

ANNUAL REPORT

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

April 1979-April 1980

Following the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers in April 1979 a dedication for the Office Bearers was incorporated in the Annual Service held on 28th May in Wesley Chapel. At this inspiring Prayer Rally women leaders of the seven denominations took part. The Service was led by Mrs. Marie McCann, the President, and the Lane Cove-Longueville Inter-Church Choir contributed. The three themes centered on Praise and Thanksgiving, Reconciliation and Unity and included a Prayer Litany based on the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Following the luncheon a Forum focused on the International Year of the Child by three speakers, Mrs. Oates from I.Y.C. Non-Government Organizations, Mrs. Lloyd from Save the Children Fund and Major Pearse from N.S.W. Association of Child Caring Agencies. One of our requests from the National Meeting had been to hold Forums, we also saw this as our contribution to I.Y.C.

Three of our group attended the Ecumenical Reflection Day and many functions were attended by the President and members of the Executive representing our organization. Several attended individually the Mid Decade for Women Conference, and the Women for the Family and Society Conference.

We noted with regret the passing of Mrs. Mary Millar, life Member, and original council member and member for many years Mrs. Dorothy Tytherleigh. We congratulated Deaconess Andrews on becoming a member of the Order of Australia. Quite a few new representatives have joined us over the past year.

We welcomed to our April meeting the 1979 Winifred Kiek Scholar Mrs. Eite Boiva, and several members met Rev. Mary Au, one of the 1980 scholars, and it is our pleasure to welcome Miss Dien Sumiyatiningih before her studies commence this year.

In September a grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin assisted the National Working Committee, based in Sydney, to host the Pacific Causeway and Consultation with twenty two members from Church.

Women United, U.S.A. and five members of the Women's Committee of the New Zealand Council of Churches. An introduction to our country was given in meetings with informed people and in a visit to the National Capital. A Sunday afternoon service in Scots Church, Margaret St. Sydney was opened by Salvation Army Songsters and was led by Mrs. Win Dougherty, the National President and was attended by a large gathering. The speaker was Mrs. Thelma Adair, a past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in U.S.A. The N.S.W. Unit served afternoon tea and posies of dried flowers were made by the members for the delegates, fruit and bookmarks supplied, and many were billeted for the week-end. These ladies were joined by 68 representatives from Australian States and Territories at the National Committee Meeting and Consultation. The five days of meetings held at the Caratis Christi Conference Centre, Wahroonga, proved an extremely valuable time, with women of diverse denominational and cultural backgrounds. The choice Bible Studies were led by Mrs. Dorothy Barnard, U.S.A. Miss Dorothy Wagner was the leader of the team.

The N.S.W. President and Secretary were delegates to the National Meeting and the Promotion and Publicity Convenors observers, together with members of the Working Committee and a number who represented their own denominations.

Meetings during the year have included members bringing informative slides of church activities. Also each meeting, in a five minute segment, a representative of each denomination in turn told of the women's work of her church. Canon Wilde presented some interesting slides taken at his church at St. Marks, Darling Point, of a festival of flower arrangements, entitled "God's Word in Flowers" with appropriate texts. A paper was read at one meeting with permission from Roger Climpson, which he had presented at the World Conference of the Mother's Union of the Anglican Church in Brisbane. The topic "Television and the Media" gave us a thought provoking challenge. Reports were given of branches and affiliated organisations in September and in November many shared the experiences of the National Meeting.

Three recommendations came from the National Meeting and to implement these at our March meeting we shared denominational training programmes, three speakers from the Y.W.C.A. gave useful information to assist women to take their place in the decision making

structures of the Church, also the Rev. Noel Gibson gave an informative talk on "Speaking under Stress".

The Annual Report was printed in May. The Fellowship of the Least Coin continues to grow, and the Fellowship Day and World Community Day Services are held in city and country. Proceeds from the offerings are forwarded to the National Committee for our project. To assist in promotion an Audio Visual had been made, and 110 subscribers have received the first two issues of our quarterly paper "Newsette".

The installation Service for Mrs. Gladys West, our incoming President, will take place at 10.30 a.m. on Monday May 26th, at Northside Baptist Church, Crows Nest, followed by refreshments. All ladies are invited to this Service.

Invitations to two overseas conferences have been received. Church Women United U.S.A. are holding an Ecumenical Assembly 26th-29th June in Los Angeles. Several N.S.W. members will attend, following an attractive tour of the west coast. Four of our members have been selected by the Working Committee to join the group to attend the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Fellowship of the Least Coin in Manila Phillipines, 26th Nov. - 3rd Dec. This important conference has as its theme 'Prayer-Partnership-Peace'.

And so Australian Church Women N.S.W. Unit accepts the challenge the '80's present in a changing world, to fulfil the aims of the organization and doing all to the glory of God.

DOROTHY WOODHOUSE - SECRETARY

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

(REPORT MAY 1980)

The Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Fellowship of the Least Coin will be held in Manila Phillipines Nov. 26th to Dec. 3rd this year, a delegation of nine will be attending from Australia.

Twenty-five years ago Shanti Solomon was inspired to forge the first link in a chain of loving, sharing, and prayers for peace

throughout the world. That chain now encircles the world and really this report is only a recognition of a sturdy link of that chain faithfully maintained by the women of N.S.W.

The 98 letters I have written this past year represents the hundreds of women throughout the state involved in this manner and new groups are starting up all the time extending this chain of love even further.

At our monthly meeting of A.C.W. the devotional segment from the "Circle of Prayer" is read binding us closely in a wider vision of women and their needs far beyond our own limited boundaries. In the words from "Small Beginnings".

"Our boundaries of love and service have extended beyond our homes into the cities, the slums and the outlying villages. The world has become our parish. We have become the eyes of the world. May we be aware of our many splendoured lives, and our responsibilities in our homes and in the eyes of the nation. Remember that we can no longer live on our individual islands, that we cannot live alone, and that we all belong to the same world".

GLADYS M. BENT
CONVENOR FOR THE FELLOWSHIP
OF THE LEAST COIN IN N.S.W.

THE WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

No project of A.C.W. brings a greater vision or calls for a greater spirit of venture in prayer and in providing friendship and finance for the extension of God's Kingdom than the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

Through the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Australian Church Women are linked with Christian Women serving in developing countries especially in Asia and the Pacific.

Mrs. Eite Boiva, a Salvation Army officer from Papua New Guinea was the 1979 W.K. Scholar, who undertook a special training course at the Salvation Army Training College in Sydney. Unfortunately because of illness of one of her children, Mrs. Boiva had to return

home before her course was completed. Nevertheless apparently she gained knowledge and experience to equip her for work in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Prayer for her continued ministry with that of her Salvation Army officer husband would be valued.

The Rev. Mary Au from Hong Kong has been in charge of a parish with many refugees, and also a Chaplain. She is on a limited W.K.S. and is studying Counselling, Educational Psychology, Psychology of Childhood and Adolescence in Victoria University. She is also studying Growth and Sharing Human Relations at the Social Community Branch in the Wellington Polytechnic. Mary is doing field work in the Anglican Chinese Mission Church Centre in Wellington New Zealand. It was a great pleasure to have Rev. Mary Au and her companion Rev. Jane Hwong to have lunch with the Executive Committee of A.C.W. in Sydney on their way to New Zealand.

Miss Dien Sumiyatiningsih from Salitiga, Indonesia is the W.K.S. holder for 1980. Miss Dien arrived in Sydney on 15th March and plans to see her relatives and improve her English before going to Tasmania and then to Melbourne where she plans to undertake a Chaplaincy Course at the Austin Hospital. We are grateful to Mrs. M. Stanhope for graciously offering Dien hospitality during her stay in Sydney.

The prayers of A.C.W. members for these and former scholarship holders are very important. Pray that they may be able to cope adequately with the demands of intensive courses - that A.C.W. will come to know them and value them as sisters in Christ sharing in their ministry when they return to their homes to help extend and build up God's glorious Kingdom.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit" saith the Lord.

MARY M. ANDREWS
W.K.S. CONVENOR



Participants at the Prayer Rally 28th May 1979 at Wesley Chapel.
Mrs. M. Baker, Church of Christ; Major M. Kinder, The Salvation
Army; Mrs. J. Sticpewich, Presbyterian; Mrs. M. Robinson, Anglican;
Dame Monica Gallagher, Roman Catholic; Mrs. M. McCann, President A.C.W.;
Mrs. N. O'Reilly, Uniting Church; Mrs. G. West, Baptist.



Prayer Rally in Wesley Chapel 28th May, 1979, - Participants,
Executive Members and Lane Cove-Longueville Inter-Church Choir.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - 1st MARCH, 1979 - 29th FEBRUARY, 1980

1.3.79 Cr. Bank Balance: 281.04

ADD RECEIPTS:

Organisation A/c:

Affiliation Fees -	69.00	
Sales of Literature -	44.70	
Collections -	102.20	
"Newsette" subscriptions	200.00	
Bank Interest	186.28	
Sundries -	<u>2.20</u>	604.38

Special Funds:

Fellowship of Least Coin -	3047.05	
Winifred Kiek Sch'ship -	191.55	
Fellowship Day -	1335.45	
World Community Day -	<u>1499.72</u>	6073.77

Overseas Travel Fund -	55.25	
National Travel Fund -	84.20	

UNICEF Appeal -	20.00	
Ex. Savings Investment A/c	500.00	
By transfer from Special Funds	<u>674.97</u>	8012.57
		<u>8293.61</u>

LESS PAYMENTS:

Organisation A/c:

Printing, stationery, postage, telephone	349.82	
Meeting Room -	50.00	
Presidents Honorarium -	25.00	
Purchase of literature	37.50	
"Newsette" expenses -	78.59	
Rally & Luncheon expenses -	56.52	
Subns. to other organisations	15.00	
Sundries -	<u>5.00</u>	617.43

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Special Funds:

To National Committee -	4500.00	
Exp. printing & postage	851.75	
Transfer to organi-		
sation A/c -	<u>674.97</u>	6026.72
National Committee Meeting Expenses -		795.83
Overseas Travel Fund - to Natl Committee -		100.00
UNICEF Appeal -		<u>20.00</u>
		7559.98
29.2.80 -	Cr. Bank Balance:	\$ 733.63

24.3.80

DORIS M. MITCHELL
Hon. Treasurer

BANK BALANCES -

<u>29.2.80</u>		<u>FUNDS</u>	
Current Account -	733.63	Organisation A/c -	2021.39
Savings Inv. Account -	1500.00	Overseas Travel Fund -	165.19
		Fellowship of Least	
		Coin -	47.05
	<u>2233.63</u>		<u>2233.63</u>

DORIS M. MITCHELL
Hon. Treasurer

This is to certify that I have examined the books, records and financial statements of the N.S.W. Unit of Australian Church Women for the year ended February, 29, 1980 and in my opinion such show a true and correct record of the financial position as at that date.

HEATHER STEVENS
April 9, 1980

PROMOTIONS

I am happy to report again, as Promotions Secretary, of our State Unit. Last year's International Year of the Child, I am sure made an impact, and A.C.W. played it's part in bearing an important message.

The Fellowship Day Service, whose theme was "The Community Plans for it's Children" prepared by A.C.W. in the A.C.T. and the World Community Day, with "the Family - it's Faith and it's Future", by the Queensland Unit, were greatly appreciated by our branches in country and suburban districts.

Of the two Special Days, it is noted that Fellowship Day is the more favoured. However some groups meet only for World Community Day. Twenty-four were held on the former, and nineteen on the latter. Reports show that attendances were high in nine districts.

Bourke in the far west of the State, has the unique position of being the only branch to hold both a day and evening services, and are to be congratulated for their continued enthusiasm.

Holbrook in the South, held services for the first time last year. The recent news that Lampton, Newcastle, has formed a Branch, as the outcome of Major Jean Venables visit for the Women's World Day of Prayer, has delighted our members.

Our very good wishes are extended to the new Branch Secretaries at Armidale, Tamworth, Yass, Gunning and Cooma in the Country, and for the Suburban Branches of Northbridge, Turrumurra, Lane Cove-Longueville and Strathfield.

The Promotion Committee has resolved to make a concentrated effort to interest a number of areas during 1980, through, promotion material, and by follow up visits from a team of speakers.

Caringbah, Hornsby, and Penrith districts are receiving attention at present, and it is intended, soon, to investigate other possible areas.

New undertakings are seldom easy, and it is realised that much "spade work" has to be carried out, and sustained patience exercised, to achieve a firm foundation. There is a growing expectancy, however,

for this part of our work, and we ask that our faith will receive the prayer support and practical backing of all our A.C.W. members.

It is with sadness, that I feel I should relinquish my present position. To be a member of the Executive, and involved in it's activities for the past three years, has been a great privilege, in which I have experienced enriching fellowship. I wish to extend my loving appreciation to all members of Executive, and particularly to our retiring President, Mrs. Marie McCann. To the new President, Mrs. Glad. West, and my successor, I offer prayerful good wishes, for a very successful term of office.

OLWEN LEAN - CONVENOR

PUBLICITY REPORT OF A.C.W.

(N.S.W. STATE UNIT)

The usual channels of church papers, radio etc., have been used in connection with the special days and functions held during the year.

A new venture has been the introduction of the "Newsette" giving up to date information and news of the activities of the N.S.W. State Unit. A yearly subscription of \$2.00 is paid, and subscribers are not necessarily members of A.C.W. so that our name and work can become known beyond the confines of the Council. Membership is increasing.

Another means of making ourselves known to groups of women is to invite speakers from A.C.W. to other organisations. On the occasion of the International Night celebration of the Parramatta Business and Professional Women's Club Mrs. Marie McCann was the guest speaker.

The newsletter reads as follows:

Our celebration on 20th February was a huge success, with about 100 attending despite a train strike and petrol threat. Our guest speaker, Mrs. Marie McCann spoke on the theme, "Challenge to the New Woman ... and the Family".

We are all responsible for public relations, and only as each member 'gossips' about the aims and purposes of this ecumenical group of women can the name of Australian Church Women become a household word in the community.

MABEL WARD - CONVENOR

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Council Meetings

June 23rd Speaker Sister Barbara Hutchinson, topic -
"The Bible and the role of women."
One of the recommendations from the National
Committee Meeting.

August 18th Council Meeting

September 15th Council Meeting

November 17th Council Meeting

Executive Meetings June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8,
October 13, November 10.

All meetings are held in the Uniting Church Offices Meeting Room
1st Floor, 139 Castlereagh St. Sydney at 10.30 a.m.

SPECIAL DAYS 1980

July Fellowship Day. Theme "People of the Kingdom"
Various Centres, Offering for the Winifred
Kiek Scholarship Fund.

October World Community Day. Theme "With Hope in our
Hearts." Various centres. Offering for
Fellowship of the Least Coin dedicated at this
Service. The general offering to be for the
Middle East Council of Churches and the Asian
Church Women's Conference.