

8/ FROM VICTORIAN UNIT - Editor, Elaine Johnson.

On April 10, 25 members of ACW Victorian Unit gathered at short notice to welcome home Lieut-Colonel Lynette Green who for the past two years has been working in Kenya East Africa and was recently appointed as Officer Commanding for the Salvation Army in Portugal.

Lynette wasn't officially on holidays but was in Australia to attend the wedding of her younger son, Jeremy, in S.A.

It was a joy to see Lynette again and to hear of some of her experiences in Kenya. One particular project that she introduced to the women was "Clean up Kenya", where the women were encouraged to firstly clean around their own home, own church property and church schools area, secondly around the community co-opting the help of others, cleaning the main streets and waterways, thirdly education to recycle, renew, re-use. She also wrote a book of guidelines for the project and included in it some bible studies to do with creation and the care of the land. As you can imagine, there was also some humour as Lynette related some of her experiences. She also expressed thanks to God for her 22 years involvement with ACW and the ACWC experiences where she visited other countries for conferences and how she believes this was God's way of preparing her for the work in Africa as she didn't find the culture shock too great.

We now pray God's blessing on her in this important role of leadership in Portugal.

ATTENTION : SOCIAL JUSTICE CONVENORS

The **AWC** is seeking the response of all member-groups on the policy paper presented re **Paid Maternity leave**.

Would all Units please consider this **ASAP** and make a 'straw poll' response so that our representative can have some indication of our possible position by the Face-to-Face meeting in Sydney on August 3,4? Those on email will have replied to Lee, others please forward their responses by the next Executive meeting.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
ACW NEWS

We aim:- to unite Christian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

June – August 2002

Contributions by September 20 2002 please.

Mrs P C Dolling, 36A Peel St., Mandurah WA 6210

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Rev'd Lee Edwards

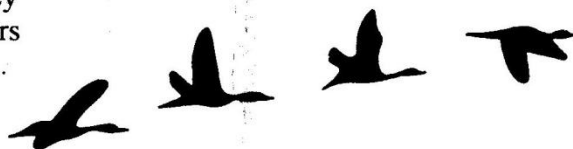
My dear Friends,

At last we can rejoice in the arrival of rainy weather – I hope it is reaching all of you, as we urgently need rain in so much of our country. Grey dull days have their own beauty, and winter sunshine with warm(ish) bright days is part of the pattern here in Perth, and is especially appreciated.

I trust all is going well with State Committees and everyone else connected with ACW and reading this newsletter. Of course winter is a time for coughs & colds but we just have to cope with them, don't we? Heroics is *not* a good idea though!

Did any of your Unit members receive awards in the recent Honours List? The Australian Women's Coalition would like to receive information to acknowledge & congratulate recipients – which means I need this information:

- *name and address
- *the Award received
- *highlights from the citation.



2/ Please don't wait for a Unit meeting but actively pursue this and send information to me promptly. (Another job for hard-working Secretaries/Presidents! Sorry.)

I want to report on the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC) which continues to keep me busy. I am grateful for some assistance from the two Vice Presidents. I believe we have come to 'the end of the beginning' – i.e. the groundwork which had to be 'done right'. The Operational Guidelines have been agreed on and I'm including information from the preamble and suggested areas of research to be undertaken by Coalition members in this issue but I also want to especially highlight the following points:

- *All members of the Coalition have equal voting rights
- *There will be a Project Officer to prepare submissions, do the minutes and other duties
- *Each member-organization will undertake some research for the Coalition
- *When a policy has been researched and a paper prepared, it shall be forwarded to all member-organizations, and the Executive will be responsible for collating the names of those member-organizations who have endorsed the policy paper when forwarding it inside or outside the Government for action and information
- *AND media releases will be forwarded to member-organizations for their views on the issues, with each having the right to vote against the issue or abstain. If a majority of member-organizations are in agreement, the release will be made with those organizations only named.

I believe these last 2 points should allay any fears that are held.

One last matter: TO HELP WITH RAPID COMMUNICATION, could each State Unit Committee let us have at least one e-mail address for use when time is of especial importance. We don't always have time to wait for all Units to have met. This won't be a problem when the policy is clearly acceptable to us, or when it is clearly not so, but there may be times when we need to consult.

3/ It has been agreed that there will be 2 face-to-face meetings per annum, at least 10 Teleconferences, that an Executive of 4 will handle business between meetings and make recommendations and some decisions. The second face-to-face meeting will be held in Sydney, August 3-4.

I ask for your prayers for this meeting and for travelling mercies.

Grace and peace to you all from LEE.

PROFILE – Vice President

Barbara Bourhill

Barbara is the mother of four married children – 2 boys and 2 girls who between them have 12 children ranging in ages from 12 to 21 years. Crawford, her husband, died 3 years ago and since then she has spent her time, when not minding grand children, busily involved in many areas of Church work including ACW as well as gardening, travelling, exercising, reading, together with hobbies of knitting, painting and choir singing.

Barbara came into ACW as a delegate from the Catholic Women's League to which she had belonged since the mid 80s. She has been Vice President and President of the Western Australian Unit and Publications person when WA was last National. In this present term of office, she is Second Vice Pres.

Much of Barbara's time is spent in preparing music for Sunday Masses in her Parish as she is the organist and is responsible for rehearsing with the Cantor for the Mass. Church music and Liturgy is an aspect of her life of which she feels very blessed. She is also involved in the weekly sessions of the Rite of Christian Initiation when non-Catholic and non-Christian adults are prepared for reception into the Church each Easter.

~ One person with commitment is worth a hundred who have only an interest.



4/ ACWC NEWS

From Barbara Lacy, ACW National Representative to ACWC.

FROM SHUNILA, **PAKISTAN** – our Prayer Partner

“The Talitha Kumi Center is doing very well and the money sent by the sisters from Australia is being used well. We have recently started training for traditional birth attendants and community health workers – we have 36 students. Our clinic and skill development classes have also continued and are progressing. With love and regards, Shunila.”

Introducing.....Ms SHU- WEN CHIANG

Shu-Wen is the newly appointed Executive Secretary of Asian Church Women's Conference & will take office mid September. She will be inaugurated during the 12th Assembly in Korea. Following the Assembly, the ACWC office will be in Taiwan. Shu-Wen was born in 1962 but says she got the real life when she started to know Jesus when she was 18 years of age. She grew up at a small town in north-eastern Taiwan and has a brother and six older sisters.

Shu-Wen holds two Master degrees in historical studies and cross culture education from Tung-Hai University, Taichung, Taiwan & the University of Washington, Seattle, USA.. Her working experiences include Editor for Echo magazine and Disney Children's magazine and also main Editor of the Lamb magazine of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. Her present position is Senior Executive Research Assistant at the Research and Development Center of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

In her biography, Shu-Wen writes:

“Women's issues will be the focus carrier in my future and I treat the opportunity of working as Executive Secretary for AWCW as a kind of challenge to my service. I have appreciated the function of AWCW linking 17 Asian countries to be a fellowship.



5/ The programs and projects it promotes has really helped these women in different countries. I have been attracted by AWCW in that it has focused on each member's cultural context to design the useful programs. I hope my professional training and work experience could be of great use to AWCW in the future.”

As Australian Church Women, we welcome Shu-Wen to her new position in September and assure her of our prayer support and co-operation during her term of office.

Urgent prayer Request: We have been advised that Revd Iluminada Domingo, the present Executive Secretary, underwent surgery in mid-June. We uphold her in prayer for complete recovery and healing.

Assembly Newsletter No.2 was sent to all State Units. Please send in your postcards. We spread the message of God's love and some idea of Australia to our sisters of AWCW. Thanks!

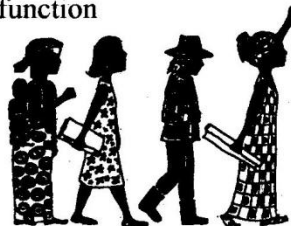
With love and prayer to you and yours from Barbara.

WKS NEWS

Janet Watts – National Convenor Winifred Keik Scholars

Excerpts from a letter from Rachel Kanly, 1991 scholar:
“After I reached Kuwait, it took quite a long time for my formalities to join duty and by God's grace, I joined duty in July 2001 in Kuwait Oil Company – General Hospital as a Staff nurse. Here there is no hope for any other positions because it's all given to Kuwaitis. Brian is now in Standard 3 and Keren – L.K.G1. We are staying behind to Crown Plaza Hotel since Kanly has to stay near to his work place. I go by private transport for 45 minutes to my hospital. We have Philipinos Staff nurses.... We are happy as a family here though we miss Nagercoil (India) and our own people very much.

We have extreme climates – May to July days 55-60 degrees!



6/ We plan to visit India in August during summer holidays.....
I still remember my blessed time in Australia and how fortunate I was to come there and get to know many people.
Thank you so much for remembering me (Rachel Sobana) in your prayers. May God bless ACW and every member in it."

Janet also had a letter from Nighat Gulzar, 1994 Scholar, from Pakistan who is now living in Philadelphia, USA.. She sends her Greetings to those she knows in ACW in Australia.

FLC

Major Olive Dell – National Convenor FLC



To hand- Final report from the Australian Faith Community Nurses Ass. Inc. whose project was to facilitate faith community nursing in Western Australia. 'Our goals and objectives are achieved and this would not have been possible without the financial support of the FLC.' (Dr Antonia van Loon RN Ph.D.) Photographs showed a warm and friendly group, the balance sheet was included and the report is of a very high standard full of interesting detail.

'We split the project in two phases: last year we did a promotional tour in WA to speak about the project. This year we conducted an introductory course to prepare nurses to work in this role.

After extensive media coverage (print & radio) and advertising (fliers & paid ads.), we had 9 eager participants – Anglican (4), Lutheran (2), Roman Catholic (2), Churches of Christ (1).

These women varied in age from new nursing graduates to experienced nurses. One woman had only recently migrated to Australia from Peru, this course is helping her toward achieving her nursing registration in this country, and she hopes to put the role in practice in her faith community once this occurs.'

AFCNA is extremely grateful and trust that the FLC are pleased with the outcomes of this funding – the commencement of more health and healing ministries by faith community nurses and their volunteers to help women from birth to death to maximize their health and wellbeing, enabling them to stay supported within their community during illness, and to manage their health so they can optimize their function within their community.

7/ ACW UNIT NEWS

FROM NSW UNIT – as advised to President Lee.

The NSW Unit reports that inquiries were made about Insurance when holding Special Day Services and learnt that the insurance of the church building being used was not fully inclusive to cover all possibilities. Individual members of the Executive could be held responsible for the costs of any accident that resulted in legal action. The advice they received was to become incorporated. Our understanding is that each State's laws are different, so it would be advisable to make inquiries, either with the Insurance body of one of our churches or through the Office of Fair Trading. We thank NSW Unit Executive for sharing this information and pass it on to you all for your consideration.

Ed: National Executive advises Units to carefully consider all aspects of incorporation.

TASSIE TALES – from Shirley Brooks.

The Tasmanian Unit's Annual meeting in May re-elected all Office Bearers. Mrs Ronnie Palmer led the Bible Study. The guest speaker from 'Giant Steps' based in Deloraine, enlightened us all as he spoke on autism and the advances the children and adults had made since they began the Giant steps program.

Life membership was bestowed on Mrs Juanita Miller for her work with ACW. Juanita has worn many hats – State Executive President, Launceston Branch President (twice) and at present Branch Secretary, but her great love is FLC. For many years she has held the positions of Launceston branch and State Executive Convenor (a position she still holds) and in 1991-1993 was National Convenor.

On a sad note – Miss Inas Beyafield was promoted to Glory . Inas held the position of Launceston branch Secretary for many years and also faithfully attended State Executive meetings. Inas will be greatly missed.

NUNGALINYA NEWS

Next time you see NUNGALINYA NEWS on the table in your Church foyer/porch, pick it up and read it. I find the stories in it most interesting and in the YEAR of the OUTBACK, it is a means of learning about the training of indigenous ministers and leaders who come from the outback of Australia.

Nungalingya College, Darwin, is a partnership of the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches, a registered private provider of education for aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Leadership formation and community development are strongly emphasised. Course materials and teaching methods are culturally sensitive and practical, providing students with the competence and confidence for living in a cross-cultural society.

"So, let's make the YEAR of the OUTBACK,
the YEAR of NUNGALINGYA, too."

Phillis Dolling

*Nungalingya College:
Lighting the fires of
learning and leadership*

MEMO FROM GOD

TO: YOU
FROM: THE BOSS
SUBJECT: YOU
RE: LIFE

I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. All situations will be resolved, but in My time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic; don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work, think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles from assistance; think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror; think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what life is all about, asking 'What is my purpose?' be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them!

Should you decide to send this to a friend; thank-you, you may have touched their life in ways you will never know!

Contributed by Carolyn Craggs

INSERT – ACW NEWS – June to August 2002

Australian Women's Coalition

– OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

FROM THE PREAMBLE:

AWC is a coalition whose ethos is non-party political, non-sectarian, and non-racist. It was formed to further develop networking between women's organisations, to develop policies of benefit to women and to enable younger women a stronger voice for women in the community. This will be achieved by:-

- *working collaboratively to provide informed and representative advice to government on issues affecting women;

- *representing the diverse views of women through consultation with the women's sector, their own constituencies and other groups and organizations relevant to women's concerns;

- *acting as a conduit for the exchange of information between government and the women's sector;

- *undertaking specific policy analysis on individual areas of organizational expertise and concern; and

- *development in maintaining effective governance structures to fulfil roles and responsibilities of National Secretariats.

FROM 'MEMBERSHIP'

Membership is open to all Australian women's national organizations and it is envisaged that the membership will include organizations which are culturally diverse.

A representative of each member organization or her proxy shall represent her organization. It is preferable that the same person shall represent her organization on at least a 12 monthly basis.

FROM 'POLICY ADVICE' –re suggested areas of research.

Each member will undertake some research for the Coalition.

Areas of research will be identified from time to time by the Coalition and will include areas such as:

- *Legislation relevant to women; **Economic and financial viability for a wholesome lifestyle*; * Education; **Environment*;
- *Health and welfare, including those who are differently abled;
- **Indigenous welfare*; * International policy treaties relevant to women.

MEMBERS OF AWC

Australian Church Women, Australian Federation of Medical Women, Australian Federation of University Women, Cota - Council on the Ageing, Guides Australia, National Council of Women Australia, Soroptimists, UNIFEM, Zonta.

'YOUR GARDEN OF SUCCESS' by DJ Harrington

First plant 7 rows of Peas

Presence, Promptness, Preparation, Patience, Perseverance, Positive action, Prayer.

Then plant 7 rows of Squash

Squash gossip, indifference, negativity, worry, envy, greed, fear.

Then plant 9 rows of Turnips

Turn-up for training, on time, with a smile 😊, with new ideas, with new prospects, with EXCITEMENT!, with a positive GOOD & be worthwhile!

No garden is complete without Lettuce

Let us be faithful to our duty, be honest with ourselves, be unselfish & loyal, be true to our obligations, have fun & enjoyment, obey the rules & regulations, let us LOVE & HELP one another & last but not least **Let us ask for GOD'S HELP!**