

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW UNIT 1998/99

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NO: 35

MAY 1998

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AUSTRALIAN

CHURCH

WOMEN



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NSW STATE UNIT**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1997/98

It is hard to believe that two years have passed since I was installed as your President on that truly joyous day in Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Sydney. It has been a time of great blessing for me as the Lord has upheld and enabled me by His grace and mercy, and so many of you have encouraged and supported me, and I am exceedingly grateful. I have done my best to meet the challenges which faced me and I have benefited greatly from the many opportunities given me to observe the workings of the different denominations which make up Australian Church Women. We certainly don't all think alike, we don't all worship alike, but we all love the one God Almighty and endeavour to serve Him as we walk in the steps of the Son He sacrificed to atone for our sins, so that we could have life eternal. Such is the universal dimension of His Church.

Since I began my presidency, with the theme "Walking in the Steps of the Master", I have been excited to see so much evidence of love, care and compassion, not only within our Executive and Council meetings, but wherever I have visited groups of Christian women as your President. It is just wonderful to see the joy of the Lord on your faces. It has been said that Christian women working together can change the world. With God's help I know it can be so.

During the busy year past, as your President, I have accepted a number of invitations to speak at Fellowship Day, World Community Day and World Day of Prayer Services, as well as at anniversaries, conventions and similar functions for a variety of women's associations. I enjoyed immensely the fellowship and warm welcome extended to me (and, on several occasions to my husband also). I was happy to attend conferences, rallies, etc., in Anglican, Churches of Christ, Presbyterian and Uniting Churches, as well as special meetings for National Council of Women, Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association of Australia and Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

It was wonderful to be part of the large, happy gathering at our annual Asian Church Women's Conference Service in November, when Rev. John Ting challenged us with an inspiring address and the colourful 'Women's Place' Choir sang so beautifully.

At the National Council of Women's Foundation Day Luncheon we were thrilled to see our own Major Joan Tong presented as one of the six nominees for the Woman of the Year Award. Our loving congratulations were also extended to Joan when she was appointed President of the NSW Ecumenical Council. Joan's appointment was the first for a woman in that office and we will continue to pray for God's blessing on all that she does in this leadership position.

During the year our Unit has taken many opportunities to show ACW support of **Australians for Reconciliation**, Women for WIK and other movements for the benefit of our indigenous people. We welcomed Rev. Cliff Letcher, President of Aborigines Inland Mission, as our speaker at a Council meeting, and I was pleased to be able to attend the Inquiry re Dedication of Seats for Aborigines in Parliament.

It was our delight to hear of the success of our dear friend and Life Member, Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse, in forming a new branch of ACW in Kincumber. We pray it will go on from strength to strength with the support of all denominations in the area.

It was our joy at our Annual General Meeting in April, to confer Life Membership on Brigadier Mabel Ward, who has served ACW so long and faithfully. Congratulations to Mabel and also to Brigadier Ruth Smith on whom, we are delighted to hear Life

Membership has been bestowed by the World Day of Prayer Committee. Ruth is an ACW representative on that Committee.

It was an exciting experience for me attending the National Conference in Canberra with the NSW contingent. Springtime brightness was not only reflected in the exquisite display of Floriade, but also in the warmth of welcome extended to us by the National Committee. The most memorable outcome to me, personally, was the acceptance of our recommendation that a Statement of Faith be drawn up for Australian Church Women.

As a result, affiliation with ACW will require acceptance of the Statement by any person or group. All Units were asked to submit their suggestions to the National Committee for submission at the next National Conference. The NSW Unit's Statement of Faith is:

"Australian Church Women believe that there is one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God, Three in One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son." (Eph. 2:8,9)

We must remember that every churchwoman, as she affirms our Statement of Faith and our Aims, is vital to the strength of ACW. Together we can do great things for our Lord. We must do our best to encourage new members; introduce a friend to the life and work of Australian Church Women, so that not only will numbers be increased at our Special Days Services and functions, but so that the many blessings that come from loving and serving the Lord will be shared by many more Christian women working together, as one in Christ Jesus. It is my prayer that younger women will come forward to share in the activities of ACW as we move forward towards the 21st century.

I find it difficult to express my gratitude to our dedicated Executive, for so capably carrying out their duties and for supporting me so willingly. To our Secretary, Jan Harrison, assisted by Joan Tong, and to the Minute Secretary, Mina Whybourne – my sincere thanks for expert organization. Jan has been a blessing and wonderful help to me "beyond the call of duty"! Thanks, too, to Marie Majoor for so accurately and tirelessly keeping our finances in perfect order. To every one of our Executive members a big Thank you for a job well done. At a memorable Service of Thanksgiving in the Scots Church, Sydney on 2 April, a large congregation praised God for the life, ministry and witness of Mrs Beth Finlay, who had been a faithful member of our Executive as the Winifred Kiek Convener. Beth's passing on 28 March was a great personal sadness for me and for all ACW members.

In February, it was a privilege and pleasure for the Executive to be able to entertain at lunch the National president, Mrs Aileen Mortensen, while in Sydney. Mrs Mortensen said that she welcomed the opportunity to get to know members and to hear something of the issues with which we are currently involved, saying that she "greatly admired the work that the NSW Unit is doing for Australian Church Women".

Now we all look forward to the Installation of a new President, Rev. Elizabeth Walker. An ordained Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church NSW Synod, Elizabeth is the Incumbent at Hamilton Wesley Uniting Church in the Newcastle area. Elizabeth has worked for the Ecumenical Council and was once not only Treasurer for the NSW Unit of Australian Church Women, but also Treasurer on the NSW-based National Committee in 1991. I know we shall all be greatly blessed by the leadership of this gracious lady. Please keep her in your prayers.

During this 60th Anniversary year of the NSW State Unit of ACW, there will be many opportunities for us all to look back with praise to Almighty God as we thank Him for all He

has done for us. We are planning our Service of Thanksgiving on 20 July in the Salvation Army Sydney Congress Hall, 140 Elizabeth Street, City at 11 am.

At the time of writing we are planning our Biennial State Conference with the Theme, "Towards 2000 – Walking Together". I am sure that the excellent speakers whom we have invited will encourage us to work and walk together as one in Christ. Let's remember that the closer we walk with Him, the less room there will be for anything to come between!

*O, for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb.*

May God bless and keep every one of you day by day and give you His peace.

PEG BLAKE - PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I would like to thank all members of ACW Council for the encouragement given to me in my year as State Unit Secretary. I will however mention a few without whose guidance the past year would have not been nearly so pleasurable. Our President, Peg, has been incredibly kind in just so many ways. Her phone calls and personal letters have been a great source of joy, and her wise counsel, a blessing. My sincere thanks to Joan who has shown me the secretarial duties throughout the year. Joan is always so willing to oblige and share any knowledge and information that she has accumulated. I thank her for doing most of the photocopying. As you know there is quite an amount of it over a year. To Mina, whom I have known for a long time, sincere appreciation for her accuracy in taking and typing the minutes of Executive and Council. Mina too is such a wealth of knowledge, which she shares so freely. I do thank the Executive who have given me such love, help and support, especially in their areas of expertise.

In my capacity as Secretary, I have attended to the business of Executive and Council to the best of my ability and will report briefly on some of the activities of the past year. It started well with Mrs Marie McCann receiving an OAM in the Australia Day honors. Marie has also been made a Life member of the Unit for her service and leadership over many years. Congratulations Marie.

Mrs Beryl Burke, Librarian at Bimbadeen College (Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship), spoke at the Annual Dedication Service on the overall work at the College. It was a most interesting address and those present were given insight into the ministry carried out at the College. An Ecumenical Luncheon was held in July at the Salvation Army headquarters where Mrs Elaine Telford spoke with deep feelings on reconciliation with our Aboriginal people. It was very challenging to us all.

July, is the month when Fellowship Day Services are held throughout the State. This year the theme "Jesus Christ the Way Ahead" gave speakers a wonderful opportunity of sharing the Gospel. World Community Day was held at the end of October when the Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings were dedicated. ACW again in September was involved in the Flower Festival in St. Andrew's Cathedral. Mr. Cec Warry, arranged our display which looked really beautiful on the theme of promises of God. Ours came from 1 John 2:25 "..... this is what He has promised us, eternal life."

The National conference was held in September in Canberra – a great ecumenical gathering over 5 days of worship, conference and business meetings. Our President, Peg foreshadowed a recommendation in her Unit Report regarding Affiliation of ACW. Our

organization has very well set our aims but our President felt we needed a Statement of Faith as a guideline for intending members. We were grateful to Lucelle King, Immediate Past President, who worded a concise statement, which was unanimously agreed with by other Unit members. The President later presented this to Conference and it was decided that "all State Units submit a Statement of Mission to be formulated and presented at the next National Conference". This was a very important move our President made and not without much prayer on her part. We are grateful to have a President with such foresight, passion and clarity of speech in presenting this Statement. (See president's report) Heather Reid made several very valuable contributions in the area of social issues indicative of her research and understanding on these matters. It was so lovely to have Mrs Marjorie Verco, a National Life Member with us at our Unit table during the Conference.

The final meeting for 1997 was a combined service of the Asian Church Women's conference and ACW held in the Uniting church, Lakemba with the Rev. John Ting as guest preacher, followed by a luncheon where fellowship together was enjoyed. There were well over 100 present, part of the service was in several languages. The choir sang beautifully. In an increasingly multi-cultural Australia, it is right and good to praise and worship God together.

Our beloved Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener, Beth Finlay died on the 28th March, after a relatively short period of illness. Many of her ACW and PWA friends attended a most uplifting funeral service in Scots Church, Sydney. Beth served God through many avenues of service with a steadfast purpose and faithful to the end to Him who called her. We give thanks for the lives of three of our State Life members whose passing saddened us. Miss Doris Mitchell, Mrs Linda Perriam and Lieut-Colonel Edna Baker all served ACW faithfully over the years.

Sadly, two of our Executive members have had to resign during the past few months, Colleen O'Sullivan and Margaret Collier have both given outstanding service as Publicity and Functions Conveners respectively. We miss their friendship and valuable contributions and wish them well in the year ahead.

Thank you to those council members representing ACW on various committees and other organizations, and also to those who attend functions on our behalf. It is so important to have people in these positions and attending functions so that they can report back and keep council informed on relevant issues.

In thanking all who have helped the NSW State Unit this year, and me personally, I close in thanking my Lord and Saviour, who has been my help and strength. I am reminded in Psalm 121:2 "My help comes for the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

JAN HARRISON, SECRETARY

SPECIAL DAYS

During 1997 contact has been maintained with Branches and Centres where our special days are held.

There were 43 places on our lists, but a few are finding it hard to continue. Often when people want to retire after many years' service, it proves impossible to find people able or willing to be the replacements. Then the branch has to close down.

Fellowship Day was held in 33 centres in July with an attendance of 1,356. The Offerings for Winifred Kiek Scholarship were \$4,811.70. The Queensland Unit wrote the service on the theme "Jesus Christ, the Way Ahead".

A few centres hold Fellowship Day only and 9 hold World Community Day only. 36 centres held World Community Day in October with attendances of 1,625. The Offerings for the Special Offering (half to Asian Church Women's Conference and half to Bimbadeen College) were \$5,051.15. The Offerings for FLC are mentioned in the FLC Convener's Report.

The Alice Springs branch wrote the WCD service on the theme 'One People, Embracing and Encircled by God's Love'.

The new Branch at Kincumber now has office bearers and is holding both services.

Some new names have appeared as contact people on report forms and we welcome these people to their new tasks – Jenny Watson, Elizabeth Connor, Audrey Barker, Lyn McGuckin, Edna McClure, Dora Quarmby and Mollie Gilchrist.

At the same time, we say 'Thank You' to people who have retired. We appreciate all the effort they have put into ACW over the years – Jean Latham, Beryl Davis, Mrs Grover, Judith Goodwin, Helen Brolly and Margaret Ellis.

1998 Services - WA State Unit has written Fellowship Day service on the theme 'A Message for All Seasons' and Tasmania State Unit is writing World Community Day on the theme 'Unity in Diversity'.

I was pleased to meet my National Convener Betty Lawrie at the ACW Conference in Canberra in 1997 and to sit with her at the Opening Service which she had arranged.

Thank you again to the people who assist me to get the orders of service to the Branches – my Committee, Barry (my husband and real helpmeet) and the staff in the Uniting Church Secretariat.

EDITH RIDGE, CONVENER

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (FLC)

As I reflect on the happenings of FLC of the past year I cannot help but give thanks and praise for all who have supported the Fellowship in so many wonderful ways. For the hundreds and hundreds of prayers that have been offered and for the least coins that have been so lovingly set aside, and for the opportunities we have all had of being part of this prayer fellowship and sharing with women from all over the world.

There have been many highlights in 1997 and the year has been a busy one – new groups have joined and individual people have become members – it is thrilling to see all areas of NSW represented and to report that an amount of \$13,710.03 has been received from this state in least coins during 1997.

The National Conference held in September in Canberra was truly a time of great blessing and it was good to meet with FLC Conveners from other States and get to know the new national convener, Mrs Mollie-Jean Hunt. Our thanks go to Major Eileen Holley for the help she has given during the past two years – she has kept us up-to-date and has been ready to help in so many ways.

World Community Day with its theme 'One People Embracing and Encircled by God's Love' was well attended, and branches reported much blessing as they worshipped together and considered the great need for reconciliation in our country, our communities, our churches and our families.

A new volume of Circle of Prayer with the title 'Christ our Vision and Hope' became available in November, and copies can be obtained from me. The cost is still \$2 per copy or \$2.50 posted. May I encourage you to obtain a copy, either for your personal devotions, or for your group as you participate in the Least Coin Offerings.

We were delighted to hear that two of our applications for FLC Grants have been successful. An amount of US\$4,000 will now enable the NSW Ecumenical Council to employ a professional sewing teacher so that the Somali Refugee Women who meet at the Auburn Uniting Church will be able to learn the practical skills of sewing clothing and household items for their families. A grant to Crossroads Aboriginal Ministries has also been given. The grant is to assist their Young Aboriginal women's self-esteem program.

As we commence another year together, may our prayer be: 'Make us worthy Lord to serve our fellow human beings throughout the world, who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day, their daily bread and by our understanding and love give peace and joy.' (Mother Teresa's prayer (adapted))

SHIRLEY WELLS NSW FLC CONVENER

NEWSLETTE

I am pleased to submit my ninth report as Editor of Newsette, our little State Unit magazine, which is produced four times a year.

As well as ACW news items from Conveners, Branches and National sources, I seek to include material of wider interest – challenging or inspiring events and happenings in our various denominations and organizations. I also watch for news of activities and needs of people and churches in many places around the world, beyond those of which we hear in our own churches and missions, and perhaps be able to meet some of those needs as we give thanks for the blessings and freedom that we enjoy.

I appreciate the faithfulness of president Peg Blake and the various Conveners in meeting the 'deadlines' for getting their reports to me for each issue; I also record my thanks to Carmel Emmett, Newsette Distribution Secretary, and Marie Majoor, State Treasurer, who with me make up the 'team' to collate, fold and mail out each issue, and to Heather Badgery and Heather Reid who have also assisted with this task occasionally.

It is very pleasing to receive compliments from readers, who say they appreciate our little magazine, and enjoy reading it. If you do not receive Newsette, and would like to, the subscription is \$5.00 per year, and should be sent to the treasurer, Mrs Marie Majoor, 521 Mowbray Road, Lane Cove NSW 2066.

BERYL McLAUGHLIN, EDITOR

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

I am writing this report with much sadness on behalf of dear Beth Finlay our WKS Convener, who went to be with our Lord on 28th March after a courageous battle with cancer. Beth had faithfully kept in touch with our scholars.

RACHEL McMANUS (1997) is at present living at Wauchope having completed her studies at Robert Menzies School of Christian Studies and is seeking the Lord's direction as to her future.

LT. JOANNE HARRIES (1997) of The Salvation Army Tasmania had delayed her studies due to the birth of twins – we understand she is presently studying for her Bachelor of Theology Degree through Whitley College in Melbourne.

NIGHAT GULZAR (1994) continues to write regularly from Lahore, Pakistan, and asks that we keep her in our prayers.

MALAI MAHANEERAT (1993) sends us greetings from Bangkok, Thailand where she is nursing at the St. Louis Hospital.

RACHEL SOBANA KANLY is also a regular correspondent – she is the Director of Nursing at the Salvation Army Hospital, Nagercoil, South India – a very responsible position. Her son, Brian is now four & half years of age and she has a daughter, Keren six months old.

DOREEN TIE CHIN BING (1990) IN Kuching, Sarawak also has a daughter, Heather. She is very busily teaching at the Handicapped Children's School in Kuching.

The Scholar for 1998 is MISS MILISE TAIPALITI from Tonga. Milise is studying in Melbourne for her Masters Degree in Theology at the College of Divinity. We are looking forward to meeting her.

MINA WHYBOURNE (former WKS Convener)

MEMBERSHIP

Attendance during the past year has decreased slightly to an average of 46. This has been due mainly to sickness of some members and others taking holidays.

We have welcomed some new members to Council as others have been unable to continue membership.

HEATHER BADGERY, CONVENER

SOCIAL ISSUES

This year has been an interesting one, beginning with my attendance on behalf of ACW at the Seminar held by the National Council of Women and the Library Society at the State Library in May. It was titled "What Have They Been doing for the Last 100 Years?" This covered a Century of Australian Women in Literature, science, women on the Land, in the Theatre and in Law. There were many interesting speakers, and one could only marvel at the ability of so many of our pioneering women.

I also represented ACW at a meeting of P.P.S.E.A.W.A, which was most interesting.

This year we wrote letters to government ministers on information collected by council members, who alert us to many problems. These included congratulating Mr. Robert Harrison MLA on his stand for the disabled children's "Pull and Push Games".

We also alerted National to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties – UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This was discussed at conference and National has made a submission on our behalf.

Many people have enjoyed the Christmas choir at David Jones and we felt they should be commended for this choral gift to the public.

It was also felt we should write to Mr. Carr and congratulate his government on the proposed clinical trial of Naltrexone, for many people without hope.

Major Brian Watters was also congratulated on his continued stand against the relaxation of State drug laws.

I would like to thank many Council members who have also backed our stand by writing letters. It is often difficult to make the effort, but is a positive way of extending Christ's Kingdom. Thank you again for this unity.

HEATHER REID, CONVENER



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (N.S.W. STATE UNIT) STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1997

Balance b/forward			7162.59
Organisation A/c			
Affiliation Fees	415.00		
Associate Members Fees	<u>170.00</u>	585.00	
Donations		15.00	
Dedication Service - Offering	427.70		
Less expenses	<u>163.65</u>	264.05	
Interest - CBA	159.79		
Glebe Board	<u>383.17</u>		
	542.96		
Less tsfd to ACWC Partners	<u>110.80</u>	432.16	
Sale of surplus photos		5.90	
St handling of Offertories - FLC/WKS/F' ship Day/WCD			1132.79
Promotional Items - Sales	3331.60		
Less purchases	<u>2400.44</u>		
	931.16		
Less tsfd to ACWC Endowment	<u>223.50</u>	707.66	
Newslette - Subscriptions	875.00		
Less costs production & postage	<u>749.98</u>	125.02	
Special Events Days	880.00		
Less expenses	<u>765.00</u>	115.00	
Overseas Travel Fund	331.30		
Less paid to Nat.Exec	<u>150.00</u>	181.30	
A.C.W.C. Partners - Donations	70.35		
A.C.W.C. Service	320.85		
Tsfd from Bank Interest	<u>110.80</u>		
	502.00		
Less paid to Nat.Exec	<u>500.00</u>	2.00	
A.C.W.C. Bulletins Subscriptions	200.00		
Less paid to Nat.Exec	<u>225.00</u>	DR25.00	
Flower Festival - Donations	257.70		
Less expenses	<u>150.00</u>	107.70	
A.C.W.C. Endowment Fund - Donations	276.50		
Tsfd from Promotional Items	<u>223.50</u>		
	500.00		
Less paid to Nat. Exec.	<u>500.00</u>	0.00	
Donations - 1,000,000 Women		19.00	
Special Funds			
Fellowship Least Coin	13711.84		
Interest from Call A/c	71.22		
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	205.50		
Fellowship Day Service	4811.70		
World Community Day Service	<u>5034.30</u>	23834.56	
Fellowship of Least Coin - Tsfd back from Call A/c			2000.00
Contra Items			
Nat.Ccl W'mn - Luncheon	105.00		
Aust. Day Luncheon	<u>35.00</u>	140.00	29642.14
Deduct Payments			36804.73
Printing & Stationery		295.89	
Postage		323.63	
Publicity		22.50	
Special Days Convener		238.67	
Sundry Expenses		5.00	
Nat.Reconcil Convention-4 Registration		125.00	
Salvation Army-Deposit 1998 State Conf.		<u>150.00</u>	1160.69
			35644.04

35647.04

ACW Nat Exec. - Nat Conference Fund	500.00		
National Travel Pool	150.00		
Cost 2 Delegates Nat Conf	630.00		
" travel for 1 observer	56.00		
Bursary Book - Mary Andrews	25.00		
" " J Backhouse	25.00		
Tape from Nat Conf	<u>5.00</u>	1391.00	
Subscriptions & Functions			
NSW Childrens Film & TV - Ann Sub	10.00		
Nat.Ccl W'mn	40.00		
" " Luncheon	70.00		
" " Jean Arnot Lunch	40.00		
" " Seminars	40.00		
" " Aust Day Lunch	35.00		
Sydney Prayer Breakfast	35.00		
Bush Church Aid	5.00		
YWCA - AGM & lunch	15.00		
PPSEAWA - Lunch	<u>20.00</u>	310.00	
Government Charges		61.22	
Special Funds			
Fellowship of Least Coin	13055.73		
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	173.75		
Fellowship Day Service	4590.72		
World Community Day Service	<u>4825.29</u>		
	22645.49		
Add 5% entitlement & expenses	<u>1132.79</u>	23778.28	
F'ship of Least Coin-Tsfr from Call A/c		2000.00	
Contra Payments			
Nat.Ccl W'mn - Luncheon		105.00	
" " - Australia Day Lunch		35.00	27680.50
Ck BALANCE - C CURRENT A/c 31/12/1997			<u>\$7963.54</u>

CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31ST DECEMBER, 1997

Balances			
Commonwealth Bank			
Current A/c	7963.54		
Glebe Administration Board	6000.00		
Un.Church Trust Assoc.	1710.00		
Interest Received	87.00		
Funds			
Organisation A/c			10184.71
"Newsette"			
B/fwd 1.1.97		1031.51	
Subscriptions		<u>875.00</u>	
		1906.51	
Less costs		<u>749.98</u>	1156.53
Overseas Travel			
B/fwd 1.1.97		151.08	
Add Receipts		<u>331.30</u>	
		482.38	
Less payment-Stock		<u>150.00</u>	332.38
B/fwd 1.1.97		1059.74	
Sales		<u>3331.60</u>	
		4391.34	
Less Costs		<u>2400.44</u>	
		1990.90	
Tsfd to ACWC Endowment Fund		<u>223.50</u>	1767.40
Flower Festival			
B/fwd 1.1.97		39.65	
Donations		257.70	
		<u>297.35</u>	
Less costs		<u>150.00</u>	147.35
State Conference			
B/fwd 1.1.97		378.31	
Less Depl998Conf		<u>150.00</u>	228.31
ACWC Partners			
Receipts		389.20	
Tsfd. from BkInt		110.80	
		<u>500.00</u>	
Pd-Nat.Exec.ACW		<u>500.00</u>	Nil
Recd December		2.00	2.00
Special Functions			
B/fwd 1.1.97		511.84	
Receipts		<u>880.00</u>	
		1391.84	
Less costs		<u>765.00</u>	626.84
ACWC Bulletins			
B/fwd 1.1.97		Dr. 66.00	
Subscriptions		<u>200.00</u>	
		134.00	
Less Pd.		<u>225.00</u>	Dr. 91.00
F'ship L.Coin			1324.12
W.K.S.			49.90
Donation			
1,000,000 women			
B/fwd 1.1.97		13.00	
		<u>19.00</u>	32.00
ACWC Endow.Fund			
Receipts		276.50	
Tsfd from sale promotion.items		<u>223.50</u>	
		500.00	
Pd to ACW NatEx		<u>500.00</u>	Nil
	<u>\$15760.54</u>		<u>\$15760.54</u>

SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS

Fellowship of the Least Coin			
B/fwd 1.1.97			1273.59
Receipts for year ended 30.11.1997			<u>12402.24</u>
			13675.83
Less payments - Postage/Stationery/Printing			
	174.00		
National Executive ACW			
	12859.23		
5% entitlement ACW NSW			
	<u>676.80</u>	<u>13710.03</u>	
		34.20	Dr.
Receipts for December		<u>1380.82</u>	
		<u>1346.62</u>	C/fwd
Fellowship Day Service			
Receipts for year ended 30.11.1997			4811.70
Less payments - Printing/postage			
	392.20		
National Executive ACW			
	4198.52		
5% entitlement ACW NSW			
	<u>220.98</u>	<u>4811.70</u>	
		<u>NIL</u>	
World Community Day Service			
B/fwd 1.1.97			16.85
Receipts for year ending 30.11.1997			<u>5034.30</u>
			5051.15
Less payments - Printing/Postage			
	533.90		
National Executive ACW			
	4291.39		
5% Entitlement ACW NSW			
	<u>225.86</u>	<u>5051.15</u>	
		<u>NIL</u>	
Winifred Kiek Scholarship			
B/fwd 1.1.97			27.30
Receipts for year ending 30.11.1997			<u>155.60</u>
			182.90
Less payments - National Executive ACW			
	173.75		
5% Entitlement ACW NSW			
	<u>9.15</u>	<u>182.19</u>	
		<u>NIL</u>	
		<u>NIL</u>	

minutes refer

After examining the books and documents of the ACW (NSW State Unit) I can find in my opinion the above statement of receipts & payments in respect of the Fellowship of the Least Coin for the year ended 31 March 1997 gives a fair view of the affairs of the ACW (NSW State Unit) as at that date, however, no documentation was received for other administrative Board, including Church Involvement & Interest Account on the Capital Funds Statement. So I could not verify accuracy of these figures.

MV HSH
14/2/98

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

The main Special Function for 1997 was the Ecumenical Luncheon in July at The Salvation Army Centre in Elizabeth Street, Sydney, where the attendance was just under 80.

The expected aboriginal Speaker, Shelley Reys, had unexpectedly gone overseas just prior to the date, so Mrs Elaine Telford, Assistant Co-ordinator (with Shelley) of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, came in her place. Elaine (not herself aboriginal) spoke of cameos from her life which showed seeds of reconciliation being sown. The attentiveness of all present, and the relevant questions asked afterwards indicated Elaine's excellent presentation and obvious sincerity. A time of spirited chorus singing was enjoyed, and fellowship over a tasty lunch concluded a very happy function.

The other special occasion of 1997 was the Asian Christian Women's Conference Annual service in November, held at Lakemba Uniting Church. This is an observance which we share with our sisters in the many countries with which ACW is affiliated through ACWC. Parts of the Service, Readings and Prayers were read in Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese, and Rev John Ting, of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Surry Hills gave a most touching and challenging message of his experiences as Christ's messenger in many different countries.

MARGARET COLLIER, CONVENER

BRANCH REPORTS

BURWOOD-CONCORD

At the Annual Meeting in February the following office bearers were appointed:

President: Mrs Yvonne Coorey, St Andrew's Anglican Church, Strathfield

Secretary: Miss Bonnie Lyons, Concord Uniting Church

Treasurer: Mrs Hilda Miller, St Luke's Anglican Church, Concord

Vice Presidents: Major Yvonne Slade, Burwood Salvation Army

Mrs Elsie Pullar, North Croydon Uniting Church

The firsts of our Annual Services was held on Thursday, 24th July, when we met at St Ambrose Catholic Church, Concord West, for the Fellowship Day Service. The Guest Speaker was Major Joan Tong, Secretary of the NSW Unit of ACW who presented an inspiring address on the theme "Jesus Christ - The Way Ahead". The soloist was Mrs Jill Jennings and the organist Mrs Sharon Weismantel. A happy time of fellowship was enjoyed over a light luncheon and we thank the ladies of St Ambrose for their hospitality.

The second Service was held on Thursday, 23rd October, at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Enfield, when the theme was "One People Embracing and Encircled by God's Love". The Guest Speaker at this World Community Day Service was Sister Colleen O'Sullivan, who challenged our attitudes to different aspects of Reconciliation. Our Soloist was Mrs Rita Zammit and the organist Mrs Marie Brady. Following the Service the St Joseph's ladies served a light luncheon that was greatly enjoyed, along with the fellowship shared, and we thank the ladies for their welcome.

We are grateful to Burwood Uniting Church for allowing us to use their Fellowship Hall for our three business meetings during the year.

As we attend these ACW Branch meetings we are conscious of a deepening sense of friendship, fellowship and mutual respect and we rejoice that we are growing closer with each year that passes. We hope that these friendships will continue into the future and we praise God that He has brought us together, breaking down barriers which may have existed in the past, giving us a new sense of belonging to God's universal family.

BONNIE LYONS, SECRETARY

CAMPBELLTOWN

Campbelltown hosted two services during 1997. Fellowship Day was held in the Uniting Church on Friday 25 July at 1030am. The speaker was Jan Harrison, the newly appointed State Secretary. The message on the Theme "Jesus Christ, the Way Ahead" was excellent. There were approximately 30 present and the offering for the WKS fund was \$67.45. Souvenir Sales amounted to \$10.50 and \$15.40 was given for the ACWC Endowment fund.

World Community Day was held in St. John's Catholic Church on Friday 29th October at 7.30pm. Approximately 50 were present, over 20 from the Catholic Church. Major Joan Tong from Salvation Army Headquarters and Immediate Past State Secretary was our excellent speaker on the Theme 'One People Embracing and Encircled by God's love'. The FLC offering amounted to \$48.00; the general offering for projects \$86.70; souvenir sales were \$112.00 and \$12.50 was given for the ACWC Endowment Fund.

It is encouraging that in the city of Campbelltown ACW is beginning to be recognized and supported more. We pray that 1998 will see more women wanting to worship and serve together.

LUCELLE KING, CO-ORDINATOR

EPPING

Both services were enjoyable occasions, with a warm, friendly atmosphere, and an attendance of 60-70 persons. The speakers as well as the orders of service were well received. However, almost without exception, those attending were in the older age bracket. Our committee feels that this is cause for concern, and would like to devise some way to attract younger women. One suggestion is to include a choir, preferably of children, in the service, and provide a crèche.

DORA QUARMBY, SECRETARY

KINCUMBER

In October 1996 I organized for World Community Day Service as it was the 40th Anniversary of Fellowship of the Least Coin. In 1997 with the backing of the Uniting Church Ladies Fellowship we planned Fellowship Day, holding an inaugural meeting following the service, a representative committee and office bearers were elected.

The four local denominations affiliated and formed Kincumber Area Branch, hoping others nearby may join us. Much publicity has been set out. At World Community Day Service, with Mrs Marie Majoer, State Treasurer, as speaker, we had an attendance of 38, and the offerings were quite good. We are planning for our future services.

DOROTHY WOODHOUSE, PRESIDENT

SEVEN HILLS – TOONGABBIE

Our numbers have been fairly consistent throughout the year. We are grateful for those Churches who are participating in each of our services and for their willing co-operation at our planning meetings.

Our Fellowship Day service was held at St Mary's Anglican Church, on the 18th July with 41 people present. Our speaker was Rachel McManus who gave us an insight into the work she is doing with Aborigines in Redfern. She very ably tied this into the theme for the day.

Community Day service was held at Girraween Community Church on the 10th of October 1997. Our speaker was Mrs Margaret Cowell, who gave us a very inspiring and challenging message on the theme for the day. We were pleased to welcome ladies from Wentworthville Presbyterian Church for the first time and look forward to seeing them at future services and hopefully participating.

Planning meetings are still being held at St Peters Anglican Church and have been well attended, always proceeding smoothly.

In November, we held our usual concert which followed a share luncheon and our AGM. The entertainment provided by our ladies was first class. Gifts were donated to the Smith Family.

Again, we give thanks to God for the privilege of serving Him in this capacity. We pray that in 1998 we may be able to encourage more ladies to become involved in this area of the Church's work.

SYLVIA J PETTIT, SECRETARY

STRATHFIELD – HOMEBUSH

Once again the ladies of our Churches have enjoyed love, friendship and fellowship as we work together for God's kingdom.

Fellowship Day was well attended at St Thomas's Enfield where Deaconess Heather Badgery encouraged us to continue to walk along the way with Jesus. The ladies commented on how much they enjoyed singing the hymns that they know so well.

World Community Day was held at the Enfield Salvation Army, but a lot of illness kept our numbers down. We were once again helped by the message from our speaker, Mrs Margaret Collier, a member of State Council.

We again held 2 World Day of Prayer Services, daytime and evening. Our speakers reminded us that our neighbours are near and far and that Jesus has told us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

The hospitality of the ladies in whose churches the services were held, was much appreciated by all who attended. We look forward to another year of serving God together as just one small part of His family.

W. HALL, SECRETARY

SUTHERLAND

Our Branch continues to function in a very happy and warm relationship with the members from the sixty plus Churches to which we send invitations to our two Services. We have a committee of 10 – 12 dedicated members who meet together to plan meetings, distribute invitations, organise publicity in their Churches, etc. Every denomination participates in the Services – Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Churches of Christ, Presbyterian, The Salvation Army, Uniting and sometimes Congregational.

We always commence our services with our theme song "In Christ We Are One" – and give a resume of the work of ACW, FLC, WK Scholarship and Asian Church Women's Conference is included if applicable.

Fellowship Day this year was held in the Anglican Church, Gynea where we had the privilege of Miss Sheila Spencer from the Anglican Department of Evangelism as our speaker on the subject "Jesus Christ – the Way Ahead". She gave a very challenging and thought-provoking address.

World Community Day was held in the Anglican Church, Engadine and we were delighted to have our State President and Branch President, Mrs Peg Blake as our speaker. Peg is a gifted speaker and her address on the subject "One People Embracing and Encircled by God's Love" was stimulating and very much appreciated.

Attendances were in the vicinity of 100 – 120 and we always enjoy warm fellowship over the luncheon following the Service. We are always grateful to the ladies of the host Church who so graciously serve tea and coffee and refreshments after the Service. It is so special to meet with old friends from the various Churches in the Shire of all denominations.

Pat Sutton is our Branch representative at Council and several Branch members including Pat attended the Asian Church Women's Conference service in November at the Uniting Church, Lakemba. We feel especially blessed by the leadership we enjoy with Mrs Peg Blake as our President and we look forward to many years of happy fellowship and witness with our fellow Christians "all one in Christ".

MINA WHYBOURNE, SECRETARY

CHATSWOOD – WILLOUGHBY

Our branch is by no means thriving. However, we continue to pull together to promote Interdenominational Unity in our area and, by having a "trading table" after each of the three services, we are able to raise funds to give to local community projects.

The Fellowship Day Service for 1997 was held on the morning of Friday 25th July at Willoughby Uniting Church who provided an organist, "thank you" posies and refreshments, while the lovely soloist was Lorraine Hensby from Church of Christ and Marie Majoor gave a beautifully prepared and presented inspirational message on the theme "Jesus Christ the Way Ahead". Seven Churches took part in leading the service which was attended by about 40 and an offering of \$194 was given for the WKS fund.

St Stephen's Anglican Church, Willoughby hosted World Community Day on the morning of Friday 31st October. Our excellent speaker was Lucelle King, who also acted as soloist and interspersed her message of "Reconciliation – all together encircled by God's Love" with toe-tapping, joyful songs. When no organist arrived prior to the commencement of the service we had a lovely example of working together in God's love as Brigadier Ruth Smith, put on the spot by being asked to play the hymns for us, graciously stepped into the breach. Six Churches helped in the service leading and, again, there were about 40 people in attendance. The offering amounted to \$157.00, and the FLC offering was \$357.20.

It was the Uniting Church's turn to host World Day of Prayer this year so, owing to the closure of Chatswood Central, we went again to Willoughby on the morning of 6th March. We had a procession of 6 banners, followed by a reading of Eileen King's foreword by the wife of the Mayor of Willoughby, after which the service proceeded with eight Churches sharing the leadership. Irene Carder spoke to us on the theme of "Who is my

Neighbour?", talking with humour about loving our neighbours and being good neighbours to 60 people who gave an offering of \$250.60.

We look forward to serving our Lord together in His love and power.

LINELLE MORRISON, BRANCH DELEGATE

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

GIRLS BRIGADE

This year has been a most exciting time for Girls Brigade, for on the 9th August 1997 the official opening of the Girls and Boys Brigade Headquarters at Toongabbie took place.

The fruition of many dreams over many years, this wonderful facility will make it possible to train many young men and women in Christian leadership, which in turn will touch the lives of many girls and boys to lead them to Christ.

It was pleasing to have our National Secretary of Girls Brigade at our National Australian Church Women's Conference in Canberra and to know she took information about this conference to WA the following week to Brigades' National Conference.

Once again I have enjoyed representing Brigade on the Council of Australian Church Women and I thank them for this.

HEATHER REID

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

Mrs Dora Quarmby and Mrs Lil Morris, who attend ACW Council meetings regularly, and report back to their State Executive, represent W.C.T.U. on NSW Unit.

Some highlights of 1997 in which W.C.T.U. was involved were:

Alcohol Awareness Week in September, which was launched at Wesley Hospital in Ashfield by NSW Health Minister Dr Andrew Refshauge, where a most informative Video on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome was screened. (This video available for loan from W.C.T.U. office).

The Week also included a Non-Alcoholic Wines & Drinks Tasting Stall in the foyer of Wesley Mission, Pitt Street, where a good number of folk passing through accepted "tastes" and showed interest in our "non-al" recipes and other literature.

The Week concluded with a "Road Trauma Remembrance Day" in Sydney Square, where many passers-by watched as Police, Ambulance and Rescue Service personnel took part in a re-enactment of an actual road accident – the 'patients' and 'bodies' cut from the wrecked car being students from nearby St Andrew's Cathedral School. A young man in a wheel-chair gave a personal account of being disabled from a road accident, and a square of green (artificial) grass gave people an opportunity to place a white emblem to remember someone lost in the same way.

The Non-Al Drinks Tasting already mentioned was so successful that we undertook another one in December, as a pre-Christmas exercise to encourage people to "celebrate" without using alcohol. This was held in Martin Place and again roused much interest – more than 300 "tastes" were accepted and a good deal of literature and recipe leaflets taken.

Apart from such 'highlights' W.C.T.U. in its 115th year, continues its regular activities of demonstrations, talks to children's youth and adult groups using our puppets, and being active about the damaging elements in our society, through monitoring the media,

lobbying politicians or companies on matters of concern, or giving commendation when merited – seeking always to fulfil our motto "For God, Home and Humanity." We long for new younger members to join us in the task.

BERYL McLAUGHLIN, W.C.T.U. - STATE SECRETARY

REPORT ON NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN 1998

It has been a privilege to again join with delegates from over 70 Women's Organisations to represent ACW at National Council of Women.

Meetings have been interesting with many social issues being addressed. Excellent speakers have kept us informed of current happenings. A special focus this year has been to look in depth at two topics: 'Water – our most precious resource' and 'Youth', with speakers experienced in both these fields.

Foundation Day Luncheon in August was a great occasion when our own Major Joan Tong was one of six ladies nominated for the NCW Award 1997. These ladies were honoured for their commitment and dedication in the service of others. It was indeed a day of celebration and was extra special for those who were able to attend and share the day with Joan.

Your prayers would be appreciated as I continue to attend these meetings on the last Thursday evening of each month.

SHIRLEY WELLS

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

The first meeting was held at Wollongong, where the Ecumenical Service was held at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the preacher for the occasion being the Moderator of the Uniting Church, Rev. Dr. Don Evans. The second meeting, was held at Punchbowl at St Nicholas' Antiochian Orthodox Church.

This year new members are the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wollongong and the Congregational Federation of NSW.

Twice this year the Council invited people to join in the Taize Pilgrimage of Trust through Retreats and Meditative Prayer. The program continues this year.

A memorable and moving occasion was held at St Mary's Cathedral, filled by 2000 people on December 10th, when twelve NSW churches offered apology and commitment to reconciliation to the indigenous people of this country.

MARIE McCANN

NSW COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S FILMS & TELEVISION

This very small committee is finding it difficult to operate, as its funding from the NSW Health Department has been drastically reduced in recent years.

Its main function apart from monitoring the standards of children's programs and advertising, is the distributing of videos to the children's hospitals and children's wards of other hospitals. This service is greatly appreciated by the staff – they have commented that the availability of the videos saves them some 24 – 48 hours per patient for say a 2 week stay – children eat their meals, don't miss mother so much, don't cry so much, don't 'bust' their stitches.

A Librarian is employed for one day a week to run this service, but the reduction in funding has meant that she has not been paid her full salary for some time, but still gives her time voluntarily beyond what we can pay her.

BERYL McLAUGHLIN, HON SECRETARY/TREASURER



(Contd from back page)

SPECIAL DAYS CONVENER	Dss Irene Carder 6 Lawson Ave MARRICKVILLE	2204	Tel: (02) 9569 8467
PUBLICITY CONVENER	Mrs Lucelle King 19 Stenhouse Dve MOUNT ANNAN	2567	Tel/Fax: 024647 2226
FUNCTIONS CONVENER	Major Eileen Holley 9 East Dve BEXLEY NORTH	2207	Tel: (02) 9150 5927
SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENER	Miss Heather Reid 33 Melville Ave STRATHFIELD	2135	Tel: (02) 9746 5656
CHURCHES OF CHRIST REPRESENTATIVE	Miss Elsie Cox 9/282 Dunmore St PENDLE HILL	2145	Tel: (02) 9688 2329
NEWSETTE MANAGER	Mrs Carmel Emmett 5 Owen Ave BAULKHAM HILLS	2153	