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TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson
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However....

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

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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES \$15 per annum

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For further details contact Jennifer Pepper (9874 4056)

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Mrs Jennifer Pepper
3 Meadowbank Lane, West Ryde NSW 2114
Phone: 9874 4056 Email: rjpeffer@optusnet.com.au



Newsette

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.**

ACW Website: www.acw.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 Natalie McLeod

Phone: 9484 1615 Email: mcleod.natalie@bigpond.com

Number 140

August 2014

The President writes.....

Dear Members and Friends of ACW

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Dedication Service at Beecroft on 19th May. Each of the members of our committee felt encouraged by your prayers and support that day as we move into the new term of office.

Recent weeks have given us opportunities to honour long standing members of ACW. On 12th May many members attended Eastwood Baptist Church to give thanks for the life of the late Miss Shirley Wells who had been a National Life Member of ACW and a wonderful Christian example and encourager to so many over her long life.

In April Isabel Hewitt had hosted a group at the National Council of Women Jean Arnot luncheon when Merle Menzies and Nola Dickson were honoured amongst the women who had turned 90.

Over the last few months, Isabel, Lyn Middleton and Pamela Freeman have spent many hours sorting through archival materials at State and National level. This is a real labour of love, but I know they have had some interesting moments as snippets from the past come to light again. Perhaps as time goes on, they may share some with us.

Isabel has been a very able President over the last two years. She has brought many innovative ideas to our various activities and wonderful ways of sharing Christ's love with us. She continues to be very active on our committee and we will benefit from her presence.

By the time you read this, Ian and I will have been overseas to see our daughter and son-in-law and their children in France as well as some other old friends in England. I will be back in time for Fellowship Day, the ACWC Concert and Conference Day. I look forward to seeing many of you at these days and getting to know you better. There is always much to share through our Christian faith that we all experience as we walk with Christ. Thank You for your prayers.

President

Natalie McLeod,

Archives

The elderly steel cabinet with its filing drawer on top looked formidable, and the keys we tried were useless. The lock was unyielding, leaving us frustrated that its secrets – whatever they may be – were remaining just that, secrets. We had been told that the last person to close the drawer was Deaconess Mary Andrews who had died in 1996.

The key that had not worked on a different filing cabinet a couple of weeks previously was the next to be tried, but it too seemed not to elicit a response. There were two of us in the office, and as we unpacked boxes came across the original "Memorial Bursary Book" and shared the story of its loss in 2003. At a National Executive meeting when we were lamenting this loss Sr Marie Craddock told us that St Anthony of Padua was the patron saint of 'lost things', and Cela Cooper said she repeated the mantra, 'Jesus lost, Jesus found' – so we could try our luck if we wished. The next morning a phone call reported that the book had been found.

With this story in mind we tried once again to tease open the lock that was barring our entry to the filing cabinet drawer. It was not long until we were jubilant, though amazed at the mattress-ticking hanging files contained in the drawer. The files were unpacked, and the hanging file unit removed – with difficulty – to reveal, you guessed it, the keys for the cabinet and drawer!

...oOo...

God's requirements are met by God's enabling.

SPECIAL DAYS



As you read this article Fellowship day for 2014 will have been celebrated. The theme *Building Up the Body of Christ* was the first under the new overall theme of *Building In Harmony*. I hope you were able to share in a service in your area and that it was a time of rich ecumenical fellowship and ministry of the Word.

I have already received the material for World Community Day and will shortly be sending it out to the branches. The theme is *Building With Godly Wisdom* and has been prepared by the Cootamundra Branch of the NSW Unit of ACW.

The Special Project that 50% of the general offering will be going to support is **Travellers' Aid Victoria, Pathways to Education**. This program provides student travel passes to young people who are experiencing financial difficulties. Monthly, half-yearly and annual passes are provided to students in need, including:

- 1) Students from low socio-economic backgrounds
- 2) Students experiencing various stages of homelessness
- 3) Students from refugee and migrant backgrounds

The other 50% of the general offering goes of course to support the international scholarship projects of Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC). In early October this year ACWC is holding its Quadrennial Assembly in the Philippines to which ACW is sending four delegates. We can look forward to reports on this event with updates on the activities of ACWC.

World Community Day is usually held the last Friday in October. For a list of where services are to be held you can go to our website: www.acw.org.au, closer to the date, and click on State Units – NSW – Special Events. If you are organising a service and are able, please send details of your service to brendad2@optusnet.com.au for inclusion on this website.

World Community Day is also the ingathering for Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings.

Lyn Middleton
Special Days Convenor

2014 JEAN ARNOT LUNCHEON



Members of
ACW NSW who
attended the
luncheon

Merle Menzies and
Nola Dickson with The
Hon. Robyn Parker MP



This year ACW NSW State Unit Inc. hosted two ladies at the Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon held at Parliament House in Macquarie Street, Sydney in May. Merle Menzies and Nola Dickson were presented with Certificates of Appreciation by The Hon. Robyn Parker MP. The address was given by The Hon. Dr Elisabeth Kirkby OAM, a 93 year old who graduated with a PhD from Sydney University in April. Her thesis topic asked the question *Will We Ever Learn from History? The Impact of Economic Orthodoxy on Unemployment During the Great Depression in Australia*. Both Merle and Nola recalled personal memories of life in that time, while Elisabeth spoke from her research findings to challenge the demeaning of citizens for whom there is no work. It was a pity there were not more MPs in attendance to hear her strong call for a more caring government and society.

...o0o...
God never makes us conscious of our weakness except to give us of His strength

PASTORAL CARE



Winter is certainly upon us! We need to take extra care of ourselves and hopefully avoid any "nasties".

Already one of our Council Members has had a very severe dose of bronchitis/pneumonia. When we are ill just making the effort to visit the doctor takes all our energy, doesn't it?

Our prayers are with anyone we know who is ill at present, or who is caring for a loved one. They need to know our Precious God is watching over them, so we keep them in our thoughts also. We are aware that not everyone likes to be named when they are ill, so we pray for anyone who is suffering from illness, weariness, sadness or perhaps concerned about a situation that they cannot control. Our Lord knows our needs, he hears our prayers and loves us unreservedly. What a friend we have in Jesus.

Helen Hill,
Convenor

Everyone is welcome
at our

Annual Multicultural Concert of Praise

Sunday, 24th August, 2014

**At Epping Baptist Church
Cnr. Carlingford Road & Rawson Street**

Commencing at 2pm

Offering for
Asian Christian Women's Conference

Afternoon Tea

Choirs, Band, Musical & Cultural Items



*Service of Installation & Dedication
May 19, 2014
St John's Anglican Church
Beecroft
Retiring President: Isabel Hewitt
New President: Natalie McLeod*





WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP NEWS UPDATE

Whilst we continue to remember the 2014 Scholars **Wasano** (Sri Lanka) and **Seng Ja** (Myanmar) please be praying for the WKS Trustees as they look at the applications for 2015 Multicultural Australia.

It is always good to hear from past Scholars – Easter Greetings once again from **Nighat Gulzar** (1994).

Christy Ferguson (2009) remains in Melbourne on 2 years extended leave from her sending Mission organisation. She is keeping up her nursing skills working in a hospital and is grateful that through bike riding and her accommodation she has made new friends. She was planning to go to Indonesia in July to a friend's wedding. Continue to pray for her national co-workers back in her overseas "town".

Tonu Fakraufon (2010 Fiji) recently had contact with the National WKS Convenor, **Nancy McLaren**. Her internet access is limited. She is involved in a small community, Nakasi which wasn't very easy at first as there are many conservative Christians, but she thanks God that His plans for her are slowly coming in place. Tonu feels blessed by God as last year she married a seafarer who shares her relationship with God. Tonu did studies here in Sydney at the previous Alan Walker Pacific Theological College.

Leinamau (2007 Vanuatu) values continued prayer as she seeks to be able to do studies next year for a "rest" from ministry.

Thank you for your continued partnership with these women. It is good to hear from then and to be able to pray.

Judith Cayzer,
Convenor

Social Issues

Rae Goth, the Convenor suggests that we continue to make contact with Scott Morrison (head of the recently renamed Department of Immigration and Border Protection) concerning refugees seeking to be assessed for asylum in Australia.

It is of concern that there is a lack of information regarding the presence and status of these refugees.



Congratulations

Rotary Clubs from time to time honour individuals within the community as 'Paul Harris Fellows.' These honourees are individuals who meet high professional and personal standards set forth by Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary International in 1905.

Major Lillian Hodges (Pastoral Care & Officer Well-Being Team) was recently named and recognised as a 'Paul Harris Fellow.'

Lillian was bestowed this honour by a Sydney Rotary Club "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world".

Lillian is currently both State & National ACW Convenor for Fellowship of the Least Coin.



Old Words, New Meanings

*Not long ago, webs were for spiders;
Blackberry and Apple made pie,
And words such as phone, pad and player were
not constantly prefixed with "i".*

*Surfing was done at the beach,
Cookies were something to eat.
A virus or bug made you feel poorly,
And Spam was a type of tinned meat.*

*On line was where we hung the washing,
No verbs such as "bookmark" or "text".
Now tweeting is not just for songbirds,
And goodness knows what's coming next!*

*Old words have so many new meanings -
Yet we have to be willing to learn.*

What a blessing that God's Word remains the same—yesterday, today and forever.

...oOo...

*Many wonder how long before Newsette is available by email....
Let the Editor know if you would prefer to receive it that way.*



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

For this issue of Newsette, I would like to share with you some thoughts which have been written by Rev. Lee, Moon-Sook who is the Executive Secretary for Asian Church Women's Conference. ACWC members are National Church Women's ecumenical bodies of Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand.

ACWC members consider the FLC movement as an important part of their activities because the ACWC began with the organization and expansion of the movement of the FLC and the legacy has naturally and ceaselessly continued up to this day.

In 2013 six Asian projects submitted through the ACWC were supported by the FLC Project Grant.

They are "Baan Sai Than Foundation" Japan, offering job training including sewing, massage and shoe repair skills to those suffering from HIV/AIDS and facing severe discrimination,

From Taiwan, Translating the Autobiography of Dr. Esther Byu,

From Australia, "Women die waiting – Breast Cancer in Gaza

From South Korea "Lecturing Tour for "Action of Nuclear-Free World

From Australia, "Kids Matta", to help with camps for children who have at least one parent in prison

From the Philippines "Smokey Mountain"

ACWC also received a FLC Block Grant of USD2,000 that has been used to activate ACWC's work to promote unity of Asian Church Women.

ACWC have also been supporting an ACWC Project Fund for its members' programs for women and children. In 2013 six projects were given support -

"Rehabilitation program for the Victims of Building Collapse in Bangladesh

"Bright Life" (Micro Finance) for Cambodia,

"Income Generation for Women" for Myanmar,

"Business Venture Training" for Nepal

Diploma in Tailoring" for Sri Lanka

"Women Handcraft Project for Thailand

Rev Lee Moon-Sook thanks God for the beautiful journey with sisters from the different regions through the FLC movement for justice, peace and reconciliation

Major Lillian Hodges,

Convenor

Memorial Gifts for Fellowship of the Least Coin

Mention has already been made by our President of the passing of Shirley Wells.....loved and well known for her warmth, encouragement and passion for Fellowship of the Least Coin both at State and National level.

This 'passion' did not cease with her passing but she had left the specific request that Memorial Gifts in Lieu of floral tributes be given to Fellowship of the Least Coin. \$583.60 has been received to date.

As a result of Shirley's thoughtfulness we now have available a special envelope and donation slip.....perhaps if you want to give a gift instead of flowers sometime, you may consider using this method of giving which will be used to help others.

You are invited to ...

NSW State Day Conference

Monday 15th September 2014

Time: 10am-1pm

St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall

37 Swan Avenue, Strathfield

THEME : COMMUNICATING THE MESSAGE

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

Morning Tea provided. Bring your own lunch.

Transport: Walk from Strathfield Station.

There is limited parking in the church grounds and some parking available in the side streets near the church.

RSVP to Pamela Freeman 9873 1701

Thank You

I would like to express not only the thanks of the ACW State Unit, but also my personal sincere thanks to **Brenda Dickinson** who has faithfully been the Newsette Manager over many years. Brenda has kept subscriber lists, prepared envelopes and been an amazing proof reader (which I needed and appreciated). Brenda has juggled this with the added roles of National/State Web Master and also the organiser of the special day meetings of Sutherland ACW branch.

This issue comes to you with a new "proof reader", *Elizabeth McEwen.*