

ACW WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNIT 2003

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Promotions Officer: Mrs Maureen Clark

ACW NORTHERN TERRITORY CONTACTS

Alice Springs: Ms Sandy O'Donahue

Darwin: Revd Annette Bailey



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN ACW NEWS

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

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2003

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

As I come to my last edition of ACW NEWS, I thank all who have contributed over the last two years and all on our mailing list who, I hope, have enjoyed reading the news and information published. Best wishes to the incoming National Executive and Editor.

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT Revd Lee Edwards

My dear friends,

As Paul never wrote – ‘Finally my dear sisters...!!’ I write under this heading for the last time and begin with thanks – thanks to God for two challenging worthwhile years; for friends old and new; for lots of interesting things to do and thanks for all you ‘out there’, some of whom I have corresponded with by post, fax or email, others I’ve met, and a few visited, during my time with Units in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Our wonderful editor, Phillis, asked for highlights of our term – my first has to be the very fact of being on the National Executive with 10 great women from 4 different churches. We’ve worked, prayed, laughed, almost cried together, attended outings/visited together, encouraged each other and you, taken flack when it was deserved and always tried to do our best.



2/ As I write, we are on the run-down to Conference 2003, finding much to do in the final preparation stage, the nitty-gritty work of 'tying up loose ends' after the fun stage of planning. As some readers will not see our working papers, I'll include some comments from my President's Report. Many of you will remember Margaret Napier, National Secretary when WA was the 1989 National Executive and was to be President in 2001-03, but that was not to be. Several of us who were members last time have been 'recycled'. Janet Watts has served on each of the WA-based National Executives!

A completely new facet of life for me has been membership of the Australian Women's Coalition, brought into being by the Federal Government, for representatives of national organizations to give advice and women's viewpoints to government on policy matters. These first years have seen much time spent in laying sound foundations which is necessary although frustrating. Projects we have worked on have included an effort to convince government to fund free osteoporosis testing for seniors before they *break a bone first!* This is the only project completed but work continues on Grand-parenting, Women and the Constitution, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women and Access to Equity.

Through the United Nations there is an emphasis in this coming year on educating men and boys to a culture of gender equality and the contribution women could make towards world peace in formal circles as well as the informal peace-making processes. I almost envy whoever takes my place on this Coalition (AWC) as it is challenging and time consuming but interesting and worthwhile.

Locally, of course, there have been the usual opportunities to meet women from different churches when we celebrated together, when I spoke at Special Days' Services and when I represented ACW at various functions. Thank you to those who have represented me at interstate functions.



3/ To Nancy and all the incoming National Executive, I extend congratulations and prayers for a blessed time of leadership in this truly ecumenical venture and I look forward to continuing to share with members of State and Territory Units in membership and service. May God bless us every one! *Lee.*

PROFILE – National Convenor – WKS

Mrs Janet Watts

'We are all one in Christ Jesus'. The words of the Lund Principle "That we should never do things apart that we can do together" mean much to me. A background in Churches of Christ, Congregational, Methodist and Uniting Churches gave me a love of ecumenism and being under the leadership of Revd Winifred Kiek in my teens was a wonderful bonus! Inter-church fellowship in WAAF during the war, followed by two years in Bible College, life in a manse with four children & Parish, Presbytery, Synod activities have all been so rewarding.

I have had the joy of many experiences in sharing that 'we are all one in Christ' - in our Synod Christian Unity Committee, WA Council of Churches, World Council of Churches in Canberra, the Taize Community in France, Iona Community in Scotland, Australian Church Women and for the last ten years Wellspring Community in Australia (inspired by the Iona Community).

The Wellspring Community is a special joy to me – an ecumenical community of Christian men and women seeking new ways of living the gospel. Members live in all areas of Australia and are bound together by prayer, regional meetings, a prayer diary where different members are named for each day of the month and pray for Areas of Concern which are set for the day:- spirituality & worship, peace & social justice, aboriginal reconciliation, ecumenical & inter-faith issues, environment & healing. There is a newsletter called PIPELINE and national gatherings every two years.

4/ In July I shared in the National Wellspring Community Pilgrimage to the Centre. 46 men & women from different states and denominations travelled to Alice Springs, joining together to share accommodation, meals, worship, walking, visits with aboriginal folk, getting in touch with the land. It was a time of exploring Australian spirituality and thinking deeply about the next step on the journey.
Well for me the next step is the ACW National Conference and I am looking forward to yet another ecumenical experience! *JW.*

WKS NEWS

Janet Watts – National Convenor Winifred Kiek Scholarship
Introducing another 2003 WKS Scholar

Monique Crabtree lives in Northam, Western Australia. Monique became a Christian when she was 16 and has worshipped in Baptist, Church of Christ and Uniting churches over the years. Her husband, Bill, to whom she has been married for 16 years, comes from a farming background and they have four children. Jon & Brianna are at High School, James & Sam are at Primary School. They attend Church as a family. Grandma McBeath lives with them to the delight of the children.

Last year Monique felt God was calling her to ministry after some years of Sunday School & Scripture teaching so she now attends Tabor College in Perth, an hour's drive from Northam. The course, including Church Government, Women in Ministry & Forgiveness, has been demanding and Monique asks for prayers to sustain her in her studies and in her personal health. We are looking forward to meeting her at National Conference.

SEEKING PEACE.....in nature
*To see a world in a grain of sand,
And heaven in a wild flower;
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.*

Blake.



5/ SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

An update from Major Laurel Pearce – National Convenor SJI

This year has been a busy one. The major activity has been researching and writing our contribution to the Australian Women's Coalition 'Access and Equity' project on 'Aspects relating to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Groups'. I was grateful for the helpful information provided by State Units for this project.

I have continued to report to National Committee on literature received eg. Federal Labour's response to Initiatives for Women in the 2003/04 Budget Statement and the Australian Citizenship Forum papers.

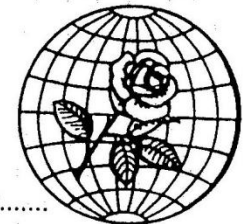
Another task has been preparing motions for our ACW National Conference on Social Justice issues eg. C.A.L.D. and Refugee Women, Trafficked Women and Housing Policy.

The first week in September, I will be representing the Salvation Army at the International Council of Women in Perth and will report on the conference to ACW. The following week I will be at the National Conference of NCW. In October, I conclude my time as ACW National Social Justice Convenor at our National Conference.

I have enjoyed these two years and have appreciated being able to keep you informed on Social Justice Issues in the NEWS. *LP.*

*There grows the flower of Peace.
The Rose that cannot wither.*

Henry Vaughan 1622-1695



O God of many names, Lover of all nations.....

We pray for Peace – in our hearts

- in our homes

-in our world.....

the peace of your will, the peace of our need.

6/ FLC

Major Olive Dell – National Convenor FLC



These two years have proved interesting. I have appreciated very much the privilege of getting to know so many people, even if at long distance.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin provides us with the opportunity for prayer for peace and reconciliation and also a unique fellowship of hearts, as we realise that we have been joined in prayer with so many others around the world. The total of 'least coins' never ceases to amaze me. Like the loaves and fishes that Jesus multiplied, these coins just seem to grow and bring much glory to God. Keep praying! OMD

The theme for World Community Day in October is TOWARDS COMMUNITY – Love in Action - when our FLC offerings are brought in and dedicated. God honours and blesses these gifts.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2003

'TOWARDS COMMUNITY' - our theme for the past two years - was introduced at Conference 2001 with devotions and the Goose story, hence the presence of geese in most ACW NEWS!

It is a story about leadership and sharing the load, care and compassion.

We trust that Conference 2003 will be a continuation of that theme and those attending will enjoy what Western Australian Christian women have to offer.

Swanleigh, an Anglican Boarding College for High School students, many from country areas, is set by the river with huge, old trees giving welcome shade in the summer. The single-story houses have modern comforts and facilities and are close to the main hall. The Unit banners will provide colour and identity in the meeting end of the hall, well screened from the meal tables.



7/ There is a community area in each house where supper will be served most nights so we can enjoy 'community'. We have arranged for Continental breakfasts, sandwiches and hot finger food for lunch with a hot two course meal at night; vegetarian meals will be available. Tea/Coffee and juice will be available at all times - in the Dining room and the houses.

The programme will include music, devotions by Units, News, Business sessions, Bible Study, a day's outing to Government House for morning tea, a stroll through the city of Perth and an Ecumenical Service of Worship at Perth Wesley Church. We intend to return by bus to Swanleigh via the beaches, suburbs and Swan Valley. We have first class entertainment for the Conference Dinner and transport arranged to meet all your needs. Those who have booked Tours will see wildflowers in profusion as we have had a very wet winter. We praise God for creation!

FRIENDSHIP

There's a miracle called Friendship

That dwells within the heart

And you don't know how it happens or when it gets its start

But the happiness it brings you always gives a special lift

And you realise that friendship

Is one of God's most precious gifts.

A GOOD THOUGHT

You may not be rich in worldly goods but you can be generous with joy. Joy is something you can give away and yet have an increasing amount for yourself. Like love, the more you give away, the more you keep.

In this fast-moving, material world too many of us have lost sight of giving -- even a smile. Instead, we grimly go about trying to get, trying to have, coveting possessions, grabbing, profiteering, accumulating, that which has little true meaning at all and we sadly neglect to give the essence of happiness, gladness, and joy which is the only true wealth in the world -- the only riches that may be ours for the giving.

John Wesley wisely observed, "I am not fearful for what may be a hundred years hence. He who governed the world before I was born shall take care of it likewise when I am dead. My part is to improve the present moment."
