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Reverend Winifred Kiek, MA, BD

Born Winifred Jackson 1884 Manchester, England
Died 1975
Education BA 1923 Manchester University
B D (Hons) Melbourne University
MA 1929 Adelaide University
Family Married Rev. Edward Sidney Kiek
Came to Australia in 1920 with husband
and 3 children



Ordained 1927 at Colonel Light Gardens Congregational Church Adelaide – minister there for 8 years. Later at Knoxville Congregational Church.
1920 & 1950 President Congregational Home Mission
1936-40 & 1948-50 President Congregational Women's Society
First President Congregational Women's Association of Australia & New Zealand
First woman on Executive Congregational Union of South Australia–Vice President twice
1952 Worked with World Commission 'Consultation' in Oxford–cooperation men/women
1952-56 Convener ACC Commission on Cooperation of Men & Women in Churches

In the 1920s she addressed the Adelaide Theological Circle and the Christian Sociological Society, both exclusively male organisations. She objected strongly to segregation of the sexes, to intolerance between denominations or between religions, and to any form of discrimination against women. She was, however, a strong supporter and was several times President of the ecumenical women's work (Women's Inter-Church Council and Australian Church Women). She was instrumental in founding a Scholarship for Asian and Pacific Christian women. This is now called the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and has been operating very successfully since 1965.

Winifred lectured in Old Testament and Comparative Religions to students at Parkin Congregational Theological College where her husband was Principal for 37 years.

Her involvement in the peace movement began with the League of Nations Union and the Pan Pacific Women's Association – President and overseas delegate, leading the Australian delegation to the 1952 International Conference on Equality & Peace in Naples.

Concern for social problems, law and justice led to work in the National Council of Women, League of Women Voters, and Woman's Christian Temperance Union where for 20 years she made radio broadcasts on their behalf, and was a probation officer for the Children's Court. To assist the aged, Winifred helped to establish retirement accommodation and she herself led a very active life at Allambi in her eighties.

Winifred ran the 'Good Companions' marionette show, and made the puppets herself. The troupe toured South Australia raising money for charity, and entertained the Army during the war. She lectured to the University Theatre Guild, gave demonstrations and broadcasts.

All kinds of handiwork interested her – she took a prize for patchwork at Adelaide Show.

Her publications include:

Child Nature and Child Nurture (used as a text book in Canada); *Honest Bible Enjoyment*; *We of One House*; *Christmas is for Everyone*.

Her biography, entitled *Winifred* (M. Knauerhase) appeared in 1978.

Olive Grace Ackland

Born 4 September 1923 at Sea Lake, Victoria

Education Obtained her Trained Primary Teachers Certificate at Melbourne Teachers College.

Family Married Laurence Ackland in October 1946, and was widowed April 1985.
Mother to four sons, one daughter, and has several grandchildren.



Originally Methodist, Olive became a member of the Uniting Church in Australia in the Parish of Coburg, Congregation of Merlynston. As an Elder, she became Secretary of the Parish Council of Elders, and Treasurer of the Merlynston Congregation. Active in the Uniting Church Fellowship she encouraged local ecumenical activities. She served as a member of Synod Ecumenical Affairs Committee, and as a member of UCF Assembly Outreach Committee.

Olive's ACW involvement was varied:

- represented Methodist Women 1965-1977, UCA 1977-1986
- President 1970/1971 and 1984/1985
- Also – Secretary, Minute Secretary, Special Days Convener
- National Committee 1981-1983 Special Days Convener
- Attended National Conferences 1975, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987
- National Delegate Asian Church Women's Conference 1982/1986
- Member of General Committee and Executive Committee ACWC 1982/1986
- Attended Consultation on Tourism and Prostitution, Taiwan, 1985
- Represented ACWC at All India Council of Christian Women Assembly in Madras, 1986 as part of Team Visit to India
- Attended ACWC Assembly in Bali 1982 and Bangkok 1986

Other ecumenical involvement has included Local Ecumenism Commission of the Victorian Council of Churches, Assistant Secretary of Coburg Inter Church Council, and Local Organiser for Special Days and World Day of Prayer.

Olive also worked as Honorary Treasurer and as a volunteer counsellor for the Coburg Citizens Advice Bureau, did home tutoring teaching English to migrants, and in earlier years helped on kindergarten and school committees.

Her interests include: studying to qualify as Lay Preacher
the Status of Women in Church and Society
inclusive language in worship
involvement of lay people in worship
travel overseas and in Australia
family, church, home, garden,
banner making, knitting, reading and cryptic crosswords.

National Life Member September 1987

Victorian State Unit ACW

Deaconess Mary Andrews AM

Born 20 March 1915 at Cooma NSW
Died 16 October 1996
Education 1933-34 Nursing Training
1935-36 Croydon Missionary & Bible College
1937-38 Anglican Deaconess House– Diploma
1st Class Hons.
Family Father, Albert George Andrews was a grazier.
Mother, Anne (Mackay) Andrews.



1938-45 Church Missionary Society China
1945-46 Worked in Children's House & Home for Destitute Women & Girls, Lahore
1947-51 China – teaching, pastoral work
1952-75 Principal Deaconess House – Sydney
1951-82 Head Deaconess – Sydney Anglican Diocese
1976 Part time Chaplain Anglican Retirement Villages
1951-82 President Deaconess Fellowship
1978-82 National Liaison Officer Women's World Day of Prayer
1983-85 Secretary of NSW World Day of Prayer Committee
1985-87 Vice-President of NSW World Day of Prayer Committee
1973-87 NSW National Council of Women – 1984 Vice-President
1957-87 NSW Women's Inter-Church Council, later became NSW Unit of ACW.
President 1959-60
1951-87 Associated with many Anglican hospital boards and committees

Mary Andrews:

"My philosophy is rooted in the Christian faith- which is the central and all influencing power in my life. I have sought throughout my life to uphold the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ- of love to all people. As a Christian I believe I am called to serve with compassion, love, humility, patience and joy wherever in the community and world I am called to work."

In the course of her work, Mary Andrews toured all over the world, attending conferences as a delegate or representing Australian Church Women.

1967 1st International Interdenominational Women's Conference, in Taizé, France.
1971 Attended Church Women United Assembly, in Wichita, USA.
1978 Represented Australia at International Women's World Day of Prayer meetings, in Lusaka, Zambia.
1979 Attended Church Women United Assembly, Los Angeles, USA.
1982 Women's World Day of Prayer Meeting, in Tutzing, Germany.

In her leisure time, Mary enjoyed gardening, walking, photography and cooking.

1980 Member of the Order of Australia, for Services to Religion.
1985 Fellow of International Biographical Association
1973 National Life Member ACW
1981 State Life Member

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Elizabeth (Betty) Ashton

Born 12 February 1911 nee Paton
Died 28 May 1971
Education BA 1932, Dip Ed 1934 University of Melbourne
Family Betty married Dr F R Ashton just prior to the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong.



Betty was a woman of grace and charm, with a trained mind, broad sympathies and an understanding heart. She brought to her office all the rich gifts of her whole personality. Service was the keynote of her life and her influence will live on. She was a long time member of Union Church in Hong Kong, sang in the choir, and worked hard fund-raising for the Mission to Lepers. On returning to Australia Betty and Frank attended the Collins Street Independent Church, though Betty was Presbyterian.

Shortly after their marriage, both Betty and her husband were imprisoned in Stanley Prison from 1941 to 1945. Here they both worked for the welfare of the prisoners. She had a firm faith which was thus tested in the fires of experience. Of her grim experiences through those years, Mrs Ashton spoke little. The hardships and privations did not embitter her, rather was her spirit refined and her faith intensified.

Mrs Ashton became National President of Australian Church Women when the Executive was in Melbourne in 1969.

She was also National President of the YWCA 1969-71.

She was one of a delegation of five who attended Asian Church Women's Conference at Sukahumi, Indonesia in 1970 where her participation was much appreciated.

We pay tribute to one who early committed herself to the Christian way of life and served sacrificially and finished the course with honour.

Victorian State Unit ACW

Jean Austen

Born 1915

Died August 2002

Education

Family Married to Cliff.
Mother to three sons, had grandchildren and one great grandchild



Having been widowed from husband Cliff for many years, Jean was close to her three sons, grandchildren and her one great grandchild.

She was a member of Pilgrim Uniting Church. She was also a member of the South Launceston Bowls Club and a Life Membership was bestowed on her there.

Known as a most caring and generous person, Jean used her car and driving skill to assist those without transport as a means to shopping and keeping appointments. She also made hospital and nursing home visits part of her caring outreach for others.

As a clever craft creator and seamstress Jean's aprons and lovely crafts adorned many a stall. Jean made the most of every opportunity to assist the travel fund by thousands of dollars from selling her craft on the stalls she organised at meetings, fund raisers and at all 'special days' events. Because she believed in always being busy, Jean continued to make and supply crafts for stalls at the aged care residence 'The Manor' that became her home in recent years.

Loving to garden extended to flower arranging. On behalf of ACW Jean presented a lovely floral arrangement at the annual Flower Festival at St John's Church for many years. Jean carried her love of flowers right into her days of living in the hostel where a small garden was her very own and displayed the colourful and caring touch that was a gift of Jean's and a delight to all to behold.

The smiling face and caring personality of Jean Austen will be warmly remembered by all who were privileged to know her at Australian Church Women Launceston.

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Juliet Nancy Backhouse

Born 1924, Armidale, NSW.

Died 1997

Education Graduated Sydney University 1947
MB BS (Syd), Dip TM&H, Dip Ger., FRACGP



Juliet Backhouse sailed in 1952 for Tanzania (Tanganyika) as a young doctor of 27 years. She began to practise a very high standard of medicine with limited resources, managing many difficult problems for which she had received no specific training.

Dr Backhouse worked as physician and surgeon, gynaecologist and obstetrician in isolated bush hospitals where she was absolutely committed to her patients' welfare. It was said she could diagnose a condition from the doorway!

Juliet worked in the Church Missionary Society hospitals of Kilimatinde, Berega and Mvumbi from 1952 to 1966; in Moshi at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre from 1972 to 1974; and at the Professional Unit in Dodoma from 1974 to 1976. During the earlier years she was the only medically qualified person within a vast area and had to deal with every medical and surgical emergency at all hours of the day and night. As well, she had to manage staffing, administration, equipment, maintenance and building supervision. She often gave the anaesthetic prior to performing the operation. She had a special love for children and couldn't bear to see them suffer.

Her compassion for the people of Africa was motivated by a desire to share the Love of God and Jesus' message of reconciliation which she had experienced in her own life. She went as a warm human being to those who were suffering. She showed this love, not so much with words but with actions. She was, however, not lacking in words – she was a gifted linguist who spent time teaching Swahili to many young workers new to the field. She was also involved in editorial work in the field of African Christian Literature. She went to Africa in response to Jesus' command to heal the sick. Juliet neither counted the cost nor sought reward.

Back in Australia she became full-time Medical Officer in several hospitals in Victoria involved in Geriatric and Rehabilitation work. This continued in country New South Wales and in 1984 she became Staff Geriatrician at the Hornsby-Kuring-gai Geriatric and Rehabilitation Service. Juliet did several locums, even going back to Tanzania for three months in 1987. Now retired, she taught English to migrant groups. In her final illness her great intelligence, her independence and her dignity were stripped from her one by one and she was hospitalised in a unit which she had done much to establish in her geriatric work.

It was in the latter years of her life that the late Deaconess Mary Andrews brought Juliet along to be part of the Anglican representation on Australian Church Women (NSW State Unit). Although she did not hold office, this same caring, compassionate lady gave herself humbly and quietly to the Unit. She would be there at 'packing days' and found alongside people helping and encouraging them.

Juliet Backhouse is one of those who enriched the NSW Unit and will be remembered for her deep abiding love of the Lord Jesus Christ whom she served faithfully.

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Jean Banyard

Born 4 October 1920 in the UK

Died 1983

Family Married to Frank.
Mother of five children.



Jean was an Elder in the congregation of All Saints Presbyterian Church, Floreat and was on the Board of Management. She is remembered for her support of the ministers and for her work as an efficient and effective Treasurer. Jean was a person who was concerned with social Justice.

She was a leader of the Women's Guild, arranged flowers on a regular basis, organised events, and made cakes when needed. This congregation became part of the Uniting Church in June 1977 and Jean continued her involvement.

Jean Banyard became a member of the Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women in 1974. One of the first women in Western Australia to be a qualified Chartered Accountant, she was appointed Treasurer of the National Executive from 1975-1977. At this time Jean and her husband Frank were busy parents of five children.

She was also an active member of Amnesty International, working tirelessly for this cause. She was a great organiser, always wanting to achieve goals.

From 1978 until her death in 1983 Jean was Treasurer of the Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women. During these five years she was receiving treatment for cancer, and her courage and faith at this time were an example to all who knew her.

Western Australian State Unit ACW

Inice Benjafield

Born January 1930

Died April 2002

Education

Family



Inice was an only child, and as a single lady appreciated the many friends and carers she met through Church and related organisations.

She was a member of Trinity Uniting Church, Launceston, Tasmania where she was an Elder, and had been a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Inice enjoyed the quality things of life. She travelled extensively, attended symphony concerts, and joined numerous choirs throughout her life. She gave time to those she knew needed encouragement.

Soon after joining Australian Church Women, Inice accepted nomination as Secretary, serving diligently in this position for a great many years.

Inice will be greatly remembered as one who worked with God's people in many different areas, sharing with them the hand of fellowship.

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Lynette Michele Birtwhistle

Born 17 July 1938, Victoria
Died 20 March 1995
Education Broadland House, Launceston
Family Married Barry in March 1964.
Mother to two daughters, Lisa and Kylie.



Lynette was the much loved chosen daughter of Thomas and Helen Wilmot of Launceston, Tasmania.

Lynette attended Sunday School at the Church of Christ and later became a Sunday School teacher. She filled many positions within her church. She was especially dedicated to the women's role in the church. Along with her husband she had a great love of music and possessed a lovely contralto voice, using this gift in the church choir and other singing groups.

Her positions within the Australian Church Women included President and Secretary of the Launceston Branch.

Lyn had a compassionate nature, caring for others in a very special way. Many sick, sad, or lonely people received encouraging notes, beautifully expressed with great love and affection. She was gracious, caring, and gentle in every way.

The very dimness of my sight
Makes me secure
For groping in my misty way
I feel His hand, I hear Him say
My help is sure.

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Margaret (Peg) Blake

Born 22 September 1923 Newcastle NSW

Died

Education Intermediate Certificate
Business College
Secretarial Teacher at colleges from 1963;
Department of Education (TAFE) 1976-1993.

Family Husband Arthur
Son Iain has two boys
Daughter Glenda has two girls and 1 boy



Foundation member Caringbah Presbyterian, Choir member
Kinder/Primary Superintendent 1955-1979, trainer of Sunday School Teachers
Foundation Secretary of PWA, President PWA
Organiser of pastoral care for many early years

Twenty years member of Australian Church Women
Minute Secretary, Special Days Convener, Assistant Secretary,
Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener, Publicity Officer, President 1996-1998.

Peg's many valuable contributions to NSW State Unit include the revision of our constitution and the formulating of our mission statement, as well as representing Council at many functions and National Conferences.

Nominated by Unit for National Council of Women's 'Woman of the Year' – finalist.
President 20 years of Sutherland Branch of ACW.

Leader 15 years of Sutherland Core Group of Prayer on Wheels – President 12 years
Royal Blind Society Volunteer Reader for 22 years
Currently reading to visually impaired in Frank Vickery Village, Sylvania
Teacher of English as second language for 4 years
Chorister for 22 years in Combined Churches Choir
Received seven local awards for community contribution

In all of these activities Peg has always acknowledged Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour and her gracious presence gives a glowing testimony to the reality of her experience of her Lord, whose love she radiates. The NSW State Unit is thrilled with this opportunity to honour Peg as an outstanding Australian Church Woman!

Peg will be remembered by her peers in ACW as a woman of poise and principle in whom was embodied the wisdom and fullness of life experience in education and leadership within the Church, and professionally.

State Life Member September 2003

NSW State Unit ACW

Margaret Delores Carpenter

Born Margaret Delores Verco in 1932.
Died 1988
Education
Family Margaret was a loving and loved wife.
Mother of three, 2 sons (1 dec.) & a daughter.
A loving grandmother of two.



Margaret spent most of her life in the Brighton area, in South Australia. She was a member of the Seacliff Methodist Church, and after Union continued worshipping and serving the Seacliff Uniting Church. Margaret was involved in many aspects of church life, both locally and in the wider church. At Seacliff she served on the Property and Finance Committee, both President and Secretary of the Women's Fellowship, President and Life Member of the Netball Club, and she was an active badminton player.

In the wider church, Margaret

- taught Religious Instruction in Schools in the 1950/60s
- served on the Brighton Branch of Australian Church Women
- was the liaison officer to the ACW State Unit for a number of years
- represented her church on the Brighton/Marion Inter-Church Council.

In the community, she served with

- Meals on Wheels
- the Girl Guides Association
- the local school canteen.

In the wake of many personal and health difficulties her strong faith did not waver. Her secret was simply her "trust in her Lord".

South Australian State Unit ACW

Mary Carroll (Molly)

Born 15 January 1921, Brisbane
Died 1 May 2002
Education St Joseph's Convent and Lourdes Hill College
Family Married Kevin Carroll 1944
Mother to daughter Judith, two grandchildren



Mary Carroll (Witham) was a devout Catholic, born in Brisbane, educated at St Joseph's Convent and Lourdes Hill College, which prepared her for secretarial positions during WWII.

In 1944 Mary married Kevin Carroll, residing in Annerley for the rest of her life. They had one daughter, Judith, son-in-law Augustine and two grandchildren.

Over the years Mary's passion was the Catholic Women's League and she was instrumental in forming the first Branch at Annerley in 1979. When Kevin died, Mary devoted her life to charitable works and CWL.

Many of Mary's achievements are as follows:

1981-1984 Archdiocesan President of CWL; Vice President and Secretary in 1987
Established the CWL official magazine *Take Time*
Established the *Olive Branch* for CWL Widows and Single Women
1993 Mary was honoured to receive the League's highest award 'The Certificate of Honour' for her dedication to Archdiocesan, State and National Committees of Catholic Women's League.

In 1979 Mary joined Australian Church Women Queensland Unit as a delegate for CWL:

1983 Mary was President Elect
1984-1986 Served as State President; National Vice President 1983-1985
1985 She was Publicity Officer for the National Conference held in Brisbane.

Mary resigned from Australian Church Women through ill health in November 1996 but continued her interest, attending our Special Day Services and Musical Morning Teas.

On World Community Day, 26 October 1998 in St Andrew's Uniting Church, Mary was presented with a 'Certificate of Appreciation' by Australian Church Women Queensland Unit for her dedication.

Mary will be remembered by these words spoken at her Farewell Service: Well done good and Faithful Servant.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Rachel Horne Cocks

- Born** Rachel Horne Leighton was born 1919 in Hobart, Tasmania
- Died** 1995
- Education** Attended Hobart schools
Nursing Education at Royal Hobart Hospital from 1938-1944. This included Certificates for:
- General Nursing, 1942
 - Child Health Care & Obstetric Nursing 1943
 - Tuberculosis Nursing 1960.
- Family** In 1970 she married the Rev Norman F Cocks.



Rachel worked as a District Nurse West Coast Tasmania 1944-1946
Medical Missionary Nurse with London Missionary Society Gemo Island Hospital and Gulf District, Papua 1946-1960
Charge Sister and an Assistant Matron Royal Hobart Hospital 1960-1971.

Involvement with Australian Church Women included:

- Secretary Tasmanian State Unit 1970
- National Representative Asian Church Women's Conference 1974-1978
- National Representative ACWC and Member of Executive 1978-1982
- National President Australian Church Women 1980-1982.

Rachel's other interests were embroidery, art and French studies.

State Life Member
National Life Member September 1987
Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Pauline Crosby BEM

Born 16 February 1915, Burra, South Australia

Died 23 May 1993

Education

Family Married Keith Crosby in 1939.
Mother to two sons and a daughter.



Following the death of her parents when she was four, Pauline Medwell was cared for by her uncle and aunt. Her childhood was spent in Adelaide where she became involved at Prospect Church of Christ from an early age.

Her commitment to her Lord began at this time and as she grew she was involved in worship, Sunday School, Christian Endeavour and Youth group. Life interest in membership of Girls' Life Brigade (later the Girls' Brigade), led to her becoming leader, State Commissioner and first Federal Commissioner. She was honoured with Life Membership as a tribute to her dedication.

In 1939 Pauline and Keith sailed for England where they spent the years of WWII. Experience gained as a member of the Women's Voluntary Service was well used in later years. Returning to Australia in 1946 they renewed their membership in Prospect Church of Christ. Pauline served on many church committees at local and state level. In 1970 she was Hospitality Convener for the Churches of Christ World Conference.

In 1948 she became a Churches of Christ delegate to the Women's United Church Association – later to become the SA Women's Inter Church Council and then the SA Unit of ACW. Over a period of more than 40 years she held many positions on Executive, including Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener, Treasurer, President, Community Concern Convener and Jubilee 150 Convener. She also served as National Vice-President 1985-1987.

In the late 60s Pauline assisted in the organising of Hospital Visiting Training Courses. In 1971 she became the liaison person between the Royal Adelaide Hospital Social Workers and community groups providing domiciliary care for newly discharged patients. This led to the founding of the RAH Volunteer group, Lavender Lads and Ladies. Today it is a unique vibrant patient-oriented group – a lasting memorial to the vision of Pauline and others. After serving as Coordinator and President Pauline received Life Vice-Presidency in 1981. She continued to be active in the organisation until her death. On National Council of Women she served a term as Vice President, and later was President of her local Probus Club. In 1983 she was awarded the British Empire Medal in recognition of her services to church and community.

Pauline's clear thinking and ability with words were very evident in her involvement in the formulation and revision of constitutions and the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Deed of Trust. She gave of herself wherever she was – the text she chose as her own – "I can do all things through Christ" was truly exemplified in her life. Her hospitality, her encouragement, her vision, led others in their service to our Lord.

We give thanks to God and pay tribute to the tremendous contribution Pauline made in so many places. A listening ear, and encouraging word, an example of faith, the challenge of a new task, a vision for future development – this is the legacy she left.

State Life Member 1988

South Australian State Unit ACW

Vera Dean

- Born 16 July 1913 in England.
- Died 27 March, 1994.
- Education Enrolled in Nursing Course, Royal Perth Hospital, but owing to ill health was unable to complete her training.
- Family Came to Australia with her family in 1927.



Vera worked as a nurse for doctors in private practice.

It was after her retirement in the early seventies that she became involved in the WA Unit of Australian Church Women. When the National Executive was situated in Perth from 1975-1977 she became National Secretary, fulfilling this role with great efficiency. Vera was WA State Secretary from 1978-81 and during these years of office was a delegate to National Conferences in Adelaide, Perth, Sydney and Hobart. After she was unable to attend meetings her interest in the activities of Australian Church Women on both a State and National level was maintained.

In spite of recurrent health problems Vera was for twenty years a member of the Board of Management and a committed volunteer worker of the Churches of Christ Christian Welfare Centre.

It is with love and admiration that we remember Vera Dean.

West Australian State Unit ACW.

Jessie Dennis

Born 11 May 1907 near Nambour, Queensland.

Died 22 September 1992 in Brisbane.

Education

Family



She led a very active life in the Presbyterian Church, being elected an Elder in 1971. She was Secretary and then President of the Presbyterian Women's Association, and was one of four Australian Delegates elected to General Assembly of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1970.

After Union, Jessie continued her work in the Uniting Church, as Vice-President of the Auxiliary to World Mission, and Home Mission Auxiliary. She was President for twenty years of the Australian Inland Mission, being a personal friend of Dr John Flynn and his successor, Rev Fred McKay.

Jessie was a member of the Queensland Unit of Women's Inter-Church Council, later named Australian Church Women, and served as Secretary, then State President. Jessie Dennis was National President, the first woman in the Queensland Unit to hold that position, and served her term in 1971. In all, she served more than 25 years and was made a Life Member in recognition of her service and dedication to the Unit.

Jessie was fond of writing and reciting poetry; the following was found in her effects, and read at the funeral service. Jessie Dennis was a special person loved by all.

*Her body has gone to the earth, and it will become dust
But her spirit is in the air –
It will whisper to me on the wind,
I shall hear it on running waters,
It will hide in the morning music of the birds,
And in the lonely night cry of the owl.*

Vale Jessie Dennis.

State Life Member

Queensland State Unit ACW

Keelah Pulsford Dey

Born 8 February 1910.
Died 5 January 1987.
Education Included a Diploma from
Sydney Kindergarten Training College.
Family Married to John, daughters Jenny and Ros



Mrs Dey was one of the founders of Australian Church Women. She was the first Treasurer of ACW and was a gracious, loving committee member. From a Congregational Church background, Keelah became a member of the Uniting Church at the time of Union in 1977.

Ecumenical concerns led to a long standing interest in and support of the Australian Council of Churches where she represented the Congregational Union of Australia. She was elected by the Congregational Union of Australia to be the first woman member of the Board of the Uniting Church in North Australia (a co-operating body in which Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian denominations participated). In the 1960s Keelah was a member of a group describing itself as *Christian Women Concerned* (consisting of Roman Catholics, Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational and Society of Friends) who sought to study and take action "Love thy Neighbour".

She was also a member of the Commission on the Status of Women of the ACC, and a member of Magdalen Collective, a group of women which has published *Magdalen*. In a paper on Enquiry into the Status of Women in the Church submission Mrs Dey wrote:

"I would like to see the status of women in the Church as one of sharing equally with men on the basis of complete equality in all aspects of the Church's activities with everyone giving leadership and discharging responsibilities upon the basis of their capabilities without regard to their sex and with no functions regarded as especially suited to one sex or the other.

It seems to me that the achievement of a proper status for women within the Church is a part of the struggle and that many of the factors involved in the general movement find their counterpart in the special situation of the Church."

National Life Member 1973

NSW State Unit ACW

Eileen Dingle

Born 15 August 1906.

Died 8 September 1995, aged 89 years.

Education

Family Married Rev R.S.C. Dingle who was President of the Methodist Conference of Queensland; Mother to three sons.



Eileen led a full life in the Church and was a member of the following organisations: Methodist Women's Federation; President of World Day of Prayer Queensland; she was one of the first women elected to the General Committee of the Bible Society Queensland; President and Member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union Queensland and WCTU National Life Member; Correspondence Secretary of Women's Auxiliary Wesley Hospital Brisbane; Founding Member of Women's College University of Queensland; and the first woman to be elected to Standing Committee Methodist Conference.

Eileen was a founding member of Women's Inter Church Council Queensland in 1947 and was President in 1951/1952; again President in 1970/1971 under the new name, Australian Church Women Queensland Unit. During this term of office Eileen attended an International Meeting of World Day of Prayer in 1970, and was an Observer for Australian Church Women at the Asian Church Women's Conference in Indonesia. Eileen was a member of the first Working Committee in Queensland (later called National Executive) in 1970/1971 was Editor of *Women at Work* National Magazine.

Eileen maintained her interest in ACW, and the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. She had great pleasure in attending the welcome of the 1993 Winifred Kiek Fellow, the Rev Violet Sampa-Bredt whom she had welcomed as the Winifred Kiek Scholar for 1971.

Eileen died in September 1995. Her Thanksgiving Service was held in the Sherwood Uniting Church, Sherwood, Brisbane. She was a most gracious lady and friend.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Win Dougherty

Born 14 July 1919
Died 26 December 1994
Education
Family Married Robert Dougherty 1943



Win Dougherty was appointed as a delegate to Australian Church Women (NSW Unit) by the Methodist Church, through the Federation of Methodist Women, NSW.

She was elected State Secretary of ACW and served in that position from 1967 to 1970.

When it came the turn of the Methodist Federation to nominate a State President for ACW, the Federation chose Win Dougherty, who was installed in that position in 1973 at Chatswood Central Church. She served for one year.

In 1977 she was appointed to the position of National President of ACW and led a team of NSW women for two years. She chaired the National Conference in Sydney in 1979.

It was at this Conference that a delegation from Church Women United (USA) came on a "Causeway Visit". Win later returned this visit leading a team of Australian women to the United States. In 1977 the NSW Unit made Win Dougherty a Life Member.

During 1978 she was the Australian representative to the Asian Church Women's Conference in Japan. Win served both as a Methodist and a Uniting Church delegate to ACW with great distinction. Her knowledge of and interest in ACW was profound. She was a tireless worker for all organisations in which she served. NSW members of ACW are grateful for all the association we have had with this great lady.

"Well done, faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord."

State Life Member 1977

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Mary Earner

Born 1907
Died 1 September 1995, aged 88 years
Education
Family Married Pat Earner 1929



Mary's requiem Mass was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Sandgate where she spent 81 years of her life.

Mary was a Foundation member of the Sandgate Branch of Catholic Women's League in 1964 and became its first President. In 1972 she resigned as Branch President to take on the dual roles of State and Archdiocesan President, relinquishing the latter in 1975 and the former in 1978. She remained active in her Branch and loyal to the Catholic Women's League, was granted Life Membership, and became State Patroness.

Mary was welcomed to the Queensland Unit of the Australian Church Women 22 July 1974 – one of the first delegates from the Catholic Church Brisbane at the direction of Archbishop Rush. Mary was elected President of the Queensland Unit 31 July 1975 and attended the National Conference in Adelaide in August 1975. During the train journey to Adelaide Mary had to familiarise herself and Josie Cleary (CWL) with workings and business of Australian Church Women. During her presidency Mary was invited to be the Guest Speaker at the Fellowship Day Service held at the Walkerston Church Mackay in June 1976. Mary and her Secretary – the late Peg Mahoney (CWL) – visited the Branches at Bundaberg and Rockhampton in 1977 to further the interests in Australian Church Women and our aims and projects.

Mary was State Vice President of the World Day of Prayer from 1977 to 1984.

In 1977 Mary was awarded a Queen's Silver Medal for Services to the Community and in the same year was named Sandgate Citizen of the Year. Mary attended unit meetings regularly until her health deteriorated.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Esther Elkins

Born 1 December 1926 at Innisfail
Died
Education Up to Junior standard
Family Widowed in 1987
4 Daughters
3 Granddaughters and 1 Grandson



Esther attended the Anglican Church regularly until her marriage in 1949. She then became a Methodist and later a member of the Uniting Church. She was an elder in the Uniting Church, attending Presbytery and Synod meetings. At various times Esther was President and Secretary of Women's Guild, and also held various offices in the Capricorn Women's Fellowship. She resigned in 1983 after holding office as President for five years.

Esther was a member of the Women's Inter-Church Council and then continued on in Australian Church Women. Over the years she held all positions of office in Rockhampton. When she moved to Brisbane in 1992 and became State Treasurer in 1995. From 2000 to 2002 Esther was State President. She continues as a member of Australian Church Women and represents ACW on Queensland Churches Together.

Esther has been a member of ACW at both State and Branch level for many years and has given her dedicated service in all the positions she has held. Many members have been fortunate to have been guided by her wise counsel and gracious manner.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Florence Fishburn

Born Broken Hill 1904

Died 1983

Education

Family



Mrs Florence Fishburn was a member of Australian Church Women NSW Unit, (formerly the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council) for over 25 years, representing the Churches of Christ Christian Women's Fellowship. She served as CWF Superintendent of the Hospitals and Homes Committee and was State President of CWF in 1959. Florence was a much loved sister, completely selfless, hospitable, with a deep faith in her Lord, which led her to be ever ready to help those in need and encourage others, especially anyone upon whom the responsibility of leadership was placed.

In the NSW Unit of ACW she acted as FLC Convener in 1969, and was the leader of her local branch for many years, enthusiastic in promoting the work. We have no doubt that Florence has entered into the Joy of her Lord.

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Margaret Jean Florence

Born 8 August 1934

Died

Education Gympie Central Primary School
Gympie State High School

Family Husband Ian
Son Mark married to Lauren
Granddaughter Madalin



President Mary/Burnett Presbyterial Association 1968-1971
Townsville Presbyterial Association 1972-1979

Secretary Toowoomba Zone Uniting Church Adult Fellowship 1979-1982

Coordinator South Moreton Presbytery Area Unit 1988-1994

Representative Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Synod Committee 1985-

National Secretary Uniting Church Adult Fellowship National Committee 1994-1997

Representative Downs Presbytery
South Moreton Presbytery
Moreton Rivers Presbytery

President/member of Parish Women's Groups
Leader of Children's Groups

Uniting Church member of ACW 1985-

President Queensland Unit 1988-1990

Special Days Convener 1990-1996

Fellowship of the Least Coin Convener 1998-

Minute Secretary 1999-2004

Treasurer 2004-

Representative to Queensland Churches Together 1990-2000

National Secretary 1997-1999

Margaret has brought considerable enthusiasm to all of the positions she has held both at State and National levels. Her undoubted expertise has been of great benefit to the Unit in attaining the aims of ACW.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Kathleen Bernadette Franklin

Born Kathleen Schuman was born in Arncliffe NSW in 1933, second eldest in a family of eight.

Died 1992

Education

Family She met Brian Franklin in 1953, married 1956 at St Francis Xavier's Catholic Church, Arncliffe.
She was a loving mother of four children and devoted to her five grandchildren.



Kathleen and Brian moved from Arncliffe to Lithgow where they lived from 1957 to 1977.

Kath's Christian way of life then continued in Sydney when they moved to Lilli Pilli and worshipped at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Caringbah. Here she devoted much time to Bible Study and women's activities.

A willing representative of her Church at ecumenical gatherings, Kath had been Secretary of the Sutherland Branch of Australian Church Women since its inauguration in 1980. A Foundation Member of Prayer on Wheels in Sutherland Shire Core Group, she held the office of Vice President and was a tireless worker for the cause. Kath was a wonderful motivator of others where work was to be done for the Lord. Her directions were always Gospel centred – "for others". Her deep love and commitment to Him and His Gospel was an inspiration to all who knew her.

We thank God for every precious memory of her.

Sutherland Branch
New South Wales State Unit ACW

Patricia Dawn Franklin (Pat)

Born 12 November 1928

Died 8 August 1999

Education Holy Trinity, Balaclava; Victoria
McRobertson Girls' School



The life of Pat Franklin was one of faith and commitment. A devout Christian, she gladly gave her time and service living up to the Anglican Church Girls' Friendly Society motto – *Bear ye one another's burdens*. As a young girl she attended Sunday School at the parish church and continued to worship there as an adult.

Pat always had a love of people and travel. Her love of travel took her to Britain, where she rode her bike around the UK on a working holiday. Two years later she arrived back in Australia and began working at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, eventually working on the Salk Vaccine. Pat was one of the first group to be vaccinated against Polio (18 months before it was made public). Her work on the Salk Vaccine was on the production side, dealing with the animal tissue from which the vaccine was produced. She was the only woman laboratory assistant working on the vaccine from the time it was first introduced.

On leaving CSL Pat decided on a teaching career and trained at Melbourne Teachers' College. Pat taught at several schools before becoming Deputy Principal at Albert Park Primary School. While there she received a special award for her initiative in starting an animal farm for the children, which was very successful. Later, Pat became Principal of the Tucker Road Primary School. She loved children, and they responded to her as she always had a smile and a very hearty laugh. She loved sport and was a St Kilda Football Club supporter, fond of cricket (which she had played), as well as hockey. On her retirement Pat took up golf.

She went to the 1956 Olympic Games and had booked tickets for the 2000 Olympics. Pat was Secretary to the World Council of GFS, had attended 10 World Councils, and opened the last one in South Africa. Before leaving for South Africa World Council Pat became a Life Member of GFS serving as Melbourne Diocesan Chairman from 1983-99. Pat served on the Board of Management of GFS Hostel and was also Australian Chairman for GFS. In June, Pat had completed her term as (Anglican Church) President of Australian Church Women Victorian Unit and also Fellowship of the Least Coin convener. She was studying for her Bachelor of Theology and was awarded a post-graduate degree.

May our memories be full and happy for a lady who loved God, loved life, and lived it to the fullest.

*Bearing one another's burdens, Self forgetting every day
Thinking how to ease another, She could do and she would say
Cheering simply by her presence, Those who seemed a friend in need
By some little self denial, Pat did prove a friend indeed.*

Victorian State Unit ACW

Kathleen Elizabeth Gallagher

Born 9 November 1916 at Townsville

Died

Education St Bridget's Catholic School, Redhill, Brisbane

Family Married to Ronald Gallagher 1940-1954
2 sons
5 grandchildren
2 great grandchildren



Kathleen has been a member of CDA for 50 year s
President of Nundah Catholic Women's League 16 years
Executive Committee member of Archdiocese Catholic Women's League 8 years
Charity work in Nundah Parish
Tuckshop provider for Corpus Christie High School 1965-1979

Catholic Women's League member on Australian Church Women 1981-2004
Vice President Queensland Unit three times

Kath has been a quiet achiever with her gentle manner. Her faithful attendance and untiring dedication is an example to all members.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Joy Harris

Born In the small west coast town of Waratah,
Tasmania

Died 21 September 1991

Education

Family Married in 1940.
Two daughters.



Joy's parents left Waratah when Joy was quite young and moved to Launceston. She attended the Chant Street Methodist Church and was involved with Girls Comrades, was a Sunday School Teacher and Choir Member. She subsequently became a member of the Uniting Church.

In 1940 Joy and her husband moved to the small country town of Bracknell where two daughters were born. During the seventeen years lived in Bracknell, Joy's main interest was centred in the life of her church. On returning to Launceston she again became deeply involved in the work of Chant Street.

She made herself available to represent her church at City Mission and from 1975 was delegate to ACW. She remained a loyal member until failing health forced her retirement, but she remained vitally interested in the work of ACW until her death.

A quiet achiever.

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Lois Winifred Harris

Born 16 February 1938, Semaphore, South Australia
Died 19 September 1998
Education
Family Married Leon Harris
Mother of three children



Lois was born at Semaphore, in South Australia, to Winifred and Bill Puckridge, the eldest of a family of six children. The family moved to Eyre Peninsula when Lois was just a few months old. She attended school there and English was her favourite subject. She was fortunate to have renowned author, Colin Thiele, as her teacher. Leon Harris married Lois in 1957 at the church of St Thomas, Port Lincoln. Following the birth of Leona, then Chris and the adoption of Merryn, they found joy in their lives.

The family moved to Adelaide in the early 1980s and attended the Seacombe Uniting Church. Lois was actively involved in teaching Sunday School, presided over the Women's Fellowship Group, led Bible Studies, started craft and fellowship groups and was appointed as an Elder. She was elected Secretary of the South Australian Unit of Australian Church Women in 1994. Lois served in this capacity with dedication, expertise and charm. She was gifted with letter writing skills, always displaying her sensitivity to the matter at hand.

At the time of her death, Lois was to have relinquished her secretarial duties in November 1998 in order to accept the position of second Vice President on the National Executive of Australian Church Women for the period of 1999-2001. There were many other areas in which Lois expressed her skills. Her love, dedication and care for her family, sharing her love of God and her faith with others, dressmaking, floral art, music, caring friend, devoted wife and mother – her thoughtfulness embraced us all.

Having spent part of her earlier life in the country, Lois held a special interest and empathy for rural life and the role women played in rural families. Her achievements in these areas were impressive. She held the position of President of Women in Agriculture and Business and was Chair of the South Australian Rural Network. Lois encouraged programs, projects and courses. She knew the important role that rural women played in primary production, in rural families and in the structure and social fabric of rural communities.

A gracious, committed Christian, Lois was loved and respected by all with whom she came in contact. By living her faith in the various roles she chose to perform within the churches she attended, she encouraged many people in their Christian walk.

The members of the South Australian Unit of Australian Church Women feel especially privileged to have known and loved Lois and we give thanks to God for her life.

South Australian State Unit ACW

Roma Beverly Hickman

Born Broken Hill, NSW

Education

Family Married with four children
and two grandchildren.



Roma was born in Broken Hill where she attended school, Sunday school, Christian Endeavour, church and also learnt elocution. She was in her early teens when her father died suddenly and her mother decided they would move to Tasmania to live with relatives, settling in Hobart.

Roma joined the Cross Street Methodist Church (now Uniting) and was a member of the junior choir, senior choir, Sunday School staff, youth group, and Girl Comrades. It was at this church that she met her future husband and they were married there.

As a member of Sandy Bay Uniting Church, in which suburb she now resides, she is working in all areas of church life. Roma is a very willing worker and fulfils the tasks she undertakes to the very best of her ability. She has represented Sandy Bay Church Fellowship as president, treasurer, and currently holds the position of secretary. She is also secretary to Derwent Presbytery Uniting Church Fellowship, delegate to Synod Uniting Church Fellowship and supporter of Temperance Union.

Roma was a foundation member of Australian Church Women of Tasmania Unit, and has been a representative, secretary, and treasurer to the Southern Branch, member of Circle of Prayer, Treasurer Fellowship of the Least Coin and member of World Day of Prayer Committee. She represented Tasmania at Australian Church Women's Conference and was Special Days Convener of the National Committee in 1979. For many years she has organised school girls' services prior to the World Day of Prayer Service.

Roma now spends most of her time caring for her husband. Her bright and happy personality shows that she receives pleasure in her service to her Lord.

"In quietness and confidence God shall be your strength."

State Life Member

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Flora Jean Hunt

Born 4 December 1918, Subiaco WA
Died 4 May 2005
Education Eden Hill and Bassendean Primary Schools
Midland High School.
First job at Government Printing Office
Family Married Alan Hunt 1941. Three children, nine grandchildren. Widowed 1967.



Member of Bullcreek Church of Christ where she was very active. Flora was organist there as well as fulfilling many other roles in the church. She had many years of involvement at the Christian Welfare Centre as a worker and as a volunteer, and had been a leader at Church Youth camps.

Flora joined ACW Western Australia in February 1987 and has been a loyal member. She was National Treasurer 1987-1989.

Flora was a leader in Girl Guides for over 30 years. Other community service was as the Honorary Secretary of the City of Melville Citizens' Relief Fund.

Western Australian State Unit ACW

Nell Kain

Born 3 May 1910
Died 12 July 1981
Education
Family



Every generation produces some wonderful women possessing many talents which they use in service to others – one such lady was the late Nell Kain.

Perhaps Nell is best known for her work with the Catholic Women's League of South Australia. She was elected Archdiocesan President of Catholic Women's League during the 1960s. She became State President in 1968, being the first to hold this office. (Before 1968 CWL had worked as two separate Diocesan Councils, having been inaugurated in South Australia in 1914.) One of the happiest moments of her life was the receiving of Honorary Life Membership of CWL South Australia in 1976 for her untiring work for this organisation.

From her position as President, Mrs Kain became particularly interested in all our affiliated organisations and their work, one of which was the National Council of Women. Nell always urged her members to be aware of and help where necessary in every field which assisted the cause of women.

Nell held office as President of Australian Church Women and was, at the time of her death, incoming President of Women's World Day of Prayer for 1982.

Under her leadership CWL went from strength to strength – new branches were established in both city and country areas. She had also held office as President of CWL Australia.

Nell became an observer in Australian Church Women in 1968 and when CWL came into full membership she was a delegate. She was on the National Committee in Adelaide in 1972 and again in 1975. She served as President of the SA Unit in 1979.

We thank God for the life of Nell Kain and we thank her husband and family for sharing her with us.

The culmination of the work of Mrs Kain came just one week before her death, when Archbishop Gleeson presented her with the "Benemerenti Medal" awarded by Pope John Paul "to a well deserving person".

South Australian State Unit ACW

Lucelle Edith King

Born 27 July 1927 at Lane Cove NSW
Died 3 November 2009
Education Primary education at Lane Cove, Middle Harbour, Neutral Bay, Bexley
Secondary at St George Girls' High School
Tertiary at Sydney Technical College
Family The eldest of 4 children of Phil and Freda Skinner, her father was a professional musician. Lucelle married Bruce King 9 April 1949. They have 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



Sunday school teacher (Superintendent) at several suburban Baptist churches and at Central Baptist Church (City of Sydney)

1945-58 Director of camps for Baptist Denomination and Scripture Union

1964 – ministry to women –

President Baptist Theological College Ladies Auxiliary 1981-89

Member of Baptist Theological College Council 1984-89

President NSW Baptist Women's Fellowship 1977-80

1977 Baptist representative to Australian Church Women NSW

1986 Member of ACW NSW State Executive

1989 National Executive

1994-95 NSW State President

2000 Life Membership NSW

Attended ACWC Conferences in Taiwan and Thailand

Lucelle is a most talented lady.

Designed covers for World Community Day (National)

Composed Theme Chorus for ACW NSW

Involved in ministry of singing/sketching from 1967-2000 with CWCI and individually

Conductor of CWCI Women's Choir 1986-92

When Bruce and Lucelle moved to the north coast, ACW went also! Enthusiastically Lucelle spoke to the local churches of the aims and outreach of ACW and commenced Special Day services.

Lucelle spoke of personal enrichment knowing people belonging to Christ from other denominations. She is indeed a great ambassador and is highly commended to receive entry into the book *Honouring Australian Church Women*.

State Life Member November 2000

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Olwen Lean

Born

Died 25 October 1994

Education

Family



Olwen Lean was a firm believer in ecumenism and served on the State Executive and Council of our NSW State Unit for many years. She was a foundation member of the Lane Cove-Longueville Branch in 1968 and more recently was a foundation member of the Bellingen Branch. She was also a Life Vice-President of The Mothers' Union of the Anglican Church and a member of the State Council of World Day of Prayer Committee.

Olwen knew the love of God and His love formed the basis for her total lifestyle. She reached out to others in a truly humble and gracious manner and many considered her greatest gifts were those of encouragement and support. She used these God given gifts wisely and widely, to help others in their walk with the Lord.

We thank God for her life and the privilege of knowing her.

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Gladys Locke

Born 1898
Died 29 May 1990
Education
Family



Miss Gladys Locke became the first President of the Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women at its inauguration in 1966. Miss Locke represented the YWCA on the committee which was called together to plan for greater communication between Church Women's Groups and continued as YWCA delegate to the State Unit until 1987. During this time she served another term as President and for a number of years during the seventies, was a very efficient Treasurer.

From the early forties Miss Locke was very actively involved in the YWCA, being State President, Chairperson of the Finance Committee and taking a leading role in many YWCA initiatives in the community. In 1966 she was made a life Member of the National Board and was awarded an MBE in recognition of her contribution to the YWCA of Australia. In 1973 she was made a Life Member of the Perth YWCA.

The State Unit of Australian Church Women was very fortunate to have a member for so many years of the calibre and talents of Miss Locke. She will be remembered with love by those who know her for her commitment to the Christian faith and her willingness to use her many skills and her time to support the aims of Australian Church Women.

Gladys was originally a Methodist, and became a member of the Uniting Church.

Glad (as she was affectionately known) was honoured as the first WA Unit Life Member in July 1988.

State Life Member July 1988.

Western Australian State Unit ACW

Lieut-Colonel Isabel Macintyre

Born 2 September 1922
Died 27 November 2000
Education
Family Husband John



Isabel was introduced to ACW in 1970 when she held the position of Director of Salvation Army Women's Services in Tasmania. On transferring to Melbourne, she joined the Victorian Unit and was President 1972-1973.

Isabel was transferred to Western Australia in 1974, and in 1975 was appointed Vice President of ACW National Committee based in that state. After her return to Melbourne in 1978, Isabel continued to serve most capably in many positions. Her experience was utilised when she was appointed to the position of Vice President of Victorian based National Committee in 1983. During these years she was Convener of Burma Prayer Partners, Victorian Unit, which broadened each member's vision beyond Australia.

In 1978 Isabel attended Asian Church Women's Conference in Gotemba, Japan, as an observer. Her interest in the wider Church saw the production of an audio visual of Fellowship of the Least Coin in 1973. Her photographic skills were put to good use in her record of Winifred Kiek Scholars and history of the Victorian Unit; this book recently being donated to Victorian Unit.

Isabel was an Executive member of the Victorian Unit for eight years, and served as Publicity Officer, and also the representative on the Victorian Council of Churches. She attended ACW National Conferences in all States of Australia until 1999 when illness prevented her attendance in Brisbane.

One could depend on Isabel to present the perfect report; with correct data, an eye for detail and always perfect typing, long before the days of computers with spell checks. Her husband, John tells of her great support to him in this area.

Life membership was conferred on Isabel in June 2000. Her association with ACW stretched over 30 years, covering many areas of useful service.

Lieutenant-Colonel Isabel Macintyre was appreciated for long and faithful service to ACW. This included her caring advice, gentle and gracious presence, always displaying the gifts of the Spirit. Her life, with her special gifts, was fully given to serving God as an Officer in the Salvation Army, and also in her involvement in Australian Church Women.

State Life Member June 2000

Victorian State Unit ACW

Marie McCann OAM

Born Born 18 June 1925 in Melbourne

Education Educated at Presentation College to Matriculation;
University of Melbourne BA, University of Sydney M.Theol, BD

Family Husband John;
Children- Jack, Fiona, Colleen, Jacinta, Martin;
15 Grandchildren



National Catholic Girls Movement, Parish of Chatswood, convener and organiser Meals on Wheels, President Parish Ball Committee, Secretary Chatswood Catechists for five schools and 29 catechists. President Loreto Parents and Friends Committee, Member Catholic Women's League. Organist East Roseville Church and Star of the Sea Milson's Point. Committee Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Association – to welcome newcomers who wish to join our church.

Catholic representative 1977, Newsette distributor, Secretary, State President 1979, Convener Special Days
National President 1989-91,
ACWC Conference in Bali, Delegate to ACWC meeting in Bombay, Toured China with nine theologically-trained Asian women, speaker on the position of Australian Children and their concerns in Sri Lanka, Colombo. Attended FLC Silver Jubilee in Manila Philippines

ACW transforms Christ's 'Love' into tolerance, listening to other Christians, and using the bond, which comes from knowing someone and their aims, to unite with diversity. Then we have union and peace amongst Christians.

Marie McCann has been part of ACW NSW State Unit for almost 30 years, actively involved in many ways. She has given her time, abilities and gifts generously, and has been a great influence and encouragement to many along the way. We are grateful to God for the privilege of working with her, and are thankful for her friendship and leadership in Christian service.

State Life Member 1997.

NSW State Unit ACW

Effie McCormack

Born Exton, Tasmania
Died 18 December 1989
Education
Family Married Kevin 1930 and had 3 sons.



Mrs Effie McCormack was born in Exton, Tasmania, one of ten children of the Harding family, pioneers of the district. She was by nature a very busy and energetic person.

Always ecumenically minded, Effie was interested in and attended meetings of Inter-Church Council, Women's World Day of Prayer and Tasmanian Council of Churches.

Effie instigated the formation of a branch of Australian Church Women in Devonport, the first meeting being held in her home, and she was elected president. She attended ACW State Executive meetings for many years, often having to leave home at 7.00 am. She attended the National ACW Conference in Hobart.

Other activities included Catholic Women's League, for which she received a State Life Membership, the Red Cross and the Good Neighbour Council.

The Devonport Branch of ACW formed a guard of honour at her funeral at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

We are the richer for having known this gracious lady.

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Florence Marshall

Born 1911

Died 1991

Education

Family



Mrs Florence Marshall was an outstanding Christian whose delightful and practical character made a lasting impact on the life of the Church.

As a gifted leader and teacher, Florence made a major contribution to the life and witness of the Methodist Church and later the Uniting Church.

Prior to Union, Florence was the Victorian State President of the Women's Auxiliary of Overseas Mission (Methodist), and later she gave the same dedicated leadership to the Uniting Church Fellowship as their second president for two years and continued involvement until her death.

As a member of the Joint Planning Committee formed in preparation for the Uniting Church, Florence learnt all she could of the work of the Congregational and Presbyterian Women's Organisations so she would be well informed on the background and mission outreach of each denomination.

Florence was an active ecumenist being a member of the Victorian Council of Churches for some years and an involved participant in the activities of the local Inter-Church Council. Florence rejoiced in her membership of ACW and in her friendship with women of other denominations. With her usual vitality and enthusiasm, she shared her knowledge and experience as a member of the Victorian State Executive.

Florence Marshall's deep concern for Aboriginal people resulted in her becoming the founding Secretary and Treasurer of 'Friends of Nungalinya', a position she held until her death.

For 30 years Florence was involved with 'Orana' (Peace Memorial Homes for Children) for which she raised many thousands of dollars from the sale of her handwork.

Florence had a deep and abiding faith and a great love for life and people. She loved life to the fullest and gave without stint to her family and the Church and, like her Master, "She went about doing good".

Victorian State Unit ACW

Juanita Miller

Born Born 30 May 1940

Education Educated at Hilliard Christian School Hobart for both primary and secondary.

Family Married to David, they have two married daughters and two grandchildren.



Juanita is an elder in Trinity Uniting Church and a member of Uniting Church Adult Fellowship.

ACW involvement/positions held

Juanita is secretary of the Launceston Branch of ACW which she joined in 1983.

Positions held:

- President 1985-86, and a second term in 1997-98
- Secretary 1999-2001 and elected again in 2004
- Convener of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Juanita joined the State Unit in 1985 and held positions of

- President
- Secretary
- Convener of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Juanita was made a Life Member in 2002. Her gentle and caring nature and deep spirituality is an inspiration to us all.

State Life Member May 2002

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Doris Mabel Mitchell

Born 1908, Victoria
Died November 1997
Education Petersham; Sydney Girls' High School;
Bachelor of Arts, University of Sydney, 1928.
Family



Born in Victoria, Doris spent most of her life in NSW. After graduating from University, she entered the teaching profession.

From 1944 to 1960 Doris was a member of the Australian Board of Missions staff, holding appointments in turn as Federal Youth Secretary, Federal Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary and Head Office Accountant.

Doris left the ABM office early in 1960 to travel overseas, and on her return she became Headmistress of St Faith's School, Yeppoon, Queensland. She took 'early' retirement from professional work and became increasingly involved in voluntary activities in ABM and other organisations. She was appointed a Life Vice President of ABM in 1980.

Her interests included the National Council of Women, in which she became NSW Secretary and NCWA Secretary. She was successively President, Secretary and Treasurer of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women and also National Vice-President when NSW was in National Office. Doris was a Life Member of Australian Church Women.

She was also former President and Life Member of the Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association.

In 1977, Doris was awarded the Queen's Silver Medal, and in 1993 the Medal of the Order of Australia for her work with women.

Her publications include:

- *Leaders All* (1946);
- *Bush Folk* (1948);
- *Challenge to Melanesia* (1959);
- *Workers Together – the Story of the ABM Auxiliary* (1985); and
- *Sixty Years On – the Story of the Pan Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association, 1928-1988, Australia's Part.*

Doris was a rather reserved lady, always ready with wise and common-sense advice. She was very committed to ecumenism and is remembered with great affection by members of NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women.

The Thanksgiving Service held in St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, 26 November 1997 was a wonderful tribute to her life and her devotion to service for our Lord.

State Life Member 1983

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Elizabeth Jessie Moyses

Born 27 May 1928 – known as **Betty**

Died 27 February 1973 Aged 44 years

Education

Family Eldest daughter of the Rev J W Stewart Lang and Mrs Lang.
Married Douglas Moyses and had four sons and one daughter.



Growing up in a Presbyterian manse, Elizabeth made the decision to follow in her father's footsteps as far as she was then able, and she trained at Rolland House, Melbourne as a deaconess.

She then served the church at Bundaberg, Queensland, and Whyalla, South Australia, before going to Darwin where her parents were then working in the Uniting Church. Though from this time she no longer served as a full-time deaconess, she used her talents and training in Darwin, and following her marriage, continued work in Adelaide, Kalangadoo, Snowtown and Gawler.

Other interests varied as her five children grew – School Welfare Club, football and cricket clubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides.

At the time of her death at age 44, she was Guide Leader of the 1st Gawler Guide Company.

South Australian State Unit ACW

Margaret Napier

Born 4 November 1937
Died 5 July 2001
Education
Family Married to Doug;
Mother to three children
Grandmother to seven.



Apart from the Australian Church Women involvement Margaret was a dedicated member of her local Anglican Church in Como where she taught Sunday School, sang in the women's choir and arranged the floral decorations for weddings and other functions. The Mothers' Union was also an important part of Margaret's life. She joined Mothers' Union Australia in 1965 and took leadership roles from 1982-1987 and remained involved until her death.

Australian Church Women has been blessed by having had Margaret Napier as a member for so many years. Margaret represented ACW well in many roles:

- on the State scene she served as President, Vice President and Treasurer;
- on the National level she was Secretary when Western Australia last held National Office;
- and on the International scene she represented Australian Church Women as a delegate on the Asian Church Women's Conference

As Australia's representative she attended two ACWC Assemblies and ACWC Executive meetings in various Asian countries where she formed many enduring friendships with delegates she met on those occasions.

Margaret was a very talented and artistic lady, particularly in cake icing and flower arranging. For six years she served on the South Perth Council. Margaret was a great sports woman who loved tennis and golf. In those areas she gave her time generously in helping in administration of her clubs.

Above all, Margaret was a devoted wife to her husband Doug, a loving mother to her children, Robyn, Garry and Colin and their families, and a wonderful grandmother to seven grandchildren.

Indeed of Margaret it can be said – *Well done good and faithful servant.*

Western Australian State Unit ACW

Phyllis Edith O'Loughran

Born 10 February 1920, Launceston

Education East Launceston State School;
Launceston High School; &
Zerchos Business College

Family Mother of three children



Phyllis attended the Baptist church and was baptised at the age of 15. She was a member of Wellington Street Memorial Baptist. Her three sons are also involved in church work. She was secretary of Young People's Christian Endeavour, the first State Secretary for Senior Girls Missionary Union, assisted the secretary of Baptist Union, and a Sunday School teacher.

In 1957 circumstances left her a sole parent with the task of rearing three very young children, but in her indefatigable style she worked very long hours in her traditional corner store to keep her family.

October 1984 she was appointed Delegate of Baptist Church to ACW. In 1986 she became State Treasurer, a position she held until ill health forced her retirement in 1988.

Phyl had the honour to be appointed an Honorary Member of Baptist Assembly in 1988 and was presented with a plaque in recognition of her service. Phyl's loyalty and keen knowledge of finance was greatly appreciated by Tasmanian ACW members.

Ill health dogged her for many years but her great faith in God's enabling kept her going. A wonderful witness for the Lord she loved and served.

A tribute given by her son at her funeral, "Mother loved the living bible. I maintain she was the living bible."

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Elspeth Parkin

Born 1927

Died 1974

Education

Family Married Rev. Paul Parkin
Mother to five children



Elspeth Parkin was the daughter of Principal and Mrs Grigg of the Baptist Theological College, Melbourne (later Whitley College). She married the Rev Paul Parkin, a South Australian Congregational minister, later of the Pilgrim Church, Adelaide.

She died at the age of 47, leaving a family of five children. Her husband died two years later.

The South Australian Unit of Australian Church Women records its grateful thanks for the life of Elspeth Parkin. As a delegate to the Unit, she took every opportunity to show her love for God through her love for people.

In a very full and busy life, she always had time to listen to and encourage young people. She believed passionately that it was the right of every person to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

She had a keen social conscience which made her active on behalf of Aboriginal people. She undertook to research work being done among Aborigines at the request of the Unit. She would not tolerate racial discrimination in any form. To her, all people were her brothers and sisters in Christ.

South Australian State Unit ACW

Leah Pickering

Born	Leah Veitch 1907, Gundagai
Death	1998
Education	Adelong High School; Scholarship to Sydney Teachers' College
Family	Married Reginald Mother to four children



Leah Pickering was born in Gundagai to a dairy farming family. Her father was also a champion shearer.

Leah's career as an Infants Teacher led her from service at public schools in southern NSW to Wentworthville, Ermington and Concord. She retired in 1973.

The marriage of Leah, a Roman Catholic, to Reginald, an Anglican, no doubt was a learning time for her developing interest in ecumenism. Their four children are David, John and twin girls, Beth and Cathie; and the family extended to great grandchildren.

Leah held various executive positions in the Concord Garden and View Clubs. She was foundation President of the Concord-Burwood Branch of Australian Church Women and made an outstanding contribution to the branch over a period of many years. With her husband's help, Leah did the packing and posting of the 2,000 orders of service for ACW Special Days for years until Reg's death. A long-time member of Catholic Women's League, Leah was one of the original eight Catholic representatives to the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women in 1973. She served as President of Concord-Burwood Branch several times and remained on the State Council until her health failed.

Leah was a very dignified lady, intelligent and confident and a strong leader. Her children agree that for them Leah was a very good role model.

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Joyce Pope

Born 9 March 1924

Died 15 July 1980

Education

Family



“We are here to celebrate the completion of a life!” This announcement introduced the service that was held in the Uniting Church, Hawthorne, Brisbane to mark the passing of our dearly loved Joyce Pope. It was an instant reminder of St Paul’s ‘I have finished the course.’ “And”, the minister continued, “difficult though it is for many of you, we are going to worship God because of the completion of Joyce Pope’s life.”

Despite appearing in good health at a Fellowship Day Service in the City Salvation Army Temple on Friday, and on Sunday in the Worship Service., Joyce contracted a particularly severe virus which led to her death in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Something of the Christian grace and winsomeness that was Joyce was integrated over the years into all she did through ACW for her Lord, and though her physical presence will be missed, its fragrance will linger on to remind and challenge.

Joyce became known nationally as a vital member of the Australian Church Women Working Committee (located in Queensland 1971-72) when she discharged her duties enthusiastically and efficiently as ‘overseer’ of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. During those years and onwards, Joyce maintained a lively interest in the holders of the scholarship. She endeared herself to them by her countless acts of thoughtfulness and consideration. It was a special delight to her to receive letters from former Winifred Kiek Scholars with up to date news which she could pass on at the Unit’s monthly meetings.

Since the ‘Working committee experience’ Joyce filled other offices, continuing her involvement with the State Unit. In recent years she has been a most diligent secretary, and at the time of her death was the Unit’s treasurer.

A lively sense of humour, a sensitive, warm love and understanding, coupled with conscientious efficiency, characterized all Joyce’s dealings and she left the stamp of that character on the offices she filled. Joyce endured an arthritic condition which severely affected both her hands and her feet and which would have deterred many people from active involvement in Christian affairs, but Joyce made no concession to her painful disability. She even applied herself more rigorously to her many and various tasks, using her bright intelligence to quip back at sympathisers, “It’s only my body that’s arthritic not my mind!”

Over the years Joyce became very dear and the experiences shared are now indeed precious memories – the ‘fun times’, the ‘quiet times’, the ‘crisis times’, the ‘problem times’ – all are now cherished, for her completed life is a challenge to all who knew and loved her to “do better” for the sake of the Kingdom. Australian Church Women pays tribute to the life of one who “completed the course”.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Therese Mary Reeves (Terry)

Born 15 January 1930

Died 25 July 2002

Education

Family Married Ron in 1955
Mother to two daughters & three sons
Grandmother to many grandchildren



Terry Reeves (Williams) emulated the Blessed Mary McKillop, in the way she kept her faith and helped others in need.

Terry was involved in her children's education, soccer club, college activities, P & C committees and Parish work at Wishart Parish Centre. As the children grew older, Terry became involved in Catholic Women's League, delivering the Annual Report for her Branch nine days before she passed away.

Terry's achievements were many and varied - some of her accomplishments are noted:

- 1983-1986 President of Wishart Branch Catholic Women's League
- 1984-1987 Executive Member Archdiocesan CWL
Senior Vice President one year of Executive CWL
- 1987-1990 President Archdiocesan CWL
- 1989-1992 State President World Day of Prayer Committee
- 1993-1995 Executive Member Archdiocesan CWL
Senior Vice President three years
- 1993-1994 Secretary Australian Church Women Queensland Unit, President Elect
- 1994-1996 State President ACW Queensland Unit
- 1997-1999 National Vice President Australian Church Women
- 1999-2002 President of Wishart Branch CWL at her death
- 2000-2002 Treasurer ACW Queensland Unit at her death
- 2001-2002 Representative for ACW at Queensland Churches Together

Until 1997 Terry was a member of Eastern Deanery in the care of disability services, a member of the steering committee in the opening of 'Amelia House' Coorparoo Respite Centre. Terry was an active member of 'Mary's House', a centre to help pregnant and single women. She was a church reader, St Vincent de Paul worker, Parish Councillor and CWL member.

Unfortunately, Terry's husband, Ron, suffered a major stroke which confined him to a wheelchair. This fostered Terry's interest in people with disabilities.

The final dedication at Terry's Farewell Service reads: *For the Honour and Glory of God* and reflects Terry's life and love of Family, Church and the Lord.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Edith Ridge

Born 8 May 1928 in Sydney

Education High school to year 10 (4th form) Fort Street Girls' High, Sydney

Family Husband, Rev Barry Ridge;
3 daughters and 1 son;
7 grandchildren



Church involvement: Member of the Uniting Church – formerly Methodist.
Leader of Methodist Girls' Comradeship;
Chairperson of women's meetings over 36 years as a minister's wife.
Secretary of Australian Federation of Methodist Women (national level);
Member of Synod Committee Adult Fellowship, contact person and chairperson of two Presbytery committees for Adult Fellowship. Member of mission support groups.
Served one term as Elder in the Uniting Church in Australia.

ACW involvement: Vice President 1 year, President 4 years ACT Unit ACW

President Elect, President of NSW Unit 1983, 1984-6

Minute Secretary, Secretary, Convener for Special Days, WKS, NSW Unit

Has attended National Conferences since 1979, missing only 2 in those years.

Member of National Executive 2003-5, Publications Editor.

In late 1960s worked with one other to form ACW Branch at Blackheath NSW. It flourished for a few years, but closed after Edith and Isobel Mackay moved on. Isobel was Presbyterian minister's wife at Lithgow who as a UCA delegate was on NSW Council in 1980s.

Member of the Strathfield/Homebush Branch 1983-1989; President of the Branch twice.

Delegate from ACW to National Council of Women NSW and to PPSEAWA, NSW

UCA delegate to NCW of ACT and served a term as Secretary.

Edit and produce a Newsletter for UCAF in NSW and ACW News for National Executive.

The value of Edith's work and witness with ACW is immeasurable. Edith has many natural talents, one of which, the retaining and communicating of information relevant to the work in hand, is one that has benefited the NSW unit over and over again. The catch-cry, "Ask Edith", would not be uttered lightly, but in a genuine acknowledgement that in all probability, Edith's recall, and generosity of spirit to give and to share whatever information or advice was required, would be readily forthcoming. Not only has the NSW unit benefited from her knowledge and expertise, but also at national conferences Edith has been called on, and has responded positively.

Edith's untiring enthusiasm and willingness to be involved has set a very high example. She has been prepared to work beyond the normal boundaries, prepared to make stern decisions when necessary, able to uphold the integrity of her denomination in an ecumenical setting, and to give credence and value to Australian Church Women both within and outside its activities.

State Life Member May 1999

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Iris Robertson

Born

Died 19 August 2005 (aged 88)

Education

Family Married
Mother



Iris Robertson was a faithful member of the Launceston Branch for many years representing the Church of Christ. Iris was married and was survived by a daughter and grandchildren.

Iris was very committed to her church's women's work and Australian Church Women, and spent many long hours helping with fund raising. She was a very friendly lady willing to spend time talking to one and all and is sadly missed by her many friends.

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Monica Rowlands

Born 14 September 1911 Grenfell NSW

Died 9 May 1973

Education

Family Husband Robin
1 son and 1 daughter



It is with sadness but also in a spirit of immense thankfulness that we record the passing of our member, Monica Rowlands.

Though not long with us at St Luke's Presbyterian Church at Mt Waverley, Victoria, she contributed much to the life of the Fellowship. She joined in 1967 and since then has served both within the Fellowship as secretary and friend to new members and as representative in many other groups – the Victorian Executive of Presbyterian Women's Association, the Waverley Benevolent Society and the Women's Inter-Church Council, which she inaugurated in 1970.

As well, she helped efficiently and quietly in the life of St Luke's on the Board of Management – visiting fellow members, especially during the absence of a minister in 1972, dispatching the church paper, transporting elderly folk and cheerfully joining in any activity which was being undertaken.

We give thanks for our association with Monica and for her faithful witness, and re-affirm our belief that nothing can separate us from the love of god in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39).

Victorian State Unit ACW

Mrs Colonel Florence Saunders

Born 20 September 1902
Died 27 January 1982
Education
Family Married Herbert Saunders 1927
1 son, 1 daughter



Florence was commissioned as a Salvation Army Officer 15 January 1925, and she is said to have served with distinction. She represented the Salvation Army on a number of women's organisations, and was very involved in the Women's Home League before her retirement from active service 20 September 1962.

Mrs Colonel Florence Saunders has proved a worthy representative of The Salvation Army on many Women's Organisations, not the least being Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria, which later became the Victorian Unit of Australian Church Women.

Mrs Saunders served as Secretary from 1952 to 1958 and then was elected President in 1958 and served until the end of 1959. She again served as Secretary from 1963 to 1968, representing the Council on a number of occasions on National Committees. For her services she has been highly respected and appointed a Life Member of Australian Church Women.

Members of Australian Church Women attended her funeral service as a mark of respect and to pay tribute to Mrs Colonel Saunders.

State Life Member

Victorian State Unit ACW

Marjorie Scurlock OAM

Born 27 April 1914
Died 17 September 2010
Education Perth College and City Commercial College
Family Two daughters and four grandchildren



Marjorie has been very involved in Anglican Church Committees and activities, both in her local parish and in the wider church. She was Diocesan President of Mothers Union for nine years (1962-1971) and President of Perth College Old Girls Association for about six years. She has been a representative of the Anglican Church on WA Council of Churches, a member of Presbytery of her local parish, fully committed to all activities of her local church, including fund raising. She once organised a dinner for 1,000 people. She is a life member of Perth's Diocesan Mother's Union and an Associate of the Community of the Sisters of the Church (Anglican).

Marjorie was a member of the committee which met with Mrs Appleton in 1966 to form a Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women. She attended the first meeting of the WA Unit and has been an active member ever since. Marjorie has held the office of President (1975-77), Special Days Convener (1977-1979) and Winifred Kiek Convener. She has served several terms as Vice President. She has represented ACW on World Day of Prayer, where she has been President and Secretary. She has been an ACW representative to National Council of Women where she was Vice President. She is a life member of NCW WA.

At National level, Marjorie served on the National Executive of ACW from 1975-1977. She has attended 10 National Conferences as a delegate or observer since 1978.

Before marriage Marjorie taught commercial subjects at Presbyterian Ladies College. She helped her husband in his pharmacy for many years. Marjorie received an Order of Australia for her service to Mothers Union and the Anglican Church in 1996.

Marjorie has been an enthusiastic and valued member of ACW throughout the life of the WA Unit.

State Life Member 1990

Western Australian State Unit ACW

Audrey Winnifred Sherwin

Born 27 May 1921, Northern Alberta, Canada

Died 16 April 2000

Education

Family Married to Ron Sherwin
Mother to two sons



Audrey grew up in the United Church of Canada which at that time was also very young – being comprised of the same membership as the Uniting Church of Australia: Methodist, Congregational and most of the Presbyterian Churches. She attended a small country church, along with her family, which served the surrounding farming district.

At Christmas 1958, after fifteen years working for the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC Audrey married Australian public servant Ron Sherwin and subsequently took up residence in Canberra. Later the Sherwins served a four year term in England, and on returning to Canberra, Audrey wanted her two small sons to have the opportunity to attend Sunday School. St James' Presbyterian Church, then worshipping in the Hughes School welcomed them. In time she joined the Presbyterian Women's Association which in 1977 (the first year of church union) became the Fellowship Group of the St James' Uniting Church. In 1976, responding to an emergency call, Audrey had been made Secretary of the group, and ten years later she resigned to become the Secretary of the ACT Unit of Australian Church Women.

Audrey's introduction to Australian Church Women was as a delegate for the Fellowship Group. She acted as Publicity Officer until 1986 when she became the Unit Secretary. Audrey retired in March 1993, and her outstanding service was acknowledged with the bestowal of Life membership. She served as the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener for five years. In December 1995, she again became Secretary of the St James' Fellowship Group.

Audrey found Australian Church Women a wonderful source of friendly fellowship, understanding and tolerance – with the members working together to know and respect each other and each other's churches. She was a valuable member of the ACT delegation to a number of Australian conferences, and kept up the friendships she formed with members from other State Units.

Audrey had a particular fondness for Winifred Kiek Scholars, and those passing through the ACT experienced her warm hospitality. She was a very special lady, who will be long remembered for her generosity, dedicated service to Australian Church Women and her many acts of kindness over many years.

Outside interests included bridge, assisting at a local community centre, walking, reading and family – Australian and Canadian. On Sunday 16 April 2000, Audrey died after suffering a brain haemorrhage while on her daily walk.

State Life Member 1993

Australian Capital Territory Unit ACW

Grace Sims

Born 1914
Died January 1995
Education
Family



During World War II Grace worked in making Beaufort Bombers. Later she joined the staff of YWCA and worked in Toowoomba, Canberra and Adelaide.

In Adelaide she became a member of the Brougham Place Church and the Board of the London Missionary Society, and later worked in the Congregational Church Office and Lady Gowrie Child Care Centre.

When Grace was 50 years of age she was commissioned by the Reverend Winifred Kiek to work as a missionary at Parassala in South India for 5 years – and stayed for 18!

In India Grace co-ordinated cottage industries, the only source of income for many women, organising the purchase and sale of the materials and keeping the books.

Grace was warden of a fostership home for 60 girls and later built a second hostel to enable the girls to attend the dressmaking school which she started in 1972. Grace also travelled to outlying villages starting 12 new centres.

In 1982 Grace returned to Adelaide and became an active member of Dulwich-Rose Park United Parish, serving as Parish Secretary and, as an Elder, ministered to the residents of the retirement village where she lived and tended the garden.

In 1987 Grace became involved in the South Australian Unit of Australian Church Women, serving as Treasurer for 5 years and also, for part of that time, as acting secretary.

May she rest in peace with her Lord and Saviour.

South Australian State Unit ACW

Ailsa May Skippen

Born 20 September 1924 in Brisbane

Died

Education Kelvin Grove State School
North Brisbane Intermediate
Nunn & Trivetts Business College

Family Married to James – 60 years
3 children
6 grandchildren



Member St James Anglican Church Kelvin Grove for 81 years
Choir member for 14 years
Member Soldiers & Sailors Help Society – 5 years
Sunday School Teacher – 7 years
Member YMD (Mothers Union) – Secretary/Treasurer 10 years
Women's Guild 20 years – Secretary, Treasurer and President for 7 years
GFS Member St James
GFS Member Headquarters Group, Townsend Fellowship – President 37 years
Holder of Silver Star 21 years
Service Badge 50 years
Australian Award – silver filigree brooch for Special Services
President GFS Hostel 7 years
Served as a Diocesan Vice Chairman 8 times – still on council

Member since 1968 of Women's Inter Church Council – ACW Queensland Unit
Treasurer 1971-1973
Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener 1984-1992
President 1992-1994
Secretary 1993
Vice President 1977-1978, 1984-1988, 1990-1992, 1996-2005
Treasurer 2003-2004
Archivist 1990-2005
National Executive Treasurer 1983-1985
National Executive WKS Convener 1997-1999

Ailsa has been associated with ACWQ since its inception, and has given considerable service in various positions at State and National levels. She has given invaluable guidance to other members, and her caring and supporting ministry within the Unit has been of inestimable value to all.

Ailsa feels that she herself has gained more understanding of others, and has made valuable friendships that would not have been possible had it not been for her involvement with ACW.

National Life Member 1997

Queensland State Unit ACW

Mollie Smith

Born	2 March 1915 Mollie Asta Barkla In Katanning WA
Died	11 March 2004
Education	Albany, Subiaco, Jabuk (SA) Worked at various occupations including as a sales assistant and as a dental nurse.
Family	Married Horace Smith 6 April 1942, widowed 1975. They farmed for many years at Yerecoin north east of Perth in Western Australia. Son Vernon, daughters Margaret and Lesley Grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren



Before marriage Mollie taught Sunday School at Claremont Baptist Church and was involved in Christian Endeavour. During her years on the farm at Yerecoin she attended the Anglican Church. Back in Perth she was involved in the Presbyterian Church at Subiaco which became the Uniting Church, and Mollie became a Church Elder. As a member of Subiaco Ladies Fellowship and a great worker in the church and strongly supported the Fellowship of the Least Coin in her local congregation. Mollie was a member of an innovative elderly congregation at Subiaco Uniting Church who developed their church to become the Warehouse Café church.

Because of her interest in FLC, Mollie joined the WA State Unit of ACW in March 1988. Although she never held office in ACW, she was a quiet, loyal and committed worker for ACW. She represented ACW on National Council of Women 1989-91 and 1996-2000. Mollie's Guild provided the funds for a plaque for ACW in the Women's Memorial Water Garden in King's Park celebrating Women's Suffrage Centenary.

Mollie was an active member of Country Women's Association in both country and city. At Yerecoin she held all positions of office and was Divisional Secretary and Treasurer. She travelled overseas with her husband to Conferences when he was Chairman of the Wheat Board. After his death she ran the farm with the help of her son.

An avid reader, she also enjoyed needlework, was interested in family history research and enjoyed being involved with the family.

A warm, loving, practical Christian lady.

Western Australian State Unit ACW

Marjorie Stanhope

Born 1903 Sydney
Died 15 June, 1984 at the age of 81 years
Education
Family Married Roy in 1928;
Mother to two sons



Marjorie Stanhope was an Honorary Life Member of the ACW NSW Unit. She had lived a full and fruitful life. She was a member of the Churches of Christ, having been baptised in her early teens at the Enmore Tabernacle. She was married to Roy in 1928 and they were blessed with two sons, Bruce, who became a High School teacher at Murwillumbah and John, who is now Medical Superintendent of the Langton Clinic, Sydney.

Roy and Marjorie lived in Orange and Maitland before coming to Longueville to live. She was always interested in the work of women in the Church. She spent many years teaching secretarial work in various Technical Colleges, and here she did much to encourage young women to grow both morally and spiritually. She held positions of President and Treasurer in her local Church Women's work and had also held the position of President of the Lane Cove-Longueville Inter-Church Fellowship. In the State-wide activities of Australian Church Women, she has been a member of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Committee, and the Convener of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. She was a keen member of the Women's National Council and was the Australian representative at the First International Committee meeting of the Women's World Day of Prayer movement held in Sweden in 1968.

She and Roy were always willing and ready to meet our Winifred Kiek scholars when they arrived in Sydney and offer them accommodation as needed. Among the amazing things Marjorie accomplished was the taking of packets of gospels and selected Bible passages into Russia in 1974. These were received joyously by members of the Moscow Baptist Church and churches in other cities.

The Lane Cove Church of Christ was filled to capacity for her Memorial Service, a fitting tribute to a remarkable lady from her many friends and relatives, who were in attendance. Several members of the NSW State Unit attended this service for their late loved member. We praise God for her life, witness and service, and extend sincere sympathy to her husband Roy, sons Bruce and John and their families.

State Life Member 1981

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Enid Stephens

Born 16 November 1902

Died 12 June 1977

Education

Family Married Lawrence Hodges 1927
2 daughters – Shirley and Judith
1 son – Lawrence (Canon L J Hodges)
After her husband Lawrence's death
married Bert Stephens in 1942



She was a faithful Christian who represented the Anglican Church on Australian Church Women, Victorian Unit, for many years.

She gave outstanding service in many areas of our work, serving as President 1965-66, as an Executive member and Treasurer 1971-74. At the Executive meeting prior to her death, it had been decided to honour her by making her a Life Member.

She also served as Treasurer of the Working Committee of Australian Church Women during the years 1967-71.

A dedicated member of the Anglican Church, she worked in many areas of Church life, in particular with the Mothers Union, where she served as Secretary of the Mothers Union for the Diocese of Melbourne for 13 years.

We give thanks to God for the life and influence of Mrs Enid Stephens.

Victorian State Unit ACW

Regina Stolz

Born 1904

Died 2 March 1989

Education

Family Married Christoph Stolz 1928
Daughters Theophila, Christobelle, Rosalind



Mrs Stolz, a Lutheran Pastor's wife, became involved in the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council in its beginnings and was the only President to serve on two different occasions, 1948-49 and again 1957-58. The Second World War broke out in the year following the inauguration of the Women's Inter-Church Council and this affected its growth and work. But Mrs Stolz spoke very warmly of the way the members were bound together through prayer and worship.

Mrs Stolz called herself a 'prohibited member' of ACW because her denomination would not participate in the organisation. It was a great joy to her when in 1987 the Lutheran Church gave permission for its members to join Australian Church Women, and in 1988 to have formally ratified the affiliation of their denomination.

Mrs Stolz was looking forward to participating in the Golden Jubilee Service 18 November 1988, but ill health prevented her. Nevertheless she saw that she participated in the offering and asked for a copy of the History of ACW NSW Unit.

Mrs Stolz was an enthusiastic supporter of the Women's World Day of Prayer and served for many years on the State Committee. She was also a zealous supporter of the National Council of Women, the Travellers' Aid Society and the Pan Pacific Association.

Many people have been greatly blessed through Regina Stolz' consistent Christian witness by word and deed to the faith once delivered to the saints. We thank God for remembrance of a fragrant life.

State Life Member 1967

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Doreen Strack

Born 22 June 1916
Died 19 December 1999
Education
Family Married to Jim
Mother



Doreen Strack was a much loved and respected Christian lady who lived her life in total commitment to her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ – a wonderful example and witness to her family and friends, her Church and community.

Doreen was a member of the Church of Christ at Essendon, Victoria, taking an active role in all areas of Church life. Leadership of the Christian Women's Fellowship there led to her being elected as President at both State and National level. She also had a special interest and concern for Ecumenism, and was an integral part of the Essendon Inter-Church Council. Doreen represented Churches of Christ on the Victorian Unit of Australian Church Women, and the Victorian Committee of World Day of Prayer. She held office in a number of positions on both those organisations and was honoured by being made a Life Member of each of them.

A very special interest for Doreen was her involvement with the Australian Church Women's Winifred Kiek Scholarship holders. Her support of the scholars, both in their studies and personal welfare, providing accommodation, transport and a warm family environment resulted in lasting friendships being formed between the scholars and the Strack family. In all her activities, Doreen had the ready support of her husband Jim and their family. Doreen was also a keen supporter of Fellowship of the Least Coin, and attended Asian Church Women's Conference.

She was not an "upfront" person, but always there behind the scenes – lending a listening ear – offering a helping hand or a gentle word of advice.

Doreen's heart's desire was to love people into God's family!

We pay tribute to this special lady, and give thanks to God for her life here among us.

State Life Member

Victorian State Unit ACW

Patricia Louise Taylor-Rogers

Born

Died 24 November 1993 aged 77 years.

Education

Family



As a member of St Paul's Anglican Church, Manuka, ACT she represented her church originally on the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee and was President of the group from 1962-1964.

When Australian Church Women commenced in the Australian Capital Territory in 1968 she represented her church on the (then known) committee of Church Women.

Pat served as President of ACW ACT Unit from 1970 to 1972 and continued as a long serving member and faithful contributor to our meetings until her death.

State Life Member 1985.

Australian Capital Territory Unit ACW

Vera Thorpe

Born 1915, South Shields, Durham, England
Died 23 July 1993
Education
Family Married to Vic, mother of Graeme and Ian.



Vera Thorpe was born in England, and was 12 years old when the family migrated to Australia, and settled in Auburn, Sydney. Following marriage to Vic, she served the Lord firstly in the Auburn Baptist church, and then as foundation members of the Strathfield/Homebush Baptist church.

Vera was always involved in the women's groups, both within the denomination as well as the local church. She also served for many years for the Sydney City Mission and encouraged others to support this work.

Vera settled at Saratoga serving the Lord again through the church, and following Vic's passing continued in all her endeavours. As a representative of the Baptist Union to Australian Church Women, she travelled each month from the Central Coast to the city to attend the state council meetings, and was very diligent and faithful in this responsibility. In every way, Vera Thorpe was a 'good and faithful servant' who put her Lord first in every endeavour or activity she undertook. Her passing saddened her family and friends, but thanks are due to Almighty God, for the lives of all who touched hers are richer.

'Well done, good and faithful servant.'

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Lieutenant Colonel Mrs Jean Todd

Born 2 May 1910 to William & Evelyn Coleman
in Freeburgh, Victoria

Died 10 November 2005

Education 1935 Salvation Army Officer Training

Family Married Douglas Todd 4 March 1975



Lieutenant Colonel Mrs Jean Todd is a retired Salvation Army Officer and prior to her marriage on 4 March 1975 was Lieutenant Colonel Jean Coleman.

Many years of her service were spent in the Home League work of the Salvation Army, based in Sydney, but with responsibility for this work in New South Wales, Queensland and Papua New Guinea. At her retirement in 1970 it was noted that she had visited the 329 leagues, travelling many thousands of miles to do so. Associated with this work was representation of the Salvation Army in various women's activities, including being a member of the NSW Women's Inter Church Council for fourteen years.

She also served on the Inter Church Aid Division of the Australian Council of Churches for several years.

When Australian Church Women came into being Mrs Todd was a member of the 'Interim Committee' which preceded the first national committee of ACW. As State Units of ACW came into being she continued her involvement until her retirement in mid 1970.

Jean and Doug were very involved with all aspects of church activities while living in Bundaberg. They enjoyed fishing and gardening, and Jean also liked house keeping.

Mrs Todd has been associated with the Bundaberg Branch of ACW since its inception and has been Guest Speaker at many of the Branch's Services. We have valued her experience and her friendship. Because of failing health Mrs Todd, now a widow, can no longer take part in the active work of ACW, but we call on her frequently to have a chat.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Joan Trudgian

Born 6 May 1933 at Bundaberg

Died

Education Wooloowin State School
Home Science College
Training College – Home Economics Teacher

Family Married to Keith
3 sons and 2 daughters
13 grandchildren



Representative on CTA Committee – main committee
CTA ladies – for Churches of Christ
Uniting Church – Ladies Fellowship
Yellembi Lodge Aged Care Home – Visitor

Plays music for church

Joined Australian Church Women Queensland Unit in February 1985
State Treasurer 1990-1992 and 1994-1996
National Treasurer 1997-1999
Special Days Convener 1998-2003

Joan is a most valuable member of the Queensland Unit, and fulfilled her role as Treasurer of the National Executive when the Queensland Unit held that responsibility.

She has always been faithful and supportive of all the aims of Australian Church Women, and an encourager of those who come in as new members of the Unit.

Her culinary skills (apple pies) have been the means of supplementing the funds of the Unit.

Joan can always be counted on to help in any way she is asked, and graciously carries out the tasks allotted to her.

Queensland State Unit ACW

Marjory Irene Gordon Verco

Born Marjory Hare, 25 Sept 1914, Essendon, Victoria
Died 5 March 2007
Education Fintona Girls' School; and the Victorian Board of Social Studies
Family Married David Verco, 1938



Marjory is a member of the Churches of Christ. In 1938 she married David Verco who later became Director General of Education NSW and who died in 1972.

Marjory was active in the Churches of Christ Christian Women's Fellowship, especially at the local level in Chatswood. When visiting the USA in 1958 she learnt of United Church Women which united women from all denominations in a study program of the year. On her return she passed on information and material to women's groups in NSW.

In 1960 Marjory was invited by NSW Churches of Christ CWF to accept nomination as President-Elect of NSW Women's Inter-Church Council, and she became President in 1961. This enabled her to visit local Church Women's groups, urging them to form interdenominational groups at the local level. She contacted similar Women's Inter-Church Councils in other states suggesting co-operation of councils at National level. In 1962 Marjory became Promotion Officer of NSW Women's Inter-Church Council.

A visit to the USA in 1963 gave opportunity to study the organisation of Church Women United groups at all levels, and Marjory returned to Australia full of enthusiasm for greater co-operation of Church Women. An Interim Committee of Australian Church Women was formed with Marjory as Vice-President.

Participation in Fellowship Day, World Community Day and Women's World Day of Prayer was promoted. Special Projects were introduced, Fellowship of the Least Coin and Prayer which was operating in Asia and USA; and Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Local Inter-Church Fellowships were formed and each appointed a representative to serve on State WICC. Local projects were also developed according to local needs – e.g. hospital visitation, libraries, etc. Study material was prepared for use in local fellowships.

In March 1964 a National Consultation was called and representatives invited from all States to meet in Deaconess House, Sydney. The late Mrs Commissioner Coutts is quoted as saying: As Australian Women we have learnt to pray together through Women's World Day of Prayer. Now let's work together!

In 1965 the first meeting of National Committee of Australian Church Women was held at Wesley College, University of Sydney, and Marjory was appointed a Vice-President. She served on Promotion Committee until 1974, giving thanks to God for the rewarding spiritual experience. Marjory's prayer is that God will continue to bless all who share in ACW and that its influence will continue to grow and flourish for the extension of His Kingdom and the fulfilment of our Lord's prayer '*that they all may be one*'.

National Life Member 1973

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Jean Vincent

Born 25 December 1911 at Yarloop,
a small country town in Western Australia

Died 2 December 1992

Education University of Western Australia

Family Married to Ray 1938
Mother of three children



Jean met her husband, Ray through the WA Branch of the Australian Student Christian Movement of which she was the Secretary.

Following her graduation from the University of Western Australia Jean was a teacher, in later years specialising in teaching migrant children.

Jean became involved in Australian Church Women WA Unit in 1974 when she became a delegate from the Churches of Christ, and accepted an invitation to be the Winifred Kiek Convener when the National Executive was based in Perth from 1975-1977. She was a very valuable member of that Committee, and in subsequent years held several offices in the WA Unit, including that of President from 1979-1980.

Jean and Ray were very active members of the Churches of Christ in WA and of the WA Council of Churches.

Even after illness prevented her attendance at meetings, Jean still retained her great interest in the programs and activities of Australian Church Women.

Following a stroke in 1987 Jean's health deteriorated and she became a resident of the Churches of Christ Nursing Home at Carinya Village until she passed away.

Western Australian State Unit ACW

Brigadier Mabel Ward

Born 12 November 1913

Died 24 November 1998

Education

Family



Brigadier Mabel Ward served as one of the eight Salvation Army representatives to the NSW State Council of Australian Church Women for many years. She not only fulfilled the responsibility as a council member, but also served on the executive in several positions, including secretary. But it is not for the years of service, or the work she did for which thanks should be given, but for Mabel herself, who through that service brought her own love for God, her own commitment to His service, and her own gifts of encouragement, comfort and spiritual counsel for the women with whom she served.

In May 1998 Mabel was bestowed Life Membership, the greatest honour of Australian Church Women, and Mabel was both delighted and honoured. She received the honour with enthusiasm and humility. It was very deserving, for she was a long serving member of the council, she had attended many state conferences, and even commenced a Branch of ACW at Weeroona Village where she organised the two Special Day services - Fellowship Day and World Community Day.

Australian Church Women NSW Unit gives thanks to God for a wonderful lady, who became a friend to women of many denominations not only in New South Wales, but right throughout Australia. The benefit of her commitment to ecumenism will be felt and valued for a long time.

State Life Member 1998

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Elsa Warner

Born February 1907
Died November 2000
Education
Family Married Laurence Warner
Mother to one son



Elsa Warner was one of the early representatives of the Baptist Church on the Women's Inter Church Council, the forerunner of Australian Church Women in Victoria.

Her early life was much influenced by her aunt and uncle, Emma and H.P. Smith, who cared for her as a child. They were deeply involved in the Collins Street Baptist Church, and H.P. Smith subsequently established the Keswick Bookshop, one of the largest Christian bookshops in Australia. Elsa was later to become the first woman deacon at the church.

Elsa, who was a trained schoolteacher, taught in Gippsland, Richmond and at the School for the Deaf. She was involved in the Inter School Christian Fellowship, the Children's Special Service Mission and Scripture Union activities with young people. She was married to Laurence Warner in 1934 and shared his interests, as he was the architect of many churches and also a widely acclaimed organist. Elsa was an accomplished pianist. They have one son.

Elsa was:

1956-75	Secretary of the Baptist Women's Association (later Fellowship);
1971-73	Secretary of Australian Church Women;
1970	represented Australia at the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo;
1975	represented Australia at the Baptist World Congress in Stockholm;
1980	represented Australia at the Baptist World Congress in Toronto.

As well as her role as secretary, Elsa, at different times, served ACW as a representative to the World Day of Prayer Committee, the National Council of Women and Travellers Aid.

She was actively involved in many Fellowship and Community Day Services in city churches over the years.

Her training as a schoolteacher, her clear intelligence, and her later overseas travel, all combined with her meticulous attention to detail, created a very far-reaching ministry in administration. She was widely respected in women's work, both at home and around the globe.

Victorian State Unit ACW

Mina Whybourne

Born 14 December 1922 at North Sydney

Education Naremburn Primary
Willoughby High School
Metropolitan Business College

Family Son Colin married to Maree
Grandchildren Timothy, Martin and Kathryn
Daughter Anne



St Cuthbert's Naremburn – Girls' Friendly Society, Sunday School
St Andrew's Lakemba – GFS Branch Secretary
GFS Executive – 1938-1951
St Philip's Caringbah – 1952 –
Mothers Union Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President
Mothers Union Diocesan Secretary 1986-89, Vice President 1989-92
Australian Church Women – Secretary Sutherland Branch
1978- Mothers Union Representative to Australian Church Women
1984-88 Newsette Editor
1988-1997 Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener
1997-2001 Minutes Secretary

Mina comments: It is a wonderful privilege to belong to ACW – meeting and making so many caring Christian friends. I am humbled to be included in *Honouring Australian Church Women*.

State Life Member 1998

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Lila Williams

Born 19 February 1910
Died 20 August 1996
Education
Family Married to E. Lyall Williams



Lila Williams was a woman with a deep faith and vision, which led her to be a woman ahead of her time in her involvement within the Christian church, both in thought and action. She was married to E Lyall Williams, a prominent leader within Churches of Christ and ecumenical circles.

Following World War II, tremendous changes faced women in particular, and Lila revelled in the challenges, the opportunities that were to be accepted, everyone had to work hard to keep up with her enthusiasm! A tremendous example to younger women, she encouraged them to step out in faith – dream dreams – to take risks. In her desire to get things done she was at times thought to be a ‘stirrer’! However, she was also meticulous in her preparation and attention to detail and procedure.

Lila was very active at both local and state levels of women’s work within Churches of Christ – she was twice President of the Victorian/Tasmanian Women’s Conference, and twice Secretary, as well as being involved in missionary support groups. Lila was always very keenly interested in getting to know and working with other Church women, and when Women’s Inter-Church Council was formed in Victoria in 1941, she soon became actively involved, making a considerable impact in this work. She served as President 1952-53 and as a member of Executive. During this period one of her memorable achievements was to seek, and gain permission to have an Indonesian Christian woman, Tina Franz, visit Victoria. Lila organised Inter-Church meetings for women to meet Tina, both in Melbourne and many country areas, as well as acting as hostess and chauffeur! This visit was a great success with many Victorian women learning much from meeting and listening to this Indonesian woman.

When WICC became part of Australian Church Women, the Winifred Kiek Scholarship was established to assist women from Asia and the Pacific in their studies. Lila saw this as something she too had dreamed about. The WKS continued to be a special interest which Lila continued to support throughout her lifetime.

Lila Williams was a lady of unique qualities, with a Christian faith and perspective which was for many people – women in particular – quite inspirational! We give thanks to God for having known and loved her, and for all she did for Him in His name.

Victorian State Unit ACW

Vera Wilson

Born	2 December 1921
Died	10 March 2005 Perth WA
Education	Perth Modern School
Family	Married to Charlie who always supported Vera in her activities with ACW. They have brought up four children.



Vera was very active in the Uniting Church and has taken a leading role in activities in her local parish. She was the first woman elder in her local church. She used her many talents including her singing for God's glory.

In 1966, when the Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women was inaugurated, Vera was appointed as a delegate from the Presbyterian Women's Association WA. With the formation of the Uniting Church in 1977, Vera continued as a representative of this denomination. Vera has attended nine National Conferences and has been a member of National Executive on two occasions, being National Convener of FLC from 1975-1977 and Vice President in 1987-1989. She was privileged to be an Australian delegate to the Asian Women's Conference in Bali in 1983.

As a member of the WA Unit, Vera has served in the following offices:

- two terms as Secretary (1970-1974 and 1992-1994)
- President (1989-1990)
- Vice President (1985-1986)
- FLC Convener (1968-1969)
- WKS Convener (1981-1984, 1990-1991, 1996)
- Social Issues Convener (1998-2000)

Vera organised Fellowship Days in her local parish for many years.

She was a wonderful asset to Australian Church Women, always full of enthusiasm and encouragement. Vera was a fount of knowledge and a loving friend to our members.

National Life Member 1996

Western Australian State Unit ACW

Mary Seavington Wood

Born 25 June 1912 to Francis & Charlotte Stuckey
Died 1982
Education Inverell
North Sydney Girls High School
Sydney University – BA Dip Ed Dip Soc St
Family Married Gillam (Pat) Wood 1937, mother of four sons, grandmother



Mrs Mary Seavington Wood was an active member of Australian Church Women. She was always very much a leader in women's activities; she called the first meeting of Women's Inter-Church Council in Tasmania and was first President. She was active in the life of Australian Church Women from its establishment in Tasmania. She attended NCM as Tasmania Unit delegate in 1967 and 1969, and was Fellowship of the Least Coin Convener in Tasmania in 1968-69. When her husband moved to Scots Church Hobart, Mary again took a lead in women's activities. When bushfires swept across Tasmania Mary's early training as a Social Worker enabled her to become one of a team of Social Workers who helped many fire victims start life again.

From 1973-1977 Mr Wood was elected Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and with great interest in Missions, Mary accompanied her husband to many areas of concern. Back in Geelong, Mary formed the Geelong branch of Women in the Uniting Church Fellowship. She enjoyed her years at St David's Church Geelong where she was an Elder and a representative on Barwon Presbytery and at Synod.

In latter years she was keenly interested in the work of Trading Partners – the organisation enabling disadvantaged Third World people to have a market for their products in Australia.

Mrs Wood was noted for her keen analytical mind and her sense of humour.

She leaves her husband, four sons, their wives and their children keenly aware of their loss but rejoicing in wonderful memories of a much loved wife, mother and grandmother.

Tasmanian State Unit ACW

Dorothy Woodhouse

Born 12 March 1922
Died 11 October 2013
Education MLC Burwood
Family Married to Les
Two sons
Grandchildren



Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse was invited to the NSW State Council meeting on 20 November 2000 when the unanimous decision of Council was declared that in recognition of her long dedication and service to Australian Church Women an outline of this devoted service should be included in the *Bursary Book* of ACW.

At the Annual General Meeting of ACW NSW Unit on 17 April 1989, Life Membership was conferred upon Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse for her long years of service to Australian Church Women as Secretary, Convener of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and for the many hours she and her husband, Les, had spent preparing videos on the history of ACW, including the Golden Jubilee Service in 1988. The Unit's memorabilia collection greatly benefited also from the many photographs taken by Dorothy at special functions.

Dorothy was responsible for the distribution of *Newsette*, being a most efficient Subscription Secretary. She was also an extremely enthusiastic member of the Chatswood/Willoughby Branch of ACW, which she had formed and in which she served as both President and Secretary over the years.

After moving to the Central Coast, it was no time before Dorothy's enthusiasm and love for our Lord saw the formation in 1997 of the Kincumber Area Branch of Australian Church Women.

We appreciate Dorothy's warm and caring friendship and acknowledge her great contribution to the work of the NSW Unit over many years and we pray that God will continue to richly bless her in all her endeavours for Him.

She was a member of the Methodist Church.

State Life Member 1989

NSW State Unit ACW

Dorothy Katherine Wright

Born 26 February 1937

Died 10 August 2012

Education

Family



Dorothy joined the South Australian Unit – then the Women’s Inter-Church Council of South Australia in 1972 or 1973 as delegate from the Brighton Women’s Inter-Church Council. She has served in this capacity for various terms over a period of 20 years, currently holding this position.

1979-1984 held the position of Unit Treasurer. This was during the period when the one function Musical At Home became the multi function Community Concern Luncheons, greatly increasing the work load.

1984-1985 served on the Interim Committee set up to plan the hoped for 1986 ACWC Assembly in Adelaide.

1985-1987 served as Treasurer on the National Executive of ACW. During this time she was responsible for separating all the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Funds from other ACW monies, to enable them to be invested separately.

1987-1993 served as a Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trustee, holding the position of Treasurer. Her meticulous attention to detail has been evident in all the statements presented and transactions handled. She has gained a wealth of knowledge which has proved a great benefit to the Trust.

Dorothy has attended several National Conferences. She gave local assistance during the 1975 Conference in Adelaide, attended the National Conferences in Brisbane in 1983 and Adelaide 1987 and was WKS Trust delegate in Perth 1989 and Sydney 1991. The presentation of her financial statements, whether State, National or WKS Trust has always been excellent.

It would be impossible to estimate the many hours Dorothy has spent working ‘on the books’. She has always been involved in other ACW activities – travelling widely in suburbs and country to assist in promotion work during her time on the State Executive and giving support to National Treasurers during her time as WKS Trustee.

National Life Member 1993

South Australian State Unit ACW

Mabel Gertrude Wyllie

Born	8 May 1907 in Adelaide
Died	12 June 1995, aged 88 years.
Education	1928 BA (Adelaide) 1931 Dip Ed (Melbourne) 1951 MA (Sydney) 1965-72 Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Australian School of Pacific Administration
Family	Married to Rev. Bertram Wyllie 2 sons, 1 daughter



Mabel served with her husband in Methodist Church appointments

- 1933-34 Swan Street Hobart
- 1934-39 Hamilton, Victoria
- 1939-43 Yarra Street, Geelong
- 1943-64 Wesley College, University of Sydney

Member of Methodist Overseas Mission Board

President of Women's Auxiliary to Overseas Mission

Methodist representative to World Council of Churches Assembly New Delhi 1961

Member of Central Committee of WCC 1961-68 – 5 women in the 100 members

Member WCC Committee on Cooperation of Men & Women in Church, Family, Society

Member WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism

Mabel was a founding Mother of ACW. At the time when Australian Council of Churches Secretary, Rev Harvey Perkins was looking for someone to initiate moves to create a national body for church women, he approached Mabel Wyllie and gave her the commission to 'do something'. Unbeknown to her, NSW State Unit had already made representation to sister Units in other States asking for their reaction to the idea of a National Committee for Australian Church Women. The fortunate meeting of Mabel Wyllie and Marjory Verco resulted in the eventual forming of ACW National Committee, the first executive of which was drawn from NSW members. Mabel Wyllie was appointed the President and served her term with distinction.

Mabel Wyllie understood the importance of keeping the records of an organisation safe for future generations. She set up the beginning of the Archives of National Executive.

"My training and experience had encouraged my enthusiasm for the Ecumenical Movement – an enthusiasm shared with my husband. I heard him say many times – 'Ecumenism is not an optional extra, it is at the heart of the Gospel – that they all may be one.'

"I found the meetings of the Central Committee of WCC a great inspiration – Bible study, addresses, devotional services, business meetings, meal times, getting to know people from other Christian Churches and other countries – the Russian Orthodox, the Greek, the Armenian.

"I wanted more Australian women to share in this Ecumenical adventure."

Following a Central Committee meeting in Toronto Mabel visited the USA and attended a Conference of Church Women United. There she learnt about the Fellowship of the Least Coin and cooperation of Christian women of all major denominations in the States. She was convinced that the life of women in the churches of Australia could be enriched in a similar ecumenical organisation.

At the time of her death, Mabel's home had been in Canberra for eight years, but prior to that, she lived in Sydney. Members of NSW Unit are proud to record our tribute to a fine lady to whom the whole organisation is indebted for her leadership and vision.

National Life Member 1973

First President of Australian Church Women

New South Wales State Unit ACW

Winifred Wyper

Born 1903 to John and Harriet Turton
Died 9 October 1984
Education
Family Married 1928 to Robert Wyper
Daughter Barbara



It was with regret that the Australian Church Women NSW State Unit learned of the passing of Mrs Winifred Wyper.

Winifred was a member of the Congregational Church. She was one of those hard working ladies who operated "Wybalena" Hostel for country girls in the 1950s and 1960s. This hostel was at 1 Apian Way, Burwood, not now in existence. The surrounding houses are so historic they are classified under the National Trust. Many of Mrs Wyper's fellow workers became Life Members of ACW also.

She was Honorary Secretary of the Appeals Committee and a member of the Hostel Committee for many years. The story of "Wybalena" is recorded in a booklet published in 1963. Mrs Wyper was instrumental in forming the Mosman Auxiliary in the Sydney suburb where she lived and an amount of £465 was raised in the 50s. At that time the organisation was known as the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council, the forerunner of Australian Church Women.

State Life Member 1963

New South Wales State Unit ACW