heard the cry of his mother’s heart”.

<b>OPEN SESSION: SHOWCASING OUR ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES</b> <b>CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE</b>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This session, beginning at 3.30 PM, showcased the ecumenical work of Australian Church Women.

### **Asian Church Women’s Conference (Donna Bryan)**

Donna spoke of the 55 year history of ACWC. At first Australia was not involved. We became involved some years later after receiving an unexpected donation.

In recent years ACWC has broadened its focus. The partnership with the Fellowship of the Least Coin has become increasingly important, and there is more emphasis on projects and scholarships.

The concept of countries as prayer partners is foundational, and our current prayer partner is Mongolia. Personal contact has been possible, as Mongolia’s former national representative is doing postgraduate studies at the University of Melbourne.

We also pray for East Timor, though the country is not yet a member of ACWC because there is no women’s organisation that could join.

### **Winifred Kiek Scholarship (Barbara Grear)**

Barbara told us a little of the story of Winifred Kiek. She was a pioneer in working for interdenominational organisations, a dream that began when she visited Ceylon in 1955.

She also spoke about the Winifred Kiek Fellowship (which has enabled Esther to visit Australia), and about new possibilities for the Scholarship such as online study.

### **Young Women’s Forum 2012 (Sonya Pell)**

Sonya said she was honoured to have been chosen as the Australian representative to the Forum in Bangkok in 2012. She had been quite uncertain as to what to expect, but had been very moved by the sharing and sense of unity among the participants. She had come home feeling that “the world seemed small and God seemed big”.

### **Fellowship of the Least Coin (Esther Kilagblian)**

Esther told a little of the work of FLC and showed an inspiring video on the 2012 projects. She explained the significance of the lotus symbol of FLC as reminding us this is essentially a prayer movement. The projects are chosen each year on the understanding that “the money will come”.



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

The Session was followed at 5 PM by the **Conference High Tea**, attended by over 70 members and guests.

### **FORUM: THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**

The Forum commenced at 7 PM and was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Lynette Green (Victorian Unit). A full summary of the discussion is included as **Appendix 4**.

**Evening Devotions** The Queensland Unit presented these on the Conference theme. Scripture readings: Psalms 100 and 25; John 15:9-12.

## **WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2013**

**Morning Devotions** The Tasmanian Unit presented these on the theme of Love.

Scripture reading: John 14:15-21

**News** was brought to us by Gill Muir (Western Australia).

**Bible Studies (Dr Angela McCarthy)**

**See pp.52-55**

### **CONFERENCE SESSION 3                      CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE**

The session commenced at 11 AM.

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION (Working Papers p.63)**

That Australian Church Women Inc meeting in Conference at Shoalwater Western Australia adopt the draft revised Constitution as circulated to Units on 4 July 2013 in place of the current (2009) Rules, such adoption to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting to be held as part of this National Conference as required under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 of the Australian Capital Territory.

**Moved** Lee Edwards (National Executive)

**Seconded** Lynette Green (Victorian Unit)

**FOR 29**

**AGAINST Nil**

**CARRIED**

#### **MOTION 1 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STRUCTURE (Working Papers p.63)**

##### **National Executive moves**

That the Incoming National Executive undertakes a review of the financial management of Australian Church Women Inc with particular reference to

1. The funding of attendance at the biennial National Conference and the Annual General Meeting.
2. The payment of out of pocket expenses to all members of National Executive, both elected and ex officio.
3. The possible need for a subscription based membership of Australian Church Women Inc (including all categories of membership).



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

4. The need to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation applicable to Australian Church Women Inc as an association.

**Moved** Marie Majoor (National Executive)

**Seconded** Jean Thomson (ACT Unit)

In view of the many issues involved in this motion it was **moved** Lee Edwards (National Executive), **seconded** Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit) that the meeting move into committee.

**CARRIED**

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Should the four points be four separate motions?
- Need to consider restricted income of both Units and national body
- Should subscriptions replace voluntary contributions?
- Should a limit be set on out of pocket expenses?
- Women may not take office if there is no assured reimbursement
- Taking money out of collections is not a sound basis for funding administration
- Different Units adopt different means of financing themselves
- ACWC representatives have faced an unusual situation in the past decade given their involvement in the Executive Committee.

The meeting then moved from committee.

Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit) foreshadowed an amendment to the motion to set a deadline for completion of the review. A date of the 2014 Annual General Meeting was suggested.

Lyn Middleton (Incoming National Executive) indicated that she did not support setting a deadline.

The following addition to the motion was moved Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit), seconded Marion McCall (South Australian Unit):

**That National Executive reports their progress at the 2014 Annual General Meeting with a final report at the 2015 National Conference.**

**FOR 14**

**AGAINST 15**

Voting strength was confirmed at 29.

The amendment was

**LOST.**

**The original motion was then put.**

**FOR 29**

**Against Nil**

**CARRIED**

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS continued**

**Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust (Working Papers p.27)**

Barbara Gear (WKS Trust) spoke to the report written by WKS Trust Chair Cynthia Gifford. She paid special tribute to Cynthia's commitment to her work in spite of the illness and death of her husband Ray.



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

She clarified that Christina Taviti had completed part of her studies prior to deferring because of her pregnancy.

She noted that changes in the administration of the Scholarship are inevitable now that study in Australia is not feasible, and foreshadowed changes to the application form to clarify expectations.

### **Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust Treasurer's Report (Working Papers pp.28-34)**

In presenting her report Barbara drew attention to the impact of falling interest rates.

She also expressed appreciation to the Auditor for his prompt preparation of his report.

Drawing attention to the amount held in the Honouring Australian Church Women account she suggested that, as books are now less often required by Scholars, consideration could be given to using the money to provide them with other resources.

In response to questions Barbara noted that the amount awarded to Scholars varies according to what they actually need and request (for example in 2013 the costs involved were relatively modest).

**Acceptance of reports moved** Barbara Gear (WKS Trust) seconded Jan Abrahamffy (ACT Unit). **CARRIED**

### **Appointment of Auditor 2013-2014**

**Moved** Barbara Gear (WKS Trust) **seconded** Marie Majoor (National Executive) that Mr Adrian Nicholls be reappointed as Auditor for the period 2013-2014 **CARRIED**

It was further **moved** Barbara Gear **seconded** Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit) that Mr Nichols be thanked for his work and that a monetary gift be included with the letter of thanks. **CARRIED**

It was noted that Trust expenses are covered by National Executive rather than being taken from Trust funds.

### **Reappointment of Winifred Kiek Trustee Mrs Barbara Gear**

National Secretary Margaret Ker apologised for having overlooked the need to include this matter in the Working Papers.

A profile is provided at p.33.

**Moved** Lee Edwards (National Executive) **seconded** Meryon Goode (National Executive) that Barbara Gear be reappointed as Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trustee for a further term. **CARRIED**

The session concluded at 12.30 PM and was followed by dinner.

<b>CONFERENCE SESSION 4/5</b>	<b>CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE</b>
-------------------------------	-----------------------------------

The session commenced at 2 PM.

### **MOTION 2 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC AND WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP TRUST (Working Papers p.64)**



**National Executive moves**

That the Incoming National Executive, together with the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trustees, undertakes a review of the legal relationship between Australian Church Women Inc and the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust, with particular reference to

1. The requirements for annual reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act (1991) of the Australian Capital Territory.
2. The requirements of the Australian Taxation Office and other relevant government agencies.
3. Any possible issues arising from the fact that the WKS Trust operates under South Australian law whilst Australian Church Women Inc is incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory.
4. The capacity for further alterations to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Deed of Trust to be made at future National Conferences and/or Annual General Meetings.

**Moved** Leeola Loughnan (National Executive) **seconded** Meryon Goode (National Executive)

Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit) spoke against the motion, arguing that Australian Church Women Inc and the Winifred Kiek Trust are separate legal entities. She foreshadowed an amendment to the motion.

Helen Raymond (Public Officer) spoke at the invitation of the National President. She advised that the Office of Regulatory Services considers the Trust to be under the umbrella of Australian Church Women Inc and as such required to submit annual audited financial statements.

In support of this Marie Majoor (National Executive) commented that Australian Church Women Inc pays the administrative expenses of the Trust, and Jennifer Pepper (Incoming National Executive) noted that Australian Church Women Inc has the power to wind up the Trust on a vote of National Conference.

Barbara Grear (WKS Trust) observed that an annual audit would probably involve additional cost. She provided details of the current Trustees and noted that an anomaly had arisen in the rotation laid down in the Deed of Trust, which it was proposed to address at the 2015 National Conference.

Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit) then **moved** an amendment to the motion, so that it read:

**That the Incoming National Executive, together with the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trustees, undertakes a review of the relationship between Australian Church Women Inc and the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust** *(remainder of Motion deleted)*

The amendment was **seconded by** Marion McCall (South Australian Unit).

The amendment was then put.

**FOR 25**

**AGAINST 3**

**Amendment CARRIED**

*Tricia Graham (Incoming National Executive Observer) replaced Aileen Eldridge as scrutineer for this vote and the vote on the amended Motion.*

The amended motion was then put.

**That the Incoming National Executive, together with the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trustees, undertakes a review of the relationship between Australian Church Women Inc and the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust.**

**Moved** Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit)



## National Conference 2013 "Our Choice is Love"

**Seconded** Marion McCall (South Australian Unit)

**FOR 28**

**AGAINST Nil**

**CARRIED**

### **MOTION 3 WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP : CARRY OVER OF FUNDS (Working Papers p.64)**

#### **National Executive moves**

**That where the full amount available to fund Scholarships in a particular year is for any reason not expended the Trustees may, with the approval of National Executive, carry over the surplus into a subsequent year or return to the Capital Fund.**

**Moved** Olive Dell (National Executive) **seconded** Donna Bryan (ACWC)

Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit) foreshadowed an amendment to the motion so that it read

**That where the full amount available to fund Scholarships in a particular year is for any reason not expended the Trustees may, in consultation with National Executive, carry over the surplus into a subsequent year or return to the Capital Fund.**

Barbara Grear (WKS Trust) noted the previous restriction of having to wait for the approval of National Conference, and Lyn Middleton (Incoming National Executive) agreed that the role of National Executive would be to grant approval rather than to deliberate.

The proposed amendment was moved by Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit), seconded by Marion McCall (South Australian Unit)

**FOR 4**

**AGAINST 24**

The amendment was

**LOST**

The **original motion** was then put to the vote.

**FOR 28**

**AGAINST Nil**

**CARRIED**

*Tricia Graham (Incoming National Executive Observer) replaced Aileen Eldridge as scrutineer for this vote and the vote on the proposed amendment.*

### **MOTION 4 AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC ARCHIVES (Working Papers p.65)**

#### **National Executive moves**

**That the Incoming National Executive undertakes the development of an overall policy for the archives of Australian Church Women Inc, such a policy to cover**

1. Identification of materials to be collected and stored;
2. Methods of storage;
3. Location of storage;
4. Access to archives.

**Moved** Meryon Goode (National Executive)

**Seconded** Lee Edwards (National Executive)

Marie Majoor (National Executive) spoke in favour of the motion, noting that it had the support of our Archivist Mrs Edith Ridge.

The vote was then taken.

**FOR 28**

**AGAINST Nil**

**CARRIED**



**MOTION 5 CONDUCT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS (Working Papers p.65)**

**National Executive moves**

That the Incoming National Executive consults with members as soon as possible as to the most effective way of conducting Annual General Meetings of Australian Church Women Inc in the years when there is no meeting of National Conference, with particular reference to the choice between face to face meetings and meetings by teleconference.

**Moved** Marie Majoor (National Executive)

**Seconded** Meryon Goode (National Executive)

**FOR 28**

**AGAINST Nil**

**CARRIED**

The session closed at 3.30 PM.

**PRAYER WALKS**

Olive Dell (National Executive) explained the two prayer walks offered for the remainder of the afternoon's programme.

- Garden Walk
- Beach Walk

These were much appreciated by Conference participants.

**CONFERENCE SESSION 6**

**CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE**

The session commenced at 7 PM.

**REPORTS FROM DENOMINATIONAL GROUPS**

**MU Australia (Working Papers p.46)**

Doreen Hall spoke to the report. She noted that in her own branch there are 23 women and 4 men. An innovative model for meetings has been a late afternoon meeting followed by a bring and share dinner.

The Biennial change of office bearers will take place in November.

**CWLA (see p.34)**

Karyn Kammann spoke to the report, copies of which had been circulated.

The Biennial Conference held in early September in Townsville had addressed a wide variety of issues. Motions had covered topics ranging from the availability of pharmaceutical benefits for RU 486 to cyberbullying, filters for mobile devices, marketplace control, gambling in sport, payment to stay at home carers and Newstart.

She also highlighted the work of Research officer Dr Brigid McKenna and of National International Secretary Jane Munro at the Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York.



## National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”

### Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (Working Papers p.49)

Gill Muir spoke to the report, highlighting both the triennial theme *Who is my neighbour?* and the forthcoming National Celebration, to which 4 women from Bali are coming. Locally sewing machines have been sourced for sending to Bali.

### The Salvation Army Eastern Territory (Working Papers p.47)

Major Beatrice Kay spoke to the report, highlighting the success of the *Captivated* convention, attended by between 400 and 500 women, and the use of new social media such as Facebook in reaching out to younger women.

Acceptance of reports moved by Leeola Loughnan (National Executive), seconded Jan Abrahamffy (ACT Unit).

**CARRIED**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

The 2013 Annual General meeting commenced at 7.30 PM.

### ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES as per Attendance List

**WELCOME** The meeting began at 7.30 PM. National President Major Laurel Pearce welcomed all members.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 9 November 2012 had been circulated.

**Moved** Helen Lloyd (ACT) **seconded** Isabel Hewitt (NSW) that the Minutes of the ACW Inc Annual General Meeting held on Friday 9 November 2012 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings. **CARRIED**

### PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT’S REPORT Laurel Pearce

Major Laurel Pearce presented her Report as circulated.

**Moved** Laurel Pearce, **seconded** Marie Majoor (WA) that the report be accepted. **CARRIED**

### PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT

National Treasurer Leeola Loughnan presented her Audited Report 2012-2013, which had been circulated.

**Moved** Leeola Loughnan **seconded** Aileen Eldridge (SA) that the Report be accepted. **CARRIED**

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS (Conference Working Papers pp.50-51)

<b>President</b>	Major Lyn Middleton
<b>Vice President 1</b>	Mrs Denise Secomb
<b>Vice President 2</b>	Mrs Joy Inglis
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Isabel Hewitt
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs Jennifer Pepper
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	Mrs Elizabeth McEwen
<b>WKS Convener</b>	Major Nancy McLaren
<b>FLC Convener</b>	Major Lillian Hodges
<b>Special Days</b>	Mrs Pamela Freeman
<b>Social Justice</b>	Mrs Jan Jeffrey
<b>Website</b>	Mrs Brenda Dickinson



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

**Moved** Lynette Green (Victoria) **seconded** Lee Edwards (WA) that the nominees listed be elected.

**CARRIED**

**APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR** That Mr Malcolm North be appointed Auditor 2013-2014

**Moved** Jennifer Peffer (NSW) **seconded** Jan Abrahamffy (ACT)

**CARRIED**

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION** That **Australian Church Women Inc adopts the draft revised Constitution as circulated to Units on 4 July 2013 in place of the current (2009) Rules.**

**Moved** Lee Edwards (WA) **seconded** Jean Thomson (ACT)

**Unanimously CARRIED**

National President Major Laurel Pearce acknowledged the work of National Secretary Margaret Ker in bringing the task of revision of the constitution to completion.

**REGISTER OF MEMBERS** The Register had been updated as at 30 September 2013. It was noted that revision would be required in the light of the adoption of a revised Constitution.

**Motion** that in accordance with our custom the retiring National Executive remain in office until the conclusion of the National Conference.

**Moved** Meryon Goode (WA) **seconded** Aileen Eldridge (SA)

**CARRIED**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55 PM.

### Attendance List

<b>ACT</b>	Jan Abrahamffy
	Margaret Lawton
	Helen Lloyd
	Helen Raymond
	Jean Thomson
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b>	Brenda Dickinson
	Pamela Freeman
	Tricia Graham
	Jan Harrison
	Isabel Hewitt
	Lillian Hodges
	Lorraine Hughes
	Beatrice Kay
	Marie McCann
	Natalie McLeod
	Lyn Middleton
	Jennifer Peffer
	Helen Richardson
	Denise Secomb
<b>QUEENSLAND</b>	Margaret Florence
	Fran Moss
	Mel Stephens
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	Maureen Clark
	Margaret Colls
	Judith Dell
	Marj Dredge
	Aileen Eldridge
	Barbara Gear
	Marion McCall
	Wanda McKeand
	Nita West



## **National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”**

<b>TASMANIA</b>	Marie Byrne Dulcie French
<b>VICTORIA</b>	Lola Adam Donna Bryan Lorna English Lynette Green Elaine Johnson Loyola O’Donohue Eunice Reidy
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>	Olive Dell Phillis Dolling Lee Edwards Meryon Goode Margaret Ker Leeola Loughnan Marie Majoor Gill Muir Laurel Pearce Peg Sanders Janet Watts

### **REPORTS FROM DENOMINATIONAL GROUPS continued**

#### **The Salvation Army Southern Territory (see p.38)**

Major Elaine Johnson spoke to the report, copies of which had been circulated.

She highlighted outreach to young women and migrants, as well as initiatives such as brothel visitation, and overseas projects.

#### **Churches of Christ Women’s Ministries (see pp. 35-37)**

Marj Dredge spoke to the report, copies of which had been circulated.

She reported with great sadness that after many months the very difficult decision had been made to cease to operate as a national body of discussion. Churches of Christ congregations are autonomous, and over recent years state bodies for women’s ministries had gradually ceased to function, and national gatherings could no longer take place.

She expressed particular concern over a flow on effect as regards national and international involvement in ecumenism.

Acceptance of reports moved by Jean Thomson (ACT Unit) seconded Isabel Hewitt (NSW Unit).

**CARRIED**

### **NOTICES OF MOTION CONTINUED**

#### **MOTION 6: DEDUCTIONS FROM MONIES COLLECTED (Working Papers p.66)**

**National Executive moves that**

**For the years 2013 and 2014 National Executive and Units deduct an amount not exceeding 10% from World Community Day and Fellowship of the Least Coin monies and from Fellowship Day offerings to cover administrative expenses.**



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

**Moved** Leeola Loughnan (National Executive) **seconded** Marie Majoor (National Executive)

**Speaker against** Lynette Green (Victoria) believed that it was not appropriate to make any deduction from FLC collections and other speakers' comments also expressed concerns about doing so, with Margaret Florence (Queensland) noting concerns expressed at 2005 Conference.

National President Laurel Pearce sought clarification from Donna Bryan (ACWC) as to what happens in other countries. Donna confirmed that it is a general concern.

It was stressed that the motion sets an upper limit for deductions and that these deductions should reflect administrative expenses. There was general agreement that in the case of FLC such expenses are minimal.

The motion was then put.

**FOR 29**

**AGAINST Nil**

The motion was declared

**CARRIED.**

### **RECOMMENDATION 1 SUPPORT OF FAIR TRADE (Working Papers p.67)**

#### **National Executive recommends**

That members of Australian Church Women Inc consider a personal commitment to recognising the principles of fair trade in their everyday shopping and to encouraging others to do the same.

**Moved** Meryon Goode (National Executive), **seconded** Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit).

Gill Muir (Western Australian Unit) spoke in favour of the recommendation and Jan Abrahamffy (ACT Unit) noted the wider aspects of ethical shopping, including support for Australian agriculture.

The recommendation was unanimously

**SUPPORTED.**

### **RECOMMENDATION 2 PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE (Working Papers p.67)**

#### **National Executive recommends**

That Incoming National Executive terminates the current Public Liability Insurance policy at 31 December 2013, and takes out a new policy as from 1 January 2014 that better suits the current needs of Australian Church Women Inc.

**Moved** Lee Edwards (National Executive) **seconded** Marie Majoor (National Executive)

Barbara Gear (WKS Trust) asked about the plans of Incoming National Executive.

Jennifer Pepper (Incoming National Executive) advised that several options had already been offered, involving additional (possibly international) cover at a possible saving in cost. She considered that the current policy had incurred additional cost through use of a broker.

It was clarified that this is public liability insurance only, covering members of ACW Inc for any claims made against them.

The recommendation was unanimously

**SUPPORTED.**



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

The session concluded at 8.45 PM.

**Evening Devotions** were presented by the Victorian Unit on the theme of Love as illustrated by the contrast between the three crosses and the three kisses.

### THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2013

**Morning Devotions** The South Australian Unit presented these, based on MU morning prayers for the day.

Scripture reading: John 14: 8-17

**News** was presented by Gill Muir (Western Australia).

#### **Bible Studies (Dr Angela McCarthy)**

**See pp.56-57**

On behalf of all Conference participants National President Major Laurel Pearce thanked Angela for her inspirational contribution to Conference and presented her with a small gift in appreciation.

#### **Forum : Ecumenism: What's in it for me?**

##### **SPEAKERS:**

##### **Sonya Pell (Guest Speaker)**

National President Major Laurel Pearce expressed our appreciation to Sonya for her attendance at Conference, together with her baby son Benjamin. Noting that Sonya needed to leave by the end of the session she presented her with a small gift to express our gratitude.

Sonya addressed the theme of the Forum by presenting the results of a survey of young women designed to test their attitudes to ecumenism and what it might offer them. The results of this survey are contained in Appendix 5.

The most striking result of the survey is that young women would like to be mentored in their faith journey by older Christian women, and see ecumenical involvement as presenting an opportunity for this.

Comments by Conference participants focussed on this finding being very different from our long standing assumptions that young women were only interested in short term and specific commitment and/or social justice issues. There was a consensus that the findings presented real opportunities for Australian Church Women to engage with younger women.

##### **Jan Harrison (NSW Unit)**

Jan shared with us her experience of Australian Church Women, to which she had come very much as a 'reluctant debutante'. Most of all she realises that without ACW "I would otherwise not have met these women". She shared her husband's comment that we 'do so much with so little and do it well'.



## **National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”**

Involvement with the Asian Church Women’s Conference means a lot to her, establishing ongoing links. Jan brought greetings from Padma Ebenezer (formerly Sri Lankan representative on the ACWC General Committee) to whom we had been able to offer assistance when her daughter was injured in a serious road accident in Sydney in 1999.

In an immediate sense prayer requests sent by Executive Secretary Lee Moon-Sook enable us to ‘pray intelligently’.

### **Marie Majoor (National Executive)**

Marie’s involvement in ecumenism goes back many years, and began with attendance at a World Day of Prayer service and a meeting that followed. She recalls being told that involvement was for “women firm in faith in their own tradition”.

In the 1970s in the wake of the Second Vatican Council Catholics began to read the Bible, and Marie organised Bible classes run by The Salvation Army.

She became increasingly involved in Australian Church Women at the organisational level and came to Western Australia in 2002 knowing many people here through her involvement.

### **Jennifer Peffer (Incoming National Executive)**

Jennifer began by saying that she looks at involvement in an organisation from the point of view of what she can contribute rather than what she will get out of it.

She came from an Anglican background, but growing up observed that “Congregationalists and Baptists had more fun”.

After some time in New Zealand she returned home to Australia and became increasingly involved in Baptist activities.

For her the ACWC prayer points are particularly valuable.

National President Major Laurel Pearce thanked all participants for their thought provoking insights.

<b>REPORT</b>	<b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AUSTRALIA</b>
---------------	--------------------------------------

Mrs Marj Dredge gave a short report (full report pp.39-40)

This year there were a total of 1195 services held in Australia. The contemporary service was used in schools.

65 000 service booklets were printed, and so far \$265 000 has been raised (this figure does not include ACT and Tasmania).

This represents an amazing network. Marj feels it is worth considering how ACW could use this network to publicise our own services.

For the World Day of Prayer Committee the most urgent challenge at present is involving younger women.

<b>PRESENTATION</b>	<b>LUTHERAN WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA</b>
---------------------	------------------------------------

Mrs Debbie Dreckow (Lutheran Women of Australia) presented the biennial report of her organisation on behalf of National President Ms Tanna McKenzie. (Working Papers p.45)



## **National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”**

This was followed by a most interesting presentation on a recent visit made to a variety of projects in South East Asia, including Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand for which Lutheran Women of Australia had been able to offer financial support.

In Malaysia Debbie had visited the Bethany Home which provides educational and training opportunities for children and adults with severe disabilities. She had also visited small tribal churches in the Cameron Highlands.

In Cambodia the Life Centre in Kampong Chhnang Province, about two hours north west of Phnom Penh, opened in January 2010. The centre provides a daily sit-down meal for children from the poorest families, and delivers meals door-to-door to the elderly, frail and disabled.

Rainbow Hostel in Phnom Penh opened its doors in February last year. An outreach mission of the Lutheran Church of Singapore, the hostel offers safe and clean accommodation at heavily subsidised rent to university students from the poorest provinces.

In Thailand the Home of Praise in the slums of Bangkok caters for children with parents affected by drugs or currently in prison, whilst the Home of Grace looks after single mothers and their babies. This is run in partnership with the Lutheran Churches of Finland and Norway.

It had been an inspiring experience to see the faith and love of the people, often in very challenging circumstances.

Debbie and her colleagues Angela and Ronda then joined us for dinner.

### **MEETINGS BETWEEN NATIONAL EXECUTIVES AND CONVENORS**

#### **MEETING OF ACWC SELECTION COMMITTEE**

These occupied the afternoon, with free time for other Conference participants.

### **CONFERENCE SESSION 8                      CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE**

Lynette Green was invited to report back on the outcome of Tuesday evening's Forum.

After consultation with both the Retiring and Incoming National Presidents it had been agreed that a Forward Planning Committee should be formed, comprising one person from each Unit, who is creative and “thinks outside the box.”

Lynette will convene this Committee, and report to Incoming National President Lyn Middleton.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 3 WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP**

##### **National Executive recommends**

**That incoming National Executive, together with Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trustees, undertakes a full review of the criteria for making awards under the Winifred Kiek Scholarship programme, with particular reference to**

- **the advantages and disadvantages of making a single award per year unless there are exceptional circumstances;**



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

- making changes to the application form if necessary, so that applicants are made aware of the likely funding available;
- the need to establish clear and transparent criteria on which selection is to be made;
- the possible need to seek independent advice on overseas academic standards and programmes;
- the need to consider the likelihood that the awardee has a reasonable chance of completing her study programme;
- clarification of the role of National Executive in the selection process;
- the accountability of Scholars throughout the tenure of their Scholarship.

**MOVED** Marie Majoor (National Executive)

**SECONDED** Dulcie French (Tasmanian Unit)

Barbara Grear (WKS Trust) spoke against the recommendation, noting the distress caused to the Trustees by the apparent lack of trust in them shown by National Executive.

She noted that

- There had often been multiple awardees in the past.
- Changes to the application form are planned, to emphasise the desirability of studying in the region.
- Criteria are difficult to establish given the range of applicants.
- Trustees already seek advice where necessary.
- Sponsoring body needs to be trusted as regards completion of studies.
- The Deed of Trust (1987/1995) sets out the role of the National Executive and it would appear that some provisions of the current Guidelines may conflict with the Deed.
- Every effort is already made to keep in touch with Scholars.

Lyn Middleton (Incoming National Executive) asked if the Guidelines have in fact been observed. Barbara Grear indicated that this had been the case in 2013, though in response to a comment from Marie Majoor (National Executive) she agreed that there had been some issues in 2012.

She further noted that the Trustees would be very happy to work with the incoming National Executive to update the Guidelines and to ensure they complied with the Deed of Trust.

Meryon Goode (National Executive) said that there was no intention to express a lack of trust in the judgement of the Trustees, whose commitment and expertise was deeply appreciated.

Lyn Middleton (Incoming National Executive) then suggested an amended recommendation:

**That the Incoming National Executive works with the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trustees to undertake a full review of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Guidelines.**

This recommendation was

**ACCEPTED.**

### **RECOMMENDATION 4 REVISION OF GUIDELINES**

**National Executive recommends**



**That the revised Guidelines as circulated to Units be adopted for use by the Incoming National Executive.**

**MOVED** Lee Edwards (National Executive))

**SECONDED** Marie Majoor (National Executive)

At the suggestion of Lyn Middleton (Incoming National Executive) the following was added at the end of the recommendation **"with the understanding that the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Guidelines are still to be reviewed."**

The revised Recommendation

**That the revised Guidelines as circulated to Units be adopted for use by the Incoming National Executive with the understanding that the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Guidelines are still to be reviewed.**

was

**ACCEPTED.**

The session closed at 8 PM.

#### **ELECTION OF ACWC DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVE**

Eunice Reidy (National Life Member) reported on the deliberations of the ACWC Selection Committee.

The Committee had met for 90 minutes and had faced an extremely difficult task in selecting two of the three excellent candidates for election as Australian delegates to the ACWC Assembly in October 2014.

All three nominees were thanked for putting their names forward to serve in the role.

4 votes had been taken.

The final recommendation of the Committee was that the following be Australia's delegates:

- **Mrs Pamela Freeman (NSW)**
- **Ms Fran Moss (Queensland).**

This recommendation was unanimously

**ACCEPTED.**

It was noted that the ballot papers had been destroyed.

**Mrs Helen Raymond (ACT)** was nominated as Australian representative to Asian Church Women's Conference for the quadrennium 2014 – 2018, to take over from Major Donna Bryan at the 2014 Assembly.

She was

**ELECTED UNOPPOSED.**

Helen expressed her gratitude for the trust placed in her noting that Donna would be a very hard act to follow.

Donna asked for our continuing prayers for the General Assembly, which will be held in October 2014 in the Philippines.

#### **ELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S COALITION REPRESENTATIVE**

Mrs Tricia Graham (NSW) was nominated as the representative of Australian Church Women Inc on the Australian Women's Coalition.

She was

**ELECTED UNOPPOSED.**



### **INSTALLATION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2013 – 2015**

Jan Harrison (NSW) explained the selection process used in choosing the Incoming National Executive, involving a selection committee of 7, one from each denomination.

The overall aim of the process had been to achieve a balance of denominations and to choose the best person for the job.

She expressed appreciation to the Western Australian-based National Executive, who would be a hard act to follow.

Prayers were also asked for Jean Thomson (ACT) recovering from a fall, and for Conference participants concerned about family members who are unwell.

Retiring National President Major Laurel Pearce then led the service of installation and dedication. Retiring and Incoming National Executives gathered round a worship centre as we joined in prayer for the Incoming National Executive.

Badges and symbols of our love and support were then handed to new office bearers.

**Evening Devotions** were then presented by the Incoming National Executive on the theme chosen for their term of office: *Building in Harmony*.

### **FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER 2013**

#### **CONFERENCE SESSION 9**

#### **CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE**

The Session opened at 9 AM.

Laurel Pearce began by noting that our special guest Esther Kilagbayan will be leaving us before Morning Tea. She thanked Esther for being with us and presented her with a small gift to express our appreciation.

Esther said in response that she had very much appreciated the opportunity to visit Australia, having prayed since first receiving the invitation in mid 2012 that all would work out well. She reminded us that 'every problem is always smaller than God'.

She asked that we pray for peace in her region, but even more important than peace in our region is peace in our hearts. Our positive reactions to circumstances are vitally important.

Esther was thanked by acclamation.

Donna Bryan (ACWC) expressed appreciation for the support given to the sale of jewellery from Thailand.

#### **MOTION 7: DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICER (Working Papers p.66)**

##### **The ACT Unit of Australian Church Women Inc. moves that**

- (a) The Public Officer should attend all Annual General Meetings and all National Conferences of Australian Church Women Inc wherever held.
- (b) Suitable remuneration should be paid to the Public Officer to enable that person to attend such meetings. This is a responsibility of the National ACW (not the State/Territory Unit where the Public Officer resides).
- (c) These provisions should be listed in the revised Guidelines, which should include a new section detailing the duties of the Public Officer.



**Moved Jan Abrahamffy (Australian Capital Territory)**

**Seconded Marie Majoor (National Executive)**

Barbara Grear (WKS Trust) spoke against the motion, expressing concern at the high profile given to the role of Public Officer.

Margaret Ker (Observer National Executive) read the letter on the subject that National Executive had received from our lawyer Nicholas Tebbey. Mr Tebbey considered the role of Public Officer sufficiently important for the Public Officer to attend Annual General Meetings and be appropriately remunerated.

National Executive support for the motion was based on this advice.

The role of the Public Officer appears to differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction but there appears to be an enhanced role in some jurisdictions notably Victoria (2012 legislation).

It was further noted that the time allowed for completion of a significant amount of required paperwork is only 30 days and there are financial penalties incurred for late submission to the Office of Regulatory Services.

Tribute was paid to the amount of work done by the current Public Officer, especially in relation to changing requirements.

After further discussion Lyn Middleton (Incoming National Executive) moved an amendment to the original motion, so that it read

**That the attendance of the Public Officer at National Conferences and Annual General Meetings be investigated by Incoming National Executive and appropriate Guidelines drafted**

The amendment was seconded by Isabel Hewitt (New South Wales Unit).

The vote was taken on the amendment.

**FOR 27**

**AGAINST 2**

The amendment was **CARRIED.**

The amended motion was then put.

**FOR 29**

**AGAINST Nil CARRIED**

***Western Australian Unit: Anjali Abbot replaced Peg Sanders who was absent though illness.***

The National President expressed appreciation on behalf of all present to our pianist and organist Judith Dell, to Donna Bryan for assistance with IT, and to Lynette Green for her provision of the song book and for leading the singing, as well as for her leading of our Tuesday evening Forum.

**Closing Devotions** The Western Australian Unit presented these on the theme *Put on Love*.

Scripture reading: Colossians 3:10-17

Conference participants departing on early flights were farewelled prior to Morning Tea.



<b>CLOSING SESSION</b>	<b>CHAIR: MAJOR LAUREL PEARCE</b>
------------------------	-----------------------------------

The session commenced at 10.30 AM.

**News** was shared by Gill Muir (Western Australia). National President Laurel Pearce expressed our appreciation to Gill for providing this for us during Conference.

It was noted that 11 October is the **UN Day of the Girl Child**. This year's emphasis is on the role of education.

Laurel Pearce and Donna Bryan shared some insights on the work of ACWC in this regard.

**Prayers for Mongolia**

Our current ACWC prayer partner Mongolia has asked for our prayer requests for Australia. The following were suggested:

- For Australians to open their hearts to refugees
- For the Australian government to have wisdom in making decisions on refugees and asylum seekers
- For the Government not to cut funding for overseas aid
- That skilled migrants not be charged to educate their children

**Conference Feedback**

Laurel invited comments on the organisation and presentation of our Conference.

**Venue**

- Superb venue
- Delightful atmosphere
- Excellent food
- Excellent transport provisions
- Friendly helpful staff (committed to their mission of hospitality)
- Very relaxed Conference
- Noted that the out of city location had given us publicity in local press

**Programme**

- Dates – helpful to check for public holidays in other states (some people have longstanding family commitments),
- Installation of Incoming National Executive might have been better in Chapel.
- At times a feeling of being rushed. Devotions counterbalanced this.
- Thursday afternoon meetings: could they be moved to end of Conference allowing other participants to leave earlier?

**Length**

- No comments other than as above re Thursday meetings

**Cost**

- Very reasonable

**Other comments**

- Compliments on
  - Graces
  - Handling of motions



## **National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”**

- Bible Studies
- Microphone and IT-thanks to Donna Bryan
- Concerns
  - Judith Dell noted importance of checking music facilities- some issues with these

### **General Comment**

Aileen Eldridge (South Australian Unit) recommended that members take advantage of the printing opportunities offered by local MPs.

The Conference formally closed at 11.20 AM and was followed by some light entertainment and fellowship before lunch at 12.15 PM and the departure of remaining participants.



**APPENDIX 1  
PARTICIPANTS LIST**

**Special Guests**

Mrs Esther Kilagblian	Younes Gebelli St Rmeil Ashrafieh Beirut	Winifred Kiek Fellowship
Mrs Sonya Pell	365 Crown Street Surry Hills NSW 2010	Guest Speaker
Master Benjamin Pell		
Dr Angela McCarthy	University of Notre Dame Australia Fremantle	Bible Studies Leader

**National Life Members**

Mrs Maureen Clark	572 States Road Onkaparinga Hills SA 5163	Observer SA
Mrs Eunice Reidy	8 Fairmont Drive Kilsyth Victoria 3137	
Mrs Janet Watts	12/27 Prisk Street Karrinyup WA 6018	

**National Executive**

Major Laurel Pearce	4/242 Lawrence Street Bedford WA 6052	Observer RNE
Revd. Lee Edwards	9/115 Epsom Avenue Redcliffe WA 6104	Delegate RNE
Mrs Marie Majoor	22/27 Pearson Drive Success WA 6104	Delegate RNE
Mrs Margaret Ker	92 Vincent Street Mount Lawley WA 6050	Observer RNE
Mrs Leeola Loughnan	4 Heatherton Mews Hillarys WA 6025	Delegate RNE
Major Olive Dell	3 Kapok Court Alexander Heights WA 6064	Delegate RNE
Mrs Meryon Goode	4/25 Gleddon Road Bullcreek WA 6149	Delegate RNE

**Asian Church Women’s Conference Australian Representative**

Major Donna Bryan	1/38 Aberdeen Road Blackburn South VIC 3130	Delegate ACWC
-------------------	---------------------------------------------	---------------

**Incoming National Executive**

Major Lyn Middleton	3/14-16 Tuffy Avenue Sans Souci NSW 2219	Delegate INE
Mrs Denise Secomb	30 Isabella Close Eldermore Vale NSW2287	Delegate INE
Mrs Jennifer Pepper	3 Meadowbank Lane West Ryde NSW 2114	Delegate INE
Major Lillian Hodges	56B Edgbaston Rd Beverly Hills NSW 2209	Delegate INE
Mrs Brenda Dickinson	3/53 Kurrajong St Sutherland NSW 2232	Delegate INE
Mrs Tricia Graham	2205/1 Kings Cross Rd Rushcutters Bay NSW 2011	Observer INE

**Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust**

Mrs Barbara Grear	6 Koonunga Avenue Rostrevor SA 5073	Delegate WKS Trust
-------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------

**ACT Unit**

Mrs Jean Thomson OAM	36 Musgrave Street Yarralumla ACT 2600	Delegate ACT
Mrs Jan Abrahamffy	13 Altair Place Giralang ACT 2617	Delegate ACT
Mrs Margaret Lawton	10 Pope Street Hughes ACT 2605	Observer ACT
Mrs Helen Lloyd	7 Mokoan Place Duffy ACT 2611	Observer ACT
Mrs Helen Raymond	17/146 Shackleton Circuit Mawson ACT 2607	Public Officer ACW Inc

**New South Wales Unit**

Mrs Isabel Hewitt	35 Veda Street Hamilton NSW 2303	Delegate NSW
Mrs Pamela Freeman	52 Woodbury Street North Rocks NSW 2151	Delegate NSW
Mrs Natalie McLeod	68 Chapman Avenue Beecroft NSW2119	Observer NSW
Mrs Helen Richardson	33 Lynwood Avenue Dee Why NSW 2099	Observer NSW
Mrs Jan Harrison	2/8 Morwick Sreet Strathfield NSW 2135	Visitor



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

Mrs Lorraine Hughes	7 Wolf Close St Clair NSW 2759	Visitor
Mrs Marie McCann OAM	10/51 Upper Pitt Street Kirribilli NSW 2061	Visitor
<b>Queensland Unit</b>		
Major Mel Stephens	31 Melville Parade North Lakes Qld 4509	Delegate QLD
Mrs Margaret Florence	55 Jagora Drive Albany Creek Qld 4035	Delegate QLD
Mrs Fran Moss	2/7A Copernicus Street Wynnum West Qld 4178	Observer QLD
<b>South Australian Unit</b>		
Mrs Marion McCall	36 Penno Pde South Blackwood SA 5051	Delegate SA
Mrs Aileen Eldridge	6 Kennett Street Para Hills SA 5096	Delegate SA
Major Wanda McKeand	2/4 Martin Street Glynde SA 5070	Observer SA
Captain Margaret Colls	20 Coningham Street Broadview SA 5083	Visitor
Captain Judith Dell	2/103 Galway Avenue Broadview SA 5083	Visitor
Rev. Nita West	5/589 Greenhill Road Burnside SA 5066	Visitor
<b>Tasmanian Unit</b>		
Mrs Marie Byrne	PO Box 462 Ulverstone TAS 7315	Delegate TAS
Mrs Dulcie French	27 Matelle Ct West Ulverstone TAS 7315	Delegate TAS
<b>Victorian Unit</b>		
Lt.Col Lynette Green	2/31 Boorool Rd Kew East VIC 3102	Delegate VIC
Miss Loyola O'Donohue	2 Loch Street Hawthorn East VIC 3123	Delegate VIC
Mrs Lola Adam	27 Byron Street Box Hill VIC 3128	Observer VIC
Mrs Lorna English	105 Deakin Street East Bentleigh VIC 3165	Visitor
<b>Western Australian Unit</b>		
Mrs Gillian (Gill) Muir	27/22 Carnegie Place Mandurah WA 6210	Delegate WA
Mrs Margaret (Peg) Sanders	198/85 Hester Avenue Merriwa WA 6030	Delegate WA
Mrs Anjali Abbot	105 Terrace Road Guildford WA 6055	Observer WA
Mrs Kaye Seeber	34/19 Oakleigh Drive Erskine WA 6210	Observer WA
Mrs Phillis Dolling	20 Zamia Loop Wannanup WA 6210	Visitor
<b>National Denominational Organisations</b>		
Mrs Karyn Kammann	PO Box 4 Manjimup WA 6258	Delegate CWLA
Mrs Debbie Dreckow	22 Peregrine Drive Kingsley WA 6026	Delegate LWA
Mrs Doreen Hall	5/146 Strickland Street Bunbury WA 6230	Delegate MU
Major Beatrice Kay	4/76-78 Brighton Ave Croydon Park NSW 2133	Delegate TSA
Major Elaine Johnson	26/300 Elgar Road Box Hill South VIC 3128	Observer TSA
Mrs Barbara Bennewith	PO Box 22 Willetton WA 6955	Delegate UCAF
<b>Special Interest Groups</b>		
Mrs Marj Dredge	11 Ballast Court Sheidow Park SA 5158	Observer WDP
<b>Day Visitors</b>		
Mrs Bev Macri	19 Fulham Way Ridgewood WA 6130	Visitor WA
Mrs Joan Mann	152 Mars Street Carlisle WA 6103	Visitor WA
Mrs Barbara Paterniti	36 Mustique Crescent Hillarys WA 6025	Visitor WA



## **APPENDIX 2**

### **NOMINATION FOR WKS TRUSTEE (Reappointment)**

#### **Profile - Barbara J Grear**

Barbara is a member of Churches of Christ worshipping at the Magill Church, South Australia. Past Treasurer and Board Chairman at her church and is currently a Board Member and Deputy Chair.

Has previously held positions of secretary and treasurer of Churches of Christ in South Australia, treasurer and president of Churches of Christ Women's Conference in South Australia, and treasurer of Women's Ministries – Churches of Christ in Australia.

Barbara is currently a director of Churches of Christ Life Care Inc. and a member of the Finance Committee and also Chair of Churches of Christ in SA Building Extension Mutual Fund Inc.

She is treasurer of Australian Church Women SA Unit Inc., treasurer of Australian Church Women Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust and held the position of treasurer of the Jubilee 150 Trust for 10 years.

Has an Associate Diploma in Accounting and is an Associate of the Institute of Public Accountants.

Married to Barry for 54 years with 4 adult sons and 11 grandchildren. She currently supports Barry in his role as President of Churches of Christ in SA & NT.



**APPENDIX 3**

**ADDITIONAL REPORTS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCE**

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA INC**

We have a new Pope, Pope Francis, 1<sup>st</sup>, and within the Universal Church we have the Year of Faith. This is my second year of office, and will complete my term.

The Governance of our organisation, as with any National organisation, requires commitment, support and guidance.

We are required to hold six Executive meetings in a year and embracing new technology this has been done using Skype.

The appointment of Dr Brigid McKenna MBBS as the National Research Officer has given a professional status to the important area of putting our concerns and opinions to Government.

This is done always with the authorisation of the National President. Some of mentions are viz. Senate Community Affairs Committee, inquiry into the provision of palliative care, Senate inquiry into Marriage Equality Amendment Bill and Senate inquiry into the involuntary or coerced sterilisation of people with disabilities.

It has been a pleasure to work with Dr Brigid.

The National Executive has the responsibility of preparing and conducting the National Conference. The venue chosen was the city of Townsville. The conference was held from 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September and a full day's meeting of Council preceded the opening Mass at the Cathedral.

I have attended many official engagements including The Centenary celebrations of Sydney Archdiocese of CWL and World Congress of Families also held in Sydney.

I wish to acknowledge my national executive team and our Chaplain, Father Dave Lancini. I also appreciate the work done by my bioethics convenor, social issues convenor and national/international secretary and a special word of thanks to WUCWO board member Australia who has kept me informed on matters of importance relating to the world union and provides me with relevant reports.

At the time of writing this report, there is still a deal of work to be done emanating from the National Conference and National Council Meeting and preparation work for the handover to New South Wales for the years 2014-2015.

I wish to thank all of my members who have been my representative at various functions and meetings. Whilst acknowledging the importance of these invitations it has not always been possible for me to attend.

My special thanks to Karyn Kammann for generously making herself available at this 24<sup>th</sup> National Conference, and to thank the National Executive of ACW for sending minutes of their meetings held in Perth and financial statements. All of these give me a true picture of the work being done to raise the profile of women.

Thank you so much for your prayerful and physical support

May your conference be successful and fruitful.

God Bless,

Jean Tanzer 27/09/13



**CHURCHES OF CHRIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**  
**REPORT TO AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

It is with a great sense of sadness that I bring this report to the ACW National Conference on behalf of Women's Ministries, Churches of Christ in Australia.

I remember, at the last National Conference in Adelaide, expressing some concern re our future as an organisation. In spite of much soul searching, conversations, action and prayer by many, we came to the conclusion late last year that we could no longer continue to exist because, apart from Victoria and Queensland, we had no viable STATE ministry groups –so we could hardly be called a "national" body any longer.

This did not mean that we failed to recognise the ongoing work of women within our churches because that continues to be strong, but expressing itself in far different ways from what it has been historically. Most churches concentrate on their own ministries and do not see the need to be a part of a wider state or national body. It is simply the way it is.

It was an immensely emotional discussion that resulted in the decision to cease to operate. We also recognise that this decision has severe implications for our connection with ACW and WDP. However, there are a number of us who will continue to relate to our state units.

I am enclosing for your information the report[see below] I sent to our churches announcing our decision so that you might have a clearer picture of our struggle.

Marj Dredge

(Former National Co-ordinator for Women's Ministries, Church of Christ in Australia)

**Final Report for Women's Ministries Churches of Christ in Australia.**

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43)*

In 1995, the first Churches of Christ in Australia "National Gathering for Women (and men)" was held at Nunyarra in the Adelaide hills. It was decided at that time that the states, in rotation, would host a National Gathering, at approximately 3 year intervals.

Each state held a Gathering until, in Melbourne in 2006, the decision was made to discontinue these events. The reason being that over the 10 year period, dynamics in women's ministries had changed considerably and attendance in Melbourne was well down. However, the decision was also made to continue with a National Executive in an endeavour to connect nationally as support and encouragement for the women's ministry leaders in each state. As it would have been South Australia's turn to host the next gathering, the decision was made to locate the National Executive in Adelaide.

The members of that Executive were Marj Dredge, National Coordinator; Ruth Telfer, Secretary; Barbara Grear, Treasurer; Julie Walladge, Committee Member.

It was decided that the Women's Ministry coordinators from each state would meet annually to share what was happening across Australia, and to assess the viability of an ongoing national Women's Ministry body. Over the last 6 years, the attendance has decreased as state Women's Ministry units have been dissolved.



## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

Late November 2012, the few remaining state coordinators met in Adelaide. Those attending were Janet Woodlock (Victoria), Andi Owen and Elaine Hales(QLD), Judy Cayzer (NSW), (as an observer), and the Executive Committee.

At that meeting, after a great deal of intense (and at times quite emotional) discussion, the decision was made to wind up the body known as "Women's Ministries-Churches of Christ in Australia". This discussion has been a part of the meetings for the last three years as we struggled to find ways to avert this decision.

Early in 2012 the CWF in Victoria was formally wound up. This was the last state to still hold regular meetings, and Marion Rowe and her team are to be commended highly for continuing for so long, when other states had seen this kind of meeting decreasing in popularity some years ago. (Marion had been a regular participant in our meetings but was unable to attend the last meeting.)

Under the leadership of Edwina Blair, New South Wales maintained regional meetings which were well supported up until 2 years ago when a decision at Conference level to "restructure" brought about changes to direction. A Women's Ministry Coordinator was no longer funded. Edwina was offered a position with ACOM (Australian College of Ministries), and her husband took on a new full time ministry. These two roles meant a change of focus for her.

Western Australia dissolved their state unit a number of years ago but they were holding some significant events on a less formal scale.

Queensland produces an excellent magazine and still holds regional camps and some events, as does South Australia but certainly not on the level they once were.

Janet Woodlock continues to head up a Women's Ministry Unit in Victoria but this has a very specific focus on the mentoring of emerging leaders and individual support and encouragement of women, as well as retreat experiences.

The ACT has a very viable women's group, based in Ainslie church, and they meet on a regular basis.

It was not an easy decision. It will mean that we will have no national connection. Therefore our ability to be involved in the international "Global Women Connecting" will be very limited. While I continue as a member of the board of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, I will pass on any information which I receive.

I would encourage you to subscribe to the World Convention Newsletter, "ChristiaNet", if you do not already receive it. That will at least give you a glimpse into the global picture. If individuals would still want to support the GWC project, brochures are available and we are seeking ways of facilitating that. The Projects decided upon at the GWC meeting in Goiania last year are an orphanage in Mozambique and a school in Kenya. Both are focussing on young women and children at risk.

It will also mean that our representation in Australian Church Women will be limited to state affiliations, where applicable.

There are a lot of really good things happening for and by women across our churches in Australia, but they are set in much more informal encounters which meet the specific needs of another generation who are very particular about how they use their time.

From the late 1800's women in Churches of Christ congregations have been doing what women do well-praying, caring and serving. In local churches they formed into "bands" and worked untiringly for the work of God both at home and abroad. Later, that work was expanded and a "State Women's Conference" was formed, and, eventually, a "Federal Women's Conference"



## **National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”**

which brought together representatives of each state, biennially, as a part of the “Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia”.

Over more than 100 years “Sisters’ Conferences” have changed and evolved to finally become known as “Women’s Ministries-Churches of Christ in Australia”-- but those 100+ years have also brought changes beyond the comprehension of those great ladies.

So now the time has come to bring that era to a close. With joy and delight we recognise the amazing contribution so many women have made over those years, encouraging younger women to step up and continue the ministry. Women will not stop doing that, because that is just what women do so well-but it will be done in a way that touches the woman of 2013 and beyond, with her demanding life style and specific needs. It will speak into those things and find new ways of encouraging and empowering future generations of women as they seek to be God’s presence in an ever more challenging world.

It was decided that, as a tribute to those who have gone before and an encouragement for those still to come, that some of the remaining funds would be used to commission a written history of the journey of Churches of Christ Women’s Ministry across those years. Any balance will then be handed to GMP with the hope that it could be used in some way to support women or/and children.

I thank you all for your support and encouragement over many years and would pray for you many blessings as you continually seek the “new thing” that God is doing in you and in God’s world, through you.

Marj Dredge

National Coordinator

Women’s Ministries-Churches of Christ in Australia

(16/01/13)



**THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN  
TERRITORY  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES REPORT 2012-2013**

Encompassing the States of Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and the Region of the Northern Territory, the Australia Southern Territory facilitates a diverse variety of Women's Ministries programs and activities. These range from celebratory inclusive events such as retreats, rallies and conferences to the regular, planned and more intimate gatherings of Bible studies, Book Clubs, Craft groups and the like. At the conclusion of 2012 the membership of Women's Ministries was 11,730 and the aggregate attendance for the year was 246,255.

The biennial Grace Works Conference was held in Melbourne in March 2012. Guest speaker was Lieut.-Colonel Carole Bate (from Moscow, Russia) who gave four messages on the theme, "Grace Abounds, Daughter Arise." During the conference a number of electives were offered for women including Women in Leadership, Sexualisation of Girls/Women, Christian Meditation, Mentoring and Soul Care.

Ministry to families through the Early Childhood Ministry Programs (i.e. 0-5 years) has experienced exponential growth in recent years. We currently have 49 playgroups and 86 mainly music groups operating. These programs have generated intentional relational connections with the participants and activities to accommodate this have included Family nights/days, mother's groups and other fellowship occasions.

Church leaders have also sought innovative ways to connect spiritually with women and their families and activities/programs have included the Alpha courses- including the Alpha marriage and parenting courses, The Five Languages of Love, the Journeys Course and the Love Dare Marriage Course. Messy Church Congregations have also been birthed out of these ministries.

In 2012 the Women's Ministries groups in the Territory raised an impressive \$181,329.59. The money raised was given to the 'Making it Happen' overseas Mission project, Child Sponsorship, community projects and other overseas projects. During 2011- 2012 the goal was to raise \$140,000 for the 'Making it Happen' Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The project aims to assist dispossessed widows in Kinshasa establish income generating industries. This is achieved through training, seed funding and on-going mentoring.

We rejoice in the innovative and creative ways that woman are connecting with other women in their community. Some of the initiatives include prayer rooms and meetings in the local thrift shop, providing items (e.g. toiletry goods) for women connecting through our social programs, conversational English classes with asylum seekers and migrants, brothel visitation and meals programs.

The landscape of Women's Ministries in The Salvation Army has progressively evolved in recent years to match the changing culture and ministry expressions are more diverse and unique. We continue to give thanks to God for the many lives that are being transformed and healed through the ministry of women, by women and to women in The Salvation Army.

Commissioner Tracey Tidd  
Territorial President of Women's Ministries



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AUSTRALIA**  
**REPORT TO ACW NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

On the first Friday in March, 2013, 1195 services of worship were held across Australia- 143 in SA; 330 in Victoria; 107 in WA; 201 in Qld; 340 in NSW and 45 in Tasmania. Some 65,000 booklets were printed and distributed over these services. These services were on the theme. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" -prepared by the women of France. It was seen as a very relevant topic in light of the political struggles re refugees to Australia.

We had tremendously positive feedback on the service and many suggested it was the best for a number of years. In some areas the children's service was used by Christian Pastoral Support workers and also in some school assemblies.

Of course, WDP is about more than just producing a service. It is a ministry in every sense, providing prayer support, encouragement and practical support for women and children across the world. In Australia, a very small portion of the offering is used for Administration, but the bulk is distributed to a nominated Bible Society project (Ze Bible in 2013) and to organisations selected by the individual state committees.. In 2013 recipients included Red Cross, Christian Radio, Scripture Union, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Cancer research, Christian Television-the list is long.

The offerings for the 2013 services amounted to more than \$265,000 and the amount forwarded to the Bible Society for the ZE Bible project was approximately \$113,000. Approx \$13,000 went to other organisations.

Of course we also need to send funds to the international committee and the National treasurer reports that \$22,907 was sent to World Day of Prayer International in New York.

In 2014 the service has been prepared by the women of Egypt. The theme is "Streams in the Desert". This seems very appropriate given the present troubles in that part of the world. It is interesting to note that the theme and the country to write the 2013 service was selected some 4 or 5 years ago and the service was completed at least 18 months ago. It will be a service with great meaning, I think.!

We have received regular updates from the WDP committee in Egypt and these wonderful women continue to be strong and meet regularly to pray together. The adversity which they face is beyond our imagination so please pray for these women as they seek to be strong witnesses for Jesus in very difficult circumstances. This is the most recent.

"As you may have heard through the media in your city, on June 30th millions of people came back to the Tahrir Square, in Cairo – in Egypt and around the world – to protest against President Morsi and the critical turn that the Revolution of 2011 took after the Muslim Brotherhood came into power. The frustration with the new Constitution; the increasing clash between extremists and minorities like Christians; the hostility against moderate Muslims; the escalating level of violence against women; and the rising prices of food, gas shortages, and electricity cuts – all came out in the protests at the 1st anniversary of Egypt's 1st elected president – Mohammed Morsi. The Army Chief General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi announced on TV that the President would have 48 hours to



respond to the people’s demand, which Morsi ignored. On July 3rd, President Morsi was ousted by the military.

The protests turned into a joyous celebration. People in the streets felt that their voice was heard. The news that came from Mary Massoud speaks of joy and hope for the justice and love that the Egyptian people are longing for, as the WDP Committee said in the worship resource. Religious leaders like His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, from the Coptic Orthodox Church and The Grand Imam of Egypt, Dr. Ahmed el-Tayyib, met with the Chief General el-Sisi who promised a new government with capable and civilian people from different backgrounds to forge national unity under the Supreme Constitutional Court. He also announced the suspension of the polemic Constitution, and that new Presidential elections will be held within 12 months. On July 4th, the Chief Justice Adly Mansur took oath as the Interim President until elections. On July 5th, supporters of former President Morsi took to the streets to protest against the removal of the President.

What is the future that the people of Egypt and the government hold in their hands? This question is like: “Where do you get that living water?” There is joy and anger, there is hope and distrust, and there is water and thirst in Egypt today. Out of the basic need for survival or in the midst of the conflict, a living water flows like streams in the desert. It takes dialogue to build the mutual trust, and to create alternatives of peace and living together. In the Gospel, the Samaritan woman offers her bucket. In the WDP worldwide community, we offer our sisters in Egypt our informed prayer and prayerful action, with the deepest faith that it will bring peace and justice to them and to the world. “

The biggest issue facing WDP in Australia is the one ACW faces-how do we get another generation understanding the value of such ministries as ours. Most members of the state committees are women who have been involved for a long time. At our National meeting in 2011 we spent significant time exploring how this might be done. However, it would seem that younger women are simply not interested in being on committees, although they may attend services. How do we encourage more participation in this worthwhile ministry? Maybe the thought to ponder: Is there some way we might work together for the benefit of both organisations and yet not detract from each ones specific role in the Ecumenical movement?

Marj Dredge

National Liaison Officer

World Day of Prayer, Australia.



## **APPENDIX 4 DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF ACW**

*Our grateful thanks to Lynette Green for facilitating this session and providing this summary of responses*

### **FOUR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR FUTURE**

#### **1. What are the best aspects of Australian Church Women?**

##### **1.1 Do they live up to the Mission Statement and Aims?**

- 1.1.1 Opportunity to meet with other churchgoing women
- 1.1.2 To share community events
- 1.1.3 Coming together as one
- 1.1.4 Fellowship
- 1.1.5 Ecumenism leading to understand other faiths
- 1.1.6 Interaction of like minded people
- 1.1.7 Unity and diversity accepted
- 1.1.8 Prayer support
- 1.1.9 Ecumenism – women have the heart first
- 1.1.10 Spirituality – praying across the churches.
- 1.1.11 One family
- 1.1.12 Learning from each other expressing our faith
- 1.1.13 We value women and give women an opportunity to use their gifts
- 1.1.14 Socialising ecumenically
- 1.1.15 Projects well structured
- 1.1.16 Being part of ACWC
- 1.1.17 Special Days
- 1.1.18 Original aims were relevant at that time
- 1.1.19 Have fulfilled most of these aims
- 1.1.20 Have been ground breaking
- 1.1.21 Have united Christian women
- 1.1.22 Still working on other aims
- 1.1.23 Women now allowed to be more involved (ordained women fairly obvious)
- 1.1.24 Is the name inclusive?
- 1.1.25 Unique aspect of ACW – putting emphasis on being women from Australian churches across different denominations coming together for fellowship.



**1.1.26** Denominational barriers are crossed

**1.2 How do they successfully reach both city and country communities?**

1.2.1 WA & SA not covered in country at all. NSW has country branches Qld has 3 – organise WDP service as well.

1.2.2 WDP groups have successfully changed focus.

1.2.3 Not very successfully

1.2.4 Tasmania country move effective

1.2.5 ACT one Unit, WA not large, Vic not large NSW wider coverage/branches

1.2.6 We question whether we are successful.

1.2.7 Pressure on parishes to serve their own community

1.2.8 Cannot get past the pastor

1.2.9 ACW not publicised enough – DVD promotional

**1.2.10** Publicity about ACW, WKS, Fellowship Day, WCD

**1.2.11** Contact from council members with friends in country. This contact has enabled a country branch to be recommenced with Special Days

**2. Why do we need an organisation like Australian Church Women?**

**2.1 Has the need diminished over the years?**

2.1.1 Has the need diminished – yes from original days. People understand each other better

2.1.2 No the need hasn't diminished

2.1.3 If no ACW need will continue - won't matter but special projects and Days would be of concern

2.1.4 Need to connect to the secular world – get involved with other organisations–put a Christian aspect into those groups

2.1.5 Denominational groups now fellowship groups of both genders makes it difficult

2.1.6 Different scenario for young women today – often want to “fix” a situation without understanding what the problem is

2.1.7 Social media has an influence – won't come to meetings but reacting to what is online (it's their focus) – Virtual

2.1.8 Need ideas to attract them – someone like Sonia Pell could be an “ambassador”

2.1.9 Coffee culture – coffee and chat morning with a focus

2.1.10 Could meet need for retreat day for such women

2.1.11 Need has not diminished – the membership has decreased



## **National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”**

- 2.1.12 The need to be seen to stand for something has not diminished
- 2.1.13 Promotion – Denominational Publicity – website – local churches
- 2.1.14 No – needed more
- 2.1.15 Need to have a united voice for strength
- 2.1.16 No
- 2.1.17** With the rise in Moslem religions we need to band together as Christians
- 2.1.18** To give women a voice need to get involved with main Church organisations

### **2.2 Is there a 21<sup>st</sup> Century reason for our existence?**

- 2.2.1 Women need peer support of one another
- 2.2.2 Yes to continue to encourage women in their faith journey
- 2.2.3 Yes God willing
- 2.2.4 Use the Christian radio more and improve social communication via the website, Facebook, “in the face” communication
- 2.2.5 Raise profile through activity eg Community Concern SA ACW

## **3. What difference would it make to ecumenism in Australia if ACW was not an active part of our culture?**

### **3.1 Could it be replaced with something different?**

- 3.1.1 Why replace it – either continue or have it evolve
- 3.1.2 Ecumenism has been reached so no challenge to attract or the relevance to younger lifestyle
- 3.1.3 Big negative difference – we would retreat back to our own churches
- 3.1.4 Less business – more activity

### **3.2 Could it be merged with another, similar, group already in existence?**

- 3.2.1 No
- 3.2.2 No knowledge of another group already in existence that accomplishes ecumenism
- 3.2.3 Small groups exist but don’t come together any more
- 3.2.4 Many groups comprised of both genders
- 3.2.5 NSW Salvation Army get younger women to Evening Fellowships social meetings rather than formal – guest speaker, outing
- 3.2.6 Ecumenical groups are Know Your Bible and Bible Study Fellowship
- 3.2.7 Need to use names to attract younger women
- 3.2.8 We can’t impose on them what we think they need



**4. What positive steps can be taken to make ACW more appealing to women?**

**4.1 How can we encourage the denominational women's ministries/women's desk/office to be more engaged in promoting ACW and appointing representatives to our Units?**

- 4.1.1 Use social media – internet/Facebook/etc to tell our story - make our story interesting
- 4.1.2 Need to keep them informed. Keep lines of communication between them and us
- 4.1.3 Cannot take on responsibility for how people respond but do have one to ensure that they are informed
- 4.1.4 Changes in ways that delegates are appointed varies – often now have to show interest when once appointed
- 4.1.5 Members need to be active in getting message out to our denominations
- 4.1.6 Communication of information is essential for denominational representatives
- 4.1.7 Network eg ACL
- 4.1.8 Need for denominations to encourage representation on ACW and promote their women
- 4.1.9 Get a profile in schools

**4.2 In some Units we have "branches" but it appears this is just for holding WCD and Fellowship Day where they send their offerings and the FLC moneys in. Should we be encouraging more branches who could work together in their local community in a noticeable way in cities and towns?**

- 4.2.1 Practical projects – social justice work
- 4.2.2 Outreach
- 4.2.3 Personal invitation – join us at ACW – look for younger women
- 4.2.4 Unite more – national project – lobbying for social change
- 4.2.5 We need to personally invite people to join us – be persistent in issuing invitations
- 4.2.6 Special days services – encourage small local groups to allow you to hold such a service within retirement village complex??

**4.3 How can we facilitate that?**

- 4.3.1 Have executive Unit meeting and have minimal business (streamlined) at council meeting and a feature for the day
- 4.3.2 Seminars?
- 4.3.3 Suggest possible other way of selecting unit president other than rotation by denomination



**National Conference 2013** *"Our Choice is Love"*

- 4.3.4 A project/s to support and gain interest in differing age groups
- 4.3.5 Clergy need to be more aware of the benefits of ACW and be more supportive and promote better
- 4.3.6 The use of the web page for promotion – social media – technology
- 4.3.7 Encourage people to work on a special project even if they don't come to ACW meetings
- 4.3.8 Women make the time to do what they want to do
- 4.3.9 Prayer requests from other countries is a plus
- 4.3.10 If you don't ask you don't get
- 4.3.11 We need to pray harder to God that more women will be interested



**APPENDIX 5 PRESENTATION BY SONYA PELL**

**Thursday 10 October 2013**

**ACW and Young Christian Women**

**As a Christian women what has helped you most to grow in your faith?**

- Mentors, more mature Christians whom I could seek advice from and aspire too. Also challenging preaching and teaching from the platform.
- Sound biblical teaching
- A personal mentor who has invested weekly into my life has helped me grow.
- People who have invested in me by walking with me, teaching me, encouraging me and mentoring me.
- Being with other people who share the same faith and values as myself. Being raised by Christian parents.

**How have other Christian women influenced you in your faith ?**

- Leading by example, modeling a life that challenged my way of thinking, hence changing my standards and ambitions for life. Through women who loved me unconditionally I developed a strengthened faith in who God is and His love for me. I underwent 'remothering' where aspects of my belief systems were rewritten building a more secure foundation to live from. My relationship with God and others flourished as a result.
- I find it encouraging that there are other women who have been through the similar stages of life and still maintained their faith, it is also encouraging to spend time with peers and younger women, to catch their enthusiasm and vibrancy of faith
- Role modeling
- In many ways! From a non Christian family they have shown me examples of being a godly women and of what it means to be a Christian
- Lived Christian lifestyle, kept me accountable, stood for social injustice.

Generally by being great role models of Christian living. Personally by supporting me through mentoring

**As a young women would you value opportunities to worship and share with women from different denominations?**

- 90% - YES
- Building relationships, coming together on common ground, celebrating womanhood, supporting one another.
- experiencing unity with believers from all denominations and realising that we are all after the same goal, sharing resources and experiences.



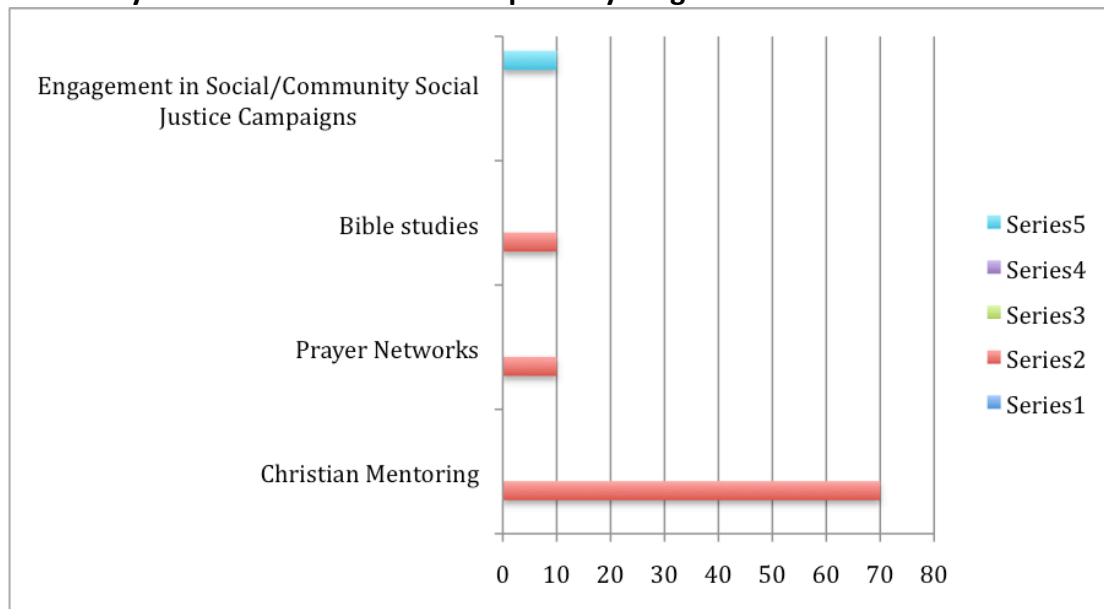
## National Conference 2013 *"Our Choice is Love"*

- Hearing different views and growing in that way
- Share faith with others of different denominations
- Forming more friendships and learning about other churches

### **What do you think ACW could do to best provide opportunities to engage young women and support them in their faith journey?**

- Regular meetings, putting on special events, serving together outside of church and coming together around a specific course.
- Resources for personal study, mentors for those need a mentor, testimonies to encourage and inspire, gatherings that relate to the young women of today
- Facilitate healthy Christian mentoring (Train & support mentors, promote a mentoring culture, etc)
- Knowledge of the organisation and what they can offer
- By providing opportunities for women to come together and participate in fellowship and learning.
- Create different forums where women can do life together such as conferences, small groups, online groups etc.

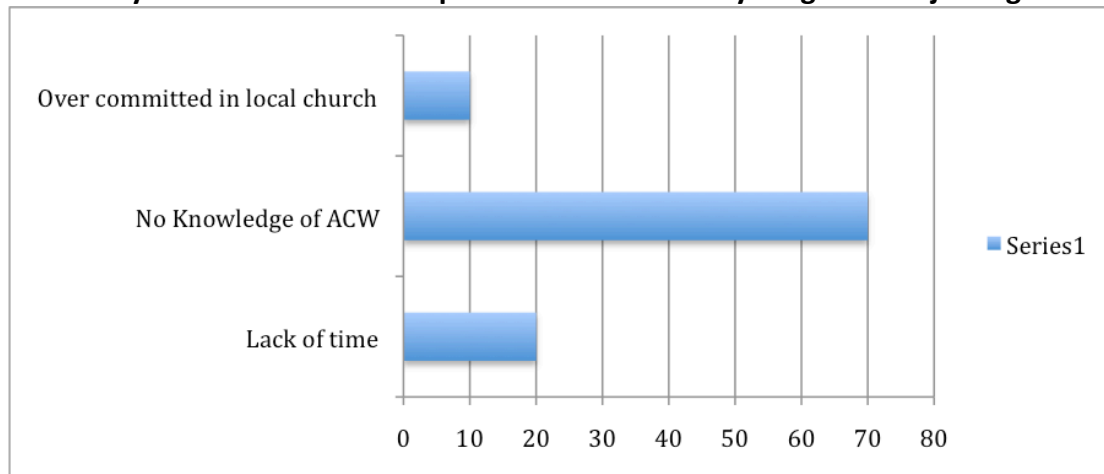
### **What do you think would be most helpful to young Christian women in Australia?**





**National Conference 2013** *"Our Choice is Love"*

**What do you think are the most prominent barriers to young women joining the ACW?**





## APPENDIX 6 BIBLE STUDIES

presented by Dr Angela McCarthy

Dr Angela McCarthy  
University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle  
Phone: 9433 0214  
Email: [angela.mccarthy@nd.edu.au](mailto:angela.mccarthy@nd.edu.au)

### Tuesday 8 October

Process for biblical reflection: from Walter Brueggemann, based on Paul Ricoeur

3 readings of each passage:

1. Pre-critical
2. Critical
3. Post-critical

**First reading:** read carefully, quietly. Write down a few of your initial thoughts. How do you usually think about this passage? What really speaks out to you?

### Luke 1:26-38 (translation: New Revised Standard Version)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,<sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.<sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'<sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.<sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.<sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.<sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.<sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'<sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'<sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'<sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.<sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.'<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

*Some of the questions and thoughts from the WCA: how did she tell her mother? How afraid was she? Is this how God brought a new DNA into the world?*

### Second reading:

What do we know about the text?

- Theological narrative, not historical – the Romans did not take a census of the Jews so Luke's story is historically implausible (Jerome Murphy O'Connor)
- What is the author's intent? Luke wants us to see God's action in the world so he writes a story expressing the truth that God transformed the human race by becoming a human being through the cooperation of Mary of Nazareth.



## National Conference 2013 “Our Choice is Love”

- What is the gospel context? Two conceptions (John the Baptist and Jesus), two births. Both miraculous, nothing is impossible with God. Echoes the OT women (e.g. Sarah – barren, yet bore Isaac)
- Mary’s response – confusion – “a perplexing human impossibility happening around her” <sup>1</sup>
- ‘overshadowed’ – Links to Genesis 1:1 and to the transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36) “Jesus, like creation will be the fruit of God’s creative act” <sup>2</sup>  
In Luke, God is associated with the Cosmic realm

How is this story relayed to us through art?

**Fra Angelico, *Altarpiece of the Annunciation*. C. 1430-1432. Tempera on panel, 194x194cm**

Symbols need to be read as they relate the theology of the High Middle Ages.

- Adam and Eve being driven out of the garden by the cherubim, can no longer have the garden of Eden as their home. A way of understanding the introduction of evil into the world.
- Linked by the Archangel Gabriel’s wings and heel to the new creation – God so loved the world that God became human in the person of Jesus, born of a woman. The angels clothes and the quality of the paint indicate that this was commissioned by a wealthy patron! Lapis lazuli finely ground and mixed with oil to produce the stunning blue. Gabriel is both inside and outside of the colonnade – God reaching into the world, connected through history.
- The swallow sitting above Mary – symbol of the Incarnation and the resurrection as it hibernated in winter and re-emerged in spring at the time of the resurrection.
- The face of God as Father above the centre pillar forms an image of the Trinity.
- The shaft of light emanating from the hand of God in the left hand corner with the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove near the central pillar. (Sometimes instead of the dove it is a baby boy!)
- Mary, dressed in red (colour of divine love, incarnation), cloak of blue (colour of heavenly truth). Arms crossed as with the angel – they are communicating God’s love, she is bowing as she says “Here am I”.
- The arched vaults as ceiling – the heavens, part of a very complex theology expressed through the blue and the lights of heaven.
- Curtain – symbol of domesticity, often also associated with Mary and the Church as the ‘house’ of God. This is a very intimate incursion into Mary’s life.
- The book on Mary’s lap – an attribute usually associated with the Annunciation, to show that she was qualified to conceive Christ because she held knowledge of

---

<sup>1</sup> Michael Trainor, *About Earth’s Child: an ecological listening to the Gospel of Luke*. (Earth Bible Commentary, Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2012), 39.

<sup>2</sup> Michael Trainor, *About Earth’s Child: an ecological listening to the Gospel of Luke*, 42.



God through all seven liberal arts – a theological construction of the Middle Ages.  
As Mother of God she was set above all other creatures and therefore embodied all seven of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup>

**Fra Angelico, *Annunciation*, San Marco Convent, Florence.**

Same subject but different composition because this was to encourage the monks in prayer. Note that if Mary stood up she would bump her head – not all things about God are logical!

**Fra Angelico, *Annunciation*, San Marco Convent, Florence, Cell 3.**

A smaller version because it is painted on the wall of Cell 3. This is to assist the monks in daily contemplation. A monk is pictured praying in the scene – this includes the monks in the prayer.

**Antonello da Messina, *Annunciation*. 1475, Oil on canvas (first Italian to paint in oils), Palermo Italy.**

Mary is in a red garment (divine love) and cloaked in blue (heavenly truth).

There is no background because nothing in history can compare to this moment of God becoming human. The whole story is given in the gestures of Mary. She has the open book with a page turning – the Word is already present in her life. One hand says “No, not me” the other says surprise, the face says serenely “Here am I”.

**John Paul, *The Annunciation*, 1990, winner of the Mandorla Art Award, New Norcia Galley Collection. (Can be found on [www.mandorlaart.com](http://www.mandorlaart.com) )**

The first words an angel usually says in the Scriptures is “Do not be afraid” – this indicates that this experience is a theophany – the message is directly from God. This Archangel Gabriel is presented as a Maori warrior fully tattooed – a fearsome sight. Mary’s face is one of resignation perhaps, as she is whisked off into the theological future by the angel and God’s request of her.

Fly in fly out angel in the background heading off to spread the good news.

Fish on the table, ICYTHUS – in Greek acronym for Christ

Knife – sacrifice

Dog – faithfulness

Flying carpet – nothing is impossible with God

**Janet McKenzie, *The Annunciation*, oil on canvas, 36x48in, contemporary.**

Both this contemporary work and John Paul’s show no space between Mary and Gabriel. The action is intimate, God is active in the world in an immanent way. The figures are of different ethnic origins and both female. Gabriel has her wings wrapped around Mary whose downcast eyes indicate acceptance of the task. She carries a lily which is an emblem of the annunciation and shows the abundant love of God in choosing Mary for the task. Gabriel holds Mary in her gaze in a supportive manner.

### **Third reading:**

Post-critical – combine the previous two steps to form a different response

What does it say to us about our discipleship as faith filled women?

---

<sup>3</sup> Gertrud Schiller, *Iconography of Christian Art*, trans. Janet Seligman, 2 vols, vol. 1 (London: Lund Humphries, 1969), 39.



Mary was young, a virgin (which means of no worth since she has not yet borne a child). She could be stoned to death for adultery under the law of Moses. This is a fearful situation yet she accepts her role.

In mediaeval theology the idea was developed that she was conceived by her parents (in the normal way) but was made sinless as soon as she existed so that she would be able to be perfect and therefore able to be the Mother of God. This interpretation can be seen to preclude Mary from having free will – a necessary aspect of her personhood. While no doubt Mary was open to God's exceptional grace given for the task, this doctrine needs some reinterpretation. The understanding of conception up until around 100 years ago was that the seed of the man in his sperm was the sole contributor to the generation of a baby. The woman was only a receptacle for the nurturing of the unborn infant.

The theological narrative of the annunciation emphasises that God so loved the world that God became human through the cooperation of a young woman from Nazareth. This pregnancy held all the hopes and all the fears that women understand.

### Wednesday 9 October

#### **Psalm 137** (NRSV VERSION)

By the rivers of Babylon—  
there we sat down and there we wept  
when we remembered Zion.  
<sup>2</sup> On the willows\* there  
we hung up our harps.  
<sup>3</sup> For there our captors  
asked us for songs,  
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,  
'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!'

How could we sing the Lord's song  
in a foreign land?  
<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither!  
<sup>6</sup> Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth,  
if I do not remember you,  
if I do not set Jerusalem  
above my highest joy.  
Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites  
the day of Jerusalem's fall,  
how they said, 'Tear it down! Tear it down!  
Down to its foundations!'  
<sup>8</sup> O daughter Babylon, you devastator!\*  
Happy shall they be who pay you back  
what you have done to us!  
<sup>9</sup> Happy shall they be who take your little ones  
and dash them against the rock!



### The Psalms

- Book of Psalms is the largest of the books in the Writings.
- Poetic
- Words of the people to God
- Every emotion, struggle to joy, is expressed within them.
- The prayer book of Judah/Israel.
- Collection of prayers which arise from a whole variety of situations and bring a whole range of profoundly honest emotions before God.

### The Psalms as Prayer

- Expressions of the people to God.
- Talk about human emotions, human situations etc.
- Does not mean that there is no divine words here – profoundly theological in their understanding of who God is and how God operates in the world
- God is a God who acts - in history, on behalf of God's people, with justice and righteousness.
- Expressed through recalling God's past saving acts, but also in the many petitions to God to act in the future.
- Reflect a theology of God as creator and God as ruler
- They are timeless in their application as they contain some profound understandings

*"though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Ps. 23: 4)*

*"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!" (Ps. 130:1-2)*

### Types of Psalms

- Also negative emotions – including anger, doubt and blame directed at God.

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest." (Ps. 22:1-2).*

- The Psalms show us how real these human emotions are and how right it is to bring them before the God who made us in prayer.

Brueggemann tells us that most psalms can be seen to reflect three (3) basic seasons or experiences in life.

- Orientation: when life is going according to plan, we understand ourselves and our world and all is stable.
- Disorientation: when all we held as sure and reliable has been overturned and life is chaotic and unpredictable
- Reorientation: the other side of disorientation, when we have moved through the chaos to a new time of settlement – life back in control if you



like. Not a return to the old orientation necessarily, but at least a move back in to a sense of control, stability or however you would define it.

Since the early 1900s, the psalms have been classified into 5 main groups

- Hymns: praise God and God’s goodness
- Community lament: for a time of communal distress
- Individual lament: for a time of individual distress
- Individual thanksgiving psalm: thank God after trouble, disaster, illness etc has passed
- Royal psalms: psalms to do with the king – either a human king or God as king.

### **Psalms of Disorientation**

- Very different feel and tone to the psalms of orientation.
- No longer a sense of well being and stability in the world.
- Instead they contain a sense of pain, disruption etc.
- May include a sense of loss of confidence in God – either God’s presence, or in God’s willingness to act.
- Less comfortable with these psalms - may feel that we shouldn’t lose confidence in God, that this is a sign of lack of faith.
- The psalms tell us otherwise - this is a very human reaction and God would expect us to cry loudly for help at such times.
- There is never a doubting of the existence of God – that’s a modern issue which was almost unimaginable in the ancient world.
- Can reflect either an individual or the communal feeling – i.e. war, famine, illness, enemies etc.
- Issues can sometimes be named – other times the situation is more vague.
- Vagueness allows psalms to be helpful in a variety of contexts.

Characterized by

- Opening call to God
- Description of the distress
- Petition or plea
- Often expression of confidence that God will act
- Sometimes recall past actions of God – almost as if psalmist were saying – *well you acted in the past, so I’m sure you’ll act again.*
- Frequently shift to a sense of thanksgiving – praise of God having acted in that situation.

Contemporary psychology suggests that practising the negative emotions can help to strengthen the emotions for when the difficult situations occur. Christians have constantly done this through prayer and liturgy – singing the pain and distress so that the emotions are familiar and we are capable of expressing them.



Liturgically, however, we tend to sanitise our pain. Is this counter-productive?

How is this story and feeling relayed to us through music?

Psalms are first and foremost **songs**

Music: Boney M – *By the Rivers of Babylon*

Does not hold the distress of the psalm even though it was presented as a freedom song in its cultural context.

*Psalm 137* by Christopher Willcock – distressing music, discordant and uncomfortable. Emphasises the pain and retains the distressing last verses.

*By the Rivers of Babylon* by Frank Andersen is very singable and poignant but leaves out the final verses as does the Lectionary.

### **Psalms of Disorientation**

- One of the surprises is the anger and questioning directed at God in these psalms.
- Incredible sense of honesty and openness towards God – but usually in the belief that God can and will act to make things better.
- Partly world view that differs from ours – all things come from and caused by God.
- Also a reflects a covenant understanding. If God is the God who acts for God’s people, then God will/should act in the current situation.
- The disorientation psalms are able to express a full range of emotion to God. This is very healthy psychologically and has the function of helping us to deal with the issues of real life, the bad times as well as the good, instead of suppressing our true selves in the face of God.
- Other Psalms of Disorientation/Lament include: 6, 13, 17, 26, 38, 69, 86, 88, and 102.
- Inherent in the psalms of lament/disorientation is a sense of hope. This comes from 2 aspects.
  - In the expression itself - the very naming of that and expression of that before God begins the process of dealing with that anger/emotion.
  - The hope comes in the belief that God will act, that even though things are awful now, they will improve in the future.

Lament expresses the belief that things can and will get better

What does it say to us about our prayer to God in times of suffering?



Thursday 10 October

**John 20:11-18**

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look<sup>\*</sup> into the tomb;<sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.<sup>13</sup> They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'<sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.<sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.'<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew,<sup>\*</sup> 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher).<sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**What do we know about the text?**

- Resurrection: - underlies belief in Christianity but is glibly greeted with 'alleluias' and joyful hymns of praise
- Gospels – terror, amazement, confusion, silence
- Christianity was a resurrection movement
- Belief by his disciples that he had been raised bodily, therefore there must have been an empty tomb
- Each gospel account differs in detail
- First belief – Jesus was exalted
- Secondly – Easter legends about post resurrection appearances are written down
- Gospel writings – not descriptions but rather the theology, exegesis and politics of the early Christian community
- the resurrection narratives cannot be understood apart from the early Christian community and how they understood themselves
- How do we account for the effect of the FAITH in the reality of the resurrection?
- Was the resurrection a bodily event?
- Still debated
- Can the NT writers bring us to an understanding of an event that is beyond death, that is transhistorical, outside of time and history?

**Artworks that present the scene: all titled *Noli me tangere***



Giotto di Bondone (1266/7-1337),<sup>4</sup> The Scrovegni Chapel, frescoed by Giotto in 1303 and 1305, and in the Magdalene Chapel in the Lower Basilica of St Francis in Assisi.

Duccio di Buoninsegna (c.1255-c.1318)<sup>5</sup>, part of the **Maestà** Sienna, tempera on panel, 1308-1311

Fra Angelico (approximately 1387-1455), Cell 1, San Marco Convent, Florence.

**Symbolism in the artworks:**

Giotto - Mary Magdalene –red clothing – the one who ‘loved much’ but also clothed in divine love.

Mary of Magdala – named after a place, not after a man, so a woman of independent means who helped support Jesus in his ministry. Gregory 1 in 6<sup>th</sup> Century wrote a sermon linking her to the publicly sinful woman in Luke’s gospel. She was then linked with Mary of Egypt who was a prostitute who reformed and moved to the desert. In the Middle Ages her story was developed further and preachers used her as the perfect penitent. The gospels (Mark and Luke) describe her only as the one from who seven demons were driven out. Nothing about sinfulness!!! Since all four gospels have her present at the first post-resurrection appearance, she must have been completely forgiven for her sinfulness to have such a role and therefore is the perfect penitent. The Catholic Church recently apologised for this erroneous presentation of Mary of Magdala.

Angels – declaring the resurrection, announcing the event

Christ – in white of resurrection carrying the flag of victory

White – was the colour of sepulchres so that people would not walk over the graves but after the resurrection it became the colour of life, not death.

Soldiers asleep as per Matthew’s account

Green growth breaks forth wherever Christ walks

Trees in the background in Giotto’s work – tree of life from the crucifixion

Duccio – influenced by Byzantine icons - the preferred art of Sienna.

Fractured rock – a world changing event

Trees – tree of life and tree of knowledge – now changed forever

Fra Angelico – walled garden – this is the new Eden

Trees from the Royal gardens of the OT

White tomb – white now represents life, not death

Mary – hair left free – loose woman but complete penitent

Flowers spring up wherever Jesus walks

Holding the spade – as per the gardener in John’s account

Nimbus – to represent holiness, Christ’s has a red cross representing the crucifixion

Jesus’ feet positions speak of the change of direction for the whole world

---

<sup>4</sup> Helen Gardner, *Art through the Ages*, 5th ed. (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1970), 385.

<sup>5</sup> Rolf Toman, ed. *The Art of the Italian Renaissance: Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Drawing*, (New York: Ullmann & Könemann, 2007), 44.