

**** INFORMATION PAGE ****

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue
DEE WHY 2099
(Tel: 9971 0278).

PLEASE NOTE:

- ⇒ For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word "Treasurer" when addressing envelopes.
- ⇒ **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to "Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc." and **NOT** to any individual person.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups:	\$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations:	\$15.00 per annum
WCTU NSW	
The Girls' Brigade	
Bible Society NSW	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$10.00 per annum
(includes subscription to Newsette)

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CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the EDITOR:

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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

A C W seeks:

- ⇒ to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ⇒ to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

Mission Statement

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Carmel Keys Tel: 9977 5156

NUMBER 110

FEBRUARY 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Greetings and best wishes for a peaceful and happy New Year. Having looked forward to the joyful Christmas season, that seems to have gone in a flash and we are preparing for another year of activity in God's service.

The readings in Hebrews remind us that Jesus was tested through suffering, not to be like the angels but to be human like us. He had to be made like us in every way, to become a merciful high priest in God's service, so that he might atone for the sins of the people, the descendants of Abraham. Because he suffered when tempted he is able to help those who are tempted. Just as Jesus was faithful to the one who appointed him - his Father - he warns us against unbelief: "Today, if you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

In Mark and John's Gospels, we are reading of the first miracles of Jesus. In the wedding at Cana of Galilee, is God saying to Mary "It is not my time" or rather "My time has come" because he has seen the people are in

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need? We too can do what Jesus and Mary did – see people's problems and act on them. We can tell God about people in need, we can ask his help. We can tell people we know, and others too – church people, local authorities, neighbours. We need to make known people's plight and get some action as well. It means giving love by doing something practical. Let us give as God keeps offering us the best he has to give.

I would like to ask for your prayers for some special people. The first is *Father O'Brien*, who is the Chaplain of Catholic Women's League, who has been diagnosed with cancer, so we are very concerned for him. The second is *Mrs Beverley Pavey*, the President of National Council of Women of NSW, who before Christmas had very suddenly to have serious emergency surgery, and is very slowly recovering. Thirdly, *Mrs Bernice Cardwell* has had months of pain and disability from a very badly broken arm which is still far from healed. May we surround these, and others whom we know who are ill, with our thoughts and prayers.

God bless, Carmel.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION

This Service will be on Monday, 21st May 2007. Details of the venue, speaker, time etc. have not yet been confirmed but it is hoped that it will be held at a city church. Invitation Leaflets will be available in due course to give you this information, but do mark the date in your diary right away.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Following the wonderful ACWC "*Pleasant Sunday Afternoon*" Concert at Eastwood Baptist Church last October, we are already planning another such enjoyable time of music and fellowship as our observance of our affiliation with Asian Church Women's Conference. The date for this is Sunday, 21st October 2007, and it will be held at *Hurstville Salvation Army*. More details later, but you can put this date also in your diary now.

The Executive of Asian Church Women's Conference have sent sincere expressions of thanks to the ACW National Executive for Australia's donation of \$824.60 AUD towards assisting Myanmar and Bangladesh to send delegates to Kuala Lumpur for the ACWC Quadrennial Assembly which is reported further on in this Newsette.

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Christmas is a time to catch up with past and present scholars, so cards were sent off here and overseas. It was great to receive some replies with greetings to you all, and some snippets of news as follows:

Siok Cheng Chew (2005 Scholar Malaysia): Busy with studies and work, keeps looking to God to provide her with strength and joy to face the new year.

Monique Crabtree (2003 Scholar W.A): Finished her degree after 5 years and is applying for part-time church position. Her family newsletter showed children, all teenagers at different stages....school, driving tests, Uni law studies....family moved closer to Perth, husband's work changed, all busy and doing well.

Susan Liersch (2003 Scholar NSW): Husband's work with Everyman's Welfare Service (Wagga) finished with administrative changes; he is now studying part-time for Bachelor of Theology with part-time work. They are staying in Wagga, hoping to buy the Defence Force home they are in. Susan continues Christian School Counselling. Children are all young teenagers. All changes bring challenge.

Doreen Tan (1990 Scholar Sarawak): Had holiday in West Malaysia with family after a good year. School has had coat of paint, now bright and cheery; hoping for renovations to enhance facilities.

Rachael (McManus) Otto (1997 Scholar Aust): Moving to Queensland to help her health problems. Craig will do studies part-time to be able to teach (Science, Film, TV). Ivy May loves school and ballet. Rachael will finish practical part of teaching studies. Changes for all!

Vivian Cheung (2006 Scholar NSW): Husband Eric sits final College exam January 2007. Vivian will continue part-time studies over next few years while caring for baby Alexander.

Tania Eichler (2006 Scholar Q'land): Moving January 2007 for appointment to Parish of Bundaberg; has one more year formation training. Her studies in church in Australia helped by inspiration of book '*Winifred*'. She will be ordained in February 2008 and priested in December 2008. Husband and children looking forward to the move.

Remember our 2007 Scholars, *Cathy Paraka* (Papua New Guinea) and

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Leinamau Manrogoana (Vanuatu). The National WKS Convener, *Una*, is preparing new pamphlets with their details and photos. All prayers are appreciated. Phone me (9896.3758) if you would like copies of letters.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

Christian greetings to all our readers as we commence this wonderful New Year of 2007. Our celebration of the birth of Christ, that sacred and beautiful festival is over and we start on the next phase of our journey of faith. May we continue to be thankful for all the gifts and blessings that God has given us and the Fellowship of the Least Coin over the past year. These gifts of love from groups all over the world have helped finance through the FLC grants, projects which have daily witnessed how God has touched and changed lives through prayers and the least coin offerings.

Our giving for World Community Day amounted to \$6,586.61, with a further amount in November and December of \$3,401.35. Thank you all for your generosity; during the year I will share with you some of the many testimonies and stories from those who are in need and those who care for the needy. God bless you all.

Janet Lang, WKS Convener

More about FLC:

For 2006, FLC grants totalling US\$125,000 were allocated for projects world-wide. As FLC is not a donor agency or organisation but rather a Prayer Movement with least coins given in love, these gifts are a testimony of the gracious provision of God.

Australia received a grant of US\$4,500 for the Lutheran Community Sewing Group at Albert Park in South Australia. The aim of this group is to teach basic sewing in a secure and Christian environment to new arrivals from other cultures, and to assist them to purchase their own sewing machines. The sewing classes began over two years ago when three Sudanese women were taken to a craft group to use their own sewing machines.

(From Australian Church Women National News)

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THE 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AND FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

65 delegates, 102 observers from 30 countries, 20 guests and 21 locals gathered in celebration for the *13th Quadrennial General Assembly* of ACWC and FLC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 8-13 October 2006. The theme for the Assembly was "*Celebrating the Legacy, Visioning the Future, Living the Jubilee.*"

Day One began with the Opening Ceremony, with the National Representatives entering with their country's banner. Then the group photo in the beautiful hotel garden. Back in the meeting hall, Esther Byu launched the FLC History Book, which was hot off the press. In the afternoon we welcomed a new Member Country, *Mongolia*, and heard a little of their story. At various times we were entertained by the 'Singing Sisters' a group of six from Finland. We had reports from 5 countries and greetings from organisations, including *The Ecumenical Forum of European Church Women* which includes 27 countries; *The Women's Inter Church Council of Canada*; *The YWCA of Finland* who had just celebrated their 110th anniversary.

We enjoyed Bible Studies, prayer times, song times, sharing sessions in small groups, with many opportunities to talk to new friends at morning and afternoon tea and meal times. One evening we were taken by buses to an Anglican Church where the congregation provided entertainment in the church then dinner in a very large hall.

At the end of the Assembly we were introduced to the new President, *Nareeboon Rachkeeree* from Thailand, and the new committee, including our own *Donna Bryan*, the new Assembly Secretary. During these next 4 years, 2006-2010, our Prayer Partner country will be *South Korea*. The Assembly was well run and was a wonderful opportunity to get to know our Asian neighbours in a Christian setting. The 22 Australians looked very dashing in their olive green T-shirts featuring 4-wheel drives, and black pants for our cultural item – *Waltzing Matilda* with actions. The three troopers looked very official!

(Reported by Helen Richardson, ACW State Treasurer)

The Assembly was followed by a Tour around Malaysia, which Secretary Isabel has described in her latest poem, following on next page.....

Two Maries, three Helens, Laurel Constance, Margaret, Donna and Fran Lee, Glenda, Loma, Judith, Jean Barbara, Joan, Isabel and Jan After ACWC Assembly with Malaysia for us to see our group of Aussie church women set out for adventure so free

KL traffic we soon shrugged off heading for the Cameron Highlands palm oil plantations lined the way interspersed with teak trees in bands. Our road from the highway curved up through Ringlelet and Tanah Rata abundant epiphytes in trees attested to constant water.

Past mudslides, through small villages we saw people, flowers and dogs and arrived at Strawberry Park – but we couldn't escape all fog. We settled in to resort life exploring the neighbouring sights delighted that Cactus Valley boasted plants colourful and bright.

Trimmed bushes of tea plantation were stretched far across the hills green, the tea room afforded respite as the wide views by all were seen. The butterfly farm showed treasures including scorpions and snakes – our cameras clicked incessantly there were so many things to take.

Sunday we went to church service then coffee and tea in the town before lunch at the Old Smoke House where shades of dear England abound. The food was really delicious the garden a treat to explore, back at the resort we rested with no need for anything more.

We travelled to Putra Jaya – donned pink outfits to see the mosque saw the 'Canberra' of Malaysia with grand buildings, bridges – the lot. Penang our next destination came after a rather short flight bus to north end of the island meant we had a very late night.

Breakfast in restaurant by the pool was very pleasant, relaxing but heat – following stay in hills – at times could be very taxing. On visiting Georgetown at night with light rain offering its balm Eastern Oriental Hotel exuded elegance and charm.

The trishaw drivers worked so hard as they took us past the old fort At Chew Jetty we walked the boards where people lived who worked the port Dinner at open air venue we tried local delicacies, but two bowls of soup with chopsticks we couldn't divide among three.

Wednesday we circled the island, saw spice garden flowers and plants batik with free and block patterns made lovely cloths, blouses and pants. More butterflies caught attention live ones or those mounted on walls and flowers enhanced that garden with its pool and small waterfall.

We saw how trees produce latex and one fruit gives nutmeg and mace. The snake temple was quite different, both offerings and reptiles in place. The jewellery factory informed us about gems, platinum and gold, workers made intricate pieces, some discreet, but others more bold.

Back at the hotel some gathered for afternoon version of brunch rest'rant staff wondered what hit them – they're still recovering is my hunch.

Joan looked a little bewildered eyeing the large banana split, enjoyed two thirds before a fly thought it good and dived into it. Before she could get the fly out a waitress whisked the dish away, returning with a replacement – to Joan's embarrassment, dismay.

Water lapping around our feet we walked on the sand which was coarse watching the more adventurous who rode sea craft, quad bikes and horse.

We had avowed shop-a-holics who welcomed every store or stall whether set up by the roadside or one of the vast shopping malls. Penang Hill revealed few secrets because of soupy atmosphere, funicular ride held interest view of trees and monkeys quite clear.

Temple of ten thousand Buddhas, long life symbol of tortoise pond, then waterfront village visit, lunch at Edelweiss restaurant. Suffering from temple overload, funeral preparations intrigued, but pewter outlet revived us such as hardly could be believed.

Group meal at Ferringhi Gardens was a very pleasant affair – the storm struck after we arrived, we were treated with utmost care. Staff asked questions about our group – certainly not the usual thing – and free garlic bread and dessert added value to the evening.

We've said our thanks to those who've helped make this journey such a good time, Lee especially has earned our thanks for an experience quite fine. But each of our nineteen travellers has contributed to our quest. So thanks to all who took the plunge to see Malaysia at its best.

Isabel Hewitt

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PRISON FELLOWSHIP:

At our ACW State Conference last September one of our speakers was Ian Minnis, Executive Director of Prison Fellowship NSW, and following is a letter received from him:

"Just a note of thanks for the privilege of being able to share about the ministry opportunities and the needs among the young people who have a parent in prison. Thank you for the warm welcome and the acceptance I felt. The needs are great in our communities and the young people are not in isolation, as they are in family units which in turn are under stress, and so the cycle goes on.

I trust that God will use what I shared to encourage us all to be alert to the greater needs in our communities and to view people for their potential in Christ rather than their current situation or activities.

If there are other ways that Australian Church Women can be assisted by us, please don't hesitate to contact us. If other State Units would like to learn of the young people's ministry, then urge them to contact Prison Fellowship in their state.

*Again thank you for the opportunity and privilege to share with you.
Blessings, Ian Minnis"*

At the Council Meeting in November, after discussion about how we could assist with this ministry, a collection was taken up from the members present, which resulted in an amount of \$252 being given. This, which is just about the amount required to sponsor one child to attend Camp Breakaway, now called Camp WerkX, next Easter. has been forwarded on to Ian.

PAN PACIFIC & S.E. ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

In September members joined in a *Day of Peace Service* at St David's Uniting Church, Lindfield – an inter-faith service attended by people from 8 different faiths which was a time of great fellowship.

Continuing this theme, members join with National Council of Women members when 100 women visited the Auburn Mosque where they were given an interesting tour of the mosque and were hosted for lunch at an

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Auburn restaurant.

In October, members took part in a workshop on one of the Millenium Goals which will be studied at the PPSEWA International Conference in New Zealand next March. We looked at *"Improving Maternal Health"* – in some countries half a million women die each year during pregnancy or in childbirth. In Australia, smoking is still a problem in pregnancy, and while there is still incomplete knowledge about Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. It is acknowledged that excessive drinking of alcohol is harmful to the baby. The ratio of 1 drink a week is o.k. but 7 drinks a day is not seems to be stating the obvious! We agreed that what is needed is good Family Planning Education, skilled birth attendants and good available hospitals and health services.

The November meeting brought to a happy conclusion another year of interest, education and friendship for the PPSEWA members.

Edith Ridge, ACW Representative to PPSEWA

MORE ABOUT FOETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME:

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is now more correctly called Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), the reason being that when mothers drink alcohol during pregnancy the foetus can be affected in a number of differing ways, more than was originally thought. The tragic part is that once the foetus has been thus affected there is no way to reverse the condition – there is no cure! British researchers say children may suffer problems with memory, attention, hyperactivity, physical abnormalities and a diminished IQ if their mothers had just one or two drinks a week, but the good news is that it is totally preventable by abstinence from alcohol.

It is very important to get this message across to mothers, also another one to nursing mothers – *Booze and breast milk don't mix!* Breast-feeding mothers are being warned by researchers to avoid all alcohol in the first month after childbirth because it can affect babies' development and make them sleep badly. While doctors have long advised women to limit how much they drink, a review by Curtin University has found that any alcohol in the first month can have a negative effect of the baby's behaviour.

(Condensed from Woman's Christian Temperance Union Publication)

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AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S COALITION:

As part of the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC) with which ACW is affiliated contract with the Office for Women, AWC is required to produce two Key Issues Consultation Reports each year. The aim of these is to determine the most pressing issues to recommend to Government for further research.

ACW presented its first report in March last year, highlighting the feedback received from widespread consultations about current issues of most concern to the women of Australia – more than 1000 women provided input and around 55-60 separate issues were identified. AWC grouped the issues into four main categories of concern. They are:

- * Health
- * Mistreatment/Violence
- * Family/Work/Life Balance
- * Education/Training/Community

ACW has been working to more specifically analyse some of the issues raised and it is anticipated that the outcome of this will be very specific input into policy development and the formulation of realistic, tangible strategies to address particular issues.

The second report, following a survey distributed through its 19 member organisations to discover the impact of life/work/family balance issues on women's health, and vice versa, was due to be presented last November.

(From ACW National News)

NUNGALINYA COLLEGE, DARWIN, UPDATE:

Principal Dawn Cardona writes:

"Recently I returned from Ngulu where two of our students graduated with the Diploma of Theology. The Service was overwhelming and after it, women from the choir came to me and said "this is all because of Nungalina". It made me realise how practical our Theology program is in changing community life and reaching into indigenous communities as many other organizations cannot.

In November 1986 Pope John Paul II while visiting Alice Springs gave an address to Aboriginal people, encouraging them to express the living

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work of Jesus in ways that spoke to their minds and hearts. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of his visit, the National Assembly of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) invited Nungalinya to take part and spread the word about our Theology program, so shortly a group of staff will attend this "Dreaming from the Heart" Conference and present a Nungalinya workshop. We are very excited, if a little daunted!

Nungalina remains a unique and lively place of outreach, learning and dialogue, where family, friends and supporters gather and make lifelong relationships and dedicate themselves to a Christian learning environment. Everyone who visits cannot leave without feeling the depth of spirituality and sharing that personifies our community."

THE BIBLE SOCIETY USING MODERN TECHNOLOGY:

To ensure support of youth, the plan is to put a small 'Megavoice' Audio Player into the hands of every child who attends a Sunday School or Scripture class in NSW State Schools. It is a solar-powered machine with the entire New Testament stored on a tiny computer chip.

The Society's 'Live And Active' Plan is engaging children all over State Schools in NSW, WA and Tasmania with the Bible. It contains a CD, video and teacher's manual. It is hosted by fearless adventurer "Waffle" the puppet and Melinda the Librarian, getting children interested in the Bible, its stories, message and its importance in their daily lives and aiming to bring children into a relationship with Jesus.

In Cambodia, cutting edge technology is enabling God's Word to make a difference to thousands of people in this needy nation. Joining with singer Marina Prior and Samaritan's Purse, the Bible Society aims to supply 500 ZVOX solar-powered audio players to rural communities where literacy rates are low. This ingenious device has 500 hours of health and hygiene advice, the full Khmer Bible and Bible lessons stored on it. As well as bringing the message of Jesus this will help to battle the major health challenges of HIV/AIDS and poor sanitation. Educators will be trained who will in turn teach at least 10 community members and one sister church, This means the initial 100 churches with a ZVOX each will be able to reach up to 10,000 members of their communities.

From Bible Society Magazine "Bibles @ Work"