

Also congratulations to Rathie Selvaratnam on being made a Life Member of Mothers Union. Congratulations too to Olive Ackland who has been presented with a certificate of recognition for "her long and valued service at state and national level of ACW." It's great to be able to recognise long and faithful service, so once again we say a very sincere congratulations to these members.

Note from the Editor:- I have been asked to request that all Units send in to the National Executive a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of the Unit Executives. This would make things a bit easier, especially for our Secretary. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

[closing date for next issue – 17th November.]

I'd like to thank Shirley Birch for passing on this poem for us to share; it is both a challenge and a blessing. – Ed.

"CARVE FROM YOUR DAY"

Carve from your day a little time for God,
Not just a hurried prayer or swift-read thought,
But time to speak with Him and hear His word,
To share with Him the soul that Jesus bought.

Carve from your strength some energy for Him.
We tire so soon with daily tasks that press
Their urgency on us, yet let us trim
Some strength to serve with joyful eagerness.

Carve from your heart, so filled with human love,
' A place for Him that He can call His own,
Where there is always peace. The Holy dove
Gently descends and you are not alone.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMAN ACW NEWS

""We aim:- to unite Christian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PO Box 10239 Adelaide Business Centre S.A. 5000
(All Newsletter correspondence to this address please)
August - September 2000

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

"Jesus our Living Hope" Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord.

Since I last wrote to you, Churches of Christ in Australia have been blessed as we gathered to Celebrate Under the Cross. That was the theme for the 15th World Convention of Churches of Christ which was held in Brisbane in August. It was a wonderful time of celebration of our faith and our confidence that God is indeed at work in the world in ways which we sometimes fail to grasp.

To hear the stories of lives changed by the power of the gospel inspires us to remain faithful and to not shirk in the tasks to which God calls us. To meet with women who struggle to survive everyday living because of poverty and abuse, remind us of how fortunate we are to live in this country. To talk with women whose very lifestyle is controlled by the U.S. dollar, brings home to us the need to be proactive in the fight to "Break the Chains" of foreign debt. To hear of the significant role that Christian women play in the fight against the Aids pandemic in Africa, encourages us to continue to support them in whatever way we can. So many stories of courageous women who strive to make a difference in the name of Christ.

These were just a few of the stories that touched me personally, and I share them with you that we might be reminded of the blessing that is ours in being members of Australian Church Women. We have the opportunity through Fellowship of the Least Coin, Winifred Kiek Scholarship, our partnership with Asian Church Women, and in our own Unit programmes to be instruments of change, so that the message of the Gospel might continue to be heard, loud and clear, in many parts of the world. It is a message which offers hope to the oppressed and marginalised in every time and place. Yes, there are many things we can do as individuals, but our ministry is increased as we offer that hope through A.C.W. May you be aware of God's leading and guidance as you search out relevant ways of being bearers of hope in your part of God's kingdom.

Marj. Dredge (President.)

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Barbara Lacy tells me that she is looking forward to meeting up with Shunila Ruth, ACWC national representative for Pakistan, Australia's Prayer Partner, when they meet in Bangladesh. We could pray for their safe travel as we share in the following prayer that Barbara has passed on to us, for which we are very grateful.

PRAYER FROM PAKISTAN

O Creator and Mighty God,
You have promised strength for the weak
Rest for the labourers light for the way
Grace for the trials help from above
Unfailing sympathy, undying love
O Creator and Mighty God
Help us to continue in your promise, Amen

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR – YEAR 2001

The Trustees are delighted to inform you all that we have been able to choose next year's Scholar. We had to delay our decision due to the political unrest in the South Pacific Area. She is **Miss Celestial Lusi** of Honiara in the Solomon Islands. Aged 33, she has been sponsored by the Roroni Women's Fellowship Group of the South Seas Evangelical Church, which is an inter-denominational organization. Celestial will be undertaking her final year of her Diploma in Theology at the Christian Leaders' Training College of Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific. Copies of her Student Semester Reports for her first two years' study are excellent. Her ministry so far has included working with women and children within the women's fellowship and her local church, and her sponsors assure us that they will be all working together to encourage the use of her new skills at the conclusion of her study.

In accepting the Scholarship on behalf of Celestial the Fellowship Secretary's letter said in part, 'I wish to heartedly express our most sincere thanks and unspeakable joy for your considerable approval and select Miss Celestial Lusi as the Winifred Kiek Scholar for the year 2001. Yours is indeed a tremendous assistance which we believe (is) God's providence for us and her. You are truly investing into the eternal kingdom in edifying God's church. The beneficiary of your funding is not only Celestial, but also the Women and churches of Roroni association at large.'

During my communications with the sponsor, I was told that Celestial was so excited that after she had heard the news she couldn't sleep! She is so very grateful for our assistance. May we all pray that her country will continue to return to normal and that she will be able to undertake her studies in New Guinea without any delays or problems.

News from Sue Nitrai – this year's Scholar.

In a letter just received Sue tells us that she has been very busy the last few months catching up with her study following the time taken off immediately before and after her Father's death. However, she feels confident that her year will finish without too much interruption. Her Parish work has also been slightly heavier due to staff holidays and the preparation of a Parish wide Bible study of St. Marks Gospel. Sue sincerely thanks all ACW members for their prayers and thoughts following her family's bereavement.

The FAX Machine

I would like to record my appreciation of this wonderful piece of modern technology! It has been a true Godsend – this year in particular! The number is 8379 1804. For the record – the FAX machine will always 'live' with the Trustee Convenor.

DOROTHY FERRIER

Trustee Convenor and WKS National Convenor

W.A. Unit

CENTENARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE WESTERN AUSTRALIA – 1999

In 1999 under the direction of the Minister for Women's Affairs, in conjunction with the Women's Policy Office, many celebrations took place to recognize that women in Western Australia have had the right to vote for 100 years and the positive role women play in all areas of life.

Many special events were held which highlighted not only the progress that has been made but also the areas that continue to disadvantage women.

Twice, during the year, organizations and districts throughout WA applied for grants allocated by the Government. Most of these were A\$5000 or less for projects such as gazebos in gardens in recognition of women pioneers, historical photos

displays, histories of women, art exhibitions, research, seminars, etc.

The main project by the WA Government for the year was the upgrading of the Pioneer Women's Fountain and Gardens in Kings Park. Organisations were invited to submit applications for inclusion in a 'Historical Walk' stating what they believed their group had done to promote the role of women over the years.

ACW (WA Unit) put in a submission and was accepted for inclusion in the project. One of our member's Guild group had closed a couple of years previously and they had given A\$200 to our funds which we had kept for a special project, so we only had to add a small amount to cover the cost of the A\$240 for the brass plaque.

The upgraded Pioneer Women's Fountain and Pool was extended down the hill in a series of mini water-falls to a new Water Garden and Gazebo which was officially opened in November 1999. In the path around the Water Garden, brass plaques were inserted inscribed with the organisation's name and a brief statement.

Earlier in the year we had been asked to provide a banner, which was displayed at some of the special events. On the day of the opening of the Water Garden, all the banners were displayed along a fence, which made a very colourful and interesting display. ACW were proud to be included as one of the Christian groups among the other secular groups who participated in this project as well as other activities during the year.

VIC Unit

Interesting news from Victoria is that they have conferred Life Membership on Lt.Col. Isabel Macintyre whose association with ACW spans over 30 years. Because of being moved around the country in ministry, Isabel has been involved with a few different Units, and has held many different positions. We say congratulations to Isabel.