



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

No. 23

May, 1986

FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of my friends, when she had to write an annual report, always referred to 'the period under review'. The picture this brings to my mind is a row of red-coated soldiers, all stiffly at attention, awaiting inspection! Highlights of the past year could indeed stand up like toy soldiers and would pass muster with flying colours.

The service of dedication held in Wesley Chapel in May was a time of inspiration and renewed fellowship. We were charmed by our speaker, Deaconess Mok and encouraged by her inspirational words. During the service and at the luncheon following, the choir fed our souls as adequately as the food our bodies.

July may bring to Australia the coldest weather of the year, but to Australian Church Women it brings Fellowship Day. The Theme for 1985 'United in Prayer' reminded us of our commitment to the Fellowship of the Least Coin and re-inforced our common links.

World Community Day in October saw us using the order of service we had written. This privilege of writing for the theme 'God's Children' was one we undertook gladly and we were encouraged by the appreciative remarks received from around Australia.

1985 was the year for National Committee meetings. Our team of two delegates and two observers was augmented by the presence of Deaconess Andrews (a Life Member of A.C.W.) and Major Jean Venables (representing The Salvation Army).

This conference ~~was~~ hosted by the Queensland Unit and held in Brisbane was a time of great fellowship, of spiritual nourishment and a lot of hard work. It was good to meet the old National Committee and to have fellowship with the members of the new executive, based in South Australia. It was a joy to welcome the National President, Dorothy Haensel to two of our council meetings in 1985. The National meeting, while being a valuable experience for us who represented you, served also as a good introduction to her new job for our President-Elect.

We were delighted to introduce at the September meeting the Winifred Kiek Scholar, Valerie Palang of Papua New Guinea. This personal contact with our scholars brings home to us the privilege that we have in supporting these young women. Valeri charmed us with her friendliness and sense of humour and impressed us with her integrity and dedication to her work and to her Lord.

This report is my last to you. I am grateful for the opportunity of serving in this office, for it has been one of the highlights of my life. Attendances at special days continues to increase and I have been honoured by organisers who have invited me to share in these services. Times of preparing the addresses and then sharing my faith have stretched my mind and given me opportunities for spiritual growth.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Council members of this unit, these faithful women, many of whom travel quite long distances month by month to enact the business of our unit. By their interest and their prayers I have been supported in a wonderful way. And what can I say in thanks to my Executive members? Every meeting with them has been a sheer delight and their friendship and support have been sources of strength. Especially I would like to thank the two members who are relinquishing office - Mabel Ward as Secretary and Elizabeth Walker as Treasurer have each made an indelible mark on A.C.W. in our State and our heartfelt thanks go to them both for what they have done in these positions.

I commend to your love and prayers our new president June Graham. June brings to this position her own skills and personality, a belief in the future of A.C.W. and a deep commitment to her Lord. I know you will welcome her and give her your continuing support. I wish for her the joy that has been mine and I pray for her and for A.C.W. in New South Wales the rich blessing of God.

Love and Peace.....EDITH RIDGE

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1986

The past twelve months have been a time of consolidation by the N.S.W. Unit of Australian Church Women. Under the gracious leadership of Mrs. Edith Ridge, the meetings have been well attended and the aims and purposes of the A.C.W. maintained at all meetings including the Special Day Services.

Interesting visitors and speakers at the council meetings have included Miss Irene Voysey of the Bible Society, who gave a stirring account of the growing Prayer Circle of the Bible Society.

Four representatives from this Unit attended the National Conference held in Brisbane during August. Each one brought a report on some aspect of the conference at the August Council meeting. The theme, 'Living in God's Service' was both inspiring and challenging.

The current Winifred Kiek Scholar, Valeri Palang, from Rabaul, New Guinea was present at the September meeting when she spoke of her background, education and studies at the Alcorn College in Brisbane as well as the type of work she did with the village women of her country.

On 21st October a special meeting was convened so that members could meet the newly elected National president, Mrs. Dorothy Haensel. The purpose of this visit was owing to the cancellation of the Asian Church Women's Conference which was to be held in Adelaide in 1986. Mrs. Haensel clearly explained the financial difficulties of Asian women travelling to Australia.

For the November meeting, Christina Richards of Trading Partners presented the goods on display in an interesting and informative manner. These related to the conditions and changes which have taken place to people in the Third World. The ten per cent profit usually donated to our funds was not taken as we wished to donate it to this work.

The two special visitors at the February meeting in 1986 were Mrs. Joyce Bragg, president of the National Council of Women and the National president Mrs. Haensel.

Mrs Bragg was the main speaker and gave a clear and interesting outline of the history of the National Council of Women which began in Sydney ninety years ago. Celebrations are well in hand for this special anniversary. Mrs. Haensel was able to give further information regarding the conference held in Taipei since she had visited us in October. A special segment of this meeting was the presentation to Deaconess Mary Andrews of a Life Members Badge from the National Executive.

Appreciation on behalf of each member is expressed to the president Mrs. Ridge for the dignified manner she has conducted all meetings and the inspiration of her messages. To the treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, who has handled the ever growing finances of this unit with skill and a strong sense of stewardship. The healthy position of the balance has enabled us to be generous in our giving to National projects e.g. \$500.00 to Partners with A.C.W.C. fund and \$200.00 towards the out of pocket expenses of Rathie Selveratnum when she attends a conference in Canada and the United States. We regret that our treasurer has been battling with a physical problem, and pray God will lay his healing hands upon her.

To the members of the executive who are faithful in all their commitments, the representatives of local branches who organise the Special Day Services, the representatives to other organisations, and for the loyalty of the council members including special groups, e.g. Y.W.C.A. and W.C.T.U. Thank you for making my work so fulfilling.

The generosity of your giving and service is like a lovely fragrance, a sacrifice that pleases the very heart of God.

MABEL WARD,
Secretary.

PUBLICITY REPORT

The work of publicising the special meetings of Australian Church Women, N.S.W. Unit, only comes on a regular basis three times a year.

Information re the Annual Fellowship Day held in July (which included a copy of all metropolitan venues and dates) was sent to all member denominational groups, Radio 2CH and denominational Church papers. Some papers are very faithful in reporting this information, others only seem to accept information in the form of a paid advertisement. However, this year it has been sent out in the form of a 'press release' rather than a letter and this seems to have created a better response.

The Annual World Community Day held in October was publicised through the same avenues with similar results.

This year the Annual Service to be held on May 19, together with the installation of the new president, June Graham has been made known through the same venues plus Radio 2SM, 2GB, 2WS and FM Stations CBA, Narwee and Chatswood. Also 'Good Morning Sydney' on Chanel 10 TV. A short biography of Mrs. Graham's background was also included.

Much of the published advertising has been collated and filed in a scrapbook for future reference.

LUCILLE KING
Publicity Convener

Congratulations! to the president elect, Mrs. June Graham, whose nomination as an Observer to the Asian Church Women's Conference to be held in Bangkok in November, 1986, has been accepted by the National Executive of A.C.W.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 1ST MARCH, 1985 TO 28TH FEBRUARY, 19

1.3.85. -	cr. Bank Balance		\$ 3
Add RECEIPTS:			
<u>Organisation A/c. :</u>			
Affiliation Fees	\$ 160.00		
Collections & Donations	255.16		
Conference Subsidies	190.00		
Asian Bulletin Subscriptions	74.50		
Badges	53.25		
Imprest Returns	34.25		
Interest	<u>1,391.37</u>	\$	2,158.53
Newsette Subscriptions			337.00
Overseas Travel Fund			120.02
Sales of books, spoons & badges			135.50
Partners A.C.W.C.			12.00
<u>Special Funds:</u>			
Fellowship Least Coin	\$ 7,447.41		
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	150.51		
Fellowship Day	2,852.17		
World Community Day	<u>2,469.10</u>		12,919.19
From Invested Funds			10,750.00
Transfer from Special Funds			<u>955.88</u>
			<u>\$27,3</u>
			\$27,7
<u>Less PAYMENTS:</u>			
<u>Special Contributions :</u>			
Fellowship Least Coin	\$ 7,200.00		
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	110.00		
Fellowship Day	2,000.00		
World Community Day	<u>1,718.00</u>	\$	11,028.00
Overseas Travel Fund			150.00
Promotion - F.L.C.	\$ 208.00		
" - Fellowship Day	366.92		
" - World Community Day	<u>341.40</u>		916.32
Dr.S.Rao - for printing			291.31
Subscriptions, Asian Bulletin			100.00
Donations, A.C.W.C. Assembly			250.00
National Conference, fees, etc.			1,057.25
Newsette production, postage			349.85
Transfers to Investments			11,717.40
General Administration			414.46
Transfer to Organisation A/c.			<u>955.88</u>
			<u>27,2</u>
28.2.86. -		cr. Bank Balance	\$ <u>5</u>

CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 28TH FEBRUARY, 1986.

BALANCES:

Westpac Current A/c. \$ 531.95
" Savings Inv.A/c. 956.03
Glebe Board 7,000.00

\$8,487.98

FUNDS:

Organisation A/c. \$ 7,436.5
Newsette 426.4
Overseas Travel 124.2
F.L.C. 394.1
Stock 94.6
Partners A.C.W.C. 12.0

\$ 8,487.9

R. Walben
Hon. Treasurer, 18.3.86

Auditor's Report:

I have examined the books of account and records of Austral. Church Women N.S.W. State Unit for the year ended 28th Feb. In my opinion the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 28th February, 1986 and the Statement of Funds as at 28th February, 1986 show a true and correct view of the result for the year and of the state of affairs as at 28th February, 1986.

J. P. Bragg
J. P. BRAGG, A.C.A.
Hon. Auditor 9.4.86

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN REPORT

Fellowship of the Least Coin continues to appeal to the women of New South Wales who see in it an opportunity to pray for and make a tangible contribution to God's children of many lands, who have no means of helping themselves.

The response on World Community Day was heart warming, and my thanks to all who brought their gifts for dedication at these meetings. To those also who mail their gifts, either from Fellowships or as private persons may I say thank you. It is this continuing interest by all that has resulted in yet another record year.

Volume 9 of 'Circle of Prayer' has been well received throughout the State, and with its theme of 'Peace, See and Share' should continue to be appropriate for this 'International Year of Peace'.

Lists of grants and allocations from Least Coin Funds were again printed and included in all mail, and are available on request to members. We note with gratitude that the Vietnamese Church in Adelaide received a grant for 1985, and it is already known that the Nungalinya College for Aboriginal Women in the Northern Territory has been given a grant for 1986. These grants and many like them, given in differing circumstances on all continents, only become possible as women the world over, by prayer and supplication, seek to share with those who have become victims of wars, politics and famine.

Many Fellowships have written seeking information about F.L.C. and it is my privilege to send what I can. Executive and council members have also been willing to speak whenever asked. This year a new audio visual has been completed in Victoria with the help of the States, and N.S.W. have a copy on order which should be available on loan in the near future.

Remember, prayer knows no barriers, and our Heavenly Father is ever listening, so may we never cease to pray.

GLAD WEST
F.L.C. Convener

PROMOTIONS REPORT

Reports received from the centres that held services for Fellowship Day and World Community Day indicated reasonable attendances at both services and an appreciation of the Service and the Guest Speaker. However, it is somewhat disappointing to find that some centres are no longer able to hold these services because of lack of interest mainly due to the involvement of the ladies in their own particular Church groups. Nevertheless it is encouraging to note the large number of areas who are prepared to organise these services and make an all out effort to draw together women from various churches for a time of spiritual sharing and learning what Australian Church Women is all about.

As we commence another new period in the life of A.C.W. with a new president and other new office bearers, my prayer is that God will continue to bless and strengthen the work of A.C.W. through those women who have been chosen to head the team of faithful workers. May we be encouraged through their leadership to press ever onward and upward, seeking to spread Christ's precious Gospel and His love to those who as yet do not know Him and have not experienced His all powerful love and peace.

As I close this report I would like to leave you with two verses of Scripture which have been an encouragement to me over many years.

'Brethren, this one thing I do forgetting those things which are behind and looking to those things which are before, I press towards the mark of the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus.' Philippians 2:13,14.

BETH FINLAY
Promotions Convener

WINIFRED KIEK REPORT

One of the dreams of the Interim Committee of A.C.W. twenty one years ago was to establish links with Christian women around the world especially in third world countries by inviting suitable women to come to Australia or go to some other country to get training and experience that was not available in their own country.

Since its beginning, the W.K. Scholarship has welcomed scholars from Africa, Asia and the Pacific who had contributed to the understanding of the members of A.C.W. of the work and witness of women in overseas Churches.

The 1985 Community Day offerings were given to assist Miss Kalpana Airan for the Karmalda Centre at Gataru, India, where a model project has been set up to educate illiterate mothers at the same time as the children and to enable them through handi-crafts to support the family.

Miss Valeri Palang completed her course at Alcorn College in Brisbane and has gone to the New Hebrides to face the challenge of work among women in the islands. Her joyous Christian witness was an inspiration.

Miss Catherine Min, the 1984 scholar has sent greetings from South Korea, where she is engaged in work with the Mothers' Union.

The principal of the School of Nursing at the Holy Family Hospital in Karahi is involved in Campus Crusade, Youth for Christ, Women's Fellowship and Nurses Christian Fellowship, of which she is president.

One of the highlights of the work of Barkat Das has been conducting a seminar on the 'Four Spiritual Laws' guiding people as to how to become Christians and grow in their spiritual lives.

We rejoice with Malini Weersinghe, 1981 Scholar, from Sri Lanka who was married on 3rd August, 1985 to the Anglican Minister, Reverend Yohan Devannanda, the Director of the Lay Institute of the Theological College of Sri Lanka.

In the Institute Malini finds much scope for the use of the skills and training she developed while in Sydney. In August she is planning a residential Ecumenical Conference for Sunday School teachers.

Our prayers are asked for the very grave situation in Sri Lanka, where many people are dying and suffering as a result in that Pearl of the Pacific island.

We have been looking forward to having a scholar from Burma, a country with which we have been a prayer partner. Miss Stella Lin has been chosen as a scholar but is going to be allowed to leave Burma for only three months later in 1986. Pray that God may overcome all the problems and that Stella may gain much from coming to Adelaide for study.

Dr. Sushila Rao of Madras, India, was sent \$209 which she needs for materials in the work she is doing among drug addicts. She is producing a paper called Phoenix to help in the work of drug rehabilitation.

The Winifred Kiek Travelling Fellow in 1984, Mrs. Eunice Kim, has had a very busy year as executive secretary of the Asian Church Women's Conference and as executive member of the International Executive of World Day of Prayer, which is holding the quadrennial meetings in New Your in May 1986.

Mrs. Rathie Selveratnum, the second Winifred Kiek Travelling Fellow, has been invited to the Centenary Celebrations of the Women's World Day of Prayer in New York in May. She was the first president of the W.W.D.P. committee and a former president of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

We thank the Lord for His servants who serve the Lord and bring Him Glory.

MARY ANDREWS
Convener

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
N.S.W. STATE UNIT
OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1986-1987

President

Mrs. June Graham, 17 Grace Avenue, Beecroft, 2119 84 3484

Past President

Mrs. Edith Ridge, 51 Burlington Road, Homebush, 2140 76 6093

Hon. Secretary

Mrs. Marie McCann, 63/95 Lourdes, Stanhope Road, Killara, 2071
467 1343

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. Dorothy Lumb, 69 Myall Street, Concord West, 2138 73 3360

Membership Secretary

Mrs. M. Baker, 39 Cook Terrace, Mona Vale, 2103 99 3764

CONVENERS

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Mrs. G. West, 8 Stewart Street, Artarmon, 2064 419 8654

Winifred Kiek Scholarship

Mrs. Yvonne Davis, 2/3 Mackay Street, Ashfield, 2131 798 7403

Publicity

Mrs. L. King, 7/94 Bland Street, Ashfield, 2131 799 1352

LIFE MEMBERS

Deaconess Mary Andrews, Mrs. Lt. Colonel E. Baker, Mrs. Win Dougherty,
Miss D. Mitchell, Mrs. J. Montgomery, Mrs. L. Perriam, Mrs. W. Stolz.