

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT (1999 EXECUTIVE)

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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMAN

ACW NEWS

We aim: to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together;

PO Box 113 Arana Hills QLD 4054

February - March 1999

From our National President:

We have begun a new journey on a new road this new year. Isn't that exciting?

I wonder what a wonderful year of surprises awaits us? God may have hills and valleys, detours and bumps, bends and stops for us. I hope that we can all respond by seeing the purpose God has for each of us as 'next year' has become 'NOW'.

Psalm 16 V.11 says - 'You have made known to me the path of Life. You will fill me with joy in your presence with eternal pleasures at your right hand.'

The months of October and November, 1998 will take a lot of beating in my estimation. It was a delight and great privilege for me to meet so many of you during our travels around Australia. Despite the busy schedules to which many of you work, you found the time to treat my husband Allan and myself so royally. 'Unity in Diversity' is very definitely a telling description of Australian Church Women all over the country when the interests and dedication of its membership are considered. The memories of our trip which I have brought home with me will last a lifetime and I have the added pleasure of being able to put faces to names and voices.

May 1999 be to you each one of a fulfilling journey of Faith. Let us face the New Year refreshed by the hope and joy that has been our experience during the Christmas Season.

'All work that is worth anything is done in Faith.' **Albert Schweitzer.**

Aileen
AILEEN

SHARING OUR FAITH & CULTURE through ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Sixty three (voting) delegates from 17 countries gathered for the 11th Conference of A.C.W.C. which was the Ruby Jubilee Conference from 14 -19 November, 1998 at Lotus Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Prior to the Conference Lynette Green (Aust.rep), Barbara Lacy (incoming Aust.rep), Jean Thompson (delegate) and Rathi Selveratnam (guest) spent five days doing the Tourist thing. We visited the McKean Centre (90 years old) where cerebral palsy, leprosy and land mine victims are rehabilitated. We had an elephant ride, and Lynette nearly slipped off the elephant's back going down a steep incline! More screams! Following shopping until we dropped at the night markets, a dinner cruise and more we transferred to the Lotus Hotel for the Assembly.

We met up with the remainder of the Aust. delegation and old and new friends. We shared Bible study, prayer knowledge and laughter, and many times we would comment 'we have been blessed'. Thank you.

The country-to-country PRAYER PARTNERSHIP between ACWC member countries has been renewed. Australia's prayer partner for the next four years is PAKISTAN. On your behalf Christmas greetings were sent to the women of Pakistan via their National Rep. Ms Shunila Ruth, together with the promise of our prayer support in their current political situation, and in turn asked for their prayer support for peace and reconciliation in Australia.

Shunila replies : "Greetings, and I wish to thank you for all your prayers and support to myself and the women of Pakistan, and lending us a hand of friendship and fellowship. I thank God I have sisters like you who care and are concerned."

Shunila is the full time coordinator of the Women's Synodical, Church of Pakistan, and they celebrated their Silver Anniversary in 1997. We will learn more as we share our prayer needs in the next four years.

NEW MEMBER: We were all thrilled that CAMBODIA was received into ACWC membership

There are now seventeen member countries. We pray that Laos and Vietnam will also join us.

NEW EXECUTIVE: President

Ms Nancy Lin (Taiwan)

Vice-President	Ms.Uma David (India)
Assembly Secretary	Ms Diana Manson (New Zealand)
Treasurer:	Ms Yasuko Nakayama (Japan)
Members	Ms Lily Danes (Indonesia)
	Ms.Padma Ebenezer (Sri Lanka)
	Ms.Barbara Lacy (Australia)
	Dr.Esther Byu (Exec. Sec. ICFLC)

APPRECIATION: Lynette Green was re-elected to the General Committee, and we thank her most sincerely for all her energy, imagination and hard work during her term as Aust. Representative. We pray for her speedy recovery after surgery in January (I can't imagine Lyn keeping still for long!) Thank you also to Joan Tong for her commitment and input as an ACWC Executive member. Well done!!

Barbara Lacy (Australian Representative).

Further news from Lynette:-

After attending the First Thai Church on the Sunday night for an English Service Barbara and Lynette were privileged to spend some time with the Bishop of Chiang Mai visiting the Sacred Heart School of 4,000 pupils and a Convent run by Spanish Nuns catering for young women who would otherwise need to turn to prostitution.

At the Asian Festival on the night of Sat. 14th the Australian Stall proved to be very popular.

Tuesday 17th commenced with Regional Devotions. The theme "A Message for all Seasons" had been chosen and became a very moving time of devotion as New Zealand, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia all contributed to the one theme.

Each of the speakers made their own impact as they spoke on REJOICE, RECLAIM, RESPOND.

A series of three Bible Studies were conducted by Mrs. Sharon Ruiz Duremdes.

(On behalf of the National Executive I would like to thank Lynette for all her planning and organisation and pray God's blessing on her in future days and also on Barbara as she now becomes our ACW Representative.)

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Mrs. Shanti Solomon.

In this issue we honour a woman of Vision and Prayer and pay tribute to the Mother, the Founder and the first Executive Secretary of Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The F.L.C., a World-wide Ecumenical Movement of Prayer for Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, was conceived and born out of a vision given by God to Mrs. Shanti Solomon...

In tribute we can do no better than pass on Part of Shanti's 'testament of Faith':-

"Forgiveness and reconciliation are the basis of our Christian faith and we have to learn and practice it in our lives to prove that God is love and we Christians have to learn that we should be ready to forgive those who hurt us most, because Jesus does the same and is always ready to forgive us. This as a reminder is needed most today.

Through the act of prayer we learn to get reconciled with those who hurt us most, and thus enjoy peace of mind. Forgiveness brings reconciliation which breeds love for our enemies and promotes peace. The setting aside of a least coin is intended to be a symbol of the givers willingness to forgive - a reminder that we must often take the first step if there is to be genuine reconciliation. The smallest coins collected as a fund become a message of love and peace to those who are helped. Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.' God help us to be the agents of peace.'

1999 ACW National Conference - Ecumenical Service

On Tuesday Morning the 28th September 1999 the Ecumenical Service will be held in the Albert Street Uniting Church, Brisbane City opposite the City Hall.

Victorian Snippet



Etervina Iam Iam Groenien (Guest Speaker at the Aug Council meeting of ACW (Vic) Unit) grew up in a Chinese Timorese family with all kinds of superstitious beliefs and gods. The family came to Australia in 1981 as refugees. She came into contact with Christians through English language classes. After becoming a Christian herself, she suffered great persecution from her Mother and family. Gradually other family members became Christians. In 1987 her mother willingly surrendered her life to Christ and threw away all her idols. It was truly freedom from bondage.

TASSIE TALES

The Tasmanian Unit have been having a happy and useful year so far.

The Fellowship Day was a most enjoyable service. It was held at Pilgrim Uniting Church and numbers were up on previous years. A time of fellowship over a cuppa was a great time to meet up with friends. Reports from all areas were very positive.

The Unit joined with the Launceston Branch in a great time, when a morning tea was held along with a bad taste mannequin Parade. The atrocious outfits paraded brought many laughs. The commentary given by the Branch President, Juanita Miller was superb. We were all Ellie McPhersons.

For our next state meeting we are travelling to Devonport to enable Life Member Pat Dodd to attend. Pat suffered a debilitating stroke and she is greatly missed at our meetings.

As a Unit we are very grateful to the ladies from the North West Coast who travel for the State meetings. Unfortunately the Hobart ladies find it very difficult in travelling, but are still very loyal and supportive.

1998 Community Day was held at the Launceston Church of Christ and supported by ladies of all denominations.

The Speaker was Sue Gray, one of the Tasmanian Directors of W.E.C.. Sue gave a very interesting and thoughtful message. As she and her husband had served in New Guinea and Turkey, she was able to give an inside view of 'Unity in Diversity' in worship styles. The afternoon finished with a time of fellowship over a 'cuppa'.

Early in November we were both privileged and pleased to welcome the National President Aileen Mortensen. The Unit brought forward our meeting so that as many as possible could meet Aileen. Members travelled from Burnie and Devonport for the occasion. Morning Tea and Lunch were served giving all present a great opportunity to get to know Aileen and her husband in a relaxed atmosphere. Aileen spoke to the meeting on her work as National President of Australian Church Women.

We do feel a bit isolated at times and it was great to be made aware that we are a part of the family of Aust. Church Women.

Joan Smith.

Australian Capital Territory Unit

President Evonne Sullivan and members of ACT Unit extend to National Executive, the State Units, and the two Northern Territory branches their sincere best wishes for a happy and healthy 1999.

We look forward to meeting up with many of you at the ACW National Conference in Brisbane. May the spirit of ecumenism flourish!

Those present at the last Unit Meeting for 1998, held on 27th November welcomed back Jean Thompson and enjoyed hearing her describe the highlights of the ACWC Quadrennial Assembly at which she represented ACW. Jean thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and felt very privileged to be in Chaing Mai.

The Annual General Meeting of the ACT Unit will take place on Friday 26th February 1999 at 10 am at the Baptist Church Complex, Kingston. Annual reports will be presented and office bearers elected. Any ACW members visiting the National Capital at that time are most welcome to attend.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome back to Canberra Major Averil Whybird, a former President of the ACT Unit. Averil and her husband have taken on the responsibility of managing the Mountain View Hostel at Narrabundah, conducted by The Salvation Army.

Plans for two World Day of Prayer services are in place for Friday 5th March 1999. An 11 am service will be held at St. Paul's Ladies Fellowship. An evening service will take place at 7 pm at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Watson, hosted by Watson branch of the Catholic Women's League. It is traditional for the ACT Unit to sponsor the World Day of Prayer services as well as the two Special Days each year.

Evonne Sullivan (President)



South Australian Snippet

Our Community Morning Teas carried out in fifteen centres have been very well attended this year. The Childhood Cancer Association has benefited financially. We have been very ably informed about the dedicated service this voluntary organization is giving to children, parents, families and extended families.

Prayer Point: Pray to stop Proliferation of Poker Machines in South Australia.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNIT

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Past President	Mrs Barbara Bourhill 14A Warragoon Cres. ATTADALE W.A. 6156 Telephone 08 9330-3372
Vice President	Major Bethel Caple 36 Brady Street, GLENDALOUGH W.A. 6016 Telephone 08 9242-5272
	Mrs Patricia Smeeton OAM OBE JP 10 Argyle Place CARINE WA 6020 Telephone 08 9447-7840
Secretary	Mrs Leeola Loughnan 4 Heatherton Mews HILLARYS WA 6025 Telephone 08 9307-5990
Treasurer	Lady Wilson (Leila) 6B Atkins Road APPLECROSS WA 6153 Telephone 08 9364-9584
Convenors FLC	Mrs Patricia Smeeton OMA OBE JP as above
WKS	Mrs Marjorie Scurlock OAM 1 Regent Street MOUNT LAWLEY WA 6050 Telephone 08 9271-7236
Special Days	Mrs Leeola Loughnan As above
Social Justice Issues	Mrs Vera Wilson 7 Reserve Streer WEMBLY WA 6050
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