

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of National Committee meeting held at Deaconess House,
Carillon Avenue, Newtown, February 10 - 11, 1965.

PRESENT:

State Representatives:

N.S.W.	Mrs. H. J. Lilley	Methodist
	Colonel H. Cross	Salvation Army
Q'land	Mrs. A.G. Ashton	Congregationalist
Victoria	Mrs. H. Stephens	Church of England
	Mrs. T.G.S. Grieve	Baptist
Sth Aust	Mrs. E. A. Pitman	Methodist
	Mrs. H. Wells	Congregationalist
West Aust.		
	Mrs. N. Wilkinson	Society of Friends
	Mrs. L. Staton	Presbyterian
Tasmania	Mrs. G.A. Wood	Presbyterian
A.C.T.	Mrs. E. Ogston	Church of England
	Mrs. G. Stirling	Churches of Christ

Denominational Representatives:

Mrs. C.F. Gribble	Methodist
Mrs. J.F. Dey	Congregationalist
Mrs. A. Dougan	Presbyterian
Mrs. Col. Saunders	Salvation Army
Head Deaconess	
M. Andrews	Church of England
Mrs. D. Strack	Churches of Christ
Mrs. Doratis	Greek Orthodox
Mrs. A. Mageros	

Special interest groups:

Mrs. T. C. Rentoul Y.W.C.A.

Representatives from:

ACC Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society -

Mrs. T. H. Coates Methodist
Mrs. J. D. McCaughey Presbyterian

ACC Executive Committee -

Mr. V. K. Brown Church of England
Mrs. D.J.A. Verco Churches of Christ
Mrs. M.G. Wyllie Methodist

Interim Committee -

Mrs. S. M. Barrett Methodist

ACC Staff - consultants

Rev. H.L. Perkins
Rev. J.R. Neal
Miss T.J. Skiller

APOLOGIES:

Apologies received from Deaconess C. Ritchie and Mr. H. Julian.

AGENDA:

Wednesday - 10.30am Arrive - morning tea
11.00 Opening Prayers - Head Deaconess M. Andrews
Welcomes
Procedural arrangements
Review of the Interim Committee's work
Report from States, etc.
12.30pm Lunch

Agenda - continued

- 1.30pm Constitution
- 3.30 Afternoon tea
- 4.00 Study Material
- 6.00 Tea
- 7.00 Programme of Australian Church Women -
Projects: Fellowship of the Least Coin
Winifred Kiek Scholarship
- 9.00 Prayers: Mrs. D. Strack
- Thursday
- 9.00am Prayers - Mrs. A.G. Ashton
- 9.15 Constitution
Survey on the Service and Status of Women in the
Churches.
Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in the
Church, Family and Society.
- 10.30 Morning tea
- 11.00 Appointments and Elections
Recommendations to the ACC Annual Meeting
Closing Prayers - The President.
- 12.30pm. Lunch

OPENING:

The meeting was opened with worship in the Chapel lead by Head Deaconess M. Andrews.

WELCOMES:

Mrs. Wyllie chaired the plenary sessions and welcomed the delegates to the meeting. She extended to Deaconess Andrews the thanks of the Interim Committee for her assistance and her co-operation in the planning of the National Committee meeting. The members of the National Committee were introduced to each other through a roll call.

PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The programme, circulated with the working documents, was adopted by the meeting. On the recommendation of the Interim Committee a steering committee was appointed - Mesdames, J. Dey, T.C. Rentoul and T.H. Coates were appointed.

REPORT OF INTERIM COMMITTEE:

The report as produced in the working documents was presented by the Convener, Mrs. M.G. Wyllie. Mrs. Wyllie presented, and spoke to, the report of the Interim Committee. (Report attached)

REPORTS FROM THE STATES:

The three State Units presented reports which were already circulated in the working documents, in which each State Unit emphasised the growing recognition of the necessity for the ecumenical outreach which was the aim of Australian Church Women. (Reports attached)

A.C.T. Mrs. Stirling spoke of the developments towards the formation of a Unit in the A.C.T. The holding of the World Community Day in 1964 had been initiated by the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee. This had been followed by a visit to Canberra by the Rev. H.L. Perkins who had spoken of the development of Australian Church Women. At the present time women's groups were being approached for permission to change the name of the committee from the Women's World Day of Prayer to a Women's Inter-Church Council. Replies are only now being received. Mrs. Stirling said that she was glad that the A.C.T. was able to be present at this National Committee meeting to gain further understanding of Australian Church Women.

Western Australia. Mrs. Wilkinson outlined the steps leading to the present position where the committee was almost at the stage of

seeking recognition as a State Unit.

Tasmania: Mrs. Woods spoke on the situation in Tasmania where there are two committees for the Women's World Day of Prayer. A group had met in Hobart which hopes to be able to form an interim committee to seek the co-operation of the Women's World Day of Prayer committees with a view to working towards the formation of a State Unit. Mrs. Woods said there were a number of difficulties to be overcome but that she hoped that from the experience of this National Committee meeting she would be able to assist the groups in Tasmania in their participation in Australian Church Women.

United Churches: Mrs. Wyllie also spoke of the contacts which have been made with the United Churches in Port Moresby, Alice Springs, Darwin and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Y.W.C.A. Mrs. Rentoul spoke of the readiness of the YWCA to co-operate with the National Committee of Australian Church Women.

CONSTITUTION:

A draft constitution had been prepared by the Interim Committee in consultation with the State Units, Federal Denominational Groups and the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

The discussions were introduced by the Rev. H.L. Perkins who spoke of the background of the Constitution and the reasons for the various clauses. During the following lengthy and full discussion several questions came under review -

- . the relationship of the Australian Council of Churches with Australian Church Women and with women's groups both denominational and inter-church
- . the concept of Australian Church Women as a movement providing programmes and co-ordination rather than as a large, powerful organisation
- . finance of Australian Church Women and the financial implications for State Units
- . associate membership and the position of observers.

The Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council requested that their suggestion concerning the section on finance and the distribution of the collections be noted. They are anxious to co-operate in the projects which will be financed through the special days but they are anxious also to ensure the possibility and validity of other projects initiated by the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council.

The question of an additional clause relating to "dissolution" was referred to the Steering Committee.

The following day the Steering Committee recommended that no additional clause on dissolution be inserted and that the amended constitution be forwarded to the ACC Annual Meeting for ratification.

The constitution as amended and accepted by the National Committee and ratified by the ACC Annual Meeting is attached.

N.B. The ACC Annual Meeting held February 11-16, ratified the Constitution with the addition of the words "within the Division of Church and Community" after the end of Clause 3 (b).

STUDY MATERIAL:

On behalf of the Interim Committee, Mrs. S.M. Barrett introduced the discussion on study material. Mrs. Barrett said there was an urgent need for study material and that this had been highlighted by the response to the study booklet "Saints Alive!".

Mrs. Barrett commented that there is a need to "stir up" the women in the local groups to take advantage of the booklets and material available.

It was agreed that there is a need for the studies to be written in simple English, to be practical and relevant to everyday life.

Subjects such as a study of the Parables in relation to modern life, community welfare and issues of church union were suggested.

It is important that women's groups be encouraged to take part in the study programme of the Church and Life Movement.

It was agreed that there is also need for studies on specific devotional themes. In our planning we should encourage the studies to be used in groups of men and women.

Representatives from all States agreed that study material should be

- . simple
- . direct
- . related to life.

The Committee discussed the Church and Life Movement and resolved:

1. that the National Committee gives full support to the Church and Life Movement and urges the women of the churches to take part in the programme
2. that the National Committee not prepare any study material for use in 1966 but that Australian Church Women use the Church and Life Movement studies
3. Australian Church Women National Committee suggests that it is important that the study material and questions be in simple terms, direct and relation to life and far as possible free from theological jargon.

PROGRAMME OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

The session on programming was introduced by Mrs. D.J.A. Verco. She outlined the special days so far incorporated in the programme of Australian Church Women.

- . World Community Day
- . Fellowship Day
- . Women's World Day of Prayer

The questions put to the meeting by Mrs. Verco were:

- . do we want to continue this programme?
- . do we want to follow the pattern of the United Church Women of the USA in developing the particular themes for each day?
- . can we set the dates at national level?
- . how can we fit these days into the already full programme of the churches?
- . how can we promote these days through the State Units and the denominational groups?

(a) World Community Day. Various suggestions were made -

- . that it be organised as a family day (perhaps a Sunday) with the endorsement of the ACC to the whole community
- . that it be held during Advent
- . that it take the form of a Carol Service
- . that in order to encourage the participation of men and women together it be held at 5pm on a suitable day.

It was agreed that the State Units give consideration to these various suggestions and perhaps undertake some experiments and report to the next National Committee meeting.

It was also agreed that the National Committee should establish the principle that co-operation with men on these special days is desirable and that ways and means be explored to carry this through.

It was resolved:

- 1) That we recommend to the State Units that men be included in invitations for the observance of World Community Day
- 2) That State Units work out what they regard is the most suitable type of meeting for their area.

Themes: The committee suggested that the following be kept in mind in the choosing of theme for 1965:

- . International Co-operation Year (ICY)
- . United Nations Day
- . ACC Consultation on Christian Responsibility for World Order.

(b) Fellowship Day - theme: Mrs. Wyllie reported that the Interim committee had given some thought to the theme and had in mind the concern for South East Asia. An approach had been made for the study material to be written by the Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Dicker who had worked for some time in Indonesia, and it was hoped that the worship service would be prepared by someone connected with Malaysia.

It was resolved that the Working Committee of Australian Church Women be asked to take responsibility for the preparation of a worship service and study material for Fellowship Day and World Community Day and that we approach the women's inter-church group in Perth to seek the co-operation of Archbishop Appleton in preparing the worship service for World Community Day. Mrs. Wilkinson agreed to make the approach to Archbishop Appleton on behalf of the committee.

WORLD COUNCIL MEETING OF THE Y. W. C. A.

Mrs. Rentoul reported that the World Council of the YWCA would be held in Melbourne in 1967 and 250 women from around the world would be visiting Australia for this meeting. Mrs. Rentoul said that the delegates would be visiting the States following the World Council meeting and hoped that Australian Church Women would be able to share in the fellowship of meetings arranged.

PROJECTS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Mrs. Wells introduced this discussion. Projects undertaken by Australian Church Women are a means by which we serve together. Serving together means our worship and study must be relevant. Fellowship of the Least Coin: This fellowship is primarily a fellowship of prayer. The gifts of the least coin are only secondary to the fellowship of Christian women around the world. Projects undertaken by the Fellowship include in the Pacific area a girl's hostel in Tahiti, in the Philippines the rehabilitation of children; and a three year plan for expenses of Asian women to attend the Asian Church Women's Conference to be held in Japan in 1966.

It is important that we use not only the channels of our State Units but also the denominational women's groups for promotion of the Fellowship. It was suggested that the prayers from "Circle of Prayer" be used in weekly and monthly meetings to introduce the prayer fellowship to the members. Denominational magazines could carry articles and stories about the Fellowship and in our homes we can have a jar (or tin) on view which will raise interest among our friends.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Mrs. Wells spoke of the work of Mrs. Kiek as a pioneer in the work of co-operation of men and women and of church union.

It was reported that the Interim Committee was anxious that the first scholarship holder be brought to Australia in 1965 and had begun enquiries for a social worker from Indonesia to be the first holder. Correspondence was received which gave the necessary background, qualifications and availability of a Miss Connie Tan Kwi Hwa to come to Australia for the 2nd and 3rd terms of this Academic year. She could undertake studies and research in institutional care of children.

It was resolved that the National Committee endorse the action of the Interim Committee in extending an invitation to Miss Connie Tan Kwie Hwa, directress of Dorcas' Children's Home, Djakarta, Indonesia to be the first Winifred Kiek Scholarship holder.

COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION OF MEN & WOMEN IN CHURCH, FAMILY AND SOCIETY.

(a) Mrs. Coates reported on the progress made so far on the request from the Interim Committee that material be prepared on sex education. This material to be suitable for use by parents and study groups. Mrs. Coates outlined a bibliography she had prepared following her own investigation of material available. In her investigation she had come to the conclusion that there was not very much material available on this subject but there were a few possibilities:

That Australian Church Women could:

- re-publish material from "Together" - this had been suggested by the Rev. Dr. C. J. Wright of the Committee on Christian Marriage and Family Life.
- In Victoria sets of material had been produced by the Mothers' Union for use in their own groups - perhaps these could be given a wider distribution.

Following discussion it was resolved -

- (1) That we refer to the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society the request for work on a bibliography and suggest a further study of the subject in co-operation with the Commission on Christian Marriage and Family Life.
- (2) That the Working Committee of Australian Church Women explore the possibility of direct relationship with the Commission on Christian Marriage and Family Life.

(b) Mrs. Colonel Saunders and Mrs. Coates introduced the work of the Department on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. They spoke of the Department's concerns and personalities.

In discussion several points were made concerning the need for Australian Church Women to be closely related to this Department, Mrs. Wylie stressed that this had always been the thinking of the Interim Committee and was glad then the ACC Executive Committee was able to appoint the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society in Melbourne.

The relationship will -

- serve as a link with the World Council of Churches in Geneva
- ensure that material will be received from overseas
- provide the setting of Australian Church Women in the life of the ACC - not a separate organisation but a means of drawing the women of the churches into the ecumenical movement.

Some concerns of the Commission on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society:

- report on service and status of women in the church in Australia (collate material from the Methodist Women's Federation in South Australia and material from New Zealand)
- possibility of a dedication service for laymen and women for their work in the world.
- study material on sex relations
- study of the basic considerations of the Department (as set out in the illustrated brochure of the WCC)
- activities where men and women can co-operate - Freedom From Hunger Campaign - Community Day - Carols by Candlelight.
- prepare bibliographies
- write stories for church papers
- prepare leaflets
- concern for lay service
- study of the status of women
- make known the general lines of thought from WCC Department
- anthropology studies - actual conditions in Papua, West New Guinea, our Aborigines, etc. through articles and studies.
- concern for working mothers

Under the leadership of Mr. V. K. Brown the meeting divided into groups

- 1) to list the ways Australian Church Women might promote co-operation among men and women in all spheres
- 2) to list the ways you think the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society should operate best
- 3) what is our (Australian Church Women) answer to those who say that Australian Church Women is unnecessary or even a positive danger.

STATE UNITS:

- 1) Resolved that we accept Western Australia as a State Unit provisionally and request their constitution be sent forward to the Working Committee for ratification of the appointed as State Unit.
- 2) Resolved that we note with interest the formation of an Interim Committee in the ACT and encourage this group to go ahead with their plans for an inter-church council.
- 3) We note with interest the conversations going on in Tasmania and offer our assistance where possible.

PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES:

Resolved that Australian Church Women seek representation at the Pacific Conference of Churches in May 1966.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS:

Scholarship Committee: Resolved that Deaconess C. Ritohie and Mrs. J.D. McCaughey be approached to be our representatives on the Scholarship Committee of the Australian Council of Churches, which is centred in Melbourne.

Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society of the Australian Council of Churches.

Resolved that Mrs. D. Strack and Mrs. H. Stephens be our representatives on this Committee which is also centred in Melbourne.

OFFICERS:

Officers elected for 1965 were:

President:	Mrs. M. G. Wyllie
Secretary:	Colonel H. Cross
Vice-Presidents:	
	Mrs. D.J.A. Verco
	Head Deaconess M. Andrews
Treasurer:	Mrs. J.F. Dey

WORKING COMMITTEE:

The following were elected to form with the officers, the Working Committee for 1965:

Mrs. Stafford
Mrs. H.J. Lilley
Mrs. A. Dougan
Mrs. C.F. Gribble
Mrs. Doratis

THANKS: The meeting expressed its thanks to Mrs. Wyllie for the way she chaired the meetings and the leadership she had given. Thanks were also extended to Head Deaconess Andrews and Miss Skiller for their work in making arrangements for the meeting.

CLOSING:

Closing worship was led by the President, Mrs. M. G. Wyllie.

CONFIRMED: Mabel G. Wyllie

DATE: 19. 1. 66

Attached: Constitution
Report from Interim Committee
Reports from the States

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME: Australian Church Women.

2. The AIM of Australian Church Women is

To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to promote co-operation of men and women in the Church, family and society; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church; to provide opportunities for Christian women of different churches to worship, study and serve together and to encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries.

The programme of Australian Church Women shall be planned to serve this aim.

3. RELATIONSHIPS:

- (a) Through the Australian Council of Churches, Australian Church Women shall be linked with the World Council of Churches and the regional conferences of churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.
- (b) Australian Church Women shall function in relationship with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, within the Division of Church and Community of the ACC.

4. COMMITTEES:

- (a) The National Committee shall consist of representatives who shall be appointed annually:
 - i. one representative of the Federal women's organisation of each church, appointed by whatever means is appropriate to the particular church.
 - ii. two representatives of each and every State women's inter-church organisation recognised by Australian Church Women as its State Unit.
 - iii. one representative of the Federal organisation of any special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee.
 - iv. two representatives appointed by the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.
 - v. four representatives appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

The National Committee shall meet at least annually at a time and place to be determined in consultation with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. Fifty percent of representatives under 4 (a) i. and ii. shall constitute a quorum. Alternates may be appointed for all representatives to the National Committee.

- (b) A Working Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee to carry out its work between meetings. The Working Committee shall consist of 10 members of the National Committee resident in one State and shall include the office bearers. The location of the Working Committee shall be determined by the National Committee.

5. OFFICE BEARERS:

The office bearers shall be (1) a President; (2) two Vice-Presidents; (3) a Secretary; (4) a Treasurer; They shall be elected annually by the National Committee provided always that the President shall not hold the office for more than two consecutive years. The office bearers shall act on behalf of the Working Committee between meetings.

6. STATE AND LOCAL ORGANISATION:

- i. Each State Unit shall co-operate with the Council of Churches associated with the Australian Council of Churches in the State.
- ii. Committees in local areas which carry out the purpose of Australian Church Women shall be affiliated with the State Unit.

7. PROGRAMME OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

The National Committee of Australian Church Women shall prepare a statement of its programme each year.

8. FINANCE:

- i. Collections taken at special days and services included in the Australian Church Women programme (after local expenses have been met) shall be divided, as determined each year by the National Committee in consultation with its State Units, between (i) the administration of the affiliated State Women's Inter-Church Council organisation, (ii) administration of the National Committee of Australian Church Women and (iii) national projects sponsored by the National Committee in co-operation with State Units.
- ii. The funds of the Fellowship of the Least Coin shall be paid annually by the State Units to the National Committee for remittance to the Department on Co-operation of Men and Women, in Church, Family and Society, in the World Council of Churches.
- iii. (a) Accounts shall be kept as determined by the National Committee in consultation with the Honorary Treasurer of the Australian Council of Churches.
(b) Bank accounts shall be operated by the President, Secretary and Treasurer and such others as may be appointed, the signatures of any two of whom shall be sufficient discharge.
(c) Statements of accounts shall be presented to the meetings of the Working Committee, and audited annual statements to the National Committee and to the Australian Council of Churches.
(d) The financial year shall end on December 31.

9. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION:

The Constitution shall be amended by a vote of a two-thirds majority of members of the National Committee present. Notice of motion to amend the Constitution shall be given to the Working Committee by an organisation having representation on the National Committee. All constituent bodies shall be notified in writing of the proposed amendment not less than three months before the meeting of the National Committee. Amendments shall be operative upon ratification by the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches.

10. DISSOLUTION:

In the event of the dissolution of the National Committee, its project and trust funds shall be paid to the purposes designated and its administrative funds to the Australian Council of Churches.

FEBRUARY 11, 1965
SYDNEY.

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Report to First Meeting of the National Committee

Two years ago the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches appointed an interim committee of Australian Church Women. This committee was re-appointed in February 1964. During the 2-year period the members have met regularly in order to plan and discuss the development of ecumenical relationships between the existing women's groups of the churches.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION. At the end of 1963 the Interim Committee felt it had progressed as far as was possible and that it needed to consult with Federal Denominational women's groups and State women's inter-church councils. A National Consultation, arranged in conjunction with the staff of the Australian Council of Churches, was held in Sydney during March 1964. To this consultation representatives were appointed from the women's inter-church councils of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Representatives were also appointed by the Federal women's organisations of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and by Greek Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic Churches. Deaconess Andrews was present from the Church of England.

The Consultation, brief though it was, was characterised by stimulating fellowship and the growth of mutual understanding between women of different churches and different states. From the Consultation there emerged the conviction that, at the present time Australian Church Women was strategic in the life of the Australian Churches.

1) There is need for ecumenical dialogue between the women of the churches. Women's organisations in the Churches are lively and often efficiently organised, but too often there is little opportunity to combine with other church groups for combined worship, study and practical activity. From localities where this is already occurring enthusiastic reports are coming. Most women are interested in and impatient for Christian unity and Australian Church Women ^{exists to} foster this interest and deepen the sense of urgency. The renewal, the mission and the unity of the Church are the concern of Australian Church Women.

2) It is hoped to do this not by building up a large national organisation, but by working through existing women's groups, both denominational and inter-church. In localities where no inter-church group exists it is hoped that Australian Church Women will encourage their formation. Australian Church Women will also be a link between Australian women and the Church in the world.

3) At the same time it is recognized that within the Churches our present segmentation into sex groups, while allowing for community of interests and easy organisation is often a denial of the full co-operation of men and women within the Church. Therefore Australian Church Women will take every opportunity to promote the study of the problems of co-operation and to encourage full co-operation of men and women in the churches.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION. Following the Consultation in March the Interim Committee began to work on a draft Constitution. This was prepared over many meetings and referred to State women's inter-church councils, Federal denominational women's groups, the ACC Executive Committee and Federal Heads of the member churches.

The draft constitution being presented to this first meeting of the National Committee is the result of consultation with these people. We have taken into account all recommendations and suggestions in its preparation.

STATE UNITS. At the time of the calling of this meeting there are four State Units co-operating in the programme of Australian Church Women. They are Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. In

Western Australia plans are well under way for the state women's inter-church council to be received as a State Unit.

PROGRAMME. Fellowship Day in 1964 was observed in many areas, the theme being "Sharing the Common Life". This was associated with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A worship service and study was prepared for the use of local groups.

World Community Day was held in October and the theme was "Christians and World Peace". Once again a worship service and study material was available. The offering was for Freedom from Hunger Projects on the Inter-Church Aid Programme.

PROJECTS. The Fellowship of the Least Coin material has been distributed to all States and there is a growing interest in it. The gifts will be received at the World Community Day services in 1965 and forwarded to the Fund in Geneva for distribution on the recommendations of the Asian women's committee.

The Winifred Kiek Scholarship is the second project of Australian Church Women. The purpose of the scholarship is to offer supplementary training for a Christian woman who has already received her basic training. The scholarship is intended for those who give leadership in church life and for those who need strengthening as Christians for their work in the world.

The Interim Committee has been guided by the women in various areas in the launching of the scheme which they feel to be an important part of the programme of Australian Church Women.

As this report is being prepared negotiations are under way to invite an Indonesian social worker to come to Australia for two terms of the 1965 Academic Year to study institutional care of children. The Rev. H. L. Perkins will be visiting Djakarta at the end of December and it is hoped he will interview the applicant on behalf of the Committee.

The co-operation of the ACC Scholarship Committee and the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service is being sought for this project.

STUDY MATERIAL. During 1963 a small study booklet "Saints Alive!" was prepared and has been used in many denominational^{and} inter-church groups, both women's and mixed. The study has been well received and it is the hope of the Interim Committee that another booklet will be produced during 1965 for use during the following 2-year period. This is on the agenda for this meeting.

DEVELOPING OF OVERSEAS RELATIONS. The Interim Committee has been advised that the Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference will be held in Japan during 1966. The committee hopes that it may be possible for Australian Church Women to be represented at the Assembly.

COMMITTEE ON THE CO-OPERATION OF MEN & WOMEN IN CHURCH, FAMILY & SOCIETY. The Interim Committee welcomed the forming of this Committee during the year and looks forward to Australian Church Women working with it. Mrs. Wyllie as a member of the World Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women, is a member of the Australian committee and this connection has been valuable to the development of Australian Church Women.

On behalf of Interim Committee,

Mabel G. Wyllie,
Convener.

WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND

The year 1964 has been important for the Council, for at the Annual Meeting in November 1963, the Inter-Church Council voted to affiliate with Australian Church Women and became the State Unit of that body.

The election of Officer Bearers resulted in a change in the Presidency - Mrs. Ashton being elected to that office, Mrs. Giezendanner having served so efficiently for the past two years. After thirteen years as Secretary, Mrs. Pearson resigned and Mrs. Dennis was elected to the position. Mrs. Potter was re-elected Treasurer. Retiring office bearers were thanked for their services.

A communication from Australian Church Women invited a delegate to a consultation of the Interim Committee to be held in Sydney on 17th and 18th March 1964. As our President had another engagement, the Secretary was appointed to represent Queensland. Rail fares and hospitality in Sydney were provided.

Such matters as the Constitution of Australian Church Women, the introduction of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, and study material for meetings, were discussed at the Consultation which was constituted in Wesley Chapel by the Rev. B.R. Wyllie, Master of Wesley College. Mrs. Wyllie, Convener of the Interim Committee, presided over the meetings which were held within Wesley College, Deaconess House and at the rooms of the Australian Council of Churches, 511 Kent Street. Delegates came from all States and included women from the Armenian Apostolic, Baptist, Church of Christ, Congregational, Church of England, Greek Orthodox, Methodist, Salvation Army and Presbyterian. A special meeting of our Council was called on April 10 to hear the report of the consultation. Owing to the postal strike in Sydney, the official report did not reach us in time for this meeting but was posted to all members.

In all, six meetings were held throughout the year and presided over by our President, Mrs. Ashton, whose opening devotions often contained thoughts from Rev. Winifred Kiek. We were glad to receive delegates from the Church of England and from the YWCA thus strengthening our witness and influence.

A request to include a Women's Thanksgiving Service in the celebrations of the "Warana" Festival, was forwarded to the Warana Promotion Committee who accepted the suggestion and formed a Women's Committee to arrange the Service. Thus the Women's Thanksgiving Service for "Warana" was instituted. It was held in the Albert Hall, and we trust, will become an annual event in the programme.

The study book, "Saints Alive!" was well received and used in our studies.

It was decided to inaugurate "World Community Day", using the Order of Service supplied by Australian Church Women. The service was held in Ann Street Presbyterian Church, the Rev. T. Rees Thomas being guest speaker and the Presbyterian Ladies' Choir rendered an anthem and led the praise. Members of the Council conducted parts of the service and the President presented the aims of the Inter-Church Council and Australian Church Women, the Secretary introducing the Fellowship of the Least Coin. A booklet tells the history of this Prayer Fellowship, and a folder gives an abridged account of its activities. The booklet "Circle of Prayer" containing devotions for two years, compiled by Christian women of the East, costing 3/-, was available to be used on conjunction with the giving of a Least Coin.

During the year congratulations were extended to Commissioner Coutts on his elevation to a high office, to Mrs. Trigge on her daughter's academic success, and to Mrs. Lockley on her husband's election as President-Elect of the Congregational Conference. Sympathy was extended to bereaved members.

The Inter-Church Council was glad to send representatives to the Annual Meeting of Conferences of the Women's Organisations of the Presbyterian, Salvation Army, Baptist, Church of Christ, Congregational, and Methodist Churches, noting the excellent work being done by the church women in Queensland, the Commonwealth, and beyond our borders.

It was gratifying to have the Southport Inter-Church Fellowship affiliate with our Council and appoint as its representative, Mrs. Hage of Southport.

During the year 141 notices of meetings were posted to members, and 38 letters written as well as Reports and other literature being posted to members from time to time for their information and consideration.

Comments and suggestions regarding the draft constitution were forwarded to the Interim Committee, and it is hoped that the latest draft may be accepted as fulfilling all the aims and objects of Australian Church Women.

An invitation to send two delegates to the first Annual Conference is to hand. May God continue to bless and guide all associated with this tremendous forward thrust, that the impact of Christian workers may be felt throughout Australia, throughout the World, and the Light of the Gospel establish the Brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God.

Affiliated Churches: Baptist, Church of Christ, Church of England, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and Society of Friends, also Y.W.C.A. and Associate members.

Collections from World Community Day amounted to £12/6/1 which was forwarded to the Freedom From Hunger Campaign. £ 2/1/- was received from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. 22 copies of "Circle of Prayer" were purchased.

N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

Report.

"Wybalena", a girl's hostel has been purchased and maintained for many years.

1963.

In July it was decided to accept the invitation of the Interim Committee to become the unit through which Australian Church Women will operate in N.S.W.

Community Day 1963 was held on September 27th. As well as the central meeting in the C.E.N.E.F. Auditorium, meetings were held in Bathurst, Mangrove Mountain, Condobolin and West Oatley. This was the first occasion when meetings were held in more than one centre.

Mrs. D.J.A. Verco was appointed Promotion Officer for the purpose of stimulating interest in the formation of suburban and country branches.

1964.

Fellowship Day, held in the Epping Baptist Church on Friday, 24th April, was well attended. Group discussion is quite new to some of the women but has proved generally most acceptable.

"Saints Alive!" was commended to the denominational societies.

World Community Day, Friday 23rd October, was held at Bondi, Burwood, Chatswood and Epping.

Mortdale and Parramatta in the Metropolitan area and Armidale, Canberra, Cooma, Gosford and Mangrove Mountain - about 1000 attended, the most popular centres being Chatswood and Epping. About £100 was given to the "Freedom From Hunger" Campaign from the collections.

During the year several of the Executive members have attended specially arranged interdenominational gatherings where they have been given an opportunity to tell of the aims of Australian Church Women and seek co-operation in its projects. In arranging special days it has proved worthwhile to go out into the suburbs. Mrs. Verco has done a sterling job as Promotion Officer. It is proposed to form a Promotion Committee with members responsible for the area in which they live.

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WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL OF VICTORIA.

Since the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches 1963, when the establishment of Australian Church Women was authorized "that the Committee be re-appointed and nominate to the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches", the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria has sought to understand, and assist in the work of the Interim Committee. Representatives have attended each consultation held in Sydney. Mrs. B.R. Wyllie addressed the Council when passing through Melbourne, and thus the pattern has been unfolding.

In 1963, the Women's Inter-Church Council accepted an invitation from the Interim Committee, 'to become the unit through which Australian Church Women work within the State'.

When Dr. Barot visited Melbourne during her Australian tour, the Council invited her to address a gathering of Inter-Church women. We learned a great deal that day about the Department on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. This Committee has now been established, and has met in Melbourne.

When Miss Janet Lacey, and the Rev. Alan Brash visited Melbourne, we were able to listen to them, and learned much from their addresses at Receptions held to greet our visitors.

We have been happy to work with the Interim Committee toward developing and extending interest in Fellowship, and World Community Days, and are grateful to see signs of increasing interest in many inter-church groups.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin has been introduced by the Interim Committee with great appeal to us, and we have joined willingly in the Circle of Prayer, and the Least Coin.

The Interim Committee has sponsored the "Winifred Kiek" Scholarship, and we shall work to assist this project.

WOMEN'S UNITED CHURCH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ever since the visit of Mrs. Mabel Wyllie to Adelaide in May 1963, there has been a constant and growing interest evinced by many delegates to W.U.C.A. in the Australian Church Women movement.

There has also been a certain amount of opposition and when in September 1963, a vote was taken as to whether we would be willing to act as the liaison body for the State with the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women, six affiliated bodies voted in favour, two against, and two refrained from voting. In March 1964, the Unitarian Women's League withdrew from W.U.C.A. because of our connection with the Australian Council of Churches and in October 1964, the Baptist Women's League withdrew for the same reason. However, the door is not completely closed in respect to the latter, and we await word from them concerning our proposal that they continue their association with us but do not affiliate.

On top of this there has also been a noticeable lack of enthusiasm on the part of delegates^{or}/associates who are active in the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee.

Despite such opposition it would seem that definite progress has been made over the past year, and the interest is certainly growing.

In May the two delegates who attended the Sydney Consultation, namely Mrs. E. Pitman and Mrs. E. Playford, together with Mrs. S. Haynes, ran a Conference Day on the theme "Australian Church Women". This proved to be so successful that time would not permit the completion in one day and we had another session in June. Both days were well attended and we felt that we were at last beginning to move.

In July our annual "Musical At Home" was held in the Adelaide Town Hall and through lack of a sponsor for the programme printing we were able to have the programme printed at our own expense and use the back page to print the aims of the Australian Church Women. This brought A.C.W. to the notice of the more than 600 present.

A number of women felt that a re-drafting of our Constitution was long overdue and this was done and presented at the business meeting after the Annual Meeting in October. Delegates had had time to read and digest this draft before the meeting and it was obvious by the prolonged but worthwhile discussion of same that many had given a great deal of thought to the draft. It comes up again in March and we hope that this draft will prove to be the final one.

We did not observe "World Community Day" in October, but went ahead with our plans to hold our usual Advent Service on December 11. We used the theme "Christians and World Peace" and adapted the service to "Advent", the collection being for the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

It was our desire that this Advent Service should express the part Australian Church Women is to play within the Department of Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. To that end, two men and two women took part in the service; the organist was a man and the soloist a woman, and a Youth Choir comprising boys and girls from Secondary Schools and Church Schools - over 60 strong - led the singing.

The Lord and Lady Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Irwin, the Town Clerk and Mrs. Veale and other City Councillors attended and expressed appreciation for the beauty of the service and its message.

An all-out effort was made by the Executive and delegates to interest as wide a cross-section of the community as possible, and although the attendance was far below our expectations (350 or more, comparing favourable with the 70 or so of last year) it was a great improvement on previous years. The collection amounted to £54. (£11 in 1963)

We have been happy to receive the utmost co-operation and helpful advice from the Secretary of the South Australian Council of Churches, the Rev. Alan Gray, who at all times has seen that news of Australian Church Women activities is publicised. Since August the W.U.C.A. has had the privilege of attending the monthly Council of Churches meetings, and our representative has been encouraged to speak. Notice of our Advent Service was included in the World Council of Churches Fellowship bi-monthly Newsletter which goes out to more than 700.

Although the special days of Fellowship and World Community Day were not observed in 1964, it is planned to hold both this year, in addition to our usual "At Home" and Advent Service.

Already there is much interest in the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Scheme, and Miss Molly Trait, Columnist of the "Advertiser" wrote an article for us just prior to the Advent Service, and it has been forwarded for the perusal of the Consultation.

Concerning the Scholarship, however, it is recommended that Australian Church Women collect sufficient money in the Trust Account before the Scholarship is launched and someone invited to come to Australia, thus assuring its continuance.

One fund-raising function was held by Mrs. Playford - a Floral Art night - and the amount of £3 is being held by our treasurer, and will be forwarded shortly.

There is little to report on the Fellowship of the Least Coin except to say that no real attempt has been made by us this past year to promote it. This we hope to do early in the year. The YWCA were most interested and have taken more than 100 leaflets to distribute to their members.

It is planned that each delegate take a number of leaflets and that each denomination be responsible for the distribution of same and the collecting of the money which will be dedicated at a time to be arranged - probably at World Community Day each year.

Our President, Mrs. E.S. Playford, is also on the Executive of P.W.M.U. in this State and travels in the country with executive members. She takes every opportunity to spread the news of Australian Church Women, its aims and objects, including the Fellowship of the Least Coin. All delegates have been asked to do likewise whenever the opportunity arises.

Early May or early June would be the most suitable time for "Fellowship Day" and October seems suitable for "World Community Day".

We may not seem to have progressed very far in the past year, but I am confident that what we have accomplished has indeed been a solid foundation for a future active body of women who will find themselves introduced to **ecumenical** experience hitherto unknown.