

Dates for your Diary...

- April 18** Annual General Meeting – Election of Officers
- May 16:** Dedication Service at Epping Presbyterian Church - 10:30am. All welcome – bring your friends, lunch provided.
- July 18:** Spiritual Enrichment Day – Scots Church Sydney
- July 29:** Fellowship Day Service
- September 10 – 14:** National Conference Adelaide
- September 11:** ACWC Multicultural Concert of Praise – Eastwood Baptist Church
- October:** World Community Day

ACW NSW State Unit Inc – Executive 2011 - 2012

President	Mrs Nola Dickson	9869-2559
Past President	Mrs Jennifer Pepper	9874-4056
Treasurer	Mrs Helen Richardson	9971-0278
Secretary	Mrs Helen Hill	9484-1555
Membership	Mrs Martha Noel	9642-0493
Pastoral Care	Mrs Olive Edmonstone	9887-1846
FLC Convener	Lillian Hodges	9533-6082
WKS Convener	Mrs Judith Cayzer	9896-3758
Special Days	Mrs Pamela Freeman	9873-1701
Newsette Editor	Mrs Jennifer Pepper	9874-4056
Social Issues	Mrs Carmel Keys	9977-5156
Publicity	Mrs Isabel Hewitt	4969-6336
ACWC Convener	Major Lyn Middleton	9529-6744

National Website: www.acwnational.org.au

Australian Church Women

NSW State Unit Inc



48th Annual Report

April 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the end of my first term as your President draws near and I am reviewing the past months, I give thanks to God for his enabling. Without his help I could not survive. At the same time, while my mind goes over the events of ACW, I cannot dismiss the world wide natural and man enforced events that have left so many places in turmoil, sorrow and suffering. While the task of leading Australian Church Women is not without its difficulties, it is nothing



compared to the difficulties of those who are facing lost loved ones, lost homes, lost cities, those for whom we have prayed to be able to face the future and rebuild.

Fortunately, our organization has not crumbled and fallen. We just need to keep building on the foundations that are already in place, one that is in the hands of our loving God. I have tried to emphasise our need of him in order that we can keep moving forward. With the devastation facing our world there is need to recognize the one true God. Much of society has discarded Christian values. In our own country, once called a Christian country, there are so many that need to turn to him, our Creator.

We have not faced any crises in our past months as a group of Christian women, rather I am indebted to the dedication and expertise of your Executive, which goes over and beyond the call of duty. I am in admiration of their many talents. We have worked together in harmony with each other and with our Lord.

To Secretary Helen, I say thank you for your support and encouragement. It is good to work alongside you. Past President, Jennifer Peffer, spent many hours working on Public Liability and the Constitution. Thank you. On your behalf I thank all the members of our executive, and to you, Council of ACW, I am grateful that you accept me as I am, with my abilities and my faults and make me aware of your appreciation when things go well.

While it is sad to lose those who have been with us for a time, it is good that we can welcome new representatives, and associate members, especially when we find that their hair is not as grey as some of ours, and who can lend their

view of matters being presented, perhaps seeing things in a different light. It is always good to accept a new point of view, which may lead to change. One never knows. God knows what is best and we always need to listen and be willing, if need be, to accept that change..

We have prayerfully remembered those of our number who have had health problems themselves or been concerned for members of their families. It was with regret that we accepted the resignation of our stalwart life member, Shirley Wells, who was convener of FLC for many years and is struggling with her health.

I accompanied Beryl McLaughlin to the luncheon at Parliament House honouring her 90th year of life and reviewing her years of service to her Lord. Beryl served as our Newsette Editor for around 22 years and has since moved to Dapto to be closer to her family. She has always been a very loyal and dedicated worker. Jennifer Peffer took over the editing of our magazine after Beryl's departure.

I have enjoyed being the guest speaker at different branches for our special days, and the various groups I have been invited to for luncheons and celebrations. It is always interesting to join another organization and see the work being carried on in his name. I have always been warmly welcomed, heard speakers on a variety of subjects, always increasing my knowledge of the wider work of the field.

I became your representative to the National Council of Women which I am enjoying. Once again I meet women who are well educated, working for the good of the community, making things easier for those in need.

May the year ahead be filled with promise. May we continue to look to our Lord above for his guidance, his leading, to be in the place he wants us to be. As he has given each one of us a gift for service, may we not let it die for lack of use, or even of becoming weary in the work, but may we be renewed in strength and confidence as we seek to serve him in his work of ACW, its wider interests, and live a life worthy of the one who loves us, who gave his life for us.

ACW Secretary Annual Report

Helen Hill OAM

Having accepted the position of Secretary, I soon realised that my capabilities didn't match the demands of the job! However, as I kept reminding myself Our Lord never asks more of us than we are able to give, so I have managed to keep my head above water (just), but only with the wonderfully generous help and patience of Nola who proof reads the paperwork, is a fount of knowledge, always positive in her suggestions and has become a dear friend. I appreciate her wisdom and her constant reminders of God's love for us all, particularly those who struggle.

My thanks go to the Executive also who have been very helpful and kind, grateful thanks to Isabel, always ready to answer my queries when I need help.

Installation Day Service was held in Epping Presbyterian Church on 15th May. The service was well attended and a pleasant lunch followed, this provided a time of fellowship for all the guests. Thanks to Epping PWA ladies. Nola's address was a very spiritual and moving one appreciated by all who heard it.

We continue to meet as Executive 6 times a year, general meetings also 6, attendance averaged 39, absentees averaged 16.5.

The general meetings are interesting and informative as the Executive members report on their various areas of responsibility. During one meeting three ladies gave us most interesting and amusing accounts of their recent trips overseas. Lately Isabel has given the meeting insights into past presidents, taken from the Honouring Church Women Book, choosing four or five each time. This often leads to someone who knew the lady being able to add some more recollections of their own.

In September, the State Conference was an enjoyable time of fellowship. The guest speakers were Tracey Csanto (D.O.N. of Allowah Children's Hospital) and Dss. Rhonda Daly. The hospital is the recipient of funds from Community Day services, having been chosen as the Special Project for 2010.

Anne Foster from the Salvation Army spoke about Overseas Sponsorship and the afternoon speaker was M/s Sualan Yin-Lo, the Diversity Health Co-ordinator of the Royal Hospital for Women.

The devotion was given by Mrs Jan Harrison and we were entertained by the PWA Choir during the course of the conference. It was observed that quite a few ladies left before the conference ended, so Executive has decided to make Spirituel Enrichment Day a shorter program. Starting at 9:30 with morning tea, service to begin at 10:30 and proceedings completed by 1pm.

All reports received from Fellowship and Community Day Services have been positive, with pleasing attendances held in many centres.

The Asian Church Women's Conference Multicultural Concert of Praise was held in October at Campsie, giving everyone a wonderful afternoon of Prayer and Praise. The concert was integrated into the Sunday afternoon Service. More details can be found in Lyn Middleton's report.

I am more confident moving into my second year as secretary, I always thank my God for His strength and know that with Nola beside me and the support of the committee all will be well.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Judith Cayzer

Some of our past scholars have commented what an inspiration the life of Winifred Kiek has been to them. All new scholars receive the book "Winifred".... have you bought your copy ? What an inspiration these girls are to us in the way they apply themselves to further study, balance ministry, work and often families.

These studies and often their ministry takes them far from their homeland. The scholars this past year came in June 2010 to do the course at Alan Walker College of Evangelism. I and my husband were quite involved with their stay here and I was very appreciative of support from our Unit, the Trustees and National Executive WKS Convenor, Maureen.

Ruth came from PNG, completing half the course and returning to PNG in later pregnancy to deliver her baby boy [third boy] in January. She learnt so much, the WKS Trustees have left her course completion open till the end of 2012.

Tonu from Fiji was a joy to the college and other visiting students, helping where she could. In the six months of study, she also worked through many relationships in her ministry and family, which she feels will help as she further seeks to serve the Lord.

Again, email technology is great for quick updates and prayer requests. Christmas cards were sent out here and overseas with only three replies but many did reply to National Convenor Maureen who faithfully sends us news circulars. I continue to give reports to Council and the Newsette.

We look forward to supporting our 2011 students: Arpona Mejahary [India] completing her Bachelor of Divinity this year while involved in childrens ministry and part time Chaplaincy in the hospital. Our Beryl Kirkwood has shared Arponas background with us, so we have a connection of interest.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (NSW UNIT) INC. SUTHERLAND SHIRE BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT – 2010

Another scholar this year is Sisaret Kheng in Cambodia ... she will come here in June to do the course at Alan Walker College of Evangelist, finishing end of year. This is the course past scholars Leinamau, Ruth and Tonu have done. Sisaret works as Director for Night Care Project with a childrens mission in Phnom Penh.

Applications for 2012 WKS from Multi-Cultural Australia need to be with the Trustees [SA] by 31 May.

Please continue to pray for our students past and present. They are very busy usually, and often comments are passed on appreciation of the scholarship and I am often in awe of what these girls are doing, in sometimes difficult conditions.

Thank you also to my backing committee of Mina, Norma and Edith. Knowing they are there, and their encouragement has been appreciated.

Miranda Uniting Church ladies were our hosts on Fellowship Day July 30th, 2010. The Church had been beautifully decorated to highlight the theme “Let there be light”. Mrs Norma Dumbrell’s message, together with a PowerPoint presentation of her ministry in Myanmar, was very humbling. The music from the organist and soloist, together with all the participants from the different churches resulted in a very meaningful Service. The new Pastor – Mel Pauvalu and her ladies made us very welcome. Fellowship over lunch was very much enjoyed. Approximately 60 people in attendance.

Mnsr. Kerry Bayada welcomed us to Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church at Caringbah for World Community Day on October 29th, 2010, the Theme being “Out of Darkness into Light”. At the September NSW ACW State Conference, a speaker from Allowah Children’s Hospital at Dundas presented a talk and PowerPoint slides of the children’s hospital and ministry there. Brenda Dickinson was able to show these slides and speak about this project, which was chosen to be the recipient of funds collected at ACW World Community Day Services. Approximately 80 people attended and Mrs Peg Blake’s message was very well received. In the final song, “We are marching in the light of God”, the organist was accompanied by Kim Mannix on guitar and Brenda with timbrel. A beautiful fellowship lunch was enjoyed after the Service.

Once again, the monetary offerings received at the Services to support the Winifred Keik Scholarship, Fellowship of the Least Coin and special projects were outstanding. The faithfulness of those who continue to support ACW is noteworthy and very much appreciated.

Our Branch Representative to ACW State Council Mrs Pat Sutton, together with other Sutherland Shire members attended all of the meetings and events held throughout 2010.

EPPING BRANCH ACW

Olive Bolliger

It is my pleasure to present a brief report of the activities of the Epping Branch of ACW for 2010.

The Fellowship Day Service was held at the Beecroft Presbyterian Church on 26th July, 2010. Fifty-eight members attended the service representing eight denominations. It is pleasing to note that a number of those attending were from the former Ryde Branch which has now disbanded. A special welcome was extended to these ladies.

Our speaker was Mrs Pamela Freeman from the Salvation Army who delivered a lively address on the theme "Let There Be Light". She incorporated members of the congregation to assist with the address, which added to the enjoyment. A number of those attending the service stayed on for lunch.

World Community Day Service was held at the Beecroft Uniting Church on Friday 28th October. Forty-five ladies were in attendance, representing six denominations, once again including former members of the Ryde Branch.

The speaker was Mrs Jenny Pearson of the host church, who is a lay preacher and assists with Pastoral Care, looking after the old and the very young members of the church. She also delivered a well-prepared speech. Most of those attending stayed on for lunch which was pleasing.

The venue for the Fellowship Day Service for 2011 is the Eastwood Baptist Church. The service will be held on Friday 29th July.

West Epping Church will host the World Community Day Service in October.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC. SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2010

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Brought forward 1.1.10		1,051.35
Received to year ended 31 December 2010		<u>13,045.85</u>
		14,097.20
Less expenses: 5% to ACW NSW	704.86	
Paid to ACW National	<u>13,392.34</u>	<u>14,097.20</u>

FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE

Receipts for year ended 31 December 2010		3,681.40
Less expenses: Printing and postage	226.17	
5% to ACW NSW	172.76	
Paid to ACW National	<u>3,282.47</u>	<u>3,681.40</u>

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE

Brought forward 1.1.10		684.00
Receipts to 31 December 2010		<u>4,685.50</u>
		5,369.50
Less expenses: Printing and postage	268.05	
5% to ACW NSW	255.07	
Paid to ACW National	<u>4,846.38</u>	<u>5,369.50</u>

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Brought forward 1.1.10		50.00
Receipts to 31 December 2010		<u>309.40</u>
		359.40
Less expenses: 5% to ACW NSW	17.97	
Paid to ACW National	<u>341.43</u>	<u>359.40</u>

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31 DECEMBER 2010**

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR TWELVE MONTHS
ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2010**

BALANCES		FUNDS	
Commonwealth Bank		ORGANISATION A/c	18,948.23
Account 06 2146 1000 7297	1,105.41		
Glebe Administration Board		NEWSETTE	
At Call Account 100024S1	1500.00	B/fwd 1.1.10	789.75
100024S1.1	<u>3000.00</u>	Subscriptions	<u>775.00</u>
	4,500.00		1,564.75
Uniting Financial Services		Less Costs	<u>888.60</u>
At call Account 2201520S10	648.78		676.15
Churches of Christ		TRAVEL FUND	
At Call Account 106940	<u>14,950.60</u>	B/fwd 1.1.2010	311.83
	21,204.79	Add receipts	<u>522.60</u>
			834.43
		Paid to ACW Nat.	<u>450.00</u>
			384.43
		STATE CONFERENCE	
		B/fwd 1.1.2010	(93.97)
		Add Receipts	<u>535.00</u>
			441.03
		Less Costs	<u>518.03</u>
			(77.00)
		ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S	
		CONFERENCE	
		B/fwd 1.1.2010	1,381.68
		Receipts	<u>682.70</u>
			2,064.38
		Less Costs	91.40
		Paid to ACW Nat.	<u>700.00</u>
			1,272.98
			21,204.79

RECEIPTS

Administration	1,743.10
Interest	162.80
ACWC Newsletters	36.00
Travel Fund	522.60
Newsette	775.00
State Conference	535.00
Fellowship of the Least Coin	13,045.85
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	309.40
Fellowship Day	3,681.40
World Community Day	4,685.50
Asian Church Womans Confer.	682.70
WKS Pocket Money	1,365.00
Balance 1.1.10	<u>1940.71</u>
	29,485.06

PAYMENTS

Administration	1,949.78
ACWC Newsletters	60.00
Newsette	888.60
Travel Fund	450.00
Fellowship of the Least Coin	13,392.34
State Conference	518.03
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	341.43
Fellowship Day	3,508.64
World Community Day	5,114.43
Asian Church Womans Conference	791.40
WKS Pocket Money	1,365.00
Balance 31.12.10	<u>1,105.41</u>
	29,485.06

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

I have examined the Books, Documents and Accounts of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2010 and find that, in my opinion, the attached Statements of Receipts and Payments and Capital Funds give a fair view of the affairs of Australian Church Women NSW Inc. as at 31 December 2010.

Signature:

MM Lyons FCMA

Date:

1/2/2011

Dee Why Branch Report

Helen Richardson

Dee Why celebrated its 30th year of holding services by having two speakers from the ACW Executive. Our President, Nola Dickson, spoke at the Fellowship Day Service and Major Lillian Hodges, FLC Convener, at the World Community Day Service. Both gave excellent messages on the theme of 'Light'. This year we hope to extend our sphere of influence and include a few more churches. As we are the only Branch on Sydney's Northern Beaches there are great opportunities.

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

Olive Edmondstone

It has been a privilege to play a very small part in the pastoral care of our members. Our Council members have been encouraged to pray for and support those who have faced serious challenges with their health, those who have had very real concerns for members of their immediate or extended family and those who have had to face major changes in their home situations because of their need for specialised care. There have also been those who have experienced real joy! We thank God for the consciousness of His presence in every situation.

Publicity Report

Isabel Hewitt

Functions are great occasions for sharing, and it is always satisfying when there is a good response and many benefit from what is on offer. How many times have you been saddened because you know that the experience was really worthwhile, but not many people were there? Publicity is probably best done by word of mouth and encouragement, making us all responsible in some way for telling others.

Throughout the year, flyers and posters have been prepared as requested by conveners. A general ACW NSW leaflet and also one for Associate Members are worked on again and again in an effort to keep them current. The opportunity for individuals to become Associate Members has been available for some years, and perhaps there are friends of yours who might consider this option. If you would like leaflets to give to friends please ask for them, and if you have ideas that you think should be considered make sure you talk to someone who can take the proposal to Executive.

Special Days – Annual Report, April 2011

Pamela Freeman

A C W NSW State Unit Inc Special Days Convenor

During 2010 and 2011, the topics for Special Days run by Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc, have come at the direction of National Executive, from the theme - ***Out of Darkness into Light***.

It has been encouraging to see branches with increased attendances at both Fellowship Day and World Community Day.

Some branches have found it helpful to amalgamate together. Taree is now holding World Community Day.

We are grateful for those who faithfully prepare and promote these services.

Fellowship Day 2011, [*Walking in the light*], held at the end of July, is a celebration of the life of Winifred Kiek and supports financially the bursary provided for scholars through the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

This service will be held at the following locations in NSW: Armidale, Bathurst, Bellingen, Cooma, Cootamundra, Dee Why, Epping, Kincumber, Mayfield, Narooma, Strathfield, Sutherland, Tamworth, The Entrance, as well as a retirement village.

We await finalization of the amount to be allocated to Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital from the World Community Day offering in 2010, which comes from National Executive.

ACWC Annual Report 2011

Lyn Middleton

The past twelve months for Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) has been notable for a number of reasons. Firstly there was the election of a new Executive Secretary. Following Shu-Wen Chiang's eight years in the office, Rev Lee Moon-sook of South Korea was elected to the office. Rev. Lee was the General Secretary, Korea Church Women United, 2001 –May 2009. With this appointment the ACWC Executive office moves from Taipei, Taiwan to Seoul, South Korea.

The second event of note was the 14th Quadrennial Assembly from 15-20 October hosted by Indonesia. 59 delegates and 185 observers from 26 countries came together to deliberate on the theme: *Asian Women Moving Forward: Non Violent World, New Earth, Life in its Fullness*.

Thirdly was the election at the 14th Quadrennial Assembly of a new ACWC President in the person of Capt Donna Bryan of the Victorian State Unit of ACW.

Projects accepted for 2010 were:

- Cambodia – training on Good Governance
- Thailand – Growing Curcuma White project
- Myanmar – Pig raising project.

The 2010 scholars accepted for study periods of 3-4 years were from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The Asian Church Women's Conference Annual Service for 2010 was celebrated on Sunday 31st October and again took the form of a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Multicultural Concert of Praise. Approximately 200 people attended the service which combined worship with sacred and classical musical items performed by artists from five nations. An offering was received for the work of ACWC. One of our current Winifred Kiek Scholars, Tonu Rigamoto Fakraufon from Suva Fiji, was the guest speaker.

We continue to uphold in prayer our sisters in Christchurch, New Zealand and Japan as they recover from the devastation they so recently experienced.

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE 2011

It is encouraging to see growth in many of our companies & are trusting this trend will continue.

A new company was formed in the country area this year & they are enjoying the GB program & continue to grow in numbers.

Our annual combined GB/BB weekend was held in March at Jamberoo & a great time was enjoyed by all.

Many of our companies have girls involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award & a small number of girls are involved in the Queens Award (which involves 3 years hard work).

A notable change in another uniform option this year has been a pink body tee shirt with navy sleeves for the girls & reversed with navy body & pink sleeves for the leaders, both with pink pin stripes down the bodice. These tops are to be worn with dark slacks. Hats are no longer a required item of uniform.

During the year a new shop manager was employed, namely Renelle Neale who in just a short time has been able to bring the shop back to its original organized well run department.

At our "Friends of Brigade" (a yearly event for past leaders & helpers held on the 4th Wednesday each October) we held a "High Tea" served in fine china cups & saucers with matching plates & crockery teapots. Tiny portions of sandwiches, cakes

etc looked & tasted very lovely on their 3 tier cake stands. All present seemed to enjoy this event. One of our past commissioners Hazel Allison kept our attention as she shared with us in word & on screen about the work she & her husband are involved with in India. It was very interesting to see parts of life in India we don't usually know of.

More recently in March a GB reunion was organized & held at Caringbah Baptist church with approx 90+ ladies & men in attendance. Many had been involved in Brigade for over 50 years & as you can imagine much talking was involved in the day. A lovely meal was enjoyed, great enthusiastic singing by all, interviews of past & present commissioners & some updating on new look GB. It is hoped this sort of event will be planned again in the not too distant future as many happy times of service through Brigade were remembered by all in attendance.

Once again we express our thanks to ACW for their interest in Brigade.

REPORT FOR NEWSETTE 2010/11

Jennifer Peffer - Interim Editor

The end of 2010 saw the end of an era.....

Beryl McLaughlin stood down as Editor of the magazine. Her dedication was recognised at the November meeting prior to her moving to the south coast to enjoy 'retirement' closer to her family.

Beryl has been a member of ACW for some 25 years, firstly as a member of the Strathfield/Homebush Branch, then its President and then as an Anglican Delegate to State Council. She then became Editor of Newsette and over the next 22 years produced 4 issues per year—85 in all—a remarkable achievement!

The little magazine has improved over the years as she has assiduously included messages from the Presidents', reports from the convenors and items of interest from other organisations. Beryl is a NSW Life Member of ACW.

Jennifer Peffer, the NSW Past President, stepped in as the Interim Editor for the first two issues of 2011.

The first issue saw a few changes to the format and the introduction of some colour. There is a circulation of approx 180 and country readership is well represented.

Brenda Dickson has continued faithfully as Newsette Manager keeping the database updated. During the past year she also took on the role of Sub Editor and this involves working together with the Editor proof reading and giving valuable input.

It is hoped that the coming year will see an increase in those taking the magazine and even volunteering items of interest.

Social Issues Annual Report

Carmel Keys - Convenor

Every human society must lay down as a foundation that every human being is a person endowed with intelligence and free will and has rights and obligations flowing directly from this very nature. If we look on the dignity of the human nature as a divinely revealed gift as in the Bible we cannot help but esteem it highly. Social Justice cannot be attained by Violence which kills what it intends to create.

Isaiah 42 says; "I The Lord have called you to serve the cause of right "

Amongst many issues we have addressed this year are:-

Same Sex Marriage and Adoption, surrogacy, euthanasia

Sexualisation of Children- clothing etc.

Violence against women and children, Trafficking, Drugs

TV Shows, Facebook etc and impact on families

Religious freedom which benefits all society

Keep your MP's aware of all your concerns. Start on your new members

City and country regions all have the same needs which are

Affordable housing, good transport, schools, health care ,hospitals and aged care homes. A great need for accommodation for young and mid-aged with disabilities

Keep your eye on overseas issues also They are our neighbour. Slavery, freedom of speech, food and homes

As Christian Women we have a duty to proclaim ever more fully The Gospel message of Justice and Peace

GOD BLESS

Churches Together NSW / ACT

Isabel Hewitt

Known previously as the NSW Ecumenical Council, Churches Together NSW.ACT has spent the last year searching for the direction that is needed to fulfil its role of encouraging churches to respond to the call of John 17: 21, " ... that they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me". The resignation of the Rev Jonathan Inkpin as General Secretary has thrown back to the member churches the challenge of what they are called to do in relation to others in church and community.

As acting General Secretary, The Rev Paul Swadling has spoken with church leaders, delegates from member churches and associated groups have met, and existing commissions on Theological Reflection, Local Initiatives, Peace and Justice, and Living Faiths have continued to meet.

A seminar in February utilised facilitators in an effort to focus on the way forward, and those attending were asked for a written commitment. I attended on behalf of ACW NSW State Unit Inc., so it is a valid question to ask what response I made. Believing that there is every need for churches to work together, I stated that I would report to ACW NSW, and that I would foster obedience to John 17:21 as and when I am able. Those who attend Australian Church Women experience at first hand the richness of diversity, but we are reminded that there is ever more to learn. Let us continue to play our part in encouraging ecumenical unity by prayer and example.