

*** * INFORMATION PAGE * ***

NEWSETTE is the official journal of the N.S.W. State Unit of Australian Church Women. It is published four times yearly, on the 1st of February, May, August and November. The Annual Subscription is \$4.00.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for Newsette (\$4.00) should be sent direct to the Subscription Secretary:

Mrs. Marie Majoor,
521 Mowbray Road,
Lane Cove. 2066.
(Tel: 428.2384)

Receipts will be issued only if requested.

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from A.C.W. members and should be sent to the Editor:

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in the first week of the month prior to publication month.

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Denominational Groups - State Level:	\$ 15.00 per annum
Local A.C.W. Branches:	\$ 10.00 per annum
Special Interest Groups e.g. YWCA, WCTU, Girls' Brigade:	\$ 5.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FEES due on 1st June (includes Subscription to Newsette) \$ 10.00 per annum

ALL CHEQUES should be made payable to 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN'

i Lighter moment:

*I'm careful of the words I say, to keep them soft and sweet;
I never know from day to day, which ones I'll have to eat!*



NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- N.S.W. UNIT

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.

President: Miss Phyl McKinnirey (Phone 630.3536)

NUMBER 52

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. NAR 3566

AUGUST 1992

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He told them to use this greeting - "Peace be in your house" - and so I greet you in like manner. I am sure, like me, you have all praised and thanked our Father for that wonderful day we shared on 18th May. My favourite word is "Come!" and come you certainly did on that day, literally in hundreds, to worship together and share such joyous fellowship. I'm sure the Holy Spirit was with us in a very special way and I pray that such gatherings will become more and more frequent, with more and more attending.

In this, my first message as President, I would like to repeat the first words of my address on that day: "Unity, for Christians, is not an option - it is our Mission, given us by Jesus on the night before He died, the sign by which others will know that He came and that He loves us!" Jesus also prayed that we should not be taken "out of the world" but that we should be "kept safe from the Evil One."

I believe it is much more difficult to extend the Kingdom by witness in the world, than it is from the pulpit, but this is our Mission, and that Mission becomes much easier

when we all support one another. For this reason, we need to share our spirituality as often as possible, so please encourage your Branch to arrange additional meetings and Services, not just Fellowship Day and World Community Day. We could also try to arrange our Services when our whole families could participate. Last year, President Joan arranged a "Spiritual Enrichment Day", which was a wonderful spiritual experience, and because of the enthusiasm shown, we are planning to have another similar day on Monday, 7th September. (Details are in this 'Newsette').

During July, we have all shared the message of "Christ Our Example" and are now inspired to go forth to love and to serve one another, seeing Jesus in all whom we meet.

May the blessing of the Father, Son and Spirit be with each of us, as we strive to fulfil our Mission.

God bless you all, Phyl.

FLOWER FESTIVAL - ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL:

This much-appreciated annual Festival of Flowers will be held in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney Square, from 11th - 14th September.

The Official Opening will be at 12.15 on Friday 11th September, by Dame Monica Gallagher DBE, Chairwoman of the St. Mary's Cathedral Flower Festival.

The Theme of the Festival is "How glorious are Thy works, O Lord!" There will be musical recitals in the Cathedral throughout the Festival; guided tours; refreshments available.

Our ACW Display Arrangement will once again be done by Mrs. Peg Blake. (Donations towards cost of flowers welcome).

SPECIAL DAYS THEMES:

- 1993 Fellowship Day "Let Justice Roll On Like A River" (SA)
- 1993 World Com. Day "Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly With Your God" (Q'ld)
- 1994 Fellowship Day "Our News Is Good News" (A.C.T.)
- 1994 World Com. Day "We Are Called To Peace" (N.S.W.)
- 1994 is to be The International Year Of The Family.

INSTALLATION of NSW STATE UNIT PRESIDENT:

On Monday 18th May 1992, more than three hundred women and men gathered at the Catholic Cathedral of Saint Patrick at Parramatta, for the Annual Dedication Service of the N.S.W. State Unit of ACW. It was a very special day, for the Unit was also installing a new President, Miss Phyl McKinnirey.

The congregation was welcomed by the Bishop of Parramatta Diocese, Bishop Bede Heather, who made us feel instantly "at home in the Cathedral, by telling us its history and explaining the points of interest in this lovely building. Of very special interest to us was the Bishop's own banner, with its symbols of his life, ministry and beliefs. The words on the "motto" were taken from the words of the pronouncement of Vatican II and reinforced to us what we already knew about Bishop Bede, that he is vitally involved in the ecumenical movement in New South Wales.

Members of the Executive of ACW took part in the Service and the members of the Council dedicated themselves for another year of witness in ACW. A moving part of this Service is always when the outgoing President hands on the Presidential Bible, having first 'signed off' and then the new President receives from her predecessor her Badge of Office; Joan Tong did this with her customary touch of love and grace.

We felt truly blessed as we took part in the prayers, heard the readings from God's word and enjoyed the beautiful singing. Thank you to our new President Phyl for planning such an inspiring morning. It was truly a Service of Thanksgiving, Commitment and Dedication.

The members of the Catholic Women's League in the Diocese had prepared lunch for all of us in the hall behind the Cathedral. What a marathon effort! And how attractive the hall looked. It was evident that this had been a labour of love for someone admired and respected by these women. Among the worshippers and those gathered for lunch were the Lord Mayor of Parramatta and members of Parliament, as well as family and friends of the President. Her commitment to ecumenical groups and to service in the community was also reflected in the attendance of people from these organisations.

This is the largest gathering of ACW members in NSW in the year, so it was not surprising that many took advantage of the lunch-time to catch up with friends from many parts of

Sydney. There were also women from areas out of the city and 'near-country' people. We also took time to thank those members of the Executive who were going out of office, in particular President Mrs. Major Joan Tong. Her two years have greatly blessed ACW in New South Wales.

So we all went home 'well-content' with the day and inspired for another year of service.

*Edith Ridge,
Secretary NSW State Unit.*

**Edith has been very much in our prayers in recent weeks as she had to undergo major surgery. We give thanks to know that she is now at home and progressing well to recovery.
(Editor)*

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY.

Monday, 7th September 1992

at Catholic Women's League Meeting Room, 9th Floor, Polding House, 276 Pitt St. (between Park & Bathurst)

Theme: "I Do Have Faith... Help Me To Have More!"

PROGRAMME:

- 10.00 am Opening Devotions - Mrs. Peg Blake
- 10.45 Morning Tea
- 11.00 Speaker - Reverend Shirley Maddox
- 11.45 Quiet Reflection - Mrs. Brenda Robilliard
- 12.15 pm Speaker - Mrs. Janice Moulay
- 1.00 Lunch (Cost \$5.00 - pay on the day)

**R.S.V.P.:..Please complete and return to:
Mrs E Ridge, 54 New Line Road West Pennant Hills 2125:**

*I will be coming to Spiritual Enrichment Day on Monday
7th September 1992, with ___ friends / branch members.*

NAME _____ **PHONE:** _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Ana Mana Taumoepeau (our 1992 Scholar) completed her computer training at Burnie, and left for Brisbane on 6th July, for deputation speaking and visiting friends. Before she left Tasmania, the Uniting Church ladies at Launceston gave her a birthday party - the first one she had ever had! She was so delighted. She enjoyed her stay in Tasmania very much, in spite of the cold weather and had a variety of experiences, including attending the Uniting Church Mission Day, and the Burnie Anglican Parish Camp.

From Brisbane she will travel to Sydney, arriving on July 20. She will be able to meet members at the City Branch Fellowship Day Service, also at the Service at Pendle Hill/Toongabie Branch, as well as informally. She will of course be shown our Harbour, Opera House etc. and hopefully visit Manly and the Blue Mountains. She will also briefly visit the Uniting Church Offices in Sydney, as she works in the office of the Methodist Church in Tonga. She will then travel to Canberra, Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne, from where she will leave for Tonga on 21st August.

Our 1991 Scholar, Rachel Sobana's appointment has been confirmed as the Deputy Director of Nursing at the Catherine Booth Salvation Army Hospital in Nagercoil, South India. Rachel sends her greetings to all her friends of ACW.

*Mina Whybourne,
W.K.S. Convenor.*

MEDIA AWARENESS PROJECT AUSTRALIA:

Media Awareness Project Australia (MAPA) is an on-going project and we are encouraged by the number of churches and organisations requesting speakers and training days.

Catholic Women's League Branches and Salvation Army Corps have been very active with this project, and are pleased with the results.

Try to organise a training day with your branch or church group. Details from the Mothers' Union Office, St. Andrew's House, Sydney Square. (Tel: 267.8372).

*Jeanne Sutherland,
For MAPA Committee.*

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

Miss Shirley Wells, FLC Convenor, is having a well-deserved holiday in Central, Northern and Western Australia. Post-cards and letters have been received which indicate that she has not fallen prey to any crocodiles or snakes!! We pray that Shirley will be returned safely to us.

News on the FLC front is very encouraging. Requests come continually for information regarding the Fellowship. This is due to the wonderful promotion being given to FLC by the members of ACW both in the branches and within the denominations they represent. Thank you!

A good supply of FLC material is currently available, including the new Circle of Prayer, Volume 12. Shirley Wells even got an honourable mention in the latest newsletter from Shirin Samuel, of the International FLC Committee, for her enthusiasm in promoting this work.

While Shirley is away, I am standing in and will be happy to help with any information you may need. (Tel: 718.8640).

*Joan Tong,
Acting FLC Convenor.*

ACWC CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC):

An Order of Service is prepared by ACWC each year, for use in your fellowships in the month of November - but it can be used at any time suitable to you. This year's Service, with the theme "Work And Action - Mandated by God" has been received, and copies are available for anyone who would like either to use it in total, or to take from it some items for prayer and supplication for use in devotional times at your meetings; or you may just like to have a copy for interest's sake. Please let me know if you would like a copy.

Eunice Kim (Executive Secretary of ACWC) is asking if we have any case histories of "Child Prostitution" from our country, for use in a study and then at a Conference in Sri Lanka next year. Can you help? Any one with access to such articles, please send to me as soon as possible at 8 Metella Crescent, Belfield 2191.

*Joan Tong,
ACWC Representative.*

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT:

Media Releases sent state-wide to newspapers and religious magazines resulted in an increase of funds for the Fellowship of the Least Coin and letters of interest from people not previously involved in FLC. Copies of the Press Release were also sent to all Branch secretaries, asking them to encourage their members to have it printed in local church bulletins.

Coverage of the Installation of our new State President was excellent from radio and newspapers, both before and after the event; photographs taken carefully and lovingly by Mrs. Margaret Jessup were an added bonus when getting into print.

Fellowship Day notices have been sent to all radio stations, local and church papers; a list of venues, times and dates of all Services has been sent to the branches. Thanks to you all who made sure we had these details in good time.

Our current project is a new "Partners With ACWC" Leaflet, and a press release about same. Promotions and Publicity Convenors are hoping to cover areas in Sydney and the country which do not have an ACW Branch.

*Jeanne Sutherland,
Publicity Convenor.*

Y. W. C. A. SYDNEY:

The YWCA has a very promising work amongst Aboriginal young people in Everleigh Street Redfern. A group of 12-15 year olds worked extremely hard to develop, write and produce a Video about a very different Friday night. It is a story of a young Aborigine girl who follows her peers into abuse of Serepax (a minor sedative) and the resulting dramas and relationship break-downs - a statement about the right to say "no" to drugs, and other pertinent issues. This Video is available by contacting the YMCA (264.2451).

A popular activity at the Y is the Breakfast Club for Women, held at 7 a.m. about once a month. Speakers are interesting and topical. On a lighter note, the monthly Coffee Club, (9.30 a.m. on 3rd Wednesday of the month) also has speakers who are topical, interesting and thought-provoking and this is a good time to meet new friends. Details from the YWCA.

*JEANNE SUTHERLAND,
YWCA (Sydney) Representative.*

FROM THE NEWSLETTER of MARLENE GOLDSMITH M.L.C;

In the wake of the Strathfield massacre, the Premier convened a Committee of interested MP's and MLC's to advise him on aspects of violence other than guns, which were already the subject of a special inquiry. A number of us believed that other aspects of violence in society might get ignored in the media frenzy over firearms.

VIOLENCE And The MEDIA:

Of particular concern to me has been the issue of the responsibility of the media themselves in creating a climate for violence in our society. In the movie Total Recall almost 300 people are violently murdered on the screen; it has been estimated that the average child is exposed to well over a thousand killings on TV every year.

The news media sensationalise murder and mayhem, giving them extensive coverage, while ignoring positive news stories. Mass murderers such as Strathfield's Wade Francum are glamorised and their photos and life stories splashed all over the front pages and the TV News. Serious researchers and commentators, including Kevin Waller (former Coroner) are now telling us that such massacres - and violence in general - can only increase in a society fed increasingly on a diet of violence.

VIOLENCE And PORNOGRAPHY:

Research is increasingly showing connections between violence and pornography. In a number of countries, including Australia, rape rates have been found to vary with the availability of pornography. Some academics try to argue that there is more reporting of rape and it may be only the reporting that is increasing. However, societies which have brought in restrictions on pornography, after initially making it more available, have seen dramatic drops in their rape rates.

The last straw for me was a recent 'People' magazine cover depicting a woman as a dog, naked, on hands and knees, in a dog collar and tight leash, with the caption "More Wild Animals Inside." I have since then given the Parliament notice of my intention to bring in a Bill for the Protection Of Children From Indecent Materials - a Bill that will prevent the open display of such covers in public places where children can see them. It is not a Bill about censorship. Those magazines will still be freely available for those who want them. It is a Bill that will allow those of us who wish

it to have freedom from such materials, for ourselves and our children, in public places.

Meanwhile I have met with the Newsagents' Association, who have now advised their members that magazines such as People do not have to be prominently displayed. The newsagents I have spoken with are mostly as concerned about some of this material as I am, and may be very happy to have their customers' support in not putting it in shop windows or on footpaths. If you find any item in your newsagent's to be offensive, request that it be put out of reach and above the eye level of children.

A COURAGEOUS GRANDMOTHER in KOREA:

(From the News Sheet of A.B.M. Women's Auxiliary)

A 69-year old grandmother and her 2 granddaughters are just one of 2500 poor families who will be helped by Australian Board of Missions Auxiliary's 1992 Project, to support the Diocese of Pusan in establishing a "House Of Sharing" in Bansong, a "squatter" area on the edge of the city. Mrs. Seong has supported her grandchildren alone since their father died and their mother abandoned them 6 years ago.

Mrs. Seong goes to the mountain-side each morning at 6 am to collect edible wild herbs used in Korean cooking. After some 8 hours, at 2 pm she returns home and catches a bus to market to find a spot to sell her produce and remains there till it is all sold, often till 7 pm. During this long day the girls, aged 10 and 8, make their own breakfast and get themselves to school. After school they play alone and unsupervised in the streets and alleyways of the area.

The family's home is a rented room of 4 sq. metres. For this she had to pay the equivalent of Aust. \$4,000 key money and the monthly rent is \$80. She is worried because this key money and rent were to be raised in July; she is also worried as to how long she can continue to look after these girls - her herb-gathering is very difficult work for a woman of her age. Both girls remember their mother and miss her; as there is nobody to supervise them during the day, their homework is neglected which is detrimental to their education, and there is danger in them playing on the busy streets.

The "House Of Sharing" will care for pre-school and school children before and after school; it will have women's education programs, marriage and family counselling, counselling

for the unemployed; also Bible Studies and Christian teaching. The A.B.M. Auxiliary hopes to raise \$30,000 for this project during 1992.

ANOTHER HAPPY STORY from CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION:

Franck Ismael from the Ivory Coast in West Africa is a 6-yr old boy whose life has been dramatically changed. When we first met him over a year ago, Franck was hungry, aggressive, dirty and dressed in just a few rags. His club-foot meant that he could barely walk.

Franck was introduced to Alexandre, a CBMI-trained rehabilitation assistant. Alexandre began by strapping Franck's foot with a splint and bandage each night, and taught him exercises 3 times a day. After 2 months of intensive care, Franck was able to walk almost normally.

A few months later, when a CBMI team visited Franck's village they found him happy, well-fed, clean, surprisingly shy - yet walking like a normal child. Although he must wear special shoes and keep up his exercises, Franck's grandfather has been able to enrol him into school for the first time.

Franck Ismael is just one of hundreds of blind and handicapped people whose lives are being changed every day, in this chain of love that is reaching out to desperately needy folk in the Third World. Generous support is enabling CBMI to change lives.

THE 'FIREPROOF' BOOK:

The Bible has been the most attacked book in history - no other book has known the hatred of so many individuals or groups - and yet the Bible survives.

In the 4th Century the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, outlawed Christianity. All meeting places were destroyed and Bibles burned; he systematically attempted to destroy every copy and anyone found with even a portion received a death sentence. Thousands of Christians perished with their Bibles. On a column he built to commemorate his triumph, he had engraved: "The Name of Christians has been extinguished."

In the 16th Century the Reformation split the Christian Church. Some Reformers began translating and printing Bibles in the language of the people. Such were the circumstances of the time that churches began burning these new translations. Martin Luther's translations were burnt in

Germany; the Bishop of London burned Tyndale's English Testaments outside St. Paul's; Tyndale himself was strangled and burnt in Europe.

In the 18th Century, Voltaire, the French literary genius, said: "I am weary of hearing people repeat that 12 fishermen founded Christianity. I will show the world that one Frenchman is sufficient to overthrow it!" He predicted that within 100 years of his day the Bible would exist only in museums.

Later in the same century Thomas Paine, English free-thinker wrote "I have now gone through the Bible, as a man would go through a wood with an axe and fell trees. Here they lie, and the priests if they can may re-plant them. They may perhaps stick them in the ground, but they will never make them grow."

Modern Atheism: Since 1925, the American Association For Advancement of Atheism (the 4A's) has had the aim "to ensure a complete job in the wrecking of religion" saying "Religion was born of fear, reared by fraud and kept alive by lies; the supernatural does not exist; there is no God; religion deserves no more respect than a pile of garbage."

Adolph Hitler said "I am freeing man from the degrading self-mortification called conscience and morality. I will tear up Christianity root and branch, and annihilate it from Germany... the masses will never be Christian again."

Communism's leaders said "We hate Christians ... Christian love is a hindrance to the Revolution ... our task is to destroy all kinds of religion, all kinds of morality."

Modern Criticism: For the past 200 years the Bible has been exposed to the most sustained barrage of hostile criticism and subjected to microscopic examination by expert minds.

Yet, the Bible survives. It outlives its most implacable foes. The presses that printed Voltaire's books were used after his death to print Bibles. When Communism fell in the USSR there was a great desire by the people for Bibles. It has been said: "The Bible's obituary has been written hundreds of times, but this book has an uncanny habit of turning up at its own funeral!"

Today the Bible is available in 2400 different languages; someone somewhere buys a complete Bible every second, and to this may be added hundreds of millions of Bible portions. The Word of God is "living" and "active" (Hebrews 2:12); it will never perish!

(From 'Signs Of The Times')