

Seventeenth Annual Report

OF THE

WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

OF NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 31st, 1954.

In presenting the Report of the Women's Inter-Church Council for the year ending May 31st, 1954, we wish to express sincere appreciation of the generous help and encouragement received from the Women's Organisations of the affiliated Church groups, the Committee of the "Wybalena" Hostel and their auxiliaries and many interested friends. This splendid support, together with God's guidance and blessing, has enabled the Council to be faithful to the responsibilities entrusted to it.

The Monthly Meetings of the Council have been held at Bible House, Sydney. Good attendances have been maintained throughout the year.

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers took place on May 29th, 1953. The officers elected for the new year were:—

President: Mrs. R. B. Lew.

Vice-Presidents: Mesdames Deans, Stoltz, Millar, Hall, Palmer and Morris.

Corresponding Secretary: Miss G. A. Roseby.

Minute Secretary and Treasurer: Mrs. M. M. Chapman.

"Wybalena" Hostel Committee elected:

- (a) Elected members from Council: Mesdames Knight, Deane, Walker, Hall, Palmer and Miss McDiarmid.
- (b) Representing Citizens' Appeal Committee: Lady Plowman, Mesdames Millar, Payten, Wyper, Allen and Porter.
- (c) President, Treasurer and Secretaries of the Council.

ANNUAL RALLY

The 16th Anniversary was celebrated as a Rally and Thanksgiving Service in Wesley Chapel, Sydney, on Friday, June 26th, 1953. Under the inspiring leadership of Mrs. Lew the devotional session and the following social hour made the happy occasion a memorable one. Scripture reading was taken by Mrs. R. V. Amos after the singing of the opening hymn.

Miss E. Godson graciously performed the duty of the presentation of the Official Bible to the President for the renewal of her term of office.

Mrs. Stolz gave the Induction Prayer, reverently and sincerely commending the President to the service of God and to the work of the Council.

Mrs. Lew in addressing the Council said that with such fellowship and backing, the acceptance of the Presidency for a second term was indeed a great pleasure. Officers and members were thanked for their support.

Mrs. J. T. H. Kerr was the Guest Speaker. In an impressive address she urged Australian Christian Women to be alerted. She said Christian home life and a stricter code for parental control are sadly lacking in our present-day life.

At the close of the devotional session an adjournment to the social hall was made. Here afternoon tea was daintily and generously served by the friends of the President and members of the Council. Thanks were conveyed to the soloist, Miss Shirley (Dufty), to the organist and the officers of Wesley Church.

Representatives from affiliated organisations were given opportunity for expressions of their work.

GUEST SPEAKERS.

At the September meeting, Miss Needham, Re-settlement Officer for the World Council of Churches, was the speaker. She outlined her work overseas when engaged by the British Red Cross Agencies and the United Nations through the World Council of Churches. Concentration camps at Belsen and others in Italy had occupied her interests since World War II, where thousands of women and children were in need of homes. Re-habilitation and emigration, with the attendant problems, were her chief concern. Australian sponsors have enlisted the services of Miss Needham for this important work, her headquarters being at Chapter House, Sydney.

On October 29th there was a splendid attendance of members

and their friends, when the speaker was Mrs. Norman Cocks, wife of the Australasian Secretary of the London Missionary Society. Mrs. R. B. Lew presided, and was supported by Miss G. A. Roseby and Mrs. A. Deans. Mrs. Cocks' theme was "Power", such as that received at Pentecost. She said: "We must beware of faulty connections between man and God, they prevent the flow of power." Again, "the lack of use of God-given power becomes a sin of omission." Further, "a cluttered life can block the channels of God-given power. It was an inspiring and moving address.

An excellent programme of music and song added to the joy of all present. Floral sprays were presented to contributors by the President as she conveyed the Council's thanks.

A basket lunch and tea brought the Social Hour to a close.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP

During the year Rev. Winifred Kiek, M.A., B.D., has forwarded leaflets and literature dealing with the "Commission of life and work of the women in the Churches" and on "Man and Woman Relationship in the Church."

These matters will be subjects for discussion at the forthcoming Conference of the World Council of Churches to be held at Evanston, U.S.A., in August next.

At the November meeting Miss Roseby outlined much of the subject matter of these communications, and discussion was encouraged on debatable points. Mrs. Deans had also perused leaflets and gave extracts for members to consider. These wider horizons prove quite a stimulus to members.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF OPENING OF WYBALENA

A Musicales and Travel Talk marked the second anniversary of the opening of "Wybalena" Hostel. The programme was arranged by Mrs. Lew and consisted of pianoforte music, songs, duets and elocutionary items, all of which affords delightful entertainment.

Mrs. Norman Millar's travel-talk covered many of the places she visited during her tour abroad earlier in the year. Photographs of views added realism to this very interesting travelogue.

Miss Roseby spoke to the gathering on behalf of the Hostel Committee, so that visitors were able to hear about the year of progress and success that the various auxiliaries and interested friends had helped to bring about.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Women's Missionary Fellowship and the Women's Inter-Church Council organised prayer meetings in many parts of N.S.W. on Friday, March 5th. Mrs. H. W. K. Mowll spoke at the meeting in the Chapter House.

N.S.W. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Mrs. Palmer regularly attends the monthly meeting of this Council and brings brief summaries to our meetings—these are greatly appreciated. Topics dealt with include questions affecting the welfare of women and children. Miss Meysie Law spoke on "World Neighbours", Miss Pillinger and Mrs. Green spoke concerning "The Problem of the Aged in our community to-day," and of clubs for pensioners where handicrafts are taught, and social activities made possible under the direction of supervisors in many areas.

CITIZENS' APPEAL COMMITTEE—FOR "WYBALENA" HOSTEL

During the six months' absence of the Organiser, Mrs. N. Millar, Mrs. R. B. Lew presided at the regular Meetings, and during Mrs. Wyper's illness, Mrs. Knight acted as Secretary.

This Committee reports that five Auxiliaries are now working efficiently in the various centres, viz., Mosman, Goulburn, North Shore, Southern Tablelands, and Western Suburbs.

Through their splendid support during the past year, the sum of £226/11/3 has been raised for Hostel funds.

Other amounts of money raised were:—A Jumble Sale at Metropolitan Mission, which netted £22/17/9; A Jumble Sale at 449 Pacific Highway, which netted £25; and The Musicales held at the Bible House on March 25th, added a further amount of £19/2/9.

Participation in Rose Day selling of Badges in the City area of Pitt Street, amounted to £13/17/0.

A further amount contributed through functions, and Subscriptions, brought the total amount raised to £405.

Thanks are extended to Mrs. Millar, and to Mrs. Payten, as Treasurer of the Appeals' Committee, for their continued interest and untiring efforts in support of the Committee's work.

"Wybalena" Hostel Committee.

Meetings have been held on the second Friday of the month at the Hostel at No. 1 Appian Way, Burwood.

The Committee consists of six members from the Council, six members elected from the Appeals' Committee, with three Office-bearers, viz.: Mrs. W. Deane, President; Miss G. A. Roseby, Registrar and Treasurer; Mrs. Knight, Secretary.

"Wybalena" has maintained its popularity as a "home away from home" for those in residence. A waiting list, and a "full house" are evidences of this.

In July, the No. 4 Corps of St. John's Ambulance Brigade provided all furniture and furnishings for a bedroom—the fulfilment of a promise made on Opening Day.

During the year purchases of extra furniture, household needs, linen and blankets have made for greater comforts.

A Singer sewer machine has been purchased for the use of the girls. A gift of £20 from the Western Suburbs Auxiliary made this possible.

On 9th October, the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Hills, visited the Hostel and was entertained by the President and a few Committee members. Afternoon Tea was served, and an inspection of the building made; Mrs. Hills was very favorably impressed with "Wybalena".

On Rose Day a Sales Table was set up in Ashfield: Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Day together with other Committee members sold Badges and goods. Mrs. Knight reported that £14/7/- was raised from the Sales, and £13/5/- from the badges.

The Hostel Matron, Miss Coombes, resigned on the eve of her marriage. Mrs. Dukes has filled the vacancy, and is proving a very worthy and interested successor.

The Committee is very grateful to Mrs. Hall for taking charge of the Hostel during the month Miss Coombes was away on her Annual holiday, and for her continued interest in going every Wednesday to the Hostel during the Matron's absence. This service is given with a smile, and is much appreciated by the girls and the Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT:—

Miss G. A. Roseby reports that £83 has been subscribed to the Hostel funds from interested Church groups of ladies; also an amount of £405 from The Citizens' Appeal Committee. A credit balance of £606/14/4 stands in the House Account.

The amount now owing on the Property is £4525.

Since the opening of "Wybalena" the sum of £975—being Principle and interest, has been paid off the loan of £5500.

THANKS

The Council extends thanks to the House Committee, Mrs. Deane, Miss Roseby, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Hall, for making possible the smooth running of the Hostel throughout the year.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

Interest in the activities of the W.C.T.U. is being maintained through reports reaching the Council from Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Hall. The Grape Festival held in the Chapter House was supported by various members. Mrs. Hall reported that Miss McCorkindale was the Australian delegate to the 19th World Convention, held in Vancouver in June. Later her report was read at the State Convention.

NEW SETTLERS' LEAGUE

Mrs. A. Deans represented the Council at the first "Regional Conference" of the New Settlers' League, held at Union Hall, University of Sydney, on May 29th, 1953. Addresses were given by Hon. F. B. Buckley, M.L.C., and Hon. Howard Beale. Survey of work and purpose of the League were given by Mr. A. Halloran. Interest in the League is maintained through the distribution of regular supplies of literature and the New Australian News Sheet. Concerts and social functions have been attended by Council members.

A.N.Z.A.C. DAY PROJECT

This new project was born of a desire to serve refreshments to soldiers and ex-Servicemen marching in procession on Sunday, April 25th, when ordinary restaurants would be closed. A small committee, with Mrs. Lew as convenor, arranged the multifarious details of catering for 10,000 cups of tea. Congratulations are due to Mrs. Lew and her splendid band of men and women who brought the planning to perfect execution. The time-lag in the Procession, whereby many men did not reach the Domain until time for dismissal of all, somewhat marred the success of the afternoon.

PERSONAL

The Council was pleased to welcome two new delegates from the Baptist Fellowship in Mrs. Scofield and Mrs. Tyas.

Mrs. Lowry of the Society of Friends has recently come, and straightway proved her sterling worth in her work at the ANZAC Day Refreshment Stall.

Our absentees, on account of ill-health, are back with us again—we are happy to welcome back Mrs. Snow, Mrs. Wyper and Mrs. Walker.

Greetings have been received during the year from former members—Miss Rebecca Swan and Mrs. McCallum. We were very pleased to have the latter with us at one of our meetings.

In November Mrs. N. Millar was warmly welcomed on her return from abroad, and she resumed her leadership of the Citizens' Appeal Committee.

Mrs. Gill, a member of the Society of Friends, passed to higher service in August. Her gift of loyal Christian friendship endeared her to all who knew her.

THANKS

The Council expressed thanks to the President, Mrs. R. B. Lew, who has attended the majority of the monthly Meetings. Her splendid leadership and her bright personality have endeared her to all members. The helpful messages given in her Devotional Sessions have been both a challenge and an inspiration.

The retired past President, Mrs. A. Deane, has graciously chaired the Meetings in the absence of Mrs. Lew: to her we wish to extend our thanks.

Miss G. Roseby, B.A., the General Secretary, has had a particularly busy year: she includes the office work as Registrar and Treasurer of the "Wybalena Hostel" with the Council's Correspondence. Members are aware of her onerous tasks and fully appreciate her unselfish devotion in these matters.

The thanks of the Council are expressed to The British and Foreign Bible Society for the use of the Board Room for Meetings during the year.

To Mr. J. A. Dey, LL.B. we are grateful for his advice freely given on legal matters.

CONCLUSION

The Women's Inter-Church Council has found the pattern of its activities vastly more varied than was the case in early years. It is meeting a genuine need in the community. It might well adopt Carey's watch-words:

"Expect great things from God,
Attempt great things for God."

M. M. CHAPMAN.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR YEAR 1954-1955

President: Mrs. R. Greenhalgh (Churches of Christ).

Vice-Presidents: Mesdames Lew, Deans, Pearson, Stolz, Hall and Miss Godson.

General Secretary: Miss G. A. Roseby.

Treasurer: Mrs. M. Chapman.

"Wybalena" Hostel Committee.

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- (a) Elected members from Council:—Mesdames Deane, Knight, A. E. Walker, Hall, Palmer, Miss McDiarmid.
- (b) From Citizens' Appeal Committee for Wybalena: Lady Plowman, Mesdames Millar, Payten, Wyper, Porter, Miss Allen.
- (c) President, Treasurer and Secretaries of Council.

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,

May 31st, 1953 to May 31st, 1954

RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash in hand	9	13 6	Printing Annual Reports ..	3	19 6
Affiliation Fees from			Printing Programmes ..	1	15 0
Churches	6	6 0	Affiliation fees to Organ-		
Collections from Annual			isations	4	3 0
Rally & Meetings ..	11	14 3	Donations	3	18 0
Donation	1	0 0	Expenses	7	8 3
				21	3 9
			Balance cash on hand ..	7	10 0
	£28	13 9		£28	13 9

May 31st, 1954.

M. M. CHAPMAN,
Hon. Treasurer.