

**** INFORMATION PAGE ****

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the TREASURER:

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33 Lynwood Avenue
DEE WHY 2099
(Tel: 9971 0278).

PLEASE NOTE:

- ⇒ For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word "Treasurer" when addressing envelopes.
- ⇒ **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to "Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc." and **NOT** to any individual person.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups:	\$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations:	\$15.00 per annum
WCTU NSW	
The Girls' Brigade	
Bible Society NSW	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$10.00 per annum
(includes subscription to Newsette)

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CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the **EDITOR:**

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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

A C W seeks:

- ⇒ to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ⇒ to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

Mission Statement

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.

PRESIDENT: Major Lyn Middleton Tel: 9529 6744

NUMBER 107

MAY 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that this is my last message for *Newsette* as President. The past two years has been a wonderful experience for me. Getting to know you and the warmth of your Christian fellowship has been most personally enriching. Not only have we shared together in the business matters of our Council meetings but we have also prayed together and studied the Word together and enjoyed each other's company on our continuing spiritual pilgrimage.

To God be the Glory great things He has done would be an appropriate anthem to raise this time for indeed we have experienced the goodness of God. I give praise and thanks to God for the guidance, power and grace of his Holy Spirit in my life as I have sought to serve in this role in ACW.

I most warmly commend to you our President-Elect, *Mrs Carmel Keys* of Catholic Women's League. I have come to know her as a woman of strong faith and Christian grace and I believe we can look forward to her

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term of office with great expectation. I hope you will be able to attend the Service of Installation on May 15. I look forward to greeting you there.

I recently read again the words of Psalm 92:13,14 (NKJV) *Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God, they shall still bear fruit in old age, they shall be fresh and flourishing.* While I confess I did smile a little, my heart nevertheless was warmed as I read the words. Firstly, because my faith was "planted in the house of the Lord" in childhood and the amazing journey of my life has emanated from service "in the courts of our God", and secondly, because of the promise inherent in the verse, that we can never outlive our usefulness to God. Prior to coming to ACW I had retired from active service with the Salvation Army but I was soon to learn that there is no retirement in Christ!

This is a beautiful promise for us from the Word of God. While ever we remain "planted" in Him, we will bear fruit for Him. How we do it may change but that we do it does not change, and the promise is, that as we continue to bear fruit our experience of God is kept fresh and flourishing! Let us lift our hearts in thanksgiving to God that we are able to bear fruit for Him, whatever our age, as we stay planted in His presence and plan, and that Australian Church Women can provide for us an avenue of fruit bearing.

Thank you for your many expressions of love and kindness to me. God bless you.

Lyn Middleton, President

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION

and

INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT

for 2006-2008

MRS CARMEL KEYS

to be held in the presence of

Bishop David Walker, Bishop of Broken Bay Diocese

at St Mary Immaculate & St Athanasius Church

50 Whistler Street, Manly

on MONDAY, MAY 15 at 11 am

Lunch will be served in Parish Hall. Limited Parking available in church grounds. Two Parking Stations in adjacent Central Avenue. 10 am Ferry from Circular Quay. Bus 143 or 144 from Chatswood Station. Church is 5 minute walk from Wharf and Bus Terminus.

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PROFILE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARMEL:

Mrs Carmel Keys was nominated by her denomination and we have been delighted to have had her with us on Executive and Council over the past twelve months. Prior to that she had completed a 4-year term as State President of Catholic Women's League NSW and State Delegate to CWL Australia. She is a past-president of CWL Broken Bay Diocese; member of steering committee of Broken Bay Ecumenical Commission; parish rep to NSW Ecumenical Commission; convener Manly District World Day of Prayer Committee; Secretary of CWL Manly; 15 years secretary Catholic Chemists Guild.

Carmel studied Pharmacy at Sydney University, also obtained Certificate in Archaeology, Victoria. She worked and managed pharmacies in Sydney 1952-1970; Hospital Pharmacy London 1956/57; Holiday & Emergency Relief in Melbourne and Sydney 1970-1996 until retirement. From 1987 to present, serving in parish in Manly.

Carmel's publications include Histories of Gladstone Park Parish (Vic) and CWL Manly and regular articles for Vine and Beacon; she has studied Moral Theology and Philosophy, Ethics and Morals relating to Pharmacy, and has worked on archaeological 'digs' in Victoria and The Philippines. As a result of the latter, Carmel and her husband have an adopted family there whom they have educated.

Carmel has no children but enjoys regular contact with her three brothers' families and a growing tribe of nieces and nephews. Her hobbies are swimming, dancing and walking, reading, bird-watching, opera and theatre. She lobbies appropriate government and other groups on moral and social justice issues, and is interested in the environment and ecumenical activities.

Carmel says she is a 'person' person and looks forward to her time in ACW to assist others in a spirit of Christian love to see the face of Jesus in those around us and to promote the dignity of women and family.

We look forward to having Carmel as President of our State Unit.

PUBLICITY:

Don't forget our Annual Service of Dedication and Installation of our new President *Mrs Carmel Keys* on Monday 15th May. Please support and advertise this in your local church and come and join in a wonderful day of celebrating Jesus with fellow Christian women.

Nancy McLaren, Publicity Convener

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Since last Newsette I have had a lovely card and letter from *Anju Borgoary* (2005 Scholar). She asks for prayer for her future ministry. She is so very thankful for our support; then I received a beautifully printed invitation in an equally beautiful envelope, to her Graduation Service at the South India Biblical Seminary on March 25 2006 – Tea at 3 pm and Graduation 4 pm. It was the Campus' 53rd Graduation Service, the speaker was the Chairman of the Seminary's Council. I sent Anju a card from us all.

I have had an Email from *Milise Tapaleti* (1998 Scholar from Tonga, now in Victoria) asking if there were any other scholarships available.

I have had phone contact with National WKS Convener, *Una Birtchnell*. She had no recent news on our current 2006 scholars, *Vivian Cheung* (NSW) and *Tania Eichler* (Queensland). She is going to send me their addresses and I shall write to them.

On a little card from *Anju*, there was a verse which said

*"What makes a person so RICH? Some say wealth...some say health...
but for me it is your FRIENDSHIP that carries immense WEALTH"*

Let's continue to pray for these past and present girls (some now older women) ministering in Jesus name.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

Greetings to all. As you read this we will recently have celebrated Easter, that glorious time of the year when we and countless millions of Christians read again what is undoubtedly the most loved verse in Scripture, John 3:16: *"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* This verse links what God has done, and what we must do. God has provided eternal life in Jesus. Our part is to believe.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is built on this belief. As we, and members from all over the world put aside our least coins and offer a prayer, we demonstrate that in God's sight we are equal with one another, no matter what our economic or social status might be in the eyes of the world.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of the Fellowship. I am continually uplifted by the generosity of so many people who remember to put aside their least coins, for as its founder, *Mrs Shanti Solomon* said, "By sharing the sum of money collected from these least coins, we share the

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concerns with women around the world.

The amount collected since January 2006 is already \$1057. I still have copies of "Circle of Prayer" number 17 for \$2.00 each; also pamphlets with comprehensive information for your branches if you need them, also money boxes.

Janet Lang, FLC Convener

SOCIAL JUSTICE - A GOSPEL IMPERATIVE:

One of the activities of Australian Church Women is a concern for Social Justice Issues. This calls us to be alert to injustices suffered by the poor and marginalised in our society and to discern whether we are able to take effective action to ensure that legitimate human rights of the needy are being met. There are numerous situations where the needy are challenging us as Gospel women followers of Christ who came to *"bring good news to the poor, freedom to prisoners, sight to the blind and to set the down-trodden free"* and thereby proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

Action for social justice challenges us to be attentive to situations often written about in the media and which are local issues about which we can speak out. This often entails consulting various sources to ensure that we have an accurate picture of the situation. We then have to discern what type of action is effective even though it may seem to be a small action in the face of the magnitude of the needs of the poor or marginalised or neglected. Often it can be writing an individual letter to the Member of Parliament responsible, pointing out the need, expressing our concern and making suggestions for actions to be taken in terms of funding needed.

We may feel overwhelmed by various issues in our society but *"it is better to light a candle than to linger in the dark."* Issues affecting women could be a focus of our social justice issues but there are other issues which cause us ongoing concern, e.g. care of the mentally ill, the plight of young disabled adults living in nursing homes, the trafficking of women, young carers, funds for pregnancy counselling for those contemplating an abortion. Jesus' words encourage us to discern and act – *"as long as you did it to one of these the least of my people, you did it to Me."*

Sister Joan Bird, Social Issues Convener

SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL ACW MEMBERS

This is a reminder, as is set out on the back page of Newsette, that all cheques are to be made out to **Australian Church Women**, NOT to the Fellowship of Least Coin, or Winifred Kiek Scholarship. For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word 'Treasurer' when addressing envelopes.

South American Travels - January - February 2006 Isabel Hewitt

Margaret, Margery, Lillian, Olive, Rachel, Fay and Sandy,
Roslyn, John, Doug, Isabel, Mac set forth to explore the Andes.

The splendour of Iguazu Falls came early to our attention
From Brazil or Argentina their beauty deserves a mention.
La Boca showed what paint can do to old corrugated iron
and tango dancers in the street also brightened that environ.

In Lima began the contrasts that so characterise Peru,
The city centre in decline, Miraflores the promise new.
Mudbrick construction near hotel told stories of times long since gone
But Park of Love on the cliff top spoke of pleasures under the sun.

Cities showed Spanish influence with cathedral and civic square
important persons' monuments and gardens orderly and fair.
Cathedrals were magnificent in size, decoration and space,
Many were opulent with gold, some simpler, much more to my taste.

Monasteries came in many forms, sometimes in unusual places,
from simple to magnificent, city sites, even oasis.
Who could forget the human bones in San Francisco monastery Lima?
Or the high living nuns with maids – Arequipa's St Catalina?

We passed through miles of desert land, some stark and suffering erosion
Nazca fault line revealed to us sea shells distant from the ocean.
In stark contrast with the desert were valleys of most vivid green
supporting healthy looking crops near rivers of fast flowing streams.

On the way to Colca Canyon we had to cope with altitude
Taxing more to some than others, its effects were not really good.
We all partook of coca tea, some coca lollies more their taste,
Others chewed macas to boost strength – our energy we could not waste.

We were thrilled to see vicuñas grazing close to where our coach passed
Enjoyed spectacular scenery including snow that might not last
Wishing stones had been stacked all round in that treeless place bleak and drear
but lovely location of lodge to our spirits brought good cheer.

We soaked in thermal pool that night as the river raced on its way
Next morning saw condors in flight – a great way to begin the day!
We saw ceramics Inca style in a humble home workshop made
and home spinning, dyeing, weaving – skills of local people displayed.

Near the Urubamba River salt pans fed by hot salty streams
were terraced up the steep hillsides to help evaporation means.
The amphitheatre at Moray made microclimates for all crops
long before glasshouses functioned to produce vegetables for shops.

Shanty towns at city edges were usually densely settled
with migrants from country places hoping that life would be bettered.
On desert sites some chose to try to improve their earthly living
no water, not a blade of grass – an outlook quite unforgiving

The red roofed city of Cuzco with Sunday military parade
made a big thing of flag raising and many Inca treasures displayed

Markets widened experience revealing goods not seen before
Street vendors were so persistent they sometimes became quite a chore

Agriculture is intensive whether terrace or river plain
A hard life by appearances with little to relieve any pain
Potatoes must rate a mention – fields of flowers, purple and white.
Corn stalks tall in fields everywhere were certainly often in sight.

We learned much on Inca culture and could see its lasting effects –
Impressed with stonework everywhere which deserved our deepest respect.
Snakes for Incas meant underworld, and pumas the earth which we tread,
The condors, majestic in flight represent heavens overhead.

Machu Picchu was a highlight and we reached the Sun Gate one morn,
thankful for structure of the path which for centuries feet have worn.
Butterflies caught our attention flying past or hovering nearby
Iridescent blue to yellow, mesmerising beauty to the eye.

The train from Cuzco to Puno was a relic of times gone by
We settled into the change of pace travelling through plains and mountains high.
The scenery was beautiful and the service quite to our taste –
As we passed through Juliaca we saw that for some nothing is waste.

To sail on Lake Titicaca was a dream which really came true –
and to do so on a reed boat a very pleasant thing to do.
The floating islands surprised us, their form was hard to comprehend,
but the explanation given helped us work it out in the end.

Copacabana we stayed twice – in Bolivia and Brazil –
the 'mosque' church the memory of one, Stations of the Cross up the hill;
Rio's wide beach invokes the other where locals play volley ball;
loved stained glass cathedral windows – Christ the Redeemer watching all.

Crossing the strait at Tiquina saw our bus on flat-bottomed boat,
the luxury of a small launch took passengers to the far coast.
The muddy approach to La Paz made us feel for the people there.
The city was cleaner by far and time there was really quite fair.

Music Museum enthralled us with instruments familiar and rare.
We'd heard many fine musicians and revived lots of memories there.
The beautiful eco garden we visited in Santa Cruz
showed how one person can inspire in an important cause they choose.

Hairless dogs native to Peru are bordering on extinction,
But guinea pigs are bred for meat for meals of special distinction.
Alpacas featured on menus, and we tried many native fish
People who like avocados generally had all they could wish.

We spent many hours at airports and tried numerous hotel beds
ate unusual local food and up interesting paths were led
Our guides did a wonderful job to help us attain many goals –
to Dante, Dalmiro especially, we're grateful they filled well these roles.

To all our travelling companions our thanks for the friendship we shared
at the end of this great journey we're impressed that everyone dared.
But what of pisco sour you say, has its impact already died?
I'm sure its flavour will live on as the recipe is retrieved.

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES 9th ASSEMBLY:

Our ACW State Secretary, *Isabel Hewitt*, whose South American travels are described in her poem on the previous two pages, was there with her husband Doug for the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Porto Alegre, Brazil, held for the first time in Latin America

Delegates and Observers from member churches, related Ecumenical Councils and other bodies were involved. The 'Mutirão' (visitor program) gave non-delegates opportunities to attend workshops/information sessions on a huge range of topics. Over 3,000 people were involved.

Each day began with *Worship* in a vast tent. An enthusiastic choir assisted us to learn new songs, in a range of languages. Separate *Bible Studies* were conducted for delegates and Mutirão, which included dramatic readings, a film clip, and comments from theologians from different church backgrounds.

Workshops were used by presenters for disseminating information and were for the participants a means of learning about what is happening throughout the world. It was uplifting to hear of work being done, but at times confronting to hear of the increase, for example, of trafficking in human beings. Of particular interest for me as an Australian was the workshop on West Papua, to hear of the continuing struggle of the indigenous Papuans to have their voice heard by the Indonesian Government and the international community.

One workshop visited a local project to provide housing for people living in squalid conditions, who for the most part work as garbage recyclers and live amid what they glean from city and suburbs. Some families own a horse and cart and travel long distances to retrieve the cast-offs that are their livelihood. The Marist Brothers provide community facilities and offer programs to children – we were warmly welcomed and entertained in song and dance. A new medical centre impressed us greatly. As far as possible, the local people are involved in providing facilities for their own betterment and will pay for their new low cost housing. This was certainly a good news story.

On the Sunday morning participants were able to attend churches in Porto Alegre. With other Australians and some Canadians I went to an Anglican service. The minister was not fazed by the sight of three archbishops in the front pew! We received a great welcome and shared a time of fellowship following the service, being fortunate that one of the Canadian women acted as a translator.

Mutirão were able to sit in on most plenary sessions. Highlights were the addresses by the Archbishop of Canterbury *Most Rev Rowan Williams*,

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who spoke on inter faith, and *Archbishop Desmond Tutu*, who retains his unbounded enthusiasm for the work of the World Council of Churches, ever thankful for its critical role in combating apartheid in his beloved South Africa. We were able to join a peace march at which Archbishop Tutu spoke, calling for an end to the violence that is endemic in many parts of South America – from domestic violence to gang warfare...

An evening performance of a play was staged by young Germans who used the production of soccer balls to call for fair trade in the global economy. This was performed in English and German on different nights.

Evening worship in the tent followed the form of a particular church family, e.g. evening vespers Orthodox style, or Reformed or Anglican tradition, and many languages were used.

Informal meetings 'happened', especially at meals or on the buses that took us from hotel to university campus. The clothing of some participants was very colourful, not least the priests in pink cassocks with purple waistbands. Efforts were made to involve young people and their presence was welcome. People with disabilities asked for recognition as part of God's family, as did sufferers from HIV/AIDS.

Was it all worthwhile? The logistics of the experience are mind-blowing. To have been even an insignificant part has been rewarding, and a reminder that God uses all the resources available to extend his work, however mean or humble. How to respond? Continue to do what is at hand, alert to any new possibilities that may arise. *Isabel Hewitt*

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

It is great to start with good news and I am happy to report that our ACWC Women's Secretary, *Shu-Wen Chiang* celebrated her wedding on September 4 in East-Gate Presbyterian Church in Taipei. Shu-Wen's husband Mr Chia-Lin Chen, an artist, is the Art Director of the multimedia of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. What a dynamic duo! We thank God for such a devout and devoted couple living the challenge of Mission for our Lord.

Earthquakes, typhoons and floods have devastated various areas throughout the world over recent months. The tenacity of folk to keep going is amazing. Do we know what it is like to wade through water up to our waist treading in who knows what? It is hard enough when it happens in our country but for many parts of the world there is no infrastructure to get things running again quickly or to supply most basic of necessities. Where to you go when it gets dark and there is no electricity? One report

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in the ACWC magazine said "it was really scary, as if we were sitting on an island in the middle of an ocean."

I have recently returned from Thailand. I spent a week in Koh Samui a very small island off the coast about an hour's flight from Bangkok, which had suffered the worst floods in 40 years – roads still under water and mud seemed to be the order of the day. Yet, the people keep on smiling and making the most of what little many of them have, some sleeping under what we could call blue plastic groundsheets and keeping the sun off with green shade cloth. Thankfully they are not cold – even winter temperatures are around 30 degrees and there is very little humidity.

On Koh Samui we did not see even one church building! The giant Buddha dominates the coastline and idols and shrines abound. In Bangkok we saw a shrine, of Hindu origin I think, which featured the creators of the world – a male and female with snakes curled around them and goodness knows what else. I continually found it hard to understand how intelligent business people, who paid homage and worshipped these idols, could possibly believe that the monuments of stone could do anything to help them or be worthy of adoration! Please pray for the Christians in the local Churches who work very hard and often are doing it tough!

What a mighty God we serve! Our God hears and answers our prayers, loves us, guides us, and saves us from our sins. No kneeling down with stones thrown forward to idols, especially in our old age! We can walk with Him and talk with Him all the time and have complete confidence He will not leave us nor forsake us. He will supply all our needs and is preparing an even far better place for us to be with Him for eternity.

Winsome Penn, ACWC Convener

BOOK REVIEW - 'WINIFRED'

The soft feminine cover of this book belies the strong yet shy character of *Winifred Kiek* as revealed in her biography 'Winifred' written by her daughter. Diminutive in build and artistic in temperament, she was a powerful influence in the organisations to which she gave her support and leadership. She had strong convictions that led her into an active and productive life, often into uncharted waters, which showed her as a woman way ahead of her time. The book is written with pace and covers three areas – Winifred's personal life, her life's work and her beliefs and ideals. It is a window into the many areas of her involvement.

Winifred's Quaker family background reveals inventive parents who had great influence on her development and passions. She was the girl who met the boy across town, *Edward Kiek*, whom she married, and so was ushered into a different social setting and needing to embrace a differing

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Christian persuasion as the wife of a Congregational Minister. They were well-matched both in education and wit, and she participated wholeheartedly in Edward's ministry both in England and South Australia.

Winifred was quick to recognise need and in 1926 this led to her pastoring part-time the small Congregational church in Colonel Light Gardens in South Australia as well as fulfilling the duties of Principal's wife at Parkin College and being the mother of three children. She was true to her conviction that God had called her to special ministry and she had trained and updated to fulfill this calling. After a year, serving this congregation in teaching and pastoral care ministry, a strong and devoted relationship had developed with the church, who applied to the Union for the ordination of their minister. This was granted, so in 1927 Winifred Kiek was ordained as the first woman Christian Minister in Australia, with the full support of her husband and his participation in the occasion. This church thereafter became her spiritual home. Winifred did not regard this as a triumph but as a sacred milestone. She said "*my chief desire is to emphasise the fact that a woman may have a message from God just as a man.*"

It was during this first pastorate that Winifred participated in many organisations, such as Pan Pacific Women's Association, National Council of Women, Australian Church Women, and the Women's Peace Movement etc. She believed that dignity and recognition was the right of all women. From her pacifist Quaker background she actively promoted the Women's Peace Movement. She was a gifted speaker and much in demand through many countries of the world. She did regular radio broadcasts to promote her causes both at home and abroad. With this she also represented Congregational Women in other areas.

We see Winifred as an ideals person, sometimes perhaps naively. She lived her life by "*As thy days so shall thy strength be.*" For her, God was not "*a means of escape or a divine insurance against trouble, but a giver of courage, resolution, patience and self-control to endure whatever had to be faced.*" She sought an endurance that was Spartan in a love that was Christian and lived this out until the end of her days.

The book reveals a forward-looking woman of great faith, whom we remember in ACW as the one who led the way for potential women leaders from the Pacific and South Asia to have further education and to minister to their own people, which we now perpetuate in the granting of the *Winifred Kiek Scholarships*. This book highlights the same social problems we face today. It is a challenge for us to have the same vision and conviction that Winifred had, that God uses women for His purposes.

(Reviewed by Beryl Kirkwood, Incoming ACWC Representative)