

Written on the folder containing the following correspondence are the words:

Correspondence regarding the initiation and organisation of ACW.

Criticism of the resolution of the Australian Council of Churches and the first steps of the Interim Committee

WOMEN'S WORK

  
Wesley College  
Melbourne

Postal Address:  
Prahran, S.I.  
Victoria.

July 22nd 1962.

Dear Mr Perkins,

When I read your letter of July 18th, saying that you had still heard nothing from the W.I.C.C. here, about the possibility of sending a Victorian delegate to the Conference of Asian Churchwomen I was naturally concerned, and my Mrs O. Keen, one of our Vice-Presidents, through whom the original approach to the Executive of the W.I.C.C. was made. She confirmed my impression that the Executive had discussed the possibility & had decided to write to the ACC for more information.

Since I spoke to her she has my our Secretary, Mrs F. J. Pell, of 18 Gordon Avenue Kew, E. 4, who

27 JUL 1962

Women's Work



recalls that she both wrote to you, and, later, when she heard that you were overseas,

reg. Mr D. Robinson was desirous to financial side of the proposal. I am afraid that money has been the stumbling block in usual way, but Mrs Keen tells me that Mrs Pell will write to you herself again.

I am so sorry that there has been this hiatus, & I hope that someone can still represent us in the Philippines.

I am writing today to Mrs Wyllie who has sent me minutes of a meeting discussing how women can be drawn into the ecumenical movement. It seems quite an involved assignment.

With kind wishes for all your work.  
Yours sincerely,  
Joan Coates.

25 1971

VICTORIA  
W.I.C.C.

W 21

THE MANSE  
6 ESTELLA STREET  
GLEN IRIS, S.E.6

12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Dear Mr Perkins

14 NOV 1962

Mr Pell and I agree that it would be good to have you to speak at our Council meeting which has been arranged for Friday, Nov 23rd at 10.45 AM.

We meet in the Drawing Room of the Independent Hall, Independent Church, Collins St. and will look forward to seeing you there. Our meeting will finish about 12.30 I think.

Thank you very much for your kindness to us last Friday. A visit such as that makes you realize how close we all are in the essential things of our Faith, and I have no doubt of the value of all states coming together like that at least once a year.

With Best Wishes,

Grace W. Fairman.

25 1971

THE MANSE  
6 ESTELLA STREET  
GLEN IRIS, S.E.6

Jan 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dear Mrs Wylie

I was most interested and surprised to receive your letter and to learn that the N.S.W. Inter-Church Council had withdrawn. To us, this parting of the ways is very sad, because I feel that this is where our Christian Church as a whole so often breaks down. However I suppose if Inter-Church representatives are not in Member Churches of the A.C.C. it is different for them to go forward.

With regards to your proposals I would like to point out that in Victoria we have both Fellowship Day & World Community Day, the former the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in July & the latter either at the end of October or the beginning of November. We have held these days for many years. Two other points that you mention we are also trying to do. That is:-

1. Developing inter-Church work in local areas.
2. Stimulating some service projects in local areas.  
e.g. We have sent out about 100 letters to places all over Victoria asking that practical interest be taken in the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, this year.

The set of study material I think would be very good.

I will place your report before our meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Sincerely yours,

Grace W. Fairway

The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital

For WOMEN and CHILDREN

172 LONSDALE STREET,  
MELBOURNE

Tel.: 32-2031

REFER:

31/1/63

Rev. Harry Perkins,  
Australian Council of Churches.

Dear Mr. Perkins,

This is not an official letter, really; but rather a personal enquiry. Therefore, I shouldn't like this letter to be preserved in the official "archives".

A persistent and foolish member of the Congregational Women's Fellowship of Victoria cannot understand why a new group of women is being formed from

representatives of the Women's Inter-Church Council, when the U.C.C. at New Delhi emphasized the need for co-operation amongst men + women of the churches. This particular questioner attended the International Congregational Conference at Rotterdam last year, + was rather "agin the government" when that Council decided not to re-appoint a woman President of the I. C. C., because they were following out the aims of the U.C.C. of churches. Imagine, therefore, that this woman was screwed

heard when she heard of a  
new group being formed in  
Sydney, to further women's interests.

In my position of President  
of the Long. Women's Fellowship of  
Victoria, I have done my best  
to point out to her, that there is  
nothing inconsistent in this  
more.

However, nothing  
will satisfy her except an  
explanation from yourself,  
& since she has a certain  
following amongst our women,  
I wondered if you'd be

so good so to dash off a  
note on the subject, please.

We have an executive meeting  
on 7<sup>th</sup> February, so I'd  
be most grateful if you could  
answer soon. If not,  
perhaps I'll put a call  
through to you, on about  
the 6<sup>th</sup> February.

With apologies for  
travelling, + best wishes to you  
wife + children,

Yours Sincerely,  
Isabelle E. Merry

---

WOMEN'S LEADER

February 28, 1963

The Rev. Isabelle E. Merry,  
The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital  
for Women and Children,  
172 Lonsdale Street,  
MELBOURNE, Vic.

Dear Miss Merry,

I did not reply to your letter of January 31 because, having been absent in WA until February 5, I thought it best to leave you to call me on the following day, February 6, as your letter suggested.

However, you did not call and therefore I thought I should make some answer to your letter.

The person to whom you refer is probably the lady who asked the same questions and made the same arguments of inconsistency at the meeting of the Women's Inter-Church Council in Victoria which I visited last year.

The answer is really very simple. We are concerned with the co-operation of men and women in church, family and society and indeed are bringing Madeleine Barot to Australia later this year from the WCC Department. We are also aware that if we are to promote the Ecumenical Movement effectively in the local church, we need to work far more than we do through the existing organizations of our member churches. The Australian Christian Youth Council works through the youth groups as a coherent organizational structure in our church life. Women's organizations also have a degree of coherence which requires to be recognized.

The purpose we seek to promote is to draw the women's organizations of the local congregations together in something more than ad hoc occasional meetings together such as Women's World Day of Prayer. It is also to encourage women of the churches either interdenominationally

or in their denominational women's organizations to work more effectively by providing and encouraging the use of specially-prepared material. This will often happen in conjunction with a local Inter-Church Council, and in many cases may be the first step towards a local Inter-Church Council coming into being.

There is no inconsistency between this and the work for the co-operation of men and women in church, family and society. If there is, then our Congregational Women's Fellowships should cease, both at the State level of which you are the President, and at the local congregational level, to which no doubt your critic also belongs.

Yours sincerely,

HLP/VS

Harvey L. Perkins  
General Secretary.

# The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital

For WOMEN and CHILDREN

172 LONSDALE STREET,  
MELBOURNE

Tel.: 32-2031

REFER: IM:SDS

March 5, 1963

Reverend Harvey L. Perkins,  
General Secretary,  
Australian Council of Churches.

6 MAR 11 1963

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Thank you very much for your letter of  
the 28 ult.

I am sorry I did not call you; but I  
realized you would be very busy at that time and  
was reluctant to bother you with what to me seemed  
a most unintelligent question.

I am most grateful for your written  
reply, portion of which I shall read at our next  
executive meeting.

I am afraid I find these people too  
irritating; and am very thankful to work in a hosp-  
ital where one's colleagues dare not ask ridiculous  
questions where life and death are concerned.

Again many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

*Isabelle*

ISABELLE E. MERRY

210 Bay Road  
Sandringham.  
April 5th 1963

Dear Mrs Kyllie,

The W.C.C. "In Unity"  
arrived this week and I was interested to  
read of the organization "Australia's Church  
Women" - I have been interested in  
the W.C.C. ever since it was formed - before  
that I worked with St Macauley and several  
others to establish "Inter Church Aid".

For awhile I was a delegate for the  
V. Council of Churches and have been on  
the Executive for I.C.C. and now on the  
Victorian Branch.

Several of us have been interested for

some time in a kind of organization that would gather all our women's work under one head. So far I have heard nothing of this Fellowship in Victoria so decided to write to you. I was interested to read that Mlle Madeline Barot is to visit Australia.

Four years ago I went overseas and saw many of the I.C.W. posts in Europe - and while at Geneva, stayed in Mlle Barot's flat.

If we should have the privilege of a visit to Melbourne from her - I would love to meet her again.

I expect to be in Sydney in July - It would be nice to meet you if at all convenient.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Frances Hand.

From a letter from the Reverend Winifred Kiek M.A.,B.D. to J.N.Barker

April 22nd,1963

"It is good of you to be such a champion of the work we did with women's groups under the aegis of the World Council of Churches. As you say, it seems to be completely forgotten by the present day officers. I don't suppose this really matters. We can only hope and pray that some good was done and that the ground now being traversed will not be quite as virgin soil. Perhaps some of our pioneer work may have prepared the ground for the later efforts.

It is certainly surprising to read Mrs.Dey's statement "the committee started off with no precedent whatever to follow, and had to feel its way in every step taken", and again, "I would have thought that Mrs.Wyllie was breaking new ground."

Among my files somewhere, I expect I still have my letter to John Garrett (possibly dated 1950) in which I suggested to him that if I could persuade the various State Women's Inter-Church Councils to form a federal body they might be the natural organisation through which our "leaven" could be active. He replied-- (I'm writing from memory) that this would be quite alright, but no separate organisation of women was desirable within the World Council of Churches. In view of his agreement I obtained copies of the constitution of each State Women's Inter-Church Council, and tried to co-ordinate them. It was very difficult, as some States included bodies that were not Churches, and some had Unitarians.

Another matter related to the present effort, and so far apparently unmentioned, is the Australian body that came into existence when our State World Day of Prayer Committees met in Melbourne to compose the programme for world use. I believe that our Mrs.Dabinett of South Australia is now Secretary of the all-Australian Committee. By the bye, I rang up this morning and discovered that our South Australian United Church Council had received a communication from Sydney re the formation of Australian Church Women; they are about to discuss it, I understand, but whether the World Day of Prayer has been approached I do not know.

Thank you for your desire to emphasise the work I did for the World Council of Churches and women's groups. I have copies of all my annual reports to the World Council of Churches, but I don't want to seek recognition in any way. It doesn't matter, so long as the work goes on---so please don't emphasise the point when you write to Sydney. Your statement that "it would be sounder policy to work through the (existing) State organisations" is really in line with Mr.Perkins' own letter to me, isn't it? It certainly was the basis of all my efforts."

---

85 Sackville Street  
KEW E.4, VICTORIA

The Reverend Harvey Perkins M.A. B.D.  
Secretary  
Australian Council of Churches  
Kent Street, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

GEN. SEC.	✓	SEC.
EXEC. SEC.		
DICARIES		
PRO.		
WCA		
FILE		

Dear Mr. Perkins,

For some time past, and following on my correspondence with Mrs. John Dey (and also with the Reverend Winifred Kiek) on the subject of the Report sent ~~sent~~ out by the "Interim Committee for Women's Work" under the auspices of the Australian Council of Churches; but, for various reasons have hesitated to do so. I had almost completed a letter to you just before Easter, but it was not sent!

At the end of last week our Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria (W.I.C.V. for short) heard a most interesting Address on her recent visit as a delegate to the South East Asia Conference, by Mrs. T.H. Coates. Mrs. Coates and I did not have an opportunity of speaking to each other after the Meeting, but later she phoned me in order to convey to me a greeting from the Reverend Norman Cocks; and she then asked me what was happening in connection with "Australian Church Women" and we talked on the phone for quite a long time. Mrs. Coates was quite startled as I began to enumerate some of the problems and difficulties which many of us were seeing in this--- in contrast, of course, with others who were ready to accept the new set-up with unquestioning enthusiasm. After following with close and sympathetic attention what I had to say, Mrs. Coates said, urgently, that someone should follow this up, but that she ~~could not~~ had no authority to do so as she is not a member of this Committee. I was, of course, well aware that Mrs. Coates was the real instigator of this from the time of the A.C. Conference held in Melbourne in 1960, when, on the Sunday evening, she called together some of us women delegates, and propounded her ideas, and later passed them on to you in writing.

I then said to Mrs. Coates, that I had no authority either, but was so concerned about the whole matter that (after consultation with a few of my colleagues here) I had taken certain steps with the "excuse" that, as a foundation member, and also a recently elected life-member of the W.I.C.V., and also as a life vice-President of the Congregational Women's Fellowship of Australia, I was perhaps in a position to hold a kind of ~~watching brief~~ "watching brief" endeavouring where possible, and if needed, to link the best of the old with the new, while at the same time keeping as open a mind as possible as regards new and progressive movements.

Mrs. Coates was kind enough to concur with this attitude, and to express appreciation of the steps I had so far taken, and to urge that I write to you, as she thought you should be made aware of the re-actions we are experiencing here in Victoria, in an increasing degree. So here goes!-----

You will be aware, I think, that I wrote to Mrs. Dey (who is a friend and colleague of mine) asking her certain leading questions on which I hoped she might throw some lights, and I know that one of these points, at any rate, she referred to you and to Mrs. Wylie. Here follows a summary of the questions raised, and of the replies which I received directly---or indirectly---from Mrs. Dey. (I may say that she wrote me, as she always would do, a very nice and friendly letter, the tone and substance of which did much to relieve tensions and some misapprehensions caused by the reading of the original Report)----- I began by reporting the original shock caused when (notwithstanding the Report Address you gave at the Meeting of our W.I.C.V. in November last) it was difficult to see how this new move could be reconciled with the definite re-

affirmation made at New Delhi that there should be no women's organisation in connection with the W.C.C., even though you explained later in a letter to Mrs. Kiek, a paragraph of which she kindly quoted to me, the setting up of an Ecumenical Promotion Division of the Australian Council, under which this new Australian Church Women project was included. -----I may say here that it was I who was distinctly under the impression that in your Talk to our W.I.C.V. in November, you had used the term "Auxiliary", and that this was later confirmed by another member who had been present on that occasion. I do not think that you had then enlightened us re the forming of this new Division of the Australian Council. Anyhow this information conveyed to me by Mrs. Kiek, did, as I said to Mrs. Dey, resolve, to some extent, this problem.

My 2nd question was to the effect:- How had it come about that this new organisation had been brought into being without consulting, or even informing, Mrs. Kiek of the new project when she had held, for many years (since 1946) the position of Liaison Officer between the Australian ~~of the~~ Council of the World Council of Churches (as it was then called) and the World Council, and had rendered such valuable service in keeping our main Australian Church women's organisations informed, through questionnaires and information generally--latterly from Mlle (now Dr.) Madeleine Barot, whom Mrs. Kiek met when she went as a delegate to Evanston? Was it possible, I asked, that information, including names and addresses of her Correspondents throughout Australia and beyond, ~~had not been passed on to her~~ sent by Mrs. Kiek with her letter of resignation to the Secretary of the Australian Council, had not been passed on to the one appointed to succeed her--Mrs. Wyllie(?). We had all been missing very much, in recent years, the kind of information regularly sent to us by Mrs. Kiek.

Mrs. Dey's reply to this was that she was "afraid she had not sufficient knowledge to comment" on my reference to Mrs. Kiek, and that she "would have thought that Mrs. Wyllie, as Convener of this Committee, was breaking new ground". Earlier in her letter, Mrs. Dey had said that their committee had been in difficulties, as it had "started off with no precedent whatever to follow, and has had to feel its way with every step taken." Mrs. Coates' comment to me on this was "Then there has been a lapse in continuity, and that information must have been destroyed in the office!" I too wonder more than ever, if this is so, ~~together~~ with other material over which Mrs. Kiek had also taken a great deal of pains. (Vide letter enclosed.)

3rd. This was the query that Mrs. Dey reports having referred to you and Mrs. Wyllie - The incomplete and apparently quite arbitrary list of Organisations which it was envisaged as comprising the constituent parts of the new organisation. As I explained to Mrs. Dey this did come home especially to us in Victoria, in view of the position held among us, and will we hope be held increasingly, by Mrs. Colonel Saunders, and also the faithful support of our W.I.C.V. by her colleagues, busy women among their leaders and Officers. Mrs. Saunders was careful to state that she was not taking this as a personal matter, but it did give her seriously to think whether she <sup>should</sup> ~~could~~ withdraw her consent to be nominated to again become Secretary of our W.I.C.V. when Mrs. Pell retires in June. Mrs. Dey's response to this was quite re-assuring, but how were we to know that, according to ~~the list~~ Mrs. Dey, the list given was just as "examples" (?) Surely it would have been fitting in such a circular, to have included as a start, women's organisations of constituent Churches of the Australian Council, which would of course have included the Salvation Army. And why ever should the "Fellowship of the Least Coin" have been included--a movement of which most of us <sup>had</sup> ~~have~~ never heard though we have been somewhat enlightened since! In any case how could they be included under the UMBRELLA of "Australian Church Women" (?)

4. By what authority should this Ad Hoc Committee take it upon themselves to choose the personnel of the group in Victoria to prepare the programme? True they are

most excellent people. None better could have been chosen. But is this hand-picking by the Ad Hoc Committee, an indication that existing Inter-Church Councils are to be by-passed or over-ridden by arbitrary decisions and actions of this Interim Committee? If so this will be in danger of leading to the establishment of parallel organisations in each State, which as many of us can foresee, and with which Mrs. Coates fully concurs, would lead to endless difficulties and misunderstandings.

Mrs. Dey gives as the reason for this that "The idea of working as far as possible through existing State and local women's organisations has certainly not been overlooked; maybe it would have been good to have considered this more carefully in this instance, but it is necessary for this work to be carried out expeditiously (the underlining is mine J.W.D.) if the material is to be available for next year & etc. "

5. My 5th point is <sup>that</sup> ~~one~~ of FINANCE. How is this new organisation to be financed? This question Mrs. Dey ignores entirely, and many people are, naturally asking this question. All that we have to go upon, as I see it, is your definite statement to us in <sup>November</sup> ~~June~~ last that the Australian Council has no funds with which to finance such a venture. And there it was left in the air.

Now for some inside comments which Mrs. Coates thought I should pass on to you. At the beginning of the year, some of us feared that this question of the new Organisation was going to cause quite a serious division among the members of our W.I.C.V. Several of our members, including leading officers and others, were quite "sold" on the new idea, and inclined to look askance and regard as reactionary, any who dared to criticise or ask awkward questions. At the Meeting last week, however, those of us who had a real "concern" about this, were quite surprised to find quite a change of attitude among certain of the enthusiasts. It was obvious that, perhaps through conference with certain of their organisations, the scales had begun to fall from their eyes. Mrs. Pell, for one, was most indignant because their national Baptist Women's Organisation had not received a copy of the material sent out. Mrs. Stevens, a very fine leader among the Anglican group, had reported so far, that as far as she was aware, their Mothers' Union had not heard; nor their national women's group, whose name I cannot now remember, and of which I had not previously heard. She was surprised too to learn that the G.R.B.E. had been brought into consultation with a women's group; the Presbyterian folk were much subdued, and I gathered from one of them that their Victn. P.W.M.U. had sent in various questions to be answered by the Interim Committee. I am in close touch with our National President of the Congl. Union of Australia, the Rev. Henry Wells, and with officers of our Women's Fellowship of Australia. The State Organisations are looking to them to give a lead in this, but whether decisions will be made public before the Biennial Assembly to be held in Brisbane in May of next year, I do not yet know. It was decided at the Executive of our W.I.C.V. to hold a special meeting to discuss all this on the morning of Monday the 20th inst, to last until the afternoon if necessary.

One wonders, whether, in view of all this care and hesitancy, the Interim Committee will continue to carry on making decisions which will more or less affect us all, and we still wonder what will happen about the State Inter-Church Councils which have been left out in the cold!

And now one final point:- Members of our W.I.C.V. have come to the realisation that every suggestion of future working and progress <sup>from the new set-up</sup> has already been arrived at and put into action by our W.I.C.V. We began the observance of World Community Day over 20 years ago; Fellowship Day was established about ten years later, and this is growing from strength to strength, being held now in July in suburban and country areas with Group Meetings. Many of these are coming in action with regular meetings held quarterly or monthly, often with some practical objective for which to work together. This is surely along the lines of developing contacts in local areas.

Further reflection on the information as it is given to us indicates that this Interim Committee has appropriated to itself, as its own ideas, much of what the W.I.C.V. has been thinking and acting upon over the last twenty years and more, and it now proceeds, in its latest series of Resolutions to indicate to all State Women's Inter-Church Councils, including Victoria, a date of their (the Ad Hoc Committees) choosing, with instructions as to methods and means by which World Community Day shall be carried out this year!!

By what possible authority, or reason, can such a Committee, on which none of us, other than the New South Wales Inter-Church Council, has representation, ~~issue~~, ~~in effect~~ such instructions, or recommendations(?)

I personally would hope that, in the light of this last and other matters upon which I (& probably others too) have been commenting, that every organisation concerned would issue, in effect, a vote of 'No Confidence' in this Interim or Ad Hoc Committee until such time as it may be re-constituted more along the lines as those previously set out when the New South Wales Inter-Church Council met with the Australian Council of Churches Committee investigating Women's work, on Thursday, October 4, 1962.

Yours sincerely,

*Janet N. Barker*

(Miss) Janet N. Barker

6 MAY 1963

GEN. SEC.	
EXEC. REP.	
BICAR. S.	
PRO.	
NWCA	
FILED	

Wesley College, Prahran S.1. Vic  
1st May 1963.

Dear Harvey,

I am posting half a dozen black & white prints to Vaughan Hinton but I am not sure whether they are the sort of thing he wants. I have other groups of delegates, including a good picture (taken by Arthur McCutchan on my camera) of D. T. Niles, & other views of the College & the University, churches etc, in Singapore & Johore, as well as many tourist-type shots. All my pictures are on colour slides, but I find it is possible to get a black & white negative made from them, from which prints can be made in the usual way.

Last Friday at the WICC, Australian Church Women was mentioned at the afternoon open meeting, & many of the members seemed to have questions & reservations in their minds. I believe it was more fully discussed at the Executive meeting in the morning, to which I do not belong. However I had occasion to see Min Janet Barber in the weekend, and she told me some of the things that are concerning her. She is a very fine person who has been a champion of the ecumenical cause from its early days; she also attended the National Council of Churches; & I would like to feel that her views were taken seriously. She is looking more frail than when I last remember seeing her, but she preserves her forthright & frank approach.

As you know I am keen that AEW should provide a hub or focus for church women's organisations throughout Australia, & I would like to do all I can to further its aims, so please do not think that in putting

forward these points I am opposing the scheme. Min Barber feels that the early history of cooperation between women's groups in Australia

has not been recognized in any of the material she has seen referring to the present plan, & she thinks especially of Rev Winifred Kiels of S.A., who was appointed in 1946 by the Australian Council as Liaison Officer to the <sup>group of the</sup> Departments of the WCC (Cooperation of Men & Women - <sup>the Family</sup> Status of Women?)  
She sent word regularly to WICC in Victoria for ten years & distributed questionnaires & information through all the churches <sup>in other states</sup>. When she retired she sent in with her resignation - list of people with whom she had been corresponding. About 1950 she wrote to John Garrett suggesting it might be possible to form an Australia-wide organization of WICC's but has not <sup>found?</sup> kept a copy of the letter. Miss Barber gave me some of these comments & she has later sent me a copy of a letter from Mrs Kiels. I think they both feel there has been a "sad lack of continuity" in Miss Barber's phrase.

Other points that are causing concern are ① whether the World Day of Prayer Committee has been approached & ② whether the ~~Kirkcaldy~~ Baptists are being drawn in.

I'm not quite sure why they feel a little edgy about it, perhaps because no Baptists were asked to help with the preparation of study material. They would hardly be surprised if their national women's group did reject notices of these proposals as they are not affiliated at that level, are they? By the way we are suggesting the co-opting of a Baptist to the study-writing group which has had its first meeting.

③ how affiliation is going to be managed between WICC's & ACW. Whether to

instance the Victorian WICC would be the Victorian unit of the ACW, & if so what about work in local congregations.

when we already have some local WCC's  
 - a considerable number of joint services  
 for Fellowship Day & Community Day.

(4) There is also some question of  
 whether there should be a women's  
 organisation at all, connected with A.C.C.  
 in view of WCC's policy of promoting  
 "cooperation between men & women". I think  
 that it is only at World Council level that there  
 is to be no women's organisation.

Both Miss Barber, & Mrs Kiehl (in her letter)  
 make the point that they do not seek recognition  
 in any way - it doesn't matter, so long as the  
 work goes on.

I should probably not venture to make  
 these comments at all, but I feel we are  
 at such a constant disadvantage because  
 of the distances which separate us, that  
 it is a good idea to clear the lines  
 where possible.

I do not know whether Miss Barber has  
 written to you - I suggested she should  
 but <sup>if she does</sup> I do think it would help  
 if you let her know that you are  
 aware of the work that has been done  
 in the past, and of the part  
 Victoria has played in running  
 Fellowship Day & Community Day  
 in this state, & in bringing out  
 Tina Frasz & Kathleen Bliss, for  
 example.

I hope to see Mabel Wylie in South  
 Australia during General Conference, & perhaps  
 she could tell me more of the background.  
 I think there is a lot of goodwill towards

ACW in the WCC here, & a recognition that  
 its aims are in harmony with their own  
 Norms & I was discussing today what

points to include in our epilogue which  
is to be recorded on May 14th. We also  
talked about the difficulty of a long-term  
follow up of Singapore with two of the four  
Victorians out of Melbourne. I think it is  
important to have some committee to which  
we all belong. Could there be a Committee  
for Joint Action appointed by the V.C.C.?  
As things are we might all be doing useful  
things, but unbeknownst to one another.

I attended an interesting meeting yesterday  
at Newman College where Dr Percy Jones  
of St Patrick's spoke on the Vatican  
Council - a Tribune Report. He has been  
attending the first session in Rome, & he told  
us a lot of interesting details. Frank Byatt  
was in the Chair & opened proceedings, with  
a litany - which all joined - the responses,  
Catholics & Protestants.

The ecumenical background is  
being evoked here at the moment too  
by the presence of Dr Eric Baker  
who spoke at a women's gathering to  
welcome him & his wife on Tuesday,  
and preached at Queen's tonight.  
Among other things he said 'denomination  
alism was doomed. I am afraid it  
may be a sad and lingering death.'

With all good wishes  
Yours sincerely,  
Joan Coates.

P.S. I am going to Adelaide for 21st & 22nd May  
to attend the final day of the AFMW, & have  
written to Mrs Reed the Secretary in Brisbane to  
ask whether I may have a few minutes to tell them  
about the Singapore Conference. I shall also be able to  
be at the Women's Rally which Mabel is addressing JAC.