



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (ACW) Inc
ABN 68 539 329 715
President's Report for Financial Year 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014



Lodged with the Registrar General

On behalf of:

Major Lyn Middleton, National President. 3/14-16 Tuffy Ave, Sans Souci 2219. Ph. (02) 9529 6744

It gives me great pleasure to present this report on the activities of Australian Church Women Inc for the financial year 2013- 2014. The incumbent National Executive, resident in New South Wales, took office following the 2013 National Conference held in Perth 7-11 October. It has a full complement of office bearers, six committee members enabling all facets of ACW Inc.'s work to be oversighted, plus two ex-officio members. Our first year in office has been distinguished by the co-operation, hard work and support of each other by members of the National Executive for which I thank them.

Fellowship day and World Community Day Services were held in July and October respectively. Fellowship Day providing an opportunity to remember in prayer our Winifred Kiek Scholars, and to contribute financially to these scholarships. A feature of The World Community Day service, as always, was the ingathering of Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings and the general offering for our Special Project and Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC).

Two applications for grants were sent to the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. They were: *Mum's Cottage – Mothers Companioning Mothers*, a care and resource centre for women and children who are experiencing some form of disenfranchisement, situated in Newcastle NSW; and *Messy Church* Launceston, Tasmania - a program for disadvantaged children aimed at increasing self-esteem and teaching positive values in a loving environment.

We continue to maintain a strong relationship with Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC). Throughout the year there have been many opportunities to participate in prayer support for our sisters in ACWC member countries where they have endured natural disasters and religious persecution. I was also pleased to provide a letter of reference for ACWC for a project funding grant from Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada in support of the 15th Quadrennial Assembly of ACWC to be held from 8-13 October 2014 in the Philippines.

Functions attended this year include: A Celebration Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Waitara for the Installation of the CWLA National Executive for 2014-2015; the Mothers' Union Sydney Annual Festival Service at St Andrew's Cathedral ; the NSW State Annual Service of Dedication and Installation of New State President Mrs Natalie McLeod; the funeral service for National Life Member Shirley Wells at which I delivered a tribute which honoured her contribution to ACW and in particular Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Throughout the year National Executive has been working through the mandate set at the 2013 National Conference. The six motions and recommendations carried for the attention of the 'incoming national executive' are all works in progress with significant progress having been made on the sorting of the archives; the Winifred Kiek Scholarship (WKS) Guidelines; the review of the relationship between WKS and ACW Inc and the review of our financial structure. The motion to explore the most effective way of conducting AGMs has been put into effect with the conducting of this year's AGM by teleconference. The ACW Forward Group instigated at 2013 National Conference has been working solidly throughout the year pursuing innovative ideas for the promotion of ACW. National Executive (NE) has endeavoured to keep open lines of communication with state and territory units, National Life Members and affiliated denominational bodies throughout the year with circular letters, minutes of NE meetings and ACW NEWS which this year has taken the form of e-NEWS .

Planning is well under way for the 2015 National Conference to be held at The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach Sydney, 7-11 September which will include a celebration of 50 years of ACW and to which we look forward to welcoming members from all state and territory units of ACW Inc.