

Did you know?

All ACW Monies—Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the

TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue, Dee WHY NSW 2099
Phone: 9971 0278

However, 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.

Denominational Groups: \$25 per annum
ACW Local Branches: \$15 per annum
Organisations: \$15.00 per annum
The Girls' Brigade

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due **1st March**: \$15 per annum
(this includes subscription to Newsette)
For further details contact Jennifer Pepper (9874 4056)

Newsette is the journal of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. and is published four times a year in February, May, August and November.

The Annual Subscription is \$10.00.

Contributions to *Newsette* are requested from readers and should be sent to the Interim Editor:

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Changes of Address should be sent to the

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Phone 9542 6507 Email: brendad2@optusnet.com.au



Newsette

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN—NSW UNIT INC.

ACW Website: www.acwnational.org.au

ACW 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: Mrs Nola Dickson Phone 9869 2559

Email: nmdickson@tpg.com.au

Number 126

February 2011

President's Message

I trust that you all enjoyed your Christmas festivities and the break from activities. It seems such a short time since we celebrated the beginning of this 21st century, and now we are into the second month of 2011. Time does fly.

I spent Christmas with my family in Queensland, then was driven down to spend time with my friend in Runaway Bay, which I do whenever possible. My friend is the most hospitable person I have ever met. I am always warmly welcomed and invited to stay BIG TIME.

Genesis 18:1-5 tells of the time Abraham and Sarah showed kindness and hospitality to three strangers. When Abraham was told that Sarah would bear a son in her old age, doubt and disbelief caused them to laugh.

When Abraham had seen the strangers approaching he had run to greet them with open arms and had offered them food and hospitality, which is exactly what my friend on the Gold Coast does for me. Unknown to Abraham was the fact that these visitors were the Lord and two angels.

In Hebrews Chapter 13 verse 2 we are told that we should be hospitable to strangers, they could be angels, unawares. In those times hospitality to foreigners, or anyone, known or unknown, was vital for one's reputation. Today it's a little different. From a very young age children are warned of 'stranger danger'. How the world has changed. Are we ever visited by angels? How would we know? Would we recognize them? In this life we still need to be hospitable, kind and loving on all and on each and every occasion as our Lord requires of us, being ready to help where the need is, even if it is to someone we do not know. May we all have a healthy, fulfilling 2011, obey the Lord in all things, and make our service to him one of goodwill and humility.

Nola Dickson

End of an Era.a tribute

It was with sadness at our November Council Meeting that we heard that *Beryl McLaughlin* was retiring from the Editorship of *Newsette* and from the NSW State Council of Australian Church Women as she was moving to the Wollongong Region to be closer to her family.

In recognition of her dedication in producing *Newsette* over the past 22 years, Beryl was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a Certification of Appreciation. Beryl responded saying how much she had enjoyed her involvement as Editor but realised it was time to move on! Beryl recently celebrated her 90th birthday!

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 has always been a very *involved* lady having worked with her late husband with the Church Missionary Society in the N.T.

and Bush Church Aid in Broken Hill, then when her husband was ordained as Rector of Rozelle she worked with him there for 20 years.. Following his death in 1984 and her children being grown up, Beryl embraced other activities—National Council of Women (being Honoured in 1999 with the Women's Foundation Day Award) ; working voluntarily in their office as well as the Mothers' Union office —and she was also Secretary/Treasurer of the BCA Women's Auxiliary for 25 years and State Secretary of Women's Christian Temperance Union for 15 years. Such involvement enabled Beryl to bring up to date news of these wider ministries to our attention. Her expertise and dedication will be missed and we wish her a very happy and fulfilling retirement in her new home—may God bless her richly.

Mina Whybourne

Note: in 2005 Beryl was awarded Life Membership of ACW—NSW Inc and in 2010 our organisation co-nominated with the NSW Temperance Foundation for her to be honoured at the Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon at Parliament House, Sydney - a tribute for loyalty and service for women attaining 90 years of age.

***Any special needs or prayer requests should be directed to
Pastoral Care Convenor (Olive Edmondstone -9887 1846)***

Our thoughts and prayers have been focused during January on the devastating floods in Queensland. We remember our sisters and brothers in Christ who have to deal with this disaster for our land on a day to day basis.....for those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost homes and personal belongings and even their livelihoods.

Our President, Nola, was in Queensland visiting family and friends when the floods came. On her arrival home she wrote....

The devastation, the wreckage, the mud had to be seen to be believed. It has been a very emotional time, hard not to become involved in the happenings. It is good to be back home. It is good to have a God who is with us in our trials, one to whom we can pour out our problems to. It is good also to have friends who care.

Nola had close family who were affected by the floods Ed.

World Community Day 2010 has been celebrated by more than 600 people in 20 places across New South Wales.

It was noted that a couple of places experimented with changing the time of gathering to the evening, with encouraging results.

FLC monies were in excess of \$5600, and close to \$4000 was raised for the Special Project.

People enjoyed the service and having the privilege of meeting together in Christ's name.

We look forward to receiving word of the themes for the Services to be held in 2011.

Thank you to all who accept responsibility for the arranging of these days. Your service is much appreciated.

Pamela Freeman

Special Days Convenor for NSW State Unit Inc.



Happy New Year to everyone!

I am hoping that the Christmas season was a happy family time, as you celebrated the birth of Jesus.

2011—a brand new year, with new opportunities to serve God and others. The FLC is a great way to serve God, as we pray and put aside our least coins.

I would like to remind you that I have some supplies on hand, such as the Circle of Prayer booklets, prayer cards, money boxes, plus pamphlets which tell the FLC story.

If you would like me to come and speak to your Fellowship group during the year, please contact me on my mobile (0437 399 584). This applies to country groups as well. It may be possible for me to work it in with my church work, as my husband and I travel around NSW. When I receive the new list of FLC Grants for 2011, I will endeavour to inform you of these.

In the meantime, keep sharing the peace, justice and reconciliation message wherever you can. God bless you.

Lillian Hodges

Fellowship of the Least Coin Convenor for NSW State Unit Inc.

Social Issues

Prayer & Praise

"I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right"

Isaiah 42

This message is a timely reminder for us in 2011.

We cherish the hope that distrust and selfishness among nations will eventually be overcome. Social Justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create.

- Pray for Iraqi Christians
- Congratulations to Nestles on the steps it has taken regarding its Chocolate. Kit-Kat products are guaranteed to be made from cocoa from non-slavery countries. All products will follow by the end of the year.
- Mothers and Grandmothers....BEWARE. What are children learning from TV shows that they watch?
- There is an increase in the Government funding for people with disabilities.
- More recognition that the human embryo is a living being.
- Rape, sexual assault lead to drug and alcohol abuse by the victims.
- Pray for our own country as many face untold grief and loss of property due to floods, storms and fires. Such suffering will last for many months.

Carmel Keys

Social Issues Convenor, ACW—NSW Inc.

May our light shine brightly

'No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.'

Luke 8:16



Judith Cayzer, NSW Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor writes.....

Soon details of the 2011 Scholar should be available. Just waiting on updates of our 2010 girls—*Ruth* (PNG) expecting her baby end of January and *Tonu* (Fiji) to tell of her new ministry after completing her course. I attended her Graduation, she did so well and is so thankful. Tonu enjoyed the ACWC Praise afternoon and the opportunity to meet our women. Greetings for Christmas were received from both ladies.

Christmas Cards were sent to 14 we remain in contact with and 4 emails received in return; , *Chew Siok Cheng* (2004) sent love and *Leinamau* (2007) also sent greetings –they hosted SU Pacific Regional Conference in December. She continues to be very busy organising an Elders Retreat in January.

Christy Ferguson (Vic.-2009) has been back to NZ for family time and now back nursing and preparing for Mission placement in S.E. Asia mid-year. Security will surround most details.

Imelda (2008) sends greeting and reports things still progressing to a mid-Eastern placement for outreach.

Continue to remember all these girls in your prayers.

Our National Convenor has heard from *Susan Liersch* (2003), *Sue Nitrai* (2000) and *Rev. Tania Eichler* (2006).

News from *Mary Au* (Hong Kong) reports of her continuing role as the only female director of the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union. She is kept busy with church and ecumenical work and this Christmas had a number of activities for neighbours, parish schools and the elderly centre people. More news next issue.

Mina Whybourne, our past WKS Convenor, still hears from many of the girls—*Rachel McManus* (now Otto-1997) who recently moved with her husband near to the Gold Coast—3rd baby due in May. *Doreen Tie* (1990) has 2 children and is doing well; she continues to work with the disabled.

We can look forward to more news as it comes to hand on our past, present and future scholars.

Asian Church Women's Conference Annual Service *31st October 2010*

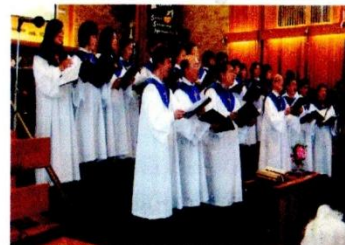
The Asian Church Women's Conference Annual Service for 2010 was celebrated on Sunday 31st October and took the form of a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Multicultural Concert of Praise. The service was organized by the New South Wales Unit of Australian Church Women Incorporated.

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. She delighted the congregation with her refreshing words of witness and her insightful commentary on her ministry in Fiji. She also spoke about the courses of study she has undertaken while on the scholarship in Australia giving thanks for the opportunity which has been hers and for this special equipping for service.

Following the service a time of rich fellowship was enjoyed as everyone shared in a beautifully prepared afternoon tea.

Photos

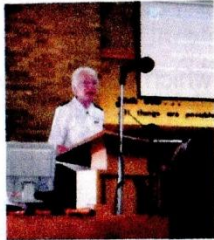


*Sydney Chinese Association
For Sacred Music
sing during the Multicultural Concert of
Praise.*



*The Shine Chorus-A Korean Choir,
thrill the congregation with their
excellent rendition of classical
sacred music*

Tomu Rigamoto Fakraufon
(Winifred Kiek Scholar) speaks at the service



Major Lyn Middleton – ACWC Convenor for
Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc., gives
words of appreciation at the conclusion of the service

*And we read with interest
From*



The Statement of the 14th Quadrennial Assembly

We the 59 delegates and 185 observers and guests from 26 countries, came together to deliberate on the theme of the Assembly "Asian Women Moving Forward: Non-Violent World, New Earth, Life in its Fullness", "15-20 October 2010 at Kinasih Conference, Bogor, Indonesia.

We Acknowledge

*We rejoice in the Lord that Asian Women in spite of their various restricting circumstances are determined to move forward.

*We understand that ACWC is committed to bring fullness of life for women and all creation.

The Present Scenario

*Asian countries are burdened with poverty, illiteracy, unhygienic living conditions, the ugly prong of HIV & AIDS and aggressive consumption of natural resources affect women and children.

*Asian countries bear the result of environmental pollution, ecological imbalance.

*Family violence is inherent in the Asian socio-cultural tradition.

*Social evils like human trafficking and dowry system prevent women from enjoying the fullness of life, denying them basic human rights.

We dedicate ourselves

*As co-workers in God's creation and with prayerful spirit, we shall take initiatives and moves to improve the value of women in church, society and family.

*God's word is the source of our strength, so we shall urge member churches of ACWC to re-read the Bible from women's perspective for its liberating power and way to fullness of life.

*We value the strength and future leadership of young women so ACWC & FLC should motivate, mentor and induct them as ambassadors.

*As we live in a pluralistic society we the church women should stand together side by side and hand in hand in love and peace.

*We will be good caretakers of God's blessings, and fulfil God's purposes of transforming women's lives for a better world.

*ACWC has the prophetic vision to bring about change in the lives of people so that they may have a fullness of life that God promises.

Being Christian women of Asia, we pledge to carry out these prophetic tasks for the realisation of a non-violent world, a new earth and life in its fullness.

From Darkness into Light

How often aspects of the current National ACW Inc. touch our daily lives. Reading through the programme which has been prepared for World Day of Prayer 2011 by the women of Chile I had to admit that I knew little of that country except what the Media had thrust into our homes when last year 33 miners were trapped for so long underground. The world watched wondering what would be their fate.

I share with you some excerpts from an article from Campus Crusade which followed their rescue.

When the miners came up one at a time in that capsule most were wearing special yellow T-shirts, specially created by the Chilean branch of Campus Crusade for Christ...in Spanish on the front the words read **"Thank you, Lord"** - the miners had asked for these words even as they waited for rescue. On the back was scripture from Psalm 95:4 **"In His hands are the depths of the earth, the heights of the mountains are His also"**.

Campus Crusade had provided the trapped miners while still deep underground—with MP3 players with the audio version of the "Jesus" film. They also received the Bible in audio format.

The Chaplain to the Chilean President, said of the rescued miners. "They're all wanting to testify to the Lord Jesus Christ. All 33 of them are saying that they found God in the mine. Five or six were already Christians and held services down in the mine. Many went down with no faith at all but they all say this "We were not 33; we were 34 because Jesus Christ was with us down there."

One told reporters *"we never lost faith. We knew we would be rescued. I have been with God and I've been with the devil. I seized the hand of God. I always knew God would get us out of there."*

One interesting point that has been missed was that a medic actually was sent down the rescue hole before the other miners could be brought up.

Isn't that a picture of what God did? He sent His Son down to us before we could be rescued. We all, like the miners, were in darkness. But as Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world, He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life"** (John 8:12). And, **"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness"** (John 12:46)

One can only imagine the reaction, if those miners, trapped deep underground, came across Psalm 88 on their audio Bibles, when these words rang in their ears:

"I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, Adrift among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths",

What's on in 2011

Make a note in your Diary or keep this page handy for quick reference



ACW Council Meetings Level 2, 222 Pitt Street Sydney

February 21;

March 21 (don't forget to have nominations ready)

April 18 (Annual General Meeting—Election of Officers)

June 20;

August 15

November 21

Executive Meetings will be held:

February 14;

March 14;

April 11

June 6

August 8

November 14

World Day of Prayer—March 4 2011

the programme has been prepared by the women of Chile
[your local church/newspapers usually advertise time & venue]

Annual Dedication Day, Monday May 16

10.30am Epping Presbyterian Church

July 18 Spiritual Enrichment Day

Time & Venue to be advised

July—Fellowship Day— "Living in the Light"

Winifred Kiek Scholarship Offerings

refer to local branch for meeting locations

September 11 ACWC Multicultural Concert of Praise

2pm Eastwood Baptist Church

October 10-14 ACW Inc. National Conference

Emanuel College, Adelaide

October— World Community Day

- topic to be advised

Fellowship of the Least Coin Offerings

refer to local branch for meeting locations

Your apology for non-attendance at Council Meetings would be appreciated.

(Secretary—Helen Hill (9484 1555))