

# THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

JANUARY - MARCH 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Triennial Conference Highlights

THE ELECTION RESULTS AND MORE

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD 2014  
GET INVOLVED  
SEE PAGE 7

## Leadership & Business Skill Development

OF DALIT WOMEN & CHILDREN IN INDIA

## ACWW Launch New Website





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**ACWW Connects & Supports  
Women & Communities Worldwide**

The Countrywoman, distributed to over 70 countries worldwide, is the magazine of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), NGO Official partner of UNESCO

**Named in 1933 by Mrs Alfred Watt, MBE, MA  
First President, ACWW**



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**DEADLINES**

Please note the following deadlines for sending articles and photographs to 'The Countrywoman'.

- January-March: November 1st
- April-June: February 1st
- July- September: May 1st
- October-December: August 1st

(colour, glossy- not matt- prints or digital photos, high resolution)

**THE EDITOR'S DECISION ON  
ACCEPTANCE IS FINAL**

**WORLD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Ruth Shanks, Newly Elected  
ACWW World President



**HI FROM AUSTRALIA**

As I sit writing this message to you all, I still wonder at the enormity of taking on the position of World President. Thank you for having the confidence to elect me to this position, I hope I can live up to everyone's expectations.

First, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the Board members, member societies and individual members to express our thanks to May Kidd, for the role she has played as World President for this past Triennium. There were some difficult and trying times through the years, but May chaired the Board meetings quietly and efficiently and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Secondly, I would also like to thank the outgoing Deputy President, Anphia Grobler, from South Africa and the outgoing Secretary Jo Ellen Almond from the United States. Having served on the Board with both these ladies I know the amount of work they have put into this organisation and it was remiss of me not to express these thanks at the closing of the Conference. Anphia and her Agriculture Committee members have certainly raised the profile of Agriculture around the world and I hope that this can continue from the groundwork they have laid.

The Triennial Conference in India, which was organised by Jo-Ellen and the Triennial Conference Committee, was one we will remember fondly for a long time. We certainly experienced the true culture of India. I would also like to thank both of these ladies for putting themselves forward as nominees for the position of World President; it takes a lot of courage. The manner in which they conducted themselves was exemplary and I will treasure their continuing friendship and hope they will continue to have an interest and input into this great organisation. Finally, I would also like to thank the retiring Board members who have also given of their time to support the work of ACWW. This has been greatly appreciated.

Over the years we have been known as an "Assorted Collection of Wandering Women" but I now believe this should change to be an

"Amazing Collection of Wonderful Women". The reports of work done around the world, which were presented at the Conference really do show what work we do.

As I said at the closing ceremony of the Conference, I have a great responsibility for the next triennium, but this responsibility is not just mine, or that of the Board, but it is yours and mine together. We must work hard in unity with one another to put into action our thoughts and deeds, for the betterment of others throughout the world. There are many issues we can tackle together, and I hope that all members will be able to see much progress when we meet together again at Warwick University, England, in 2016.

This world is an ever changing place and we will need to be ready to accept challenges and perhaps make changes. We will of course need champions across the globe, to progress these things, as nothing happens on its own and there will always need to be drivers of change. I hope that if you have the opportunity to be a 'champion' for the cause of ACWW you will take up the challenge and help us to achieve. I saw a sign as we were travelling through India which said: "Nobody can help everybody, but everybody can help somebody" and I think if we remember these words we can, and will, achieve.

I would like to think that communication channels between member societies, individual members and me and Central Office are always open and we would love to hear from you all. The best way to work together is to communicate with one another and I look forward to this opportunity.

I am also looking forward to meeting with many of you, if I have the opportunity to visit your Area Conferences and at these times, if I could also visit your societies, it would be a wonderful way for me to see firsthand the members who do so much.

So for now, take care

**Ruth Shanks AM  
World President**

INSIDE THE COUNTRYWOMAN



2013 Triennial Conference, Chennai, India

CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

**Happy New Year** to all of our Members and Supporters worldwide! 2013 was an exciting year, full of developments and progress for ACWW.

The Triennial Conference was a resounding success, and I was privileged to meet many of you in Chennai. The Resolutions and Recommendations, voted on by Members whilst in Chennai, will form a very important part of ACWW's work over the next triennium. To find out more, please turn to page 10. If you start campaigns related to these Resolutions in your area, please let us know.

In December 2013 we launched the new ACWW website, which provides lots of information and regularly updated news. Please do take a look: [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2014.

**Lisa Barker, Operations Manager**

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THIS ISSUE

**Welcome back**, hope you had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There is so much to read in this January-March 2014 issue. For example on page 5 you can read about our new website.

On page 7, find out how you can get involved with this year's 2014 Women Walk the World event. From page 8 read reports on the Triennial Conference and bios on the newly elected Board members.

Page 15 has Hilda Stewart Past World President (1998-2004), tell the readers of her visit to Sri Lanka after the Triennial Conference.

Finally, don't forget to check out our Society pages from page 15 to read about our members. Enjoy...!

**Jennifer Atigolo, Editor**

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## EDITOR'S GUIDE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES & PHOTOS

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### Submitting Articles

It is very important when submitting articles, to make sure all the information contained is correct i.e. dates, times, amounts collected and the number of people who have attended your event or conference.

Also, please make sure that names of attendees mentioned in your article are spelt correctly, as well as names of groups and organisations. Please make sure to include all the groups featured in your article, if they have donated money, taken part or helped to organise your event or conference.

If we do not know who the people are, we will assume that the names provided are correctly spelt. We will also assume that your submitted written article is accurate (**please note articles may be edited**).

#### Submitting Photos

It is very important when submitting digital photos via email, that they are high resolution 300dpi, or are a good high gloss print if you decide to send them by post.

It is also very important to provide clearly written full names of all the people who appear in the photos, from left to right. It would also be helpful to have a short caption of where the photo was taken. Please ensure that the names are spelt correctly and that the correct photo goes with the correct names and caption. As previously stated, if we do not know who the people are, we will assume that the names provided are accurate.

Please follow these instructions, as ACWW cannot accept any responsibility for inaccurate articles or mislabelled photos.



## REMINDER FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Alison Burnett, ACWW Treasurer & Finance Committee Chairman

**Reminder:** All Subscriptions from members and member societies are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 (excluding members who paid a 3 year subscription in 2012 or 2013). If you have not yet renewed your subscription, please fill out all your details on the membership form, which you can find on the back page of the magazine, and please include your email address. Please reference your payments as 'membership' and give your membership number. Forms can be obtained from our London Central Office. I would like to remind our readers about Gift Aid- which is for all UK Donors. If you are planning to donate to ACWW at any point over the next months or years and you are a UK taxpayer, we urge you to fill in a Gift Aid form – available from Central Office and on our website under 'Members'. This allows us to claim an extra 25p from the UK government for every £1 you donate.

**Finally,** a big thank you for all the donations received throughout 2013 and to all who took part in our second 'Women Walk the World' event. I would also like to say thank you for making others aware of our organisation and the work we do, through the many different fundraising events you have carried out on behalf of ACWW. The support and money raised will go a long way in helping women, their families and communities worldwide.

## ACWW PAYMENTS

Account: Associated Country Women of the World  
 Account number: 01244108  
 Sort Code: 56-00-33  
 Branch: Westminster  
 Bank: National Westminster Bank, 57 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HP  
 Swift code: NWB KGB 2L  
 IBAN number: GB67NWBK 56003301244108

## IN MEMORY



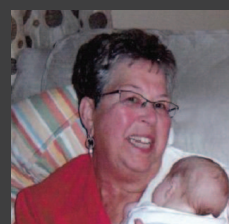
**John Andrew McLean 1923-2013**

At age 90 John Andrew McLean, husband of past ACWW World President Dr Ellen McLean passed away on 31st October 2013, in the Aberdeen Hospital, New Glasgow, Canada. Born in Eureka, the son of William Stetson McLean and Catherine (Fraser), he graduated from Stellarton High School, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and

MacDonald College with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. In 1951 he studied agriculture in the UK as a Nuffield Foundation Scholar and returned to Island East River as the fifth generation on the McLean farm. He was active in a wide range of farm and community organisations. He served as a Director of the Nova Scotia Milk Producers Association, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and Director of Scotsburn Cooperative Dairy Ltd., he also served as Vice Chairman of the Nova Scotia Farm

Loan Board, Director of Pictou Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance and Chairman of Northern Business Opportunities (NOBL).

He was happiest when he was home on the farm surrounded by family and friends and is most proud of having his three children and his five grandchildren involved in agriculture. He is survived by his wife of sixty years Dr Ellen and his children and grandchildren.



**Nancy Remmers 1944-2013**

Nancy Remmers aged 69, of Weldon, IL passed away 10th November 2013 at her family residence in Weldon.

Nancy was affiliated with the DeLand Christian Church. She loved to travel and was a member of various clubs including the Illinois Association for Home & Community Education, where she held several local & state offices during her time. She also served as Secretary of National Volunteer Outreach Network from 2005-2007 and served on ACWW's Projects Committee from 2010 until 2012. Nancy will be missed by many around the world who knew her and is survived by her husband John, her children, grandchildren and her parents and step-father.

# ACWW LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) have launched a new and improved website at [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk).

The launch of the new website, which offers quick and easy access to essential information about ACWW, is part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and availability of information to members, supporters and those looking to find out more, worldwide.

- The new look website has a modern and colourful design and has clear sections to help you find out more about ACWW, including About us, What we do, Get Involved, Members and a Contact page
- There is refreshed copy and images, including information about our UN work, our projects work and systems, events and ways to get involved
- The website's new features include a History of ACWW timeline, a Members area to find out about the resources available to you in promoting ACWW and clear links to our areas of work from the home page. There are also new photo galleries for Area and Triennial Conferences
- From early 2014, you will be able to pay your membership dues through the website, using the PayPal international payment system, and new Individual Members will also be able to sign-up online.

Please visit our new website!

If you have any questions or feedback for us, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk)

The screenshot shows the ACWW website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About us, What we do, Get Involved, Members, and Contact. Below the menu is a large banner image for Sri Lanka with the text 'Sri Lanka Supporting the Women Sri Lanka In Sri Lanka in an area bordering Moneragala and around Ududumbara village, a project run by NEST... Read more'. To the right of the banner is a section titled 'ACWW Connects & Supports Women & Communities Worldwide by:' with bullet points: 'Working in partnership with member societies to offer mutual support', 'Connecting at international level through UN representation', 'Funding community development projects', and 'Supporting agricultural initiatives'. Below this is a 'Donate to ACWW's work worldwide' button. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Women Walk the World' (Women around the world joined together to walk for ACWW awareness and to raise funds), 'ACWW News' (The 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion held in Helsinki, Finland), 'ACWW Conferences' (The 2013 Triennial Conference was a great success. To see highlights of the Conference, click below), 'ACWW & Agriculture' (Promoting women's active participation in agriculture), 'ACWW & the UN' (Dedicated to promoting and maintaining links with the United Nations), and 'ACWW Areas' (There are 9 ACWW Areas around the world, each looked after by an Area President). On the right side, there is a 'Become a Fan on Facebook' section for 'Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)' and a 'Follow us on Twitter' section for '@acww\_news'. At the bottom, there is a footer with 'Terms & Conditions | Privacy | Contact us' and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, along with the text 'Reg Charity no. 200307 | Copyright © 1999 - 2013 ACWW. All rights reserved'.

## GENDER & THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Professor Naila Kabeer, Gender and Development at the Gender Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science

ON 2ND OCTOBER 2013, at the London School of Economics (LSE), Professor Naila Kabeer, a Professor of Gender and Development at LSE, give a talk on 'Tracking the Gender Politics of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): from the Millennium Declaration to the post-MDG consultations'. Professor Kabeer has a well-rounded background in international development, having worked for UN agencies, government bodies, non-governmental organisations and universities.

Professor Kabeer began by exploring the processes that led to the formation of the MDGs and addressed the 1990s, which had

## INTEGRATION OF GENDER INTO MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

been dubbed 'the decade of rights' due to the important human rights conferences that the UN arranged during this time. ACWW UN Representatives such as Patricia Altshuler were present at these milestone conferences, which included the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Women's organisations in general had a strong advocacy presence at these conferences. However, the 2000 Millennium World Summit, which aimed to direct the world's attention to the UN, was not as inclusive of women's viewpoints.

The summit participants developed the list of MDGs in a closed process, and the gains made at the Beijing and other conferences were not reflected. It was only after a struggle that reproductive health was inserted into the MDGs.

Professor Kabeer spoke of the frustration felt by women's organisations to opposition on religious or cultural grounds. In particular, the Vatican has formed alliances with

various countries to object to matters of reproductive health, sexual rights and the attention given to gender in the MDGs and other UN processes. As a permanent observer state, the Vatican, unlike other religious organisations, have a special status at the UN. Professor Kabeer is concerned by the Vatican's major influence at the UN, given that it is not accountable to a group of citizens. She also finds its preoccupation with certain women's issues troubling, as Vatican delegates are generally male and committed to celibacy.

Despite such opposition, women's groups continue to work to incorporate gender into global development processes, such as the formulation of the post-2015 goals that will succeed the MDGs. One lesson from past experience is that goals have to be concrete, or they will be ignored. For future development goals that truly benefit women, Professor Kabeer is calling for a continued focus on sexual and reproductive rights, but also attention to economic justice.

## PAST WORLD PRESIDENT MAY KIDD'S FAREWELL MESSAGE



THE LONG-AWAITED Triennial Conference in Chennai is over. Much was achieved in those few days: the reports, the speakers, the voting and much more. Everyone lucky enough to be there will have their own memories. Who could forget the magnificent, moving opening ceremony? My special memories include: the daily welcome and



Left: May Kidd at the 2013 Triennial Conference, Chennai, India. Right at home in Scotland with her family.

loving care of the DMI Sisters; the children, able-bodied and disabled, receiving the donated reading books; the elegance of the Indian dancers; the wealth of talent at the 'Entertain the World' evening; the happy mix of delegates from all corners of the globe and the conference hall filled with smiling faces day by day. For me the highlight came during the interfaith service, when Dr Semane Molotlegi sang beautifully and simply: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." Could there be any more fitting words to sum up all that ACWW stands for? It has been a privilege to lead ACWW, an honour granted to few since our organisation was

formed 80 years ago. My gratitude goes to all who have encouraged and supported me throughout. Three years ago I promised: "There are two things that mean the world to me. One is my family. The other is the family of ACWW". That will never change. My son texted: "So you are a past World President now. But there is nothing 'past' about you as mum and Gran. Hurry home, we need you!"

On our last day in Chennai, my husband, sister and I headed to the seaside and dipped our toes in the warm, soothing waters of the Bay of Bengal, the perfect ending not only to our stay in India, but also to my term of office as ACWW World President.

### UN COMMITTEE

## NEW REPRESENTATIVES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA



Tiemtip Kittitbut, Thailand - UN Representative (left) with Sharon Hatten, ACWW UN Committee Chair & Dr. Chaiskran Hiranpruk, UN Representative. (right). Below: Audrey Goh, Malaysia -UN Representative.

many conferences with her mother, Dato Ursula Goh, one of ACWW's past World Presidents. Audrey is a professional facilitator and trainer. She has conducted capacity building workshops for grassroots women's organisations especially related to water, land rights and development. She has organised ACWW/Agriterra workshops in Kenya, Colombia, Philippines, Australia and Malaysia.

Dr. Hiranpruk has recently retired from her work as a university Professor in the humanities area. She has represented ACWW for many years since meeting the late Past World President, Valerie Fisher in the 1990's. She recommended Tiemtip to ACWW as they had worked together doing extension work in Thailand. Tiemtip undertakes project monitoring in the area of agriculture and the environment and works with the Ban Rai Village community project, which helps women gain value-added business experience. She is hoping to increase ACWW's presence in Thailand.

Sharon Hatten, UN Committee Chair said "On my recent travels to the ACWW conference in Chennai, I was invited to stay in Thailand with Chaiskran and Tiemtip. We took the opportunity to travel to northern Thailand and the Myanmar border area to visit a monastery and an orphanage run by the Buddhist monks. Both facilities are under the guardianship of the Thai army and are allowed to exist because they are peaceful. The orphanage has about 40 children who have no documentation and therefore aren't allowed to attend regular schools. The volunteers and 2 monks provide basic classes in English, Thai, Math, and ethnic culture.

The children are protected from kidnapping and exploitation. Recent government policies in Thailand have been detrimental to rural women and children. It is through extension work that this is neutralised. ACWW and the UN Committee welcome these enthusiastic women and we look forward to productive collaboration. ACWW will be well represented".



During the past few months ACWW has affirmed two new UN representatives to work in South East Asia. Tiemtip Kittitbut, Thailand and Audrey Goh, Malaysia will work with our current representative Dr.

Chaiskran Hiranpruk. As the UN agencies are decentralising their NGO inputs the UN offices in the regions are becoming more relevant and many UN sponsored events are being held in this area. Audrey Goh has been a long time ACWW member, attending

# JOIN IN WITH WOMEN WALK THE WORLD 2014!



Member and supporters of ACWW made the Women Walk the World events in 2012 & 2013 a huge success.

In 2014 we want Women Walk the World to be bigger than ever. We want to raise money and promote ACWW by walking on around ACWW Day on 29th April 2014.

#### Please start planning now! Taking part is:

- **simple** - no instructors or membership needed
- **inexpensive** - no special equipment involved
- **achievable** - can be done anywhere, anytime
- **easy** - just get up and walk!

The walk could be an organised ramble through the countryside, a walk round a neighbourhood, a walk to the fields to tend animals, a stroll in a park or whatever you like. To keep things interesting you could add in a tea-party or a competition, run a raffle or auction promises - get creative!

Your participation in Women Walk the World will help ACWW achieve its goal of connecting and supporting women worldwide.

**Announce your local walk as soon as possible, so that everyone marks the date in their diaries and you get a good turnout.**

Women Walk the World posters, with space for local walk information, and a sponsorship form are available on request from Central Office.

For further information, see [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk) or contact ACWW Central Office, telephone +44 (0)207 799 3875, or email [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk)

Please note our fabulous new Women Walk the World design was put together by the Australian CWA of Victoria's Junior members during their Camp. Well done Juniors!



For the third year running we are pleased to announce there will be a best photo competition as part of Women Walk the World! Take photos of your walk event and send them to ACWW Central Office and you could be on the front page of 'The Countrywoman' Magazine.

Please ensure your image(s) resolution is 300dpi, if submitting digital photos via email, or are a good high gloss print if you decide to send them in by post.

Please accompany your photo with a short article describing your walk.

All images must be received by **Friday 23rd May 2014**. Entries received after this date will not be included.



# EMPOWERING WOMEN WORLDWIDE, ENCOURAGE - EDUCATE - ENRICH



THE 27TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE was a great success. Hosted by the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) from Chennai, India, 350 delegates from all over the world attended. As each visitor arrived at the Chennai Trade Centre they were entertained by musicians (drummers) before being welcomed by the DMI Sisters upon entering the Centre. To make the journey easier the DMI had arranged for delegates to be picked up by bus each day from their hotels and taken to the Centre.

The opening ceremony began with all member nations represented in a flag procession. The flags were placed on stage, where they remained for the duration of the Conference.

The theme for the Triennial Conference was, 'Empowering Women Worldwide Encourage- Educate -Enrich'. During the Conference there were reports from ACWW's nine Area Presidents, showing how each area had followed this theme, by providing highlights of the work carried out in their respective areas over the course of the last triennium. Keynote speaker, Sheelu Francis of the Tamil Nadu Women's Collective, took to the stage to speak on subjects concerning women and communities.

Various resolutions and recommendations were discussed, debated and voted on before being passed (see page 9). Months before the start of the Conference, delegates were asked to bring books and stationary to distribute to the children who are looked after by the DMI. As a gesture of thanks, the children (aged 5 to 16 years), as well as professional entertainers at other points of the Conference, danced and sang for the delegates. Voting took place towards the end of the Conference, where the delegates voted in Ruth Shanks AM,

Australia as the new World President, along with her Executive Committee, Margaret Yetman, Canada, Deputy President; Alison Burnett, Scotland, Treasurer and Henrietta Schoeman, South Africa, Secretary.

Every day at the close of business, the delegates took up the challenge of travelling through the busy roads to see the sights of the city, visiting churches, mosques and temples.

For the organised excursion day, the DMI offered the delegates an opportunity to go on field trips to visit some of the DMI's projects. This gave them an opportunity to see firsthand the work the DMI is doing in Chennai. Many projects funded there helped to empower women by making them self-reliant, which not only benefitted their families, but also their communities.

On 2nd October, the closing ceremony took place with various speeches, the procession of flags exiting the Conference room and the 'Song of Peace' sung by all the delegates. The 27th Triennial Conference was an unforgettable experience for all who attended.

## MY FIRST TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE



WOW, WHAT AN EXPERIENCE! I've just returned from my first ACWW Triennial Conference in Chennai, India. CWA of New South Wales (NSW), Australia is one of over 460 member societies of ACWW, which represents women in more than 70 countries worldwide.

One of the highlights of the conference was to see one of my own branch members, Ruth Shanks AM, elected as ACWW's World

President. Ruth is an inspiration to many, she is a past State President, Secretary and International Officer of CWA of NSW. In the past 6 years, as ACWW's South Pacific Area President, Ruth has worked alongside grassroots members in societies like CWA in both the developed and developing countries of the South Pacific. She has encouraged those of us in the wealthier nations to help our sisters who do not have as much, and encouraged women in those countries to grasp opportunities that arise, which will make things better for them, their families and their communities.

I love that in the CWA I can be part of something to bring about change in Australia, but I can also contribute and help women in other countries make their lives better too; whether it's to help provide safe drinking water, or to provide seed finance for an income generating project. So often what are only small amounts to us (a couple of thousand dollars) can result in amazing change in other countries and because it is women's groups helping women's groups, it can be done without the overheads that some NGOs have.

At the conference each of the nine ACWW Area Presidents made a presentation about what the societies in their area had done for the past 3 years. There were also reports from each of ACWW's Committee Chairman – Projects, United Nations, Promotion & Publications and Agriculture. It was great to hear what we as a worldwide organisation have achieved. A number of resolutions were also discussed and passed, these covered such topics as:

- encouraging maternal health education,
- registration of all births without prejudice,
- putting a stop to female genital mutilation,
- improving the situation of victims of violence,
- banning the use of Bisphenol A

As these have now been passed, our organisation can now approach our government regarding these issues, not just as CWA of NSW but as part of ACWW's worldwide network. We can ask our government to encourage other governments to work on these issues too.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

The following text was displayed as part of ACWW's Projects Committee Presentation at the Triennial Conference:

**While one child** in the hungry world has their life threatened by debt imposed by the well fed world

**While one farmer** in the poor world is paid a pittance for their labour by design of the rich world

**While the harvests** of the earth are disproportionately divided with more food for the nourished than the starving

**We consider it essential** to continue the work of our wonderful organisation, ACWW, in helping to alleviate these problems



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

At the Conference we were treated to numerous musical and dance performances from both school children and professional entertainers, all in amazing costumes. The host society of the Conference provided us with lunch and dinner each day, allowing us to taste some wonderful Indian dishes. There was a tour day, where we each visited villages and were hosted by the women of the DMI in these villages. We were welcomed like royalty and treated to more entertainment.

There were almost 350 women at the Conference; we were all from different countries, different races, different languages, different social backgrounds and different life experiences. There was a princess, a queen mother, villagers from the highlands of Papua New Guinea and farmer's wives from outback NSW. The unofficial song of ACWW is "A Song of Peace" which includes "but other hearts in other lands are beating, with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine".

Despite our many differences, at ACWW we are all women working together, because there are many things that we all want, which are the same. Ruth is now the World President, which is amazing and I know there won't be any pretence or airs and graces. She is still our Ruth from Dubbo. She is a mother, a grandmother, quilter and lawn bowler. She is a woman who cares about other women be they next door, or on the other side of the world, as she said in her first address "nobody can help everybody, but everybody can help somebody". Ruth has helped me see how I can help the world, I'm proud to share her name as well as her town.

## MEETING UP WITH OLD FRIENDS AT THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

**Valerie Stevens**, newly elected ACWW European Area President writes: The magic of meeting old friends and making new ones among over 350 delegates from around the world at an ACWW Triennial Conference, never fails to excite and inspire. This year the excitement was palpable, surrounded as we were by the rich colour and throb of Indian music, costume, custom and dance. The ceremony of the flags, which opens and closes every Conference, was as moving as ever. The national costumes of delegates from the African Republics and the South Seas added even more colour to the scene as sari-clad girls carried the standards of all member nations. No-one could fail to smile at the exuberance of the South Africans as they took every opportunity to sing and dance their way to the various events.

But there was business to be done; reports, resolutions, keynote speakers, elections and workshops all fully occupied the days. One day was taken by visits by all delegates to

the villages around Chennai, where our host society (DMI) supports projects, which promote self-help groups among village women who, twelve years ago were isolated in their houses and largely illiterate. We saw confident, literate women running small-scale enterprises, which generate income. Their chosen uniform was the purple sari, the colour of which signified freedom. Our thanks must go to the DMI who organised such a wonderful experience. As the newly elected European Area President (see page 13), my thoughts are turning to the future. I am hoping to visit as many of those who invited me next year. Siberia looks like one of the first stops. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the European Area Conference in Bergen, Norway (1st to 4th May 2014). To find out more about the European Area Conference, please visit [www.acww.org.uk/area\\_europe](http://www.acww.org.uk/area_europe).

## 'WORLDWIDE BRING & BUY SALE'

The Finance Committee would like to thank the Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) for permission and the DMI for accommodation for the Bring and Buy Sale at the Conference.

It was an overwhelming success due to the volunteers worldwide who sent items and the delegates who filled their suitcases and helped with the sales. Societies in Romania, Belarus, East, West & Central Africa, England, Southern Africa, Trinidad & Tobago and Sri Lanka sent items and crafts to sell as their contribution to ACWW. Every Area supported "Pennies for Friendship" raising £2,700. ACWW thanks everyone worldwide.

## SHOPPING BAG COMPETITION



Left to right: Elizabeth A Warden, Northern Ireland's International Chair FWINI & Sadie Brown from Seaford WI.

SADIE BROWN from Northern Ireland was the overall winner of the conference recycled shopping bag competition. Sadie is pictured right with Northern Ireland's International Chair, Elizabeth Warden. Sadie's bag, which was made out of ties, was amongst an entry of approx. 200 bags which were judged at the Conference by all of the delegates attending.

## JEWELLERY FOR ACWW'S 'WORLDWIDE BRING AND BUY SALE'



During the Conference some of the items sold at ACWW Finance Committee's 'Worldwide Bring and Buy Sale' included jewellery, which was donated by Seaynes Hill WI (Sussex). Gwyneth Paine (member) sent in the impressive amount of jewellery and explained how and when her WI got involved with collecting the items for the Triennial Conference. Gwyneth said: "I heard about the Worldwide Bring and Buy Sale and the need for a collection of unwanted jewellery at West Sussex's 2012 General Meeting, when an ACWW rep spoke about it during the meeting. As we have a number of 'craft making' ladies in our group, I put it to our next meeting and said if they brought their handmade jewellery to the next six meetings, I would collect their donations and send them on. We are a small group of 25 members and at least half are very good at crafts. As the General Meeting fell just before Christmas 2012, we didn't start collecting until January 2013. Members brought jewellery each month and I made August the cut off month. When August arrived I forwarded the large collection of jewellery to ACWW".



## RESOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The following Resolutions and Recommendation were passed at the Triennial Conference in Chennai, India:

### RESOLUTIONS

#### Maternal Health

Be it resolved that ACWW Member Societies urge their governments to provide a well trained and resourced quality maternity health service and to improve maternal health education for all women and girls to ensure the best outcomes for mother and baby, giving particular regard to the special needs and isolation of rural women.

#### Stop Use of Bisphenol A

Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations strongly urge their governments to banish the use of the hazardous chemical Bisphenol A (BPA). This chemical is the main building block of polycarbonate plastics and is used in many consumer products and household goods, such as food and drink containers, plastic baby bottles, medical devices, sports equipment and toys. The chemical components are dissolved and leach into their contents, poisoning our bodies and damaging our health.

#### Registration of Births

Be it resolved that ACWW member societies urge their governments to record without prejudice the births of all children born within their jurisdiction to ensure that all children are recognised as citizens.

#### Stop the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation

Be it resolved that ACWW calls on all people worldwide to stop the practice of female genital mutilation, female circumcision and cutting which endangers the health and life of young girls.

#### Stop Violence against Women and Girls

ACWW urges all member societies to focus strongly on the situation of girls and women who are victims of different forms of violence.

#### Women as Victims of Conflict

Be it resolved that the Associated Country Women of the World and its members organisations urge their governments to act, not only adopt, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

#### ACWW Constitution Review

Request permission to set up an ad-hoc committee to review the ACWW Constitution to ensure that it meets all of the requirements of the Charities Commission of England and Wales, and make any other changes required to bring the document up to date and bring the changes to be voted on at the 2016 Conference.

### ACWW Legal Structure Review

Oxfordshire FWI proposes that the Board (2013 – 2016) have the power to look at the legal structure of ACWW with a view to:

- making ACWW a legal entity in its own right and
- limiting the legal liability of Trustees and to prepare a new structure for ratification at the 2016 Conference.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### E-Waste Recycling & Disposal

In view of the ever increasing use of electronics that pollute the environment, the members of ACWW are urged to do all they can to ensure e-waste is recycled and disposed of safely and responsibly to prevent further damage to the environment.

*More about these Resolutions and Recommendations will be appearing in future issues of this magazine and on the ACWW website: [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)*

## CONFERENCE PICTURES



# TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE: THE ELECTION RESULTS

The Triennial Conference election results are in and ACWW would like to say congratulations to all who were nominated. The election results for the Executives, the Area Presidents and the Committees Chairs are as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## World President



### Ruth Shanks AM, Australia

Ruth Shanks AM has been a member of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales for 43 years. Ruth served as Area President for the South Pacific from 2007 to 2013. She says of her time as Area President that "I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and learn about other countries within our Area. I have visited these nations and societies and seen firsthand the challenges they face in their everyday lives. Through ACWW we've been able to assist in some small way to make their lives a little better".

Particularly memorable for Ruth was seeing the looks of gratitude on the faces of the women in Papua New Guinea when they were so proud of their vegetable crops and the success of their project, which was funded by ACWW.

## Deputy President



### Margaret Yetman, Canada

Margaret was elected ACWW Deputy President at the Triennial Conference in 2013. Margaret served as Area President for Canada from 2007-2013. She is a member of 1st Mount Pearl branch of the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes. She was President of her local WI branch, and a Provincial President. On the national level, she served as FWIC Executive Officer for the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes, and President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

She has attended five ACWW Area Conferences and seven ACWW Triennial Conferences. She volunteers in community organizations such as the Girl Guides of Canada. She has a Certificate in Business Administration and Professional Secretarial Development. She is a retired School Secretary/Office Administrator.

## Treasurer



### Alison Burnett, Wales

Alison Burnett is currently serving on the Board as Treasurer, having been elected at the 2010 Triennial Conference in Hot Springs, and re-elected in Chennai in 2013. She has previously been a member of the UN Committee from 2004-2007 and the Finance Committee from 2007-2010.

She has been an Independent Financial Examiner of WI accounts throughout her Federation and was Treasurer of the Glasgow County Girl Guides Association which involved overseeing finance and preparing accounts for the auditors. She has an MSc in Entrepreneurial Studies, giving her an understanding of business accounts and small business marketing and was a Business Studies teacher which included accounting.

## Secretary



### Henrietta Schoeman, South Africa

Henrietta Schoeman was elected ACWW Secretary in 2013. Henrietta had previously served on the ACWW Finance Committee from 2007 to 2013. She is currently serving her second term as National President of the South African Women's Agricultural Union (SAWAU). She has been a member of SAWAU since 1998 and served as Chair at branch and region level and as President of WAU Mpumalanga. She has served both as Secretary (6 years) and Treasurer of SAWAU.

She was Convener of the Triennial National Congress of SAWAU in 2012 and of the ACWW Southern Africa Area Conference in 2005 in Secunda and has attended 4 Area Conferences since 1999. She was part of the steering committee of the ACWW World Conference in 1998 in Pretoria, South Africa and has attended 4 World Conferences. Henrietta is a qualified teacher and involved in the administration of the family farming enterprise.

## Africa East, West & Central



### Angela Njugabui Njezeh, Cameroon

Angela Njugabui Njezeh is a member of the Executive of the Rural Society for Base Development.

She has held several posts within the organisation, including Public Relations Officer, Training Officer and now, Board Chairman. She is a women's representative on the NGI sub-division council. She was the Area President for East, West and Central Africa from 2001-2007.

## Asia Central & South



### Professor Momtaz Begum, Bangladesh

Professor Begum is founder member of Bangladesh Mahila Samity (1972), she was Vice President of the Organisation (1987) and at present is an Executive Committee member of the organisation. She is also Chairman of the Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, People's Republic of Bangladesh. She attended the 23rd Triennial Conference in Canada and the Central and South Asia Area Conference in 2011.

## Africa Southern



### Maybel Moyo, Zimbabwe

Maybel (Mabel) Moyo is Deputy Director of women's organisation, 'Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo' and has also been Secretary, Chairperson of Rural Groups, Trainer and Advisor. She has worked for over thirty years in this field. Maybel achieved the 'Woman in Leadership' award in 2002 in Zimbabwe. She sits on various Boards, which seek to empower women and girls.

She has attended ACWW Area Conferences and Triennial Conferences. Maybel attended an ACWW pre-conference workshop in 'Leadership Training and Development' in New Zealand (1995), and was Trainer of Trainers at the ACWW Area seminar in Durban (1997).

## Asia South East & the Far East



### HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar, Malaysia

HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar is current Area President for South East Asia and the Far East (elected 2010), and re-elected in 2013. HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar has been Vice Chairman of the ACWW United Nations Committee (2007-2010), attending UNESCO in Paris and CSW in New York.

She is President of ACWW member society, the Women's Institute of Pahang. In the Guiding Movement, HRH holds posts at State, National, Regional and International levels being the State President, Royal Patron of Friends of Asia Pacific and one of the 4 of The Global Fund Ambassadors World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. As well as being Founder and Life President of the Tunku Azizah Fertility Foundation, HRH is Patron for many organisations including the Malaysian Commercial Handicraft for Single Mothers and Malaysian Chefs.

## Canada



### Sheila Needham, Canada

A member of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC), Sheila has held many offices at national, branch and county level including President of the National Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and President of Quebec WIs. At provincial level served as President and as Board member of FWIC. Sheila has served as President Elect and Finance Chair on the FWIC Board, Co-chaired planning committees for Canada's first Area Conference and also the FWIC's Conference in 2003.

She has attended eight ACWW Triennial Conferences as a voting delegate. Other activities include being Treasurer of the municipal Heritage Association and Chair of the Publicity Committee for Quebec Women's Institutes and Editor of the provincial Newsletter.

## Caribbean, Central & South America



### **Dotsie Gordon, Jamaica**

Dotsie Gordon is a Human Resource Professional whose career spans Banking, Finance and the Social Services. She is a graduate of the College of Arts Science and Technology and Leicester University (2002).

She served as Treasurer for the Council of Voluntary Social Services from 1991-1994; a member of the Jamaica Federation of Women (JFW) since 1987 and as Chair from 1994-1999, and Secretary/Treasurer from 2004-2011. She was JFW Volunteer of the Year 2011 and is now V.P. Finance and Fundraising. She is an individual member of ACWW.

## Europe



### **Valerie Stevens, England**

Valerie Stevens served seven years on a committee of Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes (2004-2011). She was Secretary (3 years) and President (3 years). She has been an individual member of ACWW since 2007 and served on the ACWW United Nations Committee from 2010-2013.

She attended the European Area Conference in Southampton in 2008 and presented a UN Committee report at the Dublin European Area Conference (2011). She attended the Triennial Conference in 2007 and was prevented from attending in Hot Springs in 2010 due to the volcanic ash cloud. She attended the UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York (2011, 2012), UN Sustainable Development Conference in Bonn, (2011), visited groups in Belarus (2010, 2012), Hungary (2010) and Germany (2011). Valerie monitored an ACWW Project in Hungary in 2010. She was previously a Teacher and Lecturer in Humanities, BA (Hons), MA.

## South Pacific



### **Margaret Sullivan, Australia**

A Life member of ACWW since 1984, Margaret Sullivan is currently a State Management member for Western Australia and is also her local branch Treasurer. She joined the Country Women's Association Younger Set as a teenager and held branch positions as Cultural Organiser Secretary and President.

From the late 1960's she held many positions in the CWA of Western Australia locally at branch level; as Librarian, Publicity, Treasurer, Secretary, International and President, a position she currently holds. She was State (Western Australia) International Officer (2000-2002) and State President (2003-2006). Margaret has also held positions in Central Great Southern Division of CWA of WA as Cultural Organiser, International and Division President. She has attended South Pacific Area Conferences (1999-2011) and Triennial Conferences (2001, 2004).

## USA



### **Beverly Earnhart, USA**

Beverly Earnhart is the current ACWW USA Area President, elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2013. Beverly was the Co-Chair of the USA 2010 ACWW Triennial Conference Committee. She has been active in Indiana Extension Homemakers Association for 43 years. She served as State President from 2003-2004 and previously she was State Vice President and District Representative.

A member of the National Volunteer Outreach Network, she served as the NVON "VISION" Newsletter Editor from 2002 to 2012. She was co-editor of the IEHA newsletter "Presidential Pointers" for 4 years and the Country Women's Council News Sheet Editor for one year, beginning in 2012. She is a 24 year member of The Fairfield Extension Homemakers in Elkhart County Indiana and a member of The Knitting Together Homemaker Club in Kosciusko County where she is currently serving as treasurer. Beverly owned her own alterations business for many years.

**Projects**



**Anne Marit Hovstad, Norway**

Anne Marit Hovstad served on the ACWW Projects Committee from 2007-2013. In 1976 Anne Marit joined The Norwegian Housewives Association (now The Norwegian Women and Family Association, NWF) as a member and she was Deputy President and President from 1989-1998.

In 1996 she was elected as board member in FOKUS (an umbrella organisation in Norway with more than 70 women's groups and organisations), and from 1998 was President of FOKUS. From 1987 to 1991 she was a local politician. She has attended several ACWW Triennial World Conferences and also European Conferences. Since 2001 she has held the position of NWF's project leader and as such is responsible for projects in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. She visits the projects once or twice a year.

**United Nations**



**Sharon Hatten, Canada**

Sharon Hatten was elected as the UN Committee Chair in 2010, and re-elected in 2013, following six years as a committee member. Her background in international travel and affairs brings a unique skill set to continue in this position. Ms. Hatten has attended the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN Headquarters in New York, 2011, 2010 and 2007; the UNESCO General Conference in Paris, 2010; the UN Habitat World Summit, Vancouver, 2005; and has visited the UN and WHO in Geneva, 2010 and 2007.

She has participated in 3 seminars at the CSW parallel events and held a successful UN related workshop at the South and Central America and Caribbean Area Conference. She has attended 8 world conferences and several Area of Canada conferences. Her charity work started when she worked as a lab technologist and did a short assignment in Kabul Afghanistan with CARE Canada.

**Promotion & Publications**



**Magdie de Kock, South Africa**

Magdie de Kock is currently serving on the Boards of Directors of various South African cultural organisations and as a Trustee of a National Education Fund. She served as CEO and Vice President of The Ladies' Circle and managed the National Project funded by ACWW. She is the Communications Manager of The Ladies' Circle and Editor of the official Newsletter.

A member of the South African Women's Agricultural Union (SAWAU) since 1979, she has been the VP of SAWAU and President of the Women's Agricultural Union of Mpumalanga. She has attended ACWW Triennial Conferences and Area Conferences. She was a member of the steering committee of the ACWW Triennial Conference in South Africa (1998). She is a qualified School Principal and has completed courses in photography, project managing, public speaking and leadership. She is currently serving on the ACWW P&P committee (since 2010).

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

**THE VEGETABLE GARDEN**

**Five rows of peas:** Patience, Promptness, Preparation, Perseverance and Purity.

**Squash:** Squash gossip, criticism and indifference.

**Lettuce:** Let us be faithful, unselfish, loyal and true to obligation and let us love one another.

**Turnip:** Turn up for important meetings, turn up with a smile, with good ideas and with determination to make everything worthwhile.

By Author Unknown



## VISIT TO SRI LANKA AFTER THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

HILDA STEWART,  
Past World President  
(1998-2004), pictured

left, writes: Life in India is very colourful and attention grabbing: whether it is the delightful colours of the ladies in their Sarees or the chaos of everyday multi lane traffic, which is further complicated by non-plussed cows and dogs wandering at will. Every city, town and village in India reverberates to a cacophony of honking of horns. Honking the horn is normal and is an accepted method of announcing your presence to other road users. The constant and never ending noise is deafening but to local drivers each 'type' of sound of the horn carries a meaning. Passing on either side, even meeting traffic or bullock carts coming against the flow is the norm and it seems as if you must take over your neighbouring vehicle's space whether it is a bus, lorry, car, motorbike, bike, or one of the many tuks tuks.

Those of us not familiar with 'expecting this kind of the unexpected' spent our time 'braking', holding our breath, even praying inwardly while at the same time marvelling at the negotiation on either side of us of vehicles large and small through tiny gaps - even no gaps at all. Close shaves appear to be the norm but miraculously we saw no accidents. Travelling by road in India is definitely an unforgettable experience!

Working through the world organisation of WI's and the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland (FWINI) has a long tradition of providing financial and humanitarian help for those in need around the world. The first recorded donation is a sewing machine made in 1970 to an ACWW Lady Aberdeen Scholar from Africa who studied in Northern Ireland and records show that right through to 2013, the WI has donated hundreds of thousands of pounds that have enabled families and their communities in innumerable countries to become self-sustainable. In addition to financial help livestock, medical equipment, children's clothing, embroidery threads, materials, books and even a chainsaw to name but a few have been readily and generously gifted by WI members.

And so it was when the tsunami struck and caused such chaos and devastation in Sri Lanka on Boxing Day in 2004. Like other countries bordering the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka's coastal communities were overwhelmed and severely damaged along the southern and eastern coasts.

In Sri Lanka alone some 30,000 people lost their lives while around 850,000 were made homeless. Contact was made by Hilda Stewart with members of our sister

organisation there, the Lanka Mahila Samity (LMS) and within one week £10,000 was sent from Northern Ireland to provide food, shelter and clothing. That help continues today through ongoing financial support for two early childhood development pre-schools in Middlemura near Galle and Sirimagama in the Highlands near Kandy.

LMS was founded in 1930 at the same time as ACWW and its history and development is very similar to that of FWINI. Working with and through government, the organisation concentrated on training trainers in order to provide education, health, nutrition, handicrafts and food production and preservation for rural women across Sri Lanka. Education for rural children was started in 1945 through LMS's establishment of early childhood development schools. LMS continues to run pre-schools enabling thousands of rural children to access pre-school education. Children are well cared for by trained teachers, are provided with free school uniforms and while at school receive a nutritious midday meal. Each school has a dedicated LMS member to oversee that the school fulfils its commitments to the children and to the local community.

After the recent ACWW Triennial Conference in Chennai, India a group of FWINI members visited the Hilda Middlemura Pre-School near Galle. This particular school had been washed away by the tsunami and has been rebuilt with funds from Northern Ireland and named after Hilda Stewart. WI members were met by and escorted into the school grounds by the children's band complete with majorette. Each one of us was accorded the traditional welcome of being garlanded with flowers. After welcoming speeches the children entertained us with singing and traditional dancing. Each child was presented with pencils, pens, rulers, erasers and sweets.

The teachers were given stationery. One child delivered a thank you to WI members in perfect English. LMS member's handicrafts were on sale and many purchases were made. The women demonstrated the craft of coir rope making on a simple machine provided after the tsunami with funds from Northern Ireland. We also visited a pillow lace maker whose business had been re-established through our help. While we did not have time to visit the Sirimagama School we did provide the same gifts for the children there and these will be taken there in due course by members of LMS. Like Sirimagama which I visited previously, the Hilda Middlemura school building and play area are well equipped and the children are well cared for. At both schools wells have been dug to provide water for the schools and the local

residents. While no donation of any kind can ever replace family members our help has enabled the repair of homes and livelihoods and communities giving them hope for the future.

### SOCIETY FEEDBACK

#### CORONATION TEA PARTY IN COUNTY DOWN, NORTHERN IRELAND



On a lovely sunny afternoon on 8th June 2013, fifty members of the Ards Peninsula Area of the International Committee of the Federation of Women's Institutes in Northern Ireland, met at Ballyblack Church Hall. Their Executive member, Elizabeth Warden, with the assistance of the International Officers in the area, had arranged a Coronation Afternoon Tea Party in aid of ACWW. The guests sat at tables where pretty union flag napkins were on hand along with three tiered cake stands. There were dainty sandwiches, cream scones and delicious cakes and many cups of tea and coffee to enjoy.

An interesting display of ACWW photos and publicity pamphlets along with their winning 'recycled shopping bags' were on view. On another table the Coronation theme was showcased with members' souvenirs of the Queen's Coronation as well as earlier Coronations. After tea, Ballyblack member, Nancy Ferguson recounted her experience of being on the stands outside Westminster Abbey as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived for the Coronation.

She remembered witnessing the arrival of all the other dignitaries and in particular the cheers for Queen Salote of Tonga who did not worry about the heavy rainfall! In 1937 Nancy also saw the activities at King George's Coronation from a high window in Bond Street. Everyone was thrilled to hear these first hand recollections of such memorable events. The afternoon concluded with a question and answer session about the work of ACWW. The afternoon tea party resulted in £285 being raised for ACWW Projects.

## BINEGAR WI ENJOY A BRILLIANT FUNDRAISING EVENT



Bini Ludlow demonstrating Indian cookery

Binegar WI in the UK enjoyed a brilliant fundraising event in the summer of 2013. The morning started with an Indian cookery demonstration by Bini Ludlow, in honour of the 2013 Triennial Conference - with a talk about spices and their healing properties. After a coffee break the WI heard about Valerie Stevens' visit to Estonia, where she met various women's groups and saw the lovely crafts they had made.

During the lunch-break members were able to sample the Indian dishes made earlier like Samosas, a fried pastry with a savoury filling and Halwa, a type of dessert made from various kinds of fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts and lentils. They visited the Fair-trade and Neem Tree Trust stalls, which had been set up. In the afternoon they had an inspiring talk from Kathy Miller who supports an orphanage for boys disabled with polio in Tamil Nadu. The day was completed with a cream tea and one lucky member won an Indian meal for two as 1st prize in their raffle.

## FREE STATE WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL UNION - 83RD CONGRESS



Guests of honour from left to right: Judy Steynberg: President North West WAU, Henrietta Schoeman, SAWAU President & ACWW Secretary, Rina Potgieter, President Mpumalanga WAU, Vanda Gagiano, President FSWAU, Erika Lubbe, President Cape Province and Tharina Rossel, WAU North

On 11th and 12th September 2013, the 83rd Annual Congress of the Free State Woman's Agricultural Union (FSWAU), South Africa, took place at the beautiful venue, Monte Bello Estate, Bloemfontein with the theme 'Values Do Matter'. FSWAU was privileged to have among its guests, Henrietta Schoeman, South African Women's Agricultural Union (SAWAU) President and now elected ACWW Secretary. Other guests included various Presidents from South African provinces: Rina Potgieter from Mpumalanga WAU; Judy Steynberg of North West WAU; Tharina Rossel of WAU North and Erika Lubbe of Cape Province. The opening ceremony was held by Maretha Maartens. (Who is Maretha Maartens? awaiting email) According to Maretha the women of FSWAU have needs, but are not needy. Each one must commit herself to live in abundance.

Vanda Gagiano, President of FSWAU acted as chairperson. She addressed the Congress with words of welcome and

quoted inspirational words of wisdom from Mother Teresa. Henrietta Schoeman defined the Women's Agricultural Union (WAU) as an educational organisation for the mature woman. Henrietta said "We are educated, but what about the women outside of the organisation? Are they educated?" Hannalize Nel, guest speaker quoted the theme of the Congress by adding "Values do matter, it always remains a choice". Some of the highlights of the 83rd Congress were the artist Tobie Jooste, a South African singer from Karoo, a guest of Patrick McBride, CEO of Samplex, one of the sponsors of the Congress, who entertained the ladies and provided the different prizes awarded to members for their hard work throughout the past year. One such award was given to Petro Rossouw from Hoopstad, the winner in the Congress' Embroidery competition. She received the 'Barbara Oberholzer' trophy for 'the woman with the highest total in needlework'.

## A GIFT FOR DR SEMANE MOLOTLEGI



Left to right: Dr Semane Molotlegi, former Area President, Southern Africa & Henrietta Schoeman, newly elected ACWW Secretary

At the congress of Northwest WAU, Southern Africa, Dr Semane Molotlegi, former ACWW Area President of Southern Africa, was given a handmade gift of a quilt by the members of South African Women's Agricultural Union (SAWAU) to thank her for the 6 years she served as Area President and the work she had done helping women and their families in her area. The quilt depicted the different parts of Southern Africa, from tropical to desert areas.

## CREATIVE FUNDRAISING

Hazel Armstrong from England brings to our readers another great idea to raise funds for ACWW's Pennies for Friendship fund:

- Now the festive season is well and truly over you may find yourself with a diary, which you don't want/need! Or you could go to a shop and buy one at a low price because we are well into 2014.
- Take the diary and write a piece about the work of the ACWW and stick it firmly to the front outside cover.
- Now take it wherever you go and ask friends and family to choose a date. On that date write their name and telephone number and ask them to give you a pound coin.
- £365 later you phone ACWW Central Office and ask for a random date. That is the winner! Give £50.00 to the winner and £315 goes into Pennies for Friendship. You can do this in any currency. I did this and filled the book in 4 months. People seemed quite willing to give £1 to a good cause on the chance of winning £50... Good Luck!

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Photo: bloggingoverthyme.com

Cup of Tea Cake

Angela Martin, Northern Ireland

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups raisins,
- 2 cups self raising flour,
- 1 egg,
- 300ml (1/2 pint tea),
- 1/2 tsp. Mixed spice (optional)
- Soak sugar and fruit in tea overnight. Stir in flour, spice and egg beat well.
- Bake in 2lb. Loaf tin for approx. 1 hour at gas 3-170c for approx. 1 hour.



## HELPING THE DISABLED COMMUNITY OF KASESE, UGANDA



In September 2013, Branwen Farbrother, a member of North Yorkshire East Federation of Women's Institutes (WI) visited Uganda, and whilst there spent two days with the Kasese District Women with Disabilities project (KADIWOD). The WI has provided funding for the teaching of tailoring skills and the purchasing of 20 sewing machines via an ACWW development project. Branwen thought that her visit to Uganda, for personal reasons, could also be used to strengthen the links between the women of North Yorkshire and Kasese.

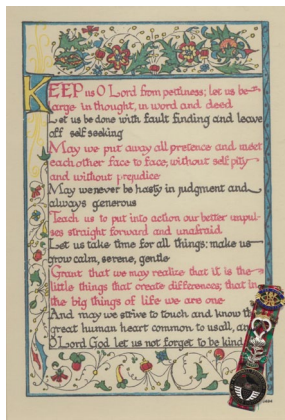
KADIWOD is composed of 11 groups of predominately but not exclusively women. In addition to the group in Kasese, the sewing machines have been given to 5 of these groups. During the 2 days in Uganda, Branwen and her husband attended a meeting with the KADIWOD committee, where they were taken to see the sewing machines being used in the rural sub counties of Maliba, Kyalumba and Bwere. At each of the centres the welcome was tremendous. There were demonstrations of the sewing machines being used, as well as songs of welcome, speeches and the exchanges of gifts. Being given the gift of a live chicken was generous but a predicament!

The speeches described how the sewing machines were contributing to the economies of each community, as well as helping to reduce the isolation and stigma of being disabled. Branwen said, "Since its formation in 2000 KADIWOD has worked to unite and educate women who are vulnerable because of disability. It was encouraging to be told that ACWW has in the past funded a project relating to the prevention of HIV/ AIDs and it was inspiring to see that disabled children are now being brought forward for education. There were so many impressive things that we saw, for example the sewing teacher in Maibu. A deaf and dumb adolescent boy was, like many very young men, eager to demonstrate that he could make a machine go fast. He had yet to acquire competence in controlling his enthusiasm and the material.

The teacher very patiently demonstrated the skill involved and there were eventually smiles from everybody". Upon return Branwen and her husband prepared a presentation called 'Sewing Safari', which conveys the thanks of the women of Kasese to the women of North Yorkshire.

## A TRIBUTE TO ANN STUTTAFORD

Ann Stuttaford was born in a small fishing village in Scotland and when she was old enough she joined the local Women's Institute (WI). During World War 2, she and four other women were sent to a secret, secluded spot in England where they broke the code of German messages. This was very secretive work and very important to the British war effort. Ann met Pierce Stuttaford from Zimbabwe who was an officer in the British Army. He was the very epitome of a cultured country gentleman. They married when the war was over and moved to Zimbabwe where Pierce owned a large plantation, employing many indigenous peoples.



Ann saw many ways in which she could improve the lives and living conditions of their employees, including opening a clinic where she treated many who had burns from open fires and infections from cuts on their bare feet and many other health problems. She helped the women give birth in a clean, sanitary building she provided for them and helped deliver many babies who, along with the mothers might have died otherwise.

Because the Women's Institute was so important to her, she joined the WI of Zimbabwe. When there was civil unrest there and their lives were in danger she and Pierce fled to Canada, leaving everything they owned behind. They lived in Toronto where Ann assisted a pathologist in one of the hospitals.

Later they retired in Wasaga Beach and Ann joined the Allenwood WI branch in Simcoe Centre District where she became a valued much-loved member, contributing so much to the branch. While there, the Allenwood WI received a plaque from the WI of Zimbabwe in recognition of all that Ann had done for them. Apart from the plaque, Ann also had several pins, which represent her membership in the WI in Scotland, Zimbabwe and Canada. Ann also joined other groups, such as Amnesty International-working to secure the release of political prisoners throughout the world.

Ann was a very compassionate, intelligent woman with a great sense of humour. She was a wonderful story teller and in later years became a much sought after public speaker

throughout Simcoe County and beyond, especially by the branch of the Canadian Legion. She enjoyed visiting the local schools on Remembrance Day, telling the children of her wartime experiences and of life in war-torn England.

Ann loved working in her beautiful flower backyard garden and because she loved to cook, she gave great parties in their home. She left a legacy of goodness, compassion and kindness to others. She was an inspiration to everyone who met her throughout her time as a member of the different WIs and was loved and respected. She is greatly missed in the community.

## SEWING MACHINES FOR SIERRA LEONE



Poverty is on the increase in some countries, Sierra Leone being one of them. Aware of this fact, a group in Sussex (England), led by Jack Norwood, from Tools with a Mission (TWAM) have achieved the amazing task of shipping a container packed full of sewing machines, computers and tool kits to the West African country.

With the help of four organisations, Tools with a Mission (TWAM), Hastings Technical College in Sussex (England), the Government Technology Institute near Freetown (Sierra Leone) and ACWW, Jack Norwood and his group of helpers sent the container on a ship with the view to increase women's access to communication in remote areas and to help the Technology Institute near Freetown increase its outreach to poor, local communities with the use of the computers in the shipment.

Thanks to ACWW's links with WIs in Freetown, some of the tools and most of the sewing machines in the shipment are destined for WI groups in the slums around

## SOCIETY FEEDBACK

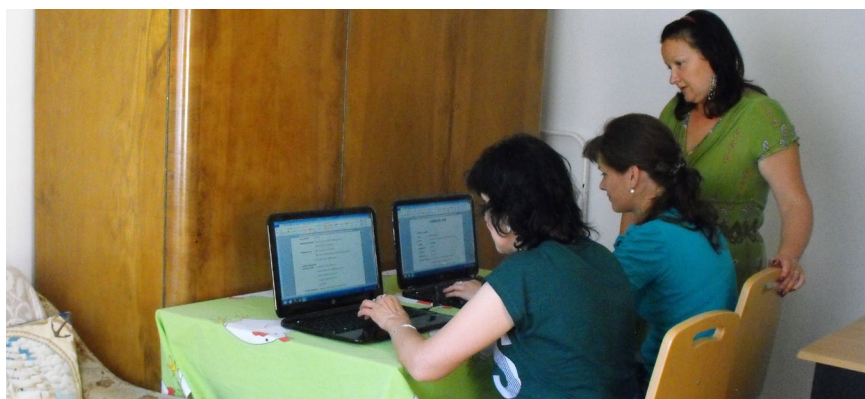
Freetown, thus providing the women with the means to learn new skills. Throughout this project, Jack Norwood has been helped by over 200 collectors around the UK and, with help from inmates at the local prison and other helpers, spent three hours loading the container, which is now en route to Sierra Leone. The cost of the shipment was covered by donations from Hastings Technical College, Sudbury Church (England) and from anonymous donors. Jack Norwood hopes that this will be an on-going, sustainable project. ACWW would like to congratulate and thank Jack for carrying out this wonderful project, with thanks also to all those who took part. Well done!



## PROJECTS | PROGRESS, MONITORING &amp; FINAL

## PROJECTS REPORTS

## PROGRESS REPORT



## ROMANIA

*Computer Literacy and Activity Scheme for Women and Children*

*Organisation: Women's Association from Sibiu/ Romania (Asociatia Femeilor din Sibiu)*  
*Supported by: FWI of Northern Ireland; Cambridge FWI*

The project carried out by Asociatia Femeilor din Sibiu, Romania, aims to provide the beneficiaries of social services with basic computer skills. Within the first six months, the project benefitted 15 people: 9 women (24 to 55 years old) and 6 children (10 to 16 years old.).

The computer course consisted of 17 hours of training for each participant. They first set up an appropriate programme depending on individual capacities and availabilities (dependent on school or work hours). The course was divided into several parts in order to provide the basic computer skills to the beneficiaries. The first part aimed to introduce the computer components such as monitor, modem, system unit, mouse, speakers, printer and keyboard.

The second part consisted of training with text editor programmes, such as Microsoft Word. The beneficiaries learnt how to type, format the text, make a poster, use images,

use the keyboard, make tables, etc. They also learnt how to create CVs, which can be helpful for their future careers. This part of the training gave the beneficiaries the opportunity to put into practice the assimilated skills they had learnt so far, and they can apply it to tasks at school or work.

The third part consisted of teaching the beneficiaries to use Excel. Here they acquired basic knowledge about spreadsheets, formulas, columns and data, bar graphs, charts etc. The fourth part was about how to use Powerpoint; editing a presentation, adding objects, special effects, etc. The last part focused on how to search for general information on the internet, exploring pages, use e-mail, and create a web mail account. Both children and adults expressed interest in participating and getting involved and pursuing this course.

Benefits resulting from this project have been obvious: this operation allows the women to create their own documents. They have acquired skills that help their development at school, and in applying for better jobs. The beneficiaries have received support so that each of them is able to learn at their own pace.

## MONITORING REPORT



## TONGA

*Food Production for Healthy Living*

*Organisation: Aloua Ma'a Tonga*  
*Supported by: Zurich Insurance, Northern Ireland FWI, Lincolnshire South FWI and Cornwall FWI*

This project was monitored in July 2013.

There is a continuing problem in this area of Tonga in that the people are forced to live in an area which is continually swampy and affected by tides and poor drainage in wet weather. The project aimed to fortify food production gardens to protect them through laying crushed stone.

Each load of crushed stone is \$90 Pa'anga and to provide enough stone to fortify their small homes they needed about 20 loads.

After they laid the crushed stone, they then needed soil for the planting of gardens etc. They often had to use old car tyres etc. to protect the soil as it washes away each time it rains. The people (mainly the women) are now so proud of their gardens, even the smallest garden, and they are very excited about learning to grow their own vegetables and learning how to cook the vegetables for their families.

The cooking lessons take place in these villages as it is better for the women to learn on the type of cooking facility that

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they have e.g. kerosene, open fires, etc. They go to classes in the Women's Resource Centre, which has recently had an upgrade of almost AUS \$7,000 provided by the South Pacific Area, following the Area Conference. The women are able, after growing enough vegetables to feed their families, to sell some of the produce and this they do on the side of the road along the way into town.

20 homes were covered in this project and the families benefited greatly from this change to their living environment. They are also benefitting from the fact that they now have more nutritional meals and this also reduces the level of illness amongst the children.

They have worked in groups to complete this project, with all the members helping each other with the spreading of the crushed stones and then the top soil for the gardens. If the people were not prepared to combine with others they were not included in the project, but now they have seen what can be done, they are all hoping that it will be their turn next.



### CASE STUDY

*Olivia Moala:*

Olivia was the most influential leader who encouraged members to work according to the objectives and time frame for the project.

She lives with her family in land that was always covered with water after rain. This water remained stagnant for few days and allowed mosquitoes to breed.

She conducted weekly meetings as a way to monitor the implementation of activities. The agenda included reports on work done and what needed to be done in the week ahead. Olivia wanted to be a role model for all participating members. She surrounded her house with stones and soil, and followed this by growing gardens.

As a result, Olivia has already harvested her home garden for home consumption, prepared plants for weaving of mats, used traditional and medicinal plants for ceremonies and healings, and moreover created flower gardens for beautifying her home. Olivia and her family have improved their standard of living and quality of life after participating in this project. She is very happy and proud of her achievements and shares experiences in with other people in training and workshops. She is willing to assist and work with those wishing to participate in similar projects in future.

## FINAL REPORT



### INDIA

#### *Leadership & Business Skill Development of Dalit Women & Children*

*Organisation: Women's Education and Employment Development Society (WEEDS)*  
*Supported by: Nottinghamshire FWI*  
Throughout this project, Women's Education and Employment Development Society (WEEDS) have been training the Dalit women and girls in remote villages of the fragile regions of Sattankulam and Udangudi blocks of Tuticorin district. WEEDS identified 15 villages when implementing this project, two more villages, partially populated by Dalits, were also added as target villages.

The WEEDS training programme was very successful in the rural population. Sixty women have learnt the art of designing and making readymade dress, including embroidery works. The embroidery course was based on Indian embroidery, mirror work, stone work, pipe work and patch work. The training on Indian embroidery best suited the community needs.

The WEEDS training has also included animal rearing. Their original plan was to provide small animal rearing support for 30 women, along with the training in designing readymade dress embroidery works.

However, a total number of 120 women and girls were able to benefit as direct beneficiaries, as well as their families, creating a permanent asset to the Dalit's community.

Of those women trained in embroidery and fashion technology, over seventeen have started up businesses from home and have acquired sewing machines through self-help group loans and five are employed by garment shops in their areas.

WEEDS also trained 28 of the women in mobile phone servicing and all but a few have started businesses servicing mobile phones from their homes. They are providing

a highly valued and affordable service for the community.

WEEDS provided the skill development trainees with certificates of completion so that they would be able to use them to procure free embroidery/sewing machines from the Social Welfare Board, TAHDCO, or other similar government agencies.

### CASE STUDY EMBROIDERY TRAINEE

Miss Sunitha, aged 19 years, was forced to discontinue her studies after her 10th standard examinations due to her family's extreme poverty.

She became one of the trainees in the embroidery and fashion technology programme of this project and enthusiastically attended all classes for three months. She obtained a loan from WEEDS in order to start an embroidery and dressmaking business from her home.

She has been able to obtain orders for children's and women's dresses and other items from her neighbours and is now earning approximately 2,500 Rupees a month from this activity.



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- ACWW 2010 Constitution £3
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To find out more about leaving a bequest please email [lisa.b@acww.org.uk](mailto:lisa.b@acww.org.uk) to receive a FREE Bequest Information Pack.



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