

## N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th APRIL, 1963

Perhaps this year could be described as one of extraordinary commotion in the life of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council and for this we must give thanks to Almighty God for it has been said that where there is disturbance it provides an opportunity for God to create a new order. Let us all dedicate ourselves and our service and pray without ceasing that this may be so! "Not our will, but Thine!"

The Annual Rally last year was held in the Church of Christ at Chatswood where Mrs. R. B. Lew, deputising for Mrs. A. G. Manefield, handed the President's Bible to the new President, Mrs. D. J. A. Verco. The programme proved to be most inspiring and spiritually refreshing. The meeting was very well attended and the collection was an all-time record. Dr. Anna Hogg, B.A., B.Ed., Ph.D., Dip. Ed., Senior Lecturer at the Teachers' College, University of Sydney, was the speaker. Dr. Hogg gave a report of "Christian Education in New Guinea" and stressed the indebtedness of the Government to the various missions which control four-fifths of the schools in the territory. Dr. Hogg said, "Why should we want Christian education? Because no other kind of education will produce results. The chief end is the glorification of God. To get our young people to think, to speak, to will and to know God is a challenge to accept. We have a splendid opportunity to provide what our missionaries need."

In July, Commissioner Coutts nominated Mrs. Brigadier Baker as the Salvation Army's representative for the office of President-elect. This choice was heartily approved by the Council as all members had come to appreciate the outstanding qualities of Mrs. Baker in her capacity of Secretary. It was with deep regret that these plans had to be changed in April when Brigadier and Mrs. Keith Baker were sent to a new appointment, stationed at Bathurst. In order to fill this vacancy the Archbishop graciously consented to allow Mrs. Montgomerie to take over as President-elect immediately and to accept the Presidency in June. The Council is very grateful to the Archbishop and to Mrs. Montgomerie for this favour. This will be the first occasion on which the Council has had an Anglican President and we are looking forward to a year of great blessing and progress under the able leadership of Mrs. Montgomerie.

In August the Australian Council of Churches extended an invitation to the Inter-Church Council to send a delegate to Thailand to attend a Conference of Asian Church Women. No funds were available but Mrs. Edna Beales consented to go at her own expense. As a journalist and public speaker Mrs. Beales was a most worthy delegate and the Council is tremendously indebted to her for accepting the invitation, also for so generously giving of her time in address-

ing meetings since her return. This event made us aware of the desirability of having a National Inter-Church organisation to provide delegates for such Conferences in the future.

Mrs. Cocks of M.A.D.O.C. was the speaker at the August meeting when she spoke about some of the problems connected with the mission work among our own aboriginals.

World Community Day was held on 28th September in the C.E.N.E.F. auditorium. The theme: "New Guinea." During the morning session representatives of all the Protestant Missions gave brief accounts of their work of evangelism and teaching. In the afternoon Mr. Charles Rowley, M.A., spoke on "Some of the Administrative Problems in New Guinea." The hall was attractively decorated with several displays illustrating the work of many of the organisations assisting the missionaries in New Guinea.

In September the Australian Council of Churches invited the Inter-Church Council to send three delegates to consult with a committee appointed by the A.C.C. to investigate women's work in the Church. Following this, an enlarged meeting, including denominational representatives and others, was called for November 9 with the purpose of discussing the possibility of forming a National Women's Organisation. Many difficulties were envisaged and all representatives were asked to discuss the matter with their respective groups. The Executive of the Inter-Church Council discussed the proposal thoroughly and decided that it would prefer to contact the Inter-Church Councils in other States with the suggestion of forming a National Inter-Church Council independent of, yet prepared to co-operate with the Australian Council of Churches. To this end a resolution was drawn up and sent to all denominational heads and Women's Inter-Church Councils in other States.

When the report of the Annual Meeting of the A.C.C. was received in February appointing a committee to establish a national organisation to be known as Australian Women, the Council was taken by surprise as there had not been time to receive replies to the resolution sent out in December. However, after much discussion and prayerful consideration it was decided that the Women's Inter-Church Council should seek representation on the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women with the hope that when it becomes a reality the Women's Inter-Church Council will be the body through which it will operate in the State. The Council will not take any further steps at present towards the formation of a National Inter-Church Council as there is no desire to add to the possible difficulties in establishing this Ecumenical venture.

In November it was decided that in future the regular meetings should be held on the fourth Friday of each month from February to November, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

During the year some considerable concern has been expressed regarding "Wybalena." The hostel is a constant reminder of the devoted service of a number of women over many years but since the decentralisation of teacher training it has become increasingly difficult to fill the vacancies. Also, the Committees for the management and financial support are finding that the years are taking their toll and they would like to hand over to younger women. Will you all support us in prayer that we may be guided to use this valuable asset in the service of the Church and to the glory of God?

The Treasurer of the Appeals Committee, Mrs. Alexandra Payten, passed away quietly in April after a long illness. Several members of the Council attended the funeral service where the officiating minister paid a very fine tribute to the life and work of this very remarkable lady. The service was one of thanksgiving to God for the privilege of knowing and sharing in the work of Mrs. Payten. Sympathy was expressed with the family.

It was with considerable regret that the resignation of the recording secretary was received early this year. Mrs. Pearson has been a member of the Council for many years and has always served with great loyalty and devotion. Mrs. Pearson was made a life member in recognition of her outstanding service.

The Rev. C. R. Sprckett, Secretary of the Inter-Church Aid Department of the A.C.C., was invited to speak at the

February meeting on the "Freedom from Hunger Campaign." Mr. Sprckett can speak from first-hand experience having personally visited some of the worst affected areas. He left members in no doubt that it is the urgent duty of every Christian to support the Campaign whole-heartedly.

In conclusion I would like to express appreciation, on behalf of the Council, to all who have contributed in service during the year. Firstly, Mrs. D. J. A. Verco, our President, whose ability, dedication and enthusiasm has been an inspiration to us all. We are looking forward to her return as immediate Past-President after her wonderful experience among the United Church Women of America and England. We are very grateful to Mrs. A. G. Manfield for the very capable and gracious manner in which she has presided over our meetings since Mrs. Verco's departure in March.

Our elected delegates to the National Council of Women, the W.C.T.U., the N.S.W. Council for Children's Films and TV, etc., have faithfully attended meetings throughout the year and made reports at our meetings. For this we thank them all.

We are very much indebted to the generosity of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the use of their lovely Board Room for our regular meetings.

Our thanks are due to the Auditors who give their services without charge.

Most of all we thank God for the blessing of meeting together as Christians. As our President expressed in a recent letter: "I am more convinced than ever that the most wonderful fellowship on earth is the fellowship in Christ and His Church."

EDRIS MANEFIELD, Act. President.  
LORNA LILLEY, Hon. Sec.

24-5-63

#### OFFICERS FOR 1963-64

President: Mrs. B. C. Montgomerie (Anglican).

Immediate Past-President: Mrs. D. J. A. Verco (Church of Christ).

President-Elect: Lt. Col. Hazel Cross (Salvation Army).

Secretary: Mrs. H. J. Lilley (Methodist).

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Gilbert (Baptist).

Treasurer: Mrs. G. Perriam (Baptist).

Publicity Officer: Miss Eastaway (Methodist).

Vice-Presidents: Mesdames Stolz, Briggs, Millar and Alexander.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 30th APRIL, 1963

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Credit balance, 30/4/62	23	16 10	Donation to B. & F. Bible Society	5	5 0
Affiliations	11	11 0	Petty cash — Secretary, 1962	6	1 0
Donations	4	0 0	Printing	21	0 0
Collection at Rally	25	14 3	Postage — Tea — Sugar — Milk	7	9 6
Collection Community Day	11	0 7	Hire of hall and kitchen	7	10 0
"Wybalena" Appeals Committee 1/3rd cost of Annual Report	4	3 4	Mrs. Beale's party and gift	2	2 9
Hostel Committee 1/3rd cost of Annual Report	4	3 4	Affiliation fees	6	16 6
Surplus — Presentation — President		12 0	Petty cash — Secretary	5	0 0
Bank interest		7 11	Bank balance 30th April, 1963	24	4 6
	£85	9 3		£85	9 3

A. BLACK.  
LORNA LILLEY.





As Secretary of the "Wybalena" Hostel appeal and a member of the Hostel Committee, it is my privilege and pleasure to add to this report, expressing appreciation of the wonderful service and sacrificial effort so willingly given by our President, Mrs. Norman Millar, B.A.

The years under review have not always been free from worry, but it is clear that over this period of time, much has been achieved for the Hostel. It is also clear that this is largely due to the dedication and ability of Mrs. Millar. Quick to accept the heaviest load, alive to the tragedy or comedy of any situation, and one who is ever the first to call in time of trouble, and a cheery companion in time of rejoicing, she has been an inspiration to us all. And so we place on record our thanks, for the quiet and very effective and gracious support, she has given at all times to "Wybalena" and the Women's Inter-Church Council.

W. L. Wyper,  
Honorary Secretary.

In August 1951 the North Shore Auxiliary was formed under Mrs. J. Muhaly and Miss Allan. This auxiliary functioned till 1958 raising £98.2.0.

MRS The Mosman Auxiliary was formed under Mrs. R. B. R. B. Wyper as President and Mrs. Bluett Honorary Secretary and Mrs. Murdoch Treasurer and they continued till 1958 and raised £465.