

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

OFFICERS FOR 1947-48.

President: Miss R. Swann.

Vice-Presidents: Mrs. P. D. McCallum.

Mrs. C. H. Brasnett.

Mrs. R. Chapman.

Miss R. McDiarmid.

Miss E. Godson.

Minute Secretary: Mrs. W. N. Lock.

Correspondence Secretary: Miss G. A. Roseby, B.A.

Treasurer: Mrs. E. F. Bond.

Representatives to Organisations:

National Council of Women—Mrs. Butler.

Mrs. W. H. B. Palmer.

U.N.A.—Miss Roseby.

Prison Reform Council—Miss Roseby.

Mrs. Moorhead.

W.C.T.U.—Miss R. Swann.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF TREASURER.

August 30, 1946 to August 22, 1947.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand	£6	1	1
Dues received from Churches—Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, Church of Christ, Society of Friends, Baptists	7	7	0
Donation	1	1	0
Collections at Public Meetings	5	12	3
	£20	1	4

EXPENDITURE.

Our Annual Dues to Women's Christian Temperance Union, Prison Reform Council, National Council of Women and United Nations Association	£3	9	6
To Bible Society—donation	1	1	0
To Bible Society—rent of hall	2	13	0
Printing	7	4	9
To Secretary—Postage—Tel., etc.	1	18	10
Small Amounts		3	6
Balance—Cash on hand	3	10	9
	£20	1	4

(Mrs.) I. M. BOND, Treasurer.
22nd August, 1947.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST, 1947.

We present this report with thankfulness to God for His help and guidance in all the undertakings of the Council throughout the past year.

During the past year there have been ten regular meetings, four executive and two special. The average attendance has been eighteen with a membership of thirty-five including four co-opted members.

The President, Mrs. P. D. McCallum occupied the Chair at all of these meetings.

ANNUAL RALLY.

The ninth Annual Rally was held in the Bible House, Sydney, on Friday, 15th November, 1946, at 2 p.m. The retiring President, Mrs. W. Deane, in a very suitable manner thanked the Council for the assistance and co-operation accorded her during her term of office, and then most cordially welcomed the in-coming President, Mrs. P. D. McCallum of the Church of Christ and handed to her the symbol of office—a Holy Bible. Mrs. McCallum in assuming the Chair, expressed her deep consciousness of the honour conferred upon her by electing her to the Presidency for a second term.

Extracts from the Annual Report were read by the Secretary.

The subject for discussion was "Christian Women in Social Service," and two of the speakers were Mrs. H. V. Evatt and Miss Wellard, Assistant Almoner at the Crown Street Women's Hospital. Mrs. Evatt gave some interesting sketches of women in England and America, who were engaged in work of a social service nature, especially noting with appreciation the work of Mrs. Roosevelt. She pointed out that Mrs. Roosevelt had won for herself a warm place in the hearts of the American people because she was not only concerned to dispense charity, but really cared for the welfare of the people whose cause she undertook, and proved the fact by her interest in the personnel and in the detail working of the nursery schools, hospitals,

children's libraries, etc. She spoke also of the war work done under the inspiration of Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Minister for Education in the House of Commons, and of her effort to lead the women who had done such signal service in war time, to turn that energy now into channels that would make for better conditions and happier homes in the days of peace. Mrs. Evatt emphasised throughout the call for real interest and personal concern on the part of those who set out to assist people in need of help. Folk who resent charity will respond to love.

Miss Wellard told some impressive stories concerning cases which had come under her notice as Hospital Almoner.

Dr. Rachael Taylor spoke of the urgent need for better housing facilities, especially for the young married people, stressing the fact that so much of the trouble of young offenders was due to unsatisfactory homes, and to social conditions in urgent need of change.

Mrs. J. J. Bowie, who has been appointed Honorary Organiser of the Hostel project which the Council has in hand, made a warm appeal for a better understanding and more enlightened treatment of the young people whom the welfare officers contact.

The following resolution was submitted and unanimously carried by the meeting:—

(a) "We, Christian Women, met together at the Annual Rally of the Women's Inter-Church Council, are of opinion that any re-arrangement of hostel trading hours which would permit of hotel bars remaining open after 6 p.m. would result in increased consumption of alcoholic beverages by the public, and this, in turn, would inevitably further moral degradation and physical deterioration of members of the community.

We would remind ourselves and others that all citizens who are

concerned with the welfare of Australia, and the world at large, are called at this time to make every possible effort to retain six o'clock closing of hotel bars."

(b) "That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all denomination-al papers and to the Australian Christian World."

HOSTEL.

The following comprise the Executive Committee:—

President: Mrs. P. D. McCallum.
Organising Secretary: Mrs. J. J. Bowie, B.A.
Correspondence Secretary: Miss G. A. Roseby, B.A.
Minute Secretary: Mrs. M. Chapman.
Treasurer: Miss G. A. Roseby.
Legal Adviser: Mr. J. Dey, LL.B.
Medical Consultant: Dr. Rachael Taylor.
Auditor of Accounts: Mr. J. Stone.
Representative of Gipps Service Association: Miss te Kloot.
Members: Mesdames Deane, Lock, Ryan, Bond, Misses Swann, McDiarmid.

Constitution.—Under the guidance of Mr. John Dey, a Constitution was prepared and presented by a Sub-Committee to the Council, and was adopted: the Hostel Committee now functions through this Constitution.

Registration.—Application was made for a Certificate of Registration under the provisions of the Charitable Collections Act (1934-1941), and same was duly received.

Finances.—A Banking Account has been opened with the Commonwealth Bank, Neutral Bay Branch. Mesdames McCallum, Bowie and Miss Roseby are the signatories to this Account; any two of the three may operate on behalf of the Hostel Committee.

Gift of money.—The Gipps Service Association has donated £1000 towards the establishment of a Hostel, to be known as "Wybalena" and which is to be maintained for girls or women who have been, or are liable to be, charged before any Court of Law in New South Wales. (Exemption was granted from Taxation on that amount).

Money from affiliated Churches.—Delegates from affiliated Churches are co-operating and participating in the raising of money through their own Women's organisations. toward

Hostel funds. The response to the various efforts is heartening.

Shilling Stamp Books.—Through the Organiser, Mrs. T. Ryan, 2000 Stamp Books are being distributed for sales among friends of the delegates and others interested.

Property Committee.—A sub-committee of three, Mrs. McCallum, Mrs. Bowie and Miss te Kloot, has been elected to keep in touch with the Department of Justice, to interview Government Officers when and where considered expedient, with regard to any matter affecting the Hostel.

Government Representative on Hostel Committee.—Mrs. Bowie, the Organising Secretary, has advised that in the event of a building being made available for use as a Hostel by the Government, that body would wish to have representation on the Hostel Committee.

Other matters under discussion:—

- (1) Hostel staff—number, quarters, duties, salaries.
- (2) Number to be housed.
- (3) Grant of money or a subsidy from the Government.

Age of admission.—The General Committee of the Council passed a Resolution that girls and women of 18 years and over were to be eligible for admission: that is, persons from the Central Court of Law and not from the Children's Court of Law.

Brochure.—Miss Roseby and Mrs. Bowie have been untiring in their efforts to publicise the need of a Hostel such as "Wybalena." The former prepared a Brochure which was printed in a number of Religious Papers, and the latter has broadcast similar propaganda over the air. Both ladies have addressed many meetings, where the Hostel project has been the central theme.

The Hostel Committee is greatly indebted to its President, Mrs. McCallum, for her gracious and inspired leadership throughout the year.

CONFERENCE.

A Conference convened by the Council was held in December when matters relating to the approaching Referendum on six o'clock closing of hotels were discussed. Rev. C. R. Tomlinson, President of the N.S.W. Temperance Alliance, and Representatives of the W.C.T.U. were amongst the speakers.

Owing to the Referendum, the Council did not go into recess, but remained actively engaged upon campaign work. The Council concentrated its effort upon arresting advertisements in local suburban papers, and in this manner was able to reach many thousands of readers. This course was made possible by the generosity of members. Assistance to the cause was given by the distribution of literature. The result of the Referendum carrying an overwhelming vote in favour of the retention of six o'clock closing was the cause of deep gratification by the Council.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON.

In May a Social afternoon was arranged by Council, the speaker being Mrs. B. R. Wyllie, and the topic "The Aborigine—Neighbour or Nuisance?" Most interesting questions were submitted at the close of the address.

AFFILIATIONS.

The Council is affiliated with the National Council of Women, the United Nations Association, the Prison Reform Council and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Interesting and detailed reports have been submitted to the Council by the representatives appointed to these organisations.

WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL IN QUEENSLAND.

Interesting correspondence has resulted in the formation of a Women's Inter-Church Council in Queensland.

It is hoped that branches will be formed in country towns.

Steps have been taken to form an Australasian Women's Inter-Church Council, and with this object in view, communications are being addressed to the various States and to New Zealand.

PUBLIC SOCIAL MATTERS.

The Council has been watchful over public social matters, and has, whenever deemed advisable, written in protest to the responsible authority.

A protest was made to the Premier against the resumption of a golf course for horse racing purposes; to the Prime Minister against the proposed Rocket Bomb tests in Central

Australia; to the Federal Advisory Committee requesting that more stress be placed upon religious training in the Kindergarten of the Air than is at present being broadcast; to the A.B.C. Weekly in regard to liquor advertisements appearing in that paper; to the Chief Secretary against the growing practice of Sunday Sport and to the Government regarding the increase in the State Lottery.

COMMENDATION.

A letter of commendation was sent to the "Sydney Morning Herald" in appreciation of articles on religious instruction in schools which have appeared in its columns.

TREASURER.

Our thanks are due to the Treasurer, Mrs. E. F. Bond, who keeps the accounts very carefully, and has ended the year with a Credit Balance of £3/10/9. The income is principally derived from affiliation fees and from collections at our public meetings.

LUTHERAN CHURCH.

In response to an invitation to join the Council, the Lutheran Church has now appointed a representative to attend Council meetings. Council is thankful for this step and is anticipating mutual blessings thereby.

Similar invitations, as opportunities permit, will be extended to other denominations.

THANKS.

We desire to express our gratitude to the British and Foreign Bible Society for the use of the Board Rooms for Council meetings during the year, and to Artists who have so willingly assisted at our various functions.

RETIRING PRESIDENT.

The thanks of the Council are extended to Mrs. P. D. McCallum for her untiring work on behalf of the Council, and for the outstanding manner in which she presided at the meetings.

FLORENCE M. LOCK,
Hon. Secretary,
802 Pacific Highway,
Chatswood.
JA 200

31st August. 1947.