

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW State Unit.

ANNUAL REPORT -- 1976-1977

It is with pleasure that I present the Annual Report for the year ended February 28, 1977, a period of considerable activity for the Council, marked by the spirit of happy Christian fellowship.

At the Annual Meeting on April 12, 1976, Mrs. Lt. Col. E.K. Baker assumed office as President, and the other office-bearers were re-elected for a further term. The Annual Service, at which the new President was installed, was held on May 24, 1976 in the Salvation Army Citadel, Chatswood. It was largely attended and was followed by a delightful luncheon, prepared and served by the ladies of the Home League.

Six general Council meetings were held during the year, at several of which we had the pleasure of listening to most interesting addresses from our speakers. In August, Mrs. M. Somerville told of her experiences as a missionary in India and Fiji, and of her encounters with young people, while a post-graduate student at University. The September meeting provided opportunities to learn of the activities of our local branches and of the organisations with which we are affiliated. In addition, two of our members, Mesdames H. Stevens and G. Udy, presented an impressive account of their participation in the World Conference of Methodist Women held in Dublin. At the meeting in February last, Deaconess M. Andrews delighted all present with her lively account of a recent tour in S.E. Asia, illustrated by examples of the arts and crafts of the countries which she visited.

In place of the November meeting, a "Day of Renewal" was arranged at Christ Church, Lavender Bay, by the courtesy of the Rector, the Revd. Canon B.R. Horsley, who, with Mrs. Horsley and the ladies of the parish, welcomed the large number of members and friends who attended. At the Church Service in the morning, the Revd. Canon H.M. Arrowsmith delivered a thought-provoking address on the Theme of the Day- "Living the Gospel in Today's World". Following luncheon, a further session, held in the Parish Hall, provided the opportunity for a panel of speakers to share with us their views on three aspects of the theme, - "In the Home", "In the Church" and "In the Community". All who attended enjoyed the experience of worshipping together and appreciated the opportunity for interchange of ideas.

The Executive Committee has met monthly, giving careful attention to the affairs of Council and taking responsibility for planning activities. Perhaps the most important matter with which we were concerned was the proposal, agreed to at the last Annual Meeting, that the title of the Council be changed to "Australian Church Women- NSW State Unit". The approval of the member Churches having been obtained, steps were taken to amend the Constitution, where it was deemed necessary or desirable, and arrangements were made for Special Resolutions to be brought before members, enabling the changes to be made. It is pleasing to report that these were agreed to at the meeting of Council held on March 21, 1977.

The National Working Committee of Australian Church Women has continued to function in Western Australia, and we have been kept in touch with their activities by receiving Minutes and copies of "Women at Work", issued monthly. The next meeting of the National Committee of A.C.W. is to take place in Perth in July next, and we are hopeful of being fully represented on that occasion. To help cover costs, a National Travel Fund has been established and is receiving good support, from Council members, local branches and member Church organisations. Following the National Committee Meeting, the Working Committee will be established in N.S.W. for the ensuing two years. Much prayerful thought has been given to the selection of the personnel of the Working Committee; the N.S.W. State Unit will, we are sure, give full support to their colleagues as they undertake this important national responsibility.

It was with great regret that we said "Farewell" to Mrs. Nancy Pfeiffer, a Council member and former President, who left Sydney in February to make her home in Melbourne, following the death of her husband a few months earlier. We were saddened, too, to learn of the sudden death of Mrs. Grace Paok, of whom we have such happy memories, - a faithful member and a good friend.

~~We have received our warm congratulations to Mrs. Lilian Wells, President of the~~
~~Congregational Union of N.S.W., on her appointment as Moderator-designate of the~~
~~Uniting Church in N.S.W., and to Dame Monica Gallagher, D.B.E., President of the~~
~~Catholic Women's League and one of our Council members, on the honour bestowed by~~
~~Her Majesty the Queen.~~

We would express our deep gratitude to our Convenors for the time and effort which they have expended on our behalf. Thanks are due, also, to the Minister and officers of the Pitt Street Congregational Church for their kindness in permitting us to hold our general meetings there, and to the Department of Administration of the Methodist Church for a similar courtesy extended to our Executive Committee.

In conclusion, I should like to express the warmest thanks of all members to our President for her enthusiastic leadership, together with my personal appreciation of her kindness and thoughtfulness. My thanks go too to the other office-bearers and Executive members for their support and assistance always so willingly given, and to all members of Council for their co-operation and friendship. I have regarded it as a privilege, as well as a pleasure, to serve you as Honorary Secretary during these past two years. To my successor I offer warmest good wishes and trust that she will enjoy her term in office as much as I have done.

Doris M. Mitchell.

Honorary Secretary.