

# Australian Church Women

NOVEMBER 1963

This newsletter comes to you with greetings and good wishes from the Interim Committee of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN. There are several items of interest that we want to share with you.

## THREE STATES ACCEPT INVITATION.

As you know the existing inter-church groups in the various States have been working for many years to bring the women of the various denominations together in fellowship and service. The Australian Council of Churches also has been concerned to bring the women of the churches together both at the local and national level. You will remember that at its 1963 Annual Meeting the Australian Council of Churches decided to set up an interim committee for Australian Church Women. During the year invitations have been extended to the women's inter-church councils in the various States to accept the responsibility of being the council or unit for Australian Church Women. We are happy to report that up to November three inter-church councils, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales had accepted the invitation. In Australian Church Women these councils will be linked with one another and with the wider Ecumenical Movement.

## COMMUNITY DAY.

In 1963 World Community Day was observed in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory. Although the observance was not widespread all who participated agreed that the day had been most valuable. A study outline and a worship service on the theme "Who is my Neighbour?" were prepared and published and were distributed through State women's inter-church councils.

The Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council has been invited to undertake the preparation of a study and a worship service for use on World Community Day 1964.

The theme will be "Christians and World Peace" and further details will be available early in the New Year.

## VISIT OF DR. MADELEINE BAROT.

Dr. Barot, executive secretary of the WCC's Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society visited Australia during October. She addressed women's groups in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

Her visit was arranged by the Interim Committee and her state itineraries were arranged by the state units of Australian Church Women in Victoria and New South Wales. Dr. Barot also visited Tasmania as the guest of the Tasmanian Council of Churches.

In her addresses and in consultations Dr. Barot asked many stimulating and provocative questions. The following are examples:

- . Do you think that women should be more widely represented on the governing bodies of the church? On mission boards, on synods, education committees, etc.?
- . What is the church's responsibility to mothers employed outside the home?

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- How can professional women be encouraged to remain within the fellowship of the church?

As Dr. Barot left Australia she warmly commended the formation of Australian Church Women.

"SAINTS ALIVE!" - DISCUSSION BOOKLET AVAILABLE.

The Interim Committee is producing a discussion booklet entitled "Saints Alive!" for use in women's denominational and inter-church groups. The studies are equally suitable for combined groups of men and women.

There are four studies in the booklet. Each study includes opening devotions, Bible Study and questions for discussion. The study deals with the role of lay men and lay women in the church and in the world. It includes one study on the place of women in the church and the opportunities for great cooperation of men and women in the life of the church. We hope that this study will be widely used.

"Saints Alive!" will be available during December and will cost 1/- plus postage for single copies; 10/- for 12 or more.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION.

A National Consultation is being planned for March 17-18, 1964 in Sydney. This consultation is being called to discuss the future development of Australian Church Women.

The Interim Committee has invited two delegates from each of the three state councils or units of Australian Church Women to share in this consultation. It is hoped that other states may also be represented.

A.C.C. ANNUAL MEETING.

The Interim Committee has been invited to send a consultant to the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches which is to be held in Melbourne, from February 6 - 11.

N.S.W. APPOINTS PROMOTION OFFICER.

The NSW Women's Inter-Church Council has appointed Mrs. D.J.A. Verco as a promotion officer. She will encourage the formation of local women's inter-church groups both in the country and the suburbs. Mrs. Verco will introduce Community Day, Fellowship Day and the Australian Church Women Bible Study to these groups.

COOPERATION OF MEN & WOMEN IN CHURCH, FAMILY & SOCIETY.

At its November meeting the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches decided to appoint a committee to act as a liaison between the WCC's Department on the Cooperation of Men & Women in Church, Family & Society and the Australian Council of Churches. In this way it is hoped that the documents and valuable work of this Department will be made available both to women's groups via Australian Church Women and to other sections of the Australian Council of Churches.

We trust that you will follow the future development of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN with active interest and concern and that together we will go forward into the New Year praying and working for Christian unity. The following prayer is suggested for our use:

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"O Father, who has declared thy love to men by the birth of the Holy Child at Bethlehem, help us to welcome him with gladness and to make room for him in our common days, so that we may live in peace and unity with one another and in good will with all thy family, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
AMEN. "

With all good wishes for a happy Christmastime.

Mrs. M. G. Wyllie,  
Convener.

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