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**** INFORMATION PAGE ****

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the TREASURER:

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FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups:	\$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations:	\$15.00 per annum
The Girls' Brigade	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$15.00 per annum (includes subscription to Newsette)

For further details contact Jennifer Pepper Tel: 9876 4056

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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

ACW Website: www.acwnational.org.au

A C W seeks:

- ⇒ to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ⇒ to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

Mission Statement

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Nola Dickson Tel: 9869 2559
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NOVEMBER 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the recent Annual Meeting of National Council of Women NSW, to which presidents of the all the affiliated organisations are invited, I learnt of the Marie Bashir Peace Awards, which are NCW's newest initiative. These awards are for girls in years 10, 11 or 12 for which entries are invited from every school, public and private in NSW. As I read the applications of the five winners, chosen from 118 applicants, I was very impressed with their service to the community, working for social justice, for better conditions for those in our own and other countries, and throughout all of them, the need for peace and justice in the world.

As this is the final issue of Newsette for this year, I would turn our thought to the coming Christmas season, the season for peace. As the baby Jesus lay in the manger, the heavenly host of angels sang "*Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, goodwill towards men.*"

What the world needed to know was that God had good will toward all people, even though we are sinful, rebellious and unworthy. The whole

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host of angel messengers brought the message God was giving: "*For God SO loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in His name will be saved.*" He loved us so much He sent the Saviour of the world to die in our place.

Knowing this, we may have peace in our hearts and rejoice in all circumstances.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful happy Christmas. *Nola Dickson*

NSW STATE UNIT CONFERENCE:

Held in Scots Church, Margaret Street, Sydney on Monday, September 20th, those attending were welcomed with morning tea before the program for the day began. Hymns, Bible reading and devotions set the basis for what was to follow.

Speakers from *Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital*, *Tracey Zantos*, the Director of Nursing, and *Deaconess Rhonda Daley*, Chaplain at Westmead Children's Hospital, reinforced the information that had been given at the Council meeting in August, and illustrated with slides to show what the facilities are like. As the Special Project for half the offertories from World Community Day Services in October, the hope is that generous offerings will be made, so that special sleep capsules will become a reality for the children who are so badly disabled.

In the second session, hearing more of the Salvation Army Overseas Child Sponsorship from *Anne Foster* helped give more substance to what we had heard of this work from Nancy McLaren. The bigger question remains, however, as we now ask ourselves what can be done to widen the nurturing to all children and not just the lucky few. Surely the churches have a role in reminding governments that Jesus' call was to help the needy, and that churches alone cannot reach all who are so deprived.

From our third speaker, *Sualan Yin-Lo*, to hear that there is some effort to cope with the diversity of the Australian population in the hospital environment is welcome. Sualan showed that there is a beginning, but with so few sowing the seeds – hospitals in a limited area only with such staff – it will take a long while before the needed effectiveness of such a program can be reaped. Should the program be widened? If you are of this opinion, then take action to let your parliamentary representative know of your feelings, and encourage others so that there may be a snowball effect and something may come of it. If you can do nothing else, then pray that someone can.

Isabel Hewitt, Publicity Convener

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SPECIAL DAYS:

More than 650 persons attended Fellowship Day Services in New South Wales in July, as arranged by the 17 branches of Australian Church Women in our State.

The theme was *Let There be Light*, as indicated by the National Executive as part of the theme chosen by them, *Turning Darkness into Light*, to be explored throughout 2010/2011.

This year's Service was prepared by the NSW State Unit, and some chose to use the suggestions sent with the order of service, which were well received.

Churches represented at these gatherings included: Anglican, Baptist, Brethren, Catholic, Christian Life, Churches of Christ, Four Square, Independent churches, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Seventh Day Adventist and The Salvation Army.

Reports received confirmed that there was warm fellowship as people came together to share and be encouraged to consider various ways that *The Light* may be displayed in this world through our lives.

In excess of \$3000 was collected to be forwarded to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund for 2010.

Pamela Freeman, Special Days Convener

PASTORAL CARE:

We were so sorry to learn that *Shirley Wells*, one of our Life Members and long-time convener for Fellowship of the Least Coin, has been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. Shirley is very grateful for the phone calls and cards she has received but she does need our continuing prayer support. A note in the post assuring her of this would really be appreciated.

Continue to pray for *Sandra Wise*, her daughter, and little granddaughter, who has been diagnosed with leukaemia and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Olive Edmonstone, Pastoral Care Convener

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

I have had emails exchanges or contacts for the following updates on past and present scholars. The girls always send their love and continued thankfulness for their scholarships; some have expressed lately that the scholarship has been life changing for them. The National Convener,

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Maureen Clarke, and some of the WKS Trustees continue to be supportive with emails and update circulars. Applications for 2012 Scholarship, due by May 31, 2011, will come from Multicultural Australia. I should have the application forms early in the new year. Please be praying for possible applicants.

Leinamau (2007 from Vanuatu) has recently returned from an island that hosted their 62nd General Assembly – tired, but praising God for answering prayers; after obtaining visas etc, on October 15th flew off to Capetown, South Africa, for the Lausanne Gathering. She hasn't travelled so far before. On October 23rd, she was to give a Vanuatu Ladies talk, and we look forward to her report on return.

Imelda Marcos (2008 from The Philippines) is still travelling around the Philippines to share her vision and encourage active church partnership with the Middle East ministry. She is being "sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit."

Christy Ferguson (2009 from Melbourne) has completed studies for 2010. She helped with the College Mission Week in Melbourne, ministering amongst Muslims, building relationships and sharing the Gospel. In mid-2011 she will go overseas for her Mission Assignment, where to unknown as yet. Christy has been enjoying life with friends, their ups and downs through weddings, babies and hard times, and until early November is holidaying in New Zealand, visiting family and touring.

Inese Foiakau (2009 from Sydney) is continuing studies but now at the Uniting Centre at Parramatta on Friday mornings, with full-time work during the rest of the week. With one more assignment to hand in for 2010 she has two subjects to do next year to finish and she enjoys the traditional lectures for different views and perspectives. Our prayers and thoughts are much appreciated.

2010 Scholars: At the time of the last report *Ruth Marsipal* (PNG) and *Tonu Fakraufon* (Fiji) had a holiday week and Ruth went to Adelaide under the care of the Lutheran Office. While there she had a day with our National President, WKS Convenor and one of the Trustees; Tonu went to Brisbane to visit family and had a rich experience at her auntie's church. My husband and I went to their Graduation, a great night of praise, worship and fellowship, before they returned to their countries for visa requirements. Ruth sad not be returning but excited to be with her husband and two little sons, all looking forward to the new baby in new year. She is so thankful for the three months at College, can't wait to put it into practise and so pleased that the Trustees are allowing her till the end of 2012 to complete the course at the College here if able. Tonu back at College, missing Ruth, says "we were like sisters..." My husband and I

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visit her regularly. She is enjoying the Peacemaking Course with students from other Pacific countries, she took some of them by bus and train to the city to a Rotuman Service at the Wesley Centre. She has been working through some family conflict concerning the care of her grandma back home and through this has learnt a lot about herself, had healing of memories, and knows God has plans for her future with possible changes coming. With all the new learning, she is seeing different ways to work with the young people in her ministry. Her next course is on Empowering Women, till the end of November, when she will have her final Graduation then go to Melbourne for a few weeks to see her father before returning to Fiji. She was hoping to be at our ACWC Multicultural Concert of Praise at Campsie Salvation Army on October 31st so some of you may have met her there. She would like prayer for God's peace and guidance for her future.

Thank you to those who have written to Ruth and Tonu. Please continue to partner with scholars past and present through prayer and thoughts. They really do appreciate it.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

As I write this report the 14th Quadrennial General Assembly of ACWC has begun (15-20 October), with its theme: "*Asian Women Moving Forward: Non-Violent World; New Earth; Life in its Fullness.*" Much prayer and preparation has gone into this conference by both the ACWC Executive and the host country, Indonesia, and we can look forward to the report on the outcomes. Representing Australia from ACW at the Assembly are, *Major Laurel Pearce* of the Western Australian Unit and *Mrs. Fran Moss* from Queensland Unit. *Major Donna Bryan* (Victorian Unit) and *Mrs Pat Walker* (South Australian Unit) are attending as our current Australian representatives on the ACWC Executive.

This Assembly also marks the conclusion of *Shu-wen Chiang's* (Taiwan) two terms as Executive Secretary and welcomes *Rev. Lee Moon Sook* from South Korea as the new Executive Secretary.

As you receive this Newsette, this year's ACWC Multicultural Concert will have been held on October 31st at the Salvation Army at Campsie, where, as anticipated, a wonderful afternoon of worship in concert was enjoyed, as Korean, Chinese, Australian, Indonesian and even an "All Nations" Group gave of themselves in praise to our Lord.

We were all distressed by the very severe floods in Pakistan and I have

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received a report that emergency funds from ACWC were to be released to meet identified needs there. The National Representative to ACWC from Pakistan, *Neelam Ernest*, wrote: *"Near Attock Bridge where the Indus and Kabul rivers join to enter into the narrow gorge, the water had risen at least 40 feet. The residents are lying on the roadsides, some in tents and some otherwise, there is no water to drink as everything has a great layer of silt brought on by the flood waters. Private people were supplying food and water to the stricken people.*

Unfortunately poor people living in villages have mud houses and they are now even deprived of those. People have no shelter, no food to eat. Even in cities, due to the reason that the food supplies, vegetables, fruits, grains, rice, everything, comes from those areas where the crops are all damaged, so for common man providing food to family is becoming impossible. The prices for what is available is three times increased. The country is again in a state of disaster.

Almost 12 schools of the organization I am working with are under water. Children of all those schools are displaced, parents have migrated to other places. Altogether, as per UNO report, 40,000 people lost everything. In this time of need I request ACWC family to stand in faith with us. Kindly pray for those who are affected and for Peace in this part of the world."

Lyn Middleton, ACWC Convener

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

I am including the summary below, of the Grants given during the current year, because there may be some readers who have not received information about how much money has been distributed, and the places where it has been given for projects worldwide. This represents many people giving many, many coins, so that the message of peace, justice and reconciliation can continue in the world.

<u>TOTAL BUDGET 2010</u>	US\$
Project Grants	192,000
Block Grants	120,000
Emergency Grants	15,000
FLC Scholarship Award to Young Women	5,000
Administration and Programme	103,250
Contingency Fund	2,000
Total	437,250

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SUMMARY OF FLC PROJECT GRANTS 2010

Region/Global Organisation	US\$
1. Africa	32,000
2. Asia	50,000
3. Caribbean	15,000
4. Europe	10,000
5. Latin America	30,000
6. Middle East	15,000
7. North America	15,000
8. Pacific	15,000
9. World Council of Churches	5,000
10. World Federation of Methodists and Uniting Church Women	5,000
Total	192,000

BLOCK GRANTS 2010

Ecumenical Organisations	120,000
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It is time for us to consider suggesting a project for which an application for a grant could be made in the coming year. There may be a special need or project in your denomination or missionary activity which would appreciate and benefit from such a grant. Do give this some thought and prayerful consideration for early next year.

For those of you who were able to attend a World Community Day Service in October, I pray that the theme *"Out of Darkness into Light"* may have brought new inspirations and thoughts, as we thought about Jesus, the Light of the World.

May God bless us as we continue to pray and give our least coins.

Lillian Hodges, FLC Convenor

SOCIAL ISSUES:

At a recent public meeting, politicians, of many persuasions, stated that a handwritten brief letter was the best way to contact them. In cases such as the recent Same Sex Adoption Bill, opponents of the legislation jam the email with their material, sending the system crashing. Remember this Bill was lost by only two votes, so perhaps a few more letters may have had a different result.

EUTHANASIA is raising its ugly head again. What has happened to compassion and true palliative care? Inspiring people stand up for the alternatives but do the Media present their case? Elderly and ill people in Holland now go to Germany or elsewhere as they are too frightened of a lethal injection in Holland's health-care system. In economic and social realms, the dignity and vocation of the human person and the welfare of society must be protected and promoted. The needy are most at risk in health studies, which show that income, housing and education levels are the factors most responsible for health inequities.

THE FAMILY. Work and Celebration are closely tied in with family life. They impact on the choices families make and their relationships with each other and society. Our nation is founded on Judeo-Christian beliefs, which emphasise religious freedom, marriage and family, and the sanctity of human life. We must work to ensure this foundation is not weakened.

VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA - MESSAGE OF PEACE. Violence and discrimination exist amongst Australia's first people – Indigenous – and her last people – asylum seekers- and many people in between. Meetings are occurring on this subject at present in the Northern Territory.

ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE A report on the five years of Dialogue between Catholic and Uniting Churches is to be released during the Centenary Celebrations of the Ecumenical Movement.

LET US CELEBRATE WITH GREAT JOY THE CANONISATION OF OUR FIRST AUSTRALIAN SAINT. SAINT MARY MACKILLOP.

Carmel Keys, Social Issues Convener

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NSW:

In the President's message on the front page, Nola mentions being impressed by the standard of the five awardees of NCW's *Marie Bashir Youth Awards*. These awards, of \$500 each were presented to the girls in the presence of their parents and teachers at a very exciting ceremony at Parliament House on 21st September by the Governor herself, who said she was very proud to have her name associated with these awards.

ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH THE LEPROSY MISSION:

Seetha sits at her sewing machine, twisting folds of coloured fabric beneath the needle, she is satisfied with her work, her home and her two teenage sons – from the dresses she makes she earns enough to support her family. However there was a time when the future was uncertain, something to be feared. Now, thanks to the Leprosy Mission, she has been empowered to overcome her past.

At 23, Seetha was happily married, had two small children and a husband who worked in the fields nearby, earning enough to provide for his family – they were content and happy. Then one afternoon, she noticed a white patch on her arm which had no feeling in it. Not knowing what was wrong, she went to the Leprosy Mission hospital, the closest medical centre to their village. There she was diagnosed with leprosy and given a course of Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT). Thankfully because of the early diagnosis she had not lost any sensation in her hands or feet.

However, when Seetha told her husband she had leprosy he was angry – he told her to leave their house and take the children with her. Stunned by his reaction, Seetha returned to her mother's home and has not heard from her husband since.

When Seetha went back to the hospital to pick up another 2-month course of MDT she told the staff what had happened. Concerned for her, they suggested she learn a trade that could give her some independence, and that the mission could help with skills training at their Vocational Training Centre about 50km away, and she agreed.

When Seetha finished the embroidery and tailoring course, the Mission gave her a loan of two machines – one for general use, and other for embroidery. Now Seetha is earning 3000 rupees a month, she has been able to pay off the loans, and is earning enough to support her family. Not only that, but she is now passing on what she has learnt to others. Each week, ten girls aged between 15 and 20 come to Seetha's house to learn to sew. "I hope that if they learn a skill they may be able to have some income and support their families," explains Seetha.

Her dream is to build a shop where she can sew and sell her garments and employ some of the girls she has trained; she would also like to sell some of her ready-made garments to the big stores. She is saving up for a deposit to buy one of the nearby high-street stalls, saying with confidence, "By God's grace I'll do it" – with Seetha there is no dwelling on the past – thanks to The Leprosy Mission she has a life she can be proud of.

(From The Leprosy Mission ACTION UPDATE)

**SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE COMING
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS.....**



A d v e n t !

When the Lord in glory comes,
not the trumpets, not the drums,
not the anthems, not the psalm,
not the thunder, not the calm,
not the shout the heavens raise,
not the chorus, not the praise,
not the silences sublime,
not the sounds of space and time,
not his voice when he appears
shall be music to my ears;
*but his voice, when he appears:
shall be music to my ears.*

When the Lord to human eyes
shall bestride our narrow skies,
not the child of humble birth,
not the carpenter of earth,
not the man by men denied,
not the victim crucified,
but the Lord who died to save,
but the victor of the grave,
he it is to whom I fall,
Jesus Christ, my all in all;
*He it is to whom I fall,
Jesus Christ, my all in all!*



C h r i s t m a s

.....And so we pause this time of year to think (some for the only time), of him who lay within a lowly manger, far from home, and cradled only by the humble hay. We sing our songs of praise, some build a crib, and dare to carve a figure that is his; a touching thing, a child – all will agree, and Jesus was a child – so Jesus is.

....And so a King is locked in babyhood, to stay forever quaint, diminutive, as in a myth men tell from time to time.... **O living, risen, reigning Christ - forgive!**

**SOME FAMOUS CHRISTIANS' THOUGHTS
ABOUT CHRISTMAS.....**

Charles Spurgeon: "Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendour."

George Whitefield: "Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again."

St. Augustine: "He was created of a mother whom He created; He was carried by hands that He had formed; He cried in a manger in wordless infancy – He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute."

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