



# NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

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No 19

May, 1982

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## FROM THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

With heartfelt praise and thanks to God, I now look back upon two very happy years as President of A.C.W. in N.S.W. It has been a rewarding experience to work with and enjoy the warmth of fellowship amongst all the member organisations of the Council.

The privilege of close contacts with overseas students Barkat and Malini, Dien and Mary Au, coupled with the knowledge that we have a part in helping third world women through the equipping of these girls, was wonderful. The Silver Jubilee Year of Fellowship of the Least Coin brought further stimulation in the person of Rathie Selvaratnam, and the picture was complete with a visit from Dr. Thelma Adair early this year. Jesus said: 'They shall come from the East and the West, from the North and the South, and sit down in the Kingdom of God'.

Such fellowship across national boundaries not only meets our aims, but lifts our awareness and proves an encouragement and a blessing to all concerned.

My personal thanks to an excellent executive and a wonderfully responsive council, all of whom have gone the second mile in their faithfulness. In the Parable of the Coins Jesus reminds us to use our time, gifts and energy while we have them. He is not concerned with how much we produce, but simply requires that we be faithful with them.

I pray that Christian women everywhere will realise they are part of God's family, and the benefits of the family need to be shared both here and abroad.

'May the Lord make your love for one another grow more and more..'

1 Thess. 3:12. G.N.B.

GLAD WEST      President

#### OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Mrs. Yvonne Davis is the wife of Rev. Neville Davis, the minister of St. David's Presbyterian Church at Lakemba. They have served extensively throughout New South Wales and recently in Warialda. Now both are actively involved in local parish work.

As part of her busy life Mrs. Davis has served on the Presbyterian Women's Association State Council and is now Vice Convener of the P.W.A. Christian Education Standing Committee. She is also Youth Convener of the Women's World Day of Prayer and as such wrote the Youth Service.

An interesting involvement of Mrs. Davis is the preparation of Letter Box Lessons for a Correspondence Sunday School. Added to the lessons are tapes with music made by the children of Warialda Pathfinders Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis have a daughter, Alison, who is a computer programmer at James Cook University, Townsville, and a son Robert, recently married and living at Hornsby.

With her broad experience in Church work Mrs. Davis will make her own particular contribution to the office of President.

REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. UNIT

1981-1982

Meetings have been well attended during 1981. Each Council Meeting is carefully planned so that interesting topics of vital importance are dealt with by visiting speakers and members of the Council.

The Silver Jubilee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin was celebrated throughout the year of 1981 and was the main feature of the Annual Service held on 25th May. One of the speakers was the Winifred Kiek Scholar, Miss Maline Weerasinghe, from Sri Lanka.

Mrs. Rathie Selveratnam, who had been elected as Visiting Scholar, now changed to Visiting Fellow, by the National Committee Meeting, spent several days in New South Wales promoting the A.C.W. as well as the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Her talks and contacts at Lambton, Parramatta and the City group proved a stimulus to the organisation as a whole.

The National Committee Meeting was held in Hobart during August, when two delegates, two observers and a Life Member represented N.S.W. During the Committee Meeting, Mrs. Dorothy McMahon, N.S.W., was elected as Leader of Commission on Strategies and Resources for Peace, and with Mrs. Marie McCann, elected as an Observer, will attend the Asian Women's Conference to be held in Bali, during November, 1982.

Promotion work is steadily gaining ground with three new branches formed during the last few months. The convener, Mrs. M. McCann, has prepared a Promotion Kit, in order to encourage local groups to form A.C.W. branches. All members of the executive participate in the two special events of Fellowship and World Community Days, when there is opportunity to promote and make known the functions of A.C.W.

The introduction of Newsette for members of N.S.W. and other interested women has been an added means of publicity together with Church papers and radio stations 2CH and 2CBA

The Winifred Kiek Scholar for 1981, Miss Maline Weerasinghe, from Sri Lanka, has been a student of Deaconess House, Sydney, and proved herself equal to an intensive course of study as well as undertaking speaking appointments in country and city centres. Maline was also a participant during the National Committee Meeting held in Hobart.

The Annual service for 1982 will be the installation service of the new President for N.S.W., Mrs. Yvonne Davis of the Presbyterian Church, and will take place at the Lakemba Presbyterian Church on May 31. Mrs. Glad West, the retiring president will hand over the President's Bible to Mrs. Davis.

Prior to this there will be the Annual Meeting during the April Council meeting.

MABEL WARD                      Hon. Secretary

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

You are welcome to attend any of the following Council Meetings which are held at 139 Castlereagh Street, (1st floor) and commence at 10.30 a.m.

June 21st                      Special Speaker - Miss Jean Skuse

August 16th

September 20th

November 15th

Executive Meetings: May 17, June 14, July 12, August 9,  
September 13, November 8.

FELLOWSHIP DAY (held in July)

#### THEME

'CO-WORKERS IN CHRIST FOR RENEWAL'

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY (held in October)

#### THEME

'WOMEN DARE, WOMEN CARE, WOMEN ACT'

Mrs. M. McCann, Promotion Convener, will advise with regard to leaflets and arrangement of services.

A.C.W. PROMOTION AND SPECIAL DAYS REPORT

There is no point in our personal Christianity unless we are willing to share it. We experience the peace and the joy which our faith gives us, and we must tell others about it. Our particular role, through our organisation, is to tell other Christians that we are participating in prayer, fellowship and service, under Christ, even though we are from different denominations.

Our Lord prayed that 'all may be one', then He said that the world would know that He is God. His goal is respect for God through Christ from the whole inhabited earth. How this will come about, and in what form, matters not to us - the Divine Architect has the perfect plan - we need only pray, 'that all may be one', and do everything we are asked, to help the cause.

The women of our State responded gladly over the last twelve months, in fifteen country and eighteen city centres, when they gathered for our two Special Days, Fellowship Day in July, and World Community Day in October, which complement Women's World Day of Prayer, held in March. These three days enable us to come together at nicely spaced intervals. At these gatherings we learn more about each other and often plan to give united service to others in some way, such as through an ecumenical choir, a street stall, hospital visitation, Prayer on Wheels, a visiting library service or help to migrants.

The reports from the centres where our Special Days were held last year, included the following favourable comments: 'meaningful to all present', 'wonderful fellowship', 'encouraged by growing interest in A.C.W.', 'it was the best day ever - service very Biblical', 'worthwhile time of ecumenical fellowship'. Approximately two thousand two hundred women and some men attended the services.

Thanks to all the Presidents and Secretaries of the branches who organised these days, well done! Let us all promote this work. Do something beautiful for God. Ask someone about the possibility of holding a Special Day in their area and ask them to get in touch with me or our secretary.

MARIE McCANN

Convener

N.S.W. STATE UNIT

1st March, 1981 - 28th February, 1982

**ADD RECEIPTS:**

Affiliation Fees	77.00	
Collections & Donations	96.60	
Bank Interest	219.48	393.08

'Newsette' Subscriptions	293.00
Stock A/c sales	613.65
Overseas Travel Fund	115.05

Fellowship of Least Coin	4970.24	
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	326.68	
Fellowship Day	1725.77	
World Community Day	1981.01	9003.70

From Savings Investment A/c:	3500.00
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'Asian Church Woman' subs	20.00		
Transfer from Special Funds	819.82		
National Working Committee			
o/a M. Weerasinghe	<u>1444.70</u>	<u>2284.52</u>	<u>16203.00</u>
			<u>17100.03</u>

LESS PAYMENTS:

Organisation A/c:

Printing, Stationery,		
Postage, Telephone	345.85	
President, Honorarium	25.00	
Use of Meeting Room	60.00	
Subs to other Organisations	25.00	
Sundries	25.90	481.75
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'Newsette' printing & postage		160.09
Stock A/c - purchases		492.76
Overseas Travel Fund - to National C'tee		100.00
Expenses National Committee Meeting		796.85

Special Funds:

To National Committee	6907.00	
Exp. Printing & postage	1421.18	8328.18

To Savings Investment A/c: 3800.00

Contra A/cs:

'Asian Church Woman' subs.	20.00		
Transfer to Organisation A/c	819.82		
Exp. on Acct. M. Weerasinghe	1444.70	2284.52	16444.15
28.2.82			
		Credit Bank Balance	655.88
			<hr/>
			\$17100.03

I have examined the records and books of  
Australian Church Women, N.S.W. Unit accounts  
and in my opinion such show a true and correct  
record for the year ended February 28, 1982.

Heather Stevens

2.4.1982

Doris M. Mitchell  
Hon. Treasurer

20.3.82

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

For the first time in 1981 A.C.W. made available a Fellowship to benefit Australian Church Women by giving them inspiration, knowledge and understanding of Christian leaders of other nations in order that Australian Church Women may be encouraged to support programmes and projects in overseas countries.

Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam, a distinguished Christian woman formerly from Sri Lanka, was the Fellow in 1981 and travelled to different states of the Commonwealth. At the National Committee Meetings of A.C.W. in August, 1981, encouraging reports were given of Mrs. Selvaratnam's ministry.

At the National Committee Meetings the 1980 Winifred Kiek Scholar, Miss Dien Sumiyatingsih and the 1981 Scholar Miss Malini Weerasinghe were present and shared their experiences in Australia.

Miss Dien in 1981 was given a scholarship at Ridley College, Melbourne, to continue her studies and this year World Vision has given her a further scholarship.

The Longueville-Lane Cove Interchurch Council helped to supply with linen, etc. that Malini needed while at Deaconess House. We are grateful to all who assisted in different ways, especially to Mr. and Mrs. Stanhope for hospitality and transport for the Winifred Kiek Scholars.

Miss Malini returned to Colombo in December, 1981 and is teaching in a state school and training Sunday School teachers. She is very appreciative of all that was done to assist her while in Australia.

Deaconess Salaseini Kanavakaca, a deaconess from Suva, Fiji has been chosen as the Winifred Kiek Scholar for 1982. She is doing a course in Religious Education at Alcorn College in Brisbane. Mrs. Lieutenant Miriam Gahare, a Salvation Army Officer in New Guinea, has been given a part scholarship to enable her to do a course in typing to assist her in her work.

Through the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, A.C.W. are sharing in a most exciting adventure of extending and building up God's Kingdom.

MARY ANDREWS

Convener



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN REPORT1981-1982

Offerings for the past year to the F.L.C. fund far exceeded previous years, owing to more awareness through the Silver Jubilee Year in 1981. At the May Annual Service which took the form of our F.L.C. Celebration, opportunity was given for a special Silver Coin offering.

To mark the occasion we produced 2000 bookmarks with a photo of the banner the Australian delegation took to the Manila, Philippines world celebrations. These were sold for twenty cents and yielded an appreciable profit as other states were eager to have orders sent to their units. The bookmarks have been used to promote F.L.C. and there are some still available. Over eighty silver teaspoons produced by the South Australian Unit were sold in N.S.W. with a profit of fifty cents a spoon, and many people were delighted with this souvenir. Recently copies of the official Celebrations book came to us from the Asian Church Women's Conference, and twenty-four of these have been sold. Three hundred copies of Circle of Prayer on the theme PRAYER-PARTNERSHIP-PEACE are in the hands of people, and up to one hundred more have been made available.

The N.S.W. Unit produced a leaflet about the Fellowship in 1981. This had wide distribution all over the state. Leaflets are included in the many letters sent with the receipts to groups who participate in the F.L.C. and forward their offerings. The idea is brought to these groups that it is much more meaningful to bring the yearly offerings for dedication at a World Community Day Service in October, if a local service is arranged, and gives opportunity to share ecumenically.

Several speaking engagements have been undertaken at Wahroonga, Five Dock, and St. Stephens, Macquarie Street, whilst contact was made and promotion material was left during a country tour at Bathurst, Cootamundra, Young and Wagga Wagga. Fellowship of the Least Coin was also promoted at meetings at Narrandera and Coleambally in the Riverina and the Audio visual was used to promote A.C.W. in general. It was also shown at World Community Day Service at Leura. Others also have been active in promoting F.L.C. when invited to groups.

A set of slides with a script describing the Fellowship of the Least Coin is available from Mrs. Heather Stevens, who obtained it at the Celebrations in Manila. They are usually in demand, and have a wide circulation round the state.

In this unique movement of prayer, women throughout the world enter into a partnership in common concern for peace and reconciliation in a divided world.

DOROTHY WOODHOUSE                      Convener

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is one expression of being partners in Christ. We are bound together by simple disciplines, each of which is important in the partnership of prayer:

We claim as our partners one or more persons, most often crossing national or racial or economic barriers. Our partner might be a person whom we have met or a whole group of unknown persons whose plight we have noted in a newscast.

If we have hurt another by careless or deliberate acts or if resentment or anger is in our hearts, we seek forgiveness and reconciliation, that our prayers for peace on earth may be effectual.

With the help of Scripture, we expect the Spirit of God to flood our minds with the aspirations, the daily necessities, and the temptations of our prayer partners, as well as our own.

We pray remembering that our Lord taught us to use plural pronouns: our Father, our daily bread, deliver us from evil, forgive us as we forgive.

Only after prayer, do we set aside one least coin - a token of our understanding that in genuine prayer, each partner is the same before God.

Margaret Shannon Myers - U.S.A.  
Circle of Prayer.

PUBLICITY REPORT

There have been some interesting events to publicise this year about the work of A.C.W. Firstly, the Winifred Kiek Travelling Fellow, Mrs. Rathie Salveratnam was interviewed by the Christian Broadcasting Association in July during her visit to Sydney. She was also given an interview by Radio 2 ABC and came to air in September in the programme 'Priorities'.

Station 2CH have always been very gracious and announced any special meetings we have asked.

Grateful thanks is also given to the Church papers which advertised special news items passed on. There was also an article about Mrs. Rathie Selveratnam in the local papers of Parramatta and Canberra.

Community Day received mention in local papers and Radio 2CH. The secretaries of Church Women's groups were sent lists of the places and dates for Community Day and they were asked to encourage their women to attend.

Dr. Thelma Adair's visit during February, 1982 was another highlight. Reports of her address and informal reception were given to the A.C.W. papers, 'Women at Work' and 'Newsette'.

Invitations are to be sent to the secretaries of Church Women's groups asking for representations to attend the installation service of our new President, Mrs. Yvonne Davis in May. Hopefully, Radio Station 2CH will also announce this as well as local papers.

Publicity is a good way to let the community know what Australian Church Women is all about and each committee member should be seeking every opportunity to make our aims and purpose known and believe in them.

MARJORY BAKER

Convener

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN  
N.S.W. STATE UNIT

OFFICE BEARERS for 1982-1983

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Y. Davis, 1003 Canterbury Road, Lakemba, 2195. 759 1364

PAST PRESIDENT

Mrs. G. West, 8 Stewart Street, Artarmon, 2064. 419 8654

HON. SECRETARY

Brigadier M. Ward, 10/3, 79 Robertson Road, Bass Hill,  
2197. 644 9472

HON. TREASURER

Miss D. Mitchell, 33/250 Jersey Road, Woollahra, 2025. 328 7119

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Miss E. Blackwell, 14 Callicoma Road, Seaforth, 2092. 94 4705

CONVENERS

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Mrs. D. Woodhouse, 86 Fullers Road, Chatswood, 2067. 419 6772

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Deaconess M. Andrews, L/8, 250 Jersey Road, Woollahra,  
2025. 32 2023

PROMOTION

Mrs. M. McCann, 14 Daymar Place, Castlecove, 2069. 406 4044

PUBLICITY

Mrs. M. Baker, 79 Wongala Crescent, Beecroft, 2119. 84 3046

LIFE MEMBERS

Deaconess M. Andrews, A.M., Mrs. G.H. Briggs,  
Mrs. W. Dougherty, Mrs. J.B. Montgomerie, Mrs. E.G. Pearson,  
Mrs. L. Perriam, Mrs. M. Stanhope, Mrs. W. Stolz,  
Mrs. W. Wyper.