

# THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

JANUARY - MARCH 2013

## Happy New Year

## What Universal Rights Do Rural Women Share?

A DEBATE AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS

GROW  
LOCALLY  
BENEFIT  
GLOBALLY  
AGRICULTURE  
CAMPAIGN  
SEE PAGE 10

## Women Walk the World

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

## CD Recorded To Raise Funds For ACWW

ON SALE NOW

Reg Charity No. 290367





COVER: Hope of Love Quilt, designed by ACWW member, Susan Watkins-see page 16

**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

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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**



Left to right: Anphia Grobler ACWW Deputy World President, Kate Hoey MP, May Kidd ACWW World President, Mandana Hendessi OBE & Jo Almond ACWW Secretary- House of Commons

**Dear Friends**

IT WAS A PRIVILEGE to take part in two ACWW events held within the Houses of Parliament in London (see page 6). Both were attended by ACWW supporters alongside representatives of other organisations. All were encouraged to speak out and exchange views, and they did. Some had never heard of ACWW before, but now they have! Thanks to everyone who came along, especially those who travelled many miles to participate.

On ACWW Day, 29th April 2012, women walked the world in 24 hours. We were sent reports and photographs, plus an amazing amount of money, all of which is helping those around the world who need it most. In response to demand, 'Women Walk the World' will be repeated in 2013. Do it your way, walk in a large or small group, a family group, or alone. If a different day suits better, if you prefer to run or even swim, go right ahead. Celebrate with a picnic, a song, a dance. Let's be active if we can and be grateful that we can. If you cannot walk, your participation in other ways is just as valued. We can all do something, even simply by encouraging others. Enjoy your day!

On January 25th here in Scotland, the birthday of Robert Burns, the Ploughman Poet is celebrated. Burns lived more than 200 years ago. Life was hard, working long hours out in the fields, in all weathers. He and many others lived in relative poverty. His poems and songs remain popular worldwide today. Here he unlocks the secret of HAPPINESS:

*"It's not in titles nor in rank,  
It's not in wealth like London's bank,  
To purchase peace and rest.  
If Happiness has not her seat  
And centre in the breast,  
We may be wise, or rich, or great,  
But never can be blest.  
No treasures nor pleasures,  
Can make us happy long,  
The Heart is the part  
That makes us right or wrong."*

May your New Year be filled with happiness!

*May Kidd*  
**May Kidd MA JP**

**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).

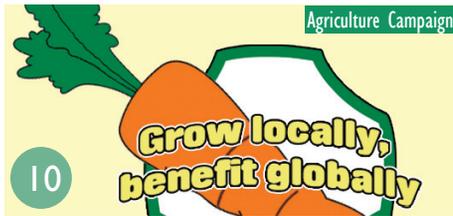
**Submitting Photos**

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.**

INSIDE THE COUNTRYWOMAN



What Universal Rights Do Rural Women Share?

CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

Happy New Year!

The last 3 months of 2012 were the busiest of the year in Central Office. We kicked off the month of October with 2 weeks of Committee and Board meetings, all of which were highly productive with great plans for taking ACWW forward. Also in October, we held 2 panel events in the Houses of Parliament in London. On the 8th October the panel tackled the question 'How can we encourage community participation and leadership amongst rural women?' and on the 15th we asked 'What universal rights do rural women share?' You can read the reports on these highly though provoking events on page 6.

New materials are available in Central Office to promote ACWW. We have a new projects leaflet and new PowerPoint presentations are available if you wish to tell more people in your society or group about our work.

2013 promises to be a big year for ACWW as we speed towards the conference in Chennai. As always, we would love to hear from you, so if you have any stories to share with other members about your experiences, please do get in touch. We can also answer any questions you might have about the 2013 Triennial Conference or about our work generally in supporting and connecting women and communities worldwide.

Have a happy and healthy 2013!

Lisa Barker, Operations Manager

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THIS ISSUE

There is so much to read in this January - March 2013 issue. For example on page 10 you can read about the Agriculture Committee's Campaign: Grow Locally, Benefit Globally and see how you can get involved. On page 12, Sharon Hatten, ACWW UN Chairman, writes about 'A Child's Right to Health', this is followed by Valerie Stevens, UN Committee member, writing about 'ACWW, the UN and Human Rights'. Also page 14 has information on accommodation for the upcoming 2013 Triennial Conference. Enjoy!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

4 Reminders

A VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

4 Meeting the SAWAU

EDITOR'S GUIDE TO USING SOCIAL NETWORKS

4 Facebook & Twitter

LOUIS VAN NIEUWENHUIZEN

5 CD on sale to support ACWW

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

5 Back by popular demand

ACWW EVENTS

6 What universal rights do rural women share?

How can rural women's community participation & leadership be enhanced?

CANADA CONFERENCE

7 Empowering women

CENTRAL, SOUTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN AREA

8 Visit to Suriname

EUROPEAN AREA

8 Women's Power & Influence in Nordic societies

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

9 Water & Gender  
Climate Change: A cause of spikes in food prices

AGRICULTURE CAMPAIGN

10-11 Grow Locally, Benefit Globally

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

12 Growing Vegetables in Australia

UN COMMITTEE

12-13 A Child's Rights  
ACWW, the UN & Human Rights

AREA PRESIDENTS

13 My time as an Area President

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

14-15 Conference accommodation  
Why attend a conference?  
Charms of India

SOCIETY FEEDBACK

16-18 Hand in hand, piecing together:  
Hope of Love Quilt  
In memory: Joan Coady & Mildred Keith  
Food for thought  
Visit to Derbyshire  
A brilliant fund raising & awareness  
Olympic Dreams  
Anne Marit Hovstad Honoured  
Zippy Nomad does it again  
A message from the ICA  
Congratulations Elsie Brown  
Beads, Quizzes, A Raffle & Jams  
Granted a Scholarship

PROJECTS

19 Projects Final Reports  
Bangladesh  
Romania  
Uganda

BACK COVER

20 Additional Information  
Publicity material  
Advertising in 'The Countrywoman'  
Promotional Pin & Brooches  
How to advertise your accommodation



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# ACWW & BEQUESTS

## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR WOMEN & COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

broad vision of seeing generations of women empowered through the relief of poverty and sickness, the protection and preservation of health and advancement of education.

### WHERE WILL MY MONEY GO?

ACWW is staffed by a small but very hard working and dedicated team. Your money will not be used to cover the higher administrative costs associated with larger organisations but will directly fund the work we do to support women and communities globally, whether that's through direct projects, campaigning on agricultural issues, supporting our UN work or working hard to increase the membership of ACWW. You can be assured your gift will make a genuine difference to our work.

### WHAT KIND OF GIFT CAN I LEAVE?

We do not have to know about your gift, but it helps to ensure that your intended gift is passed on to us if you let your solicitor know that you have pledged to us. All gifts are of value. Any amount, from as little as

£10, will make a genuine difference to our ability to connect and support women and communities worldwide.

There are a number of different ways to remember us.

- A Pecuniary Bequest, a Cash or Specific gift. In a Cash gift, you leave a specified sum of money to one or more beneficiaries. A Specific gift is a specified item such as a house, work of art, or jewellery.
- A Residuary Bequest allows you to leave ACWW a share of your estate, once your family has been taken care of.

When your work is done, ours can still continue.

Before making any changes to your Will we would suggest that you seek advice from your solicitor. If you would like more information please contact our Operations Manager, Lisa Barker for a **FREE Bequest Information Pack** on +44 (0)207 799 3875, or email [lisa.b@acww.org.uk](mailto:lisa.b@acww.org.uk)

### WHY LEAVE ACWW A GIFT IN YOUR WILL?

You don't have to be wealthy to leave a gift in your Will. After making provision for your loved ones, you can help ACWW to be there for women and communities worldwide into the future. Bequests are incredibly valuable to the work ACWW does - not just for the women and communities who benefit from projects and the connections made globally through our work now - but to women and communities to come. Bequests enable ACWW to continue to deliver our



## REMINDER FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Alison Burnett, Treasurer & Finance Committee Chairman

**Reminder:** All Subscriptions from members and member societies are due on 1st January 2013 (excluding members who paid a 3 year subscription 2011 or 2012). If you have not yet renewed your subscription, please fill out all your details on the renewal form, including your email address. Please reference your payments as either Membership Subscription or Subscription. Forms can be obtained from 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 'ACWW Forms'. This allows us to claim an extra 25p from the government for every £1 you donate.

Finally, a big thank you for all the donations received throughout 2012 and to all who took part in our first '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.

## A VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA



Women's group welcoming Margaret McMillan in South Africa

**Margaret McMillan**, member of ACWW's Finance Committee and an ACWW 'Pennies for Friendship' Promoter, wrote: Anphia Grobler, ACWW's Deputy President and Henrietta Schoeman, who is on ACWW's Finance Committee and the South African Women's Agricultural Union (SAWAU) President, invited me to South Africa for a two week visit to see the work ACWW had done, through visiting some projects.

For our first visit, Anphia took us to meet and make cards with 30 women in the Middleburg area, Doornkop Township in Mpumalanga. The next day we had a fundraising lunch to meet the Women's Agricultural Unions (WAU) and the

Chairwomen from other regions who, as well as supporting ACWW, helped women and girls in local projects. We promoted ACWW's 'Pennies for Friendship' and travelled with Ria Roets, a great ACWW rep, to see some cultural projects and excellent schools funded by the farming community.

During our travels, ACWW supporters from Cape Town - Kath Green and Margaret Roberts - showed us the Country Women's Agricultural Association's (CWAA) headquarters and its ACWW association, as well as some of the local sights. I first met Margaret Roberts at a Triennial Conference in Canada back in 2001 and this was our first chance to meet again and renew our friendship.

For the upcoming 'World Sale', at the 2013 Triennial Conference in Chennai, India, Margaret Roberts has volunteered to use her talented handicraft skills to make small gift items. ACWW's Finance Committee is also asking every supporter worldwide to start collecting small items suitable to be taken in suitcases to Chennai and sold to raise money for ACWW. I had a great time during my visit and fully enjoyed meeting all the wonderful ladies in South Africa.

## EDITOR'S GUIDE TO USING SOCIAL NETWORKS



Once upon a time in the mid-nineties, the internet was seen as something extraordinary, available only to whiz kids and computer experts. Now it has become part of everyday life. By regularly using the internet as a way to communicate, we are able to connect with individuals and companies around the world, allowing us to download information, seek help and catch up on the latest gossip, especially through the many different social channels available at the click of a mouse.

Because of this, there is an assumption that 'anyone who is anyone' knows how to use these social channels on offer; however, this is not always the case. So in order to encourage our readers, who do not yet know how to follow us on Twitter or to join us on Facebook, I have written an instruction guide to take you through both. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of features, but it may help to get you started.

Please go online to [http://www.acww.org.uk/forms/acww\\_social\\_networks\\_guide-beginners.pdf](http://www.acww.org.uk/forms/acww_social_networks_guide-beginners.pdf). A pdf document should open up in your window browser, which you can download. If not, please email Central Office at [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk) and we will be happy to email you the pdf. We look forward to you joining us on Facebook and following us on Twitter.

## ON SALE NOW: LOUIS VAN NIEUWENHUIZEN HAS RECORDED A CD TO SUPPORT ACWW



Pipe Mania - CD Cover Sleeve

In addition to being a recording artist, Louis van Nieuwenhuizen has acted in several TV, film and advertising productions including 'Westgate' and the critically acclaimed 'Agter elke Man'. Louis's other successes on home-soil in South Africa include staging and performing in several theatre productions. These include 'Simply Andrew Lloyd Webber', 'Melodies and Moods', 'Music by Candlelight' and 'The Child', which incorporate theatre music extracts and contemporary styles.

Louis's music has also made it to the top of the South African charts, including

a #1 voted hit on Channel 6. Louis was a winner of the South African leg of the World Championships of Performing Arts.

Louis has decided to support ACWW in its work worldwide with his CD 'Pipe Mania'. 'Pipe Mania' combines pipe organ and synthesizer with a symphony orchestra, rock instruments and a choir. Louis's approach merges traditional orchestral sound with alternative jazz and the energy of rock to produce melodies that could make even Beethoven's feet tap!

To purchase Pipe Mania, please contact Central Office - Price £10.00 (excluding postage and packaging)

## WOMEN WALK THE WORLD BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



'Women Walk the World' was an enormous success - our thanks and congratulations go to all who took part around the world. The amount raised is in the order of £40,000 so far, most to Pennies for Friendship but some to other specific ACWW funds - a marvellous result! Special congratulations are due to the South Pacific Area who contributed over £20,000.

Of course, raising money was not the only aim of the event and in some parts of the world it was not a realistic aspect. The main idea was to mark ACWW Day and promote ACWW by joining together in friendship and enjoying taking part. Most participants seem to have done this - in spite of the weather! Reports from many countries appeared in the July - September 2012 issue of The Countrywoman. Following repeated requests that Women Walk the World becomes an annual event, the ACWW Board members unanimously agreed at their October 2012 meeting that Women Walk the World should

take place again in 2013. The frequency of the event will be reviewed at the 27th Triennial Conference in Chennai, India. So, please start planning now!

### Taking part is:

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

The aim is to raise ACWW's image, promote the organisation more effectively and, if practical, increase funds. The concept is that women from societies in all the different countries will go for a walk somewhere local to them. The walk could be an organised ramble through the countryside, a walk round a neighbourhood, a walk to the well to get water; a walk to the fields to tend animals, a stroll in a park or whatever they like. As well as the aims above - raising ACWW's image,

promoting the organisation more effectively and increasing funds - it is a great opportunity to promote healthy living.

On or around ACWW Day, 29th April 2013, members throughout the world are asked to join in Women Walk the World for ACWW. How you can participate in your area? ACWW hopes that members will take part by arranging walks locally.

Announce your plans for 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 hand-outs, with space for local walk information, and an emailed 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, email [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk). Your participation in Women Walk the World will help ACWW achieve its goals. Please take part. Happy Walking! Enjoy Your Day!

## WHAT UNIVERSAL RIGHTS DO RURAL WOMEN SHARE?



Standing: Baroness Verma chairing an ACWW event: 15th October 2012

THE UNITED NATIONS Commission on the Status of Women 56 (CSW) held in early 2012, failed to reach any overall conclusions which were related to cultural, political and economic differences. Given this lack of unanimity, is it possible to speak of human rights applying to all rural women?

On 15th October 2012, Baroness Verma chaired a debate to tackle the above questions. The event was organised by ACWW and the National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO) and took place in the House of Lords in England. The panel for the event included ACWW World President, May Kidd; Lady Fiona Hodgson CBE (NAWO member, Women's activist); Jo Almond, ACWW Secretary; Vicky Cosstick (UN Women) and Amy Fehily (NAWO Youth Caucus).

Baroness Verma opened the event, attended by ACWW members, Women's Aid, UN Women, Women's Views on News

and the Older Women's Network. Baroness Verma said "progress has been made with regards to gender issues and the successes should be acknowledged. However, we must keep looking forward". She talked of a lack of women in the decision making processes worldwide, and particularly of women whose voices are not highlighted at all.

Lady Hodgson tackled the subject of the challenges that rural women can face, with particular reference to the UK. She outlined how there is a lack of infrastructure and services, less representation of ethnic minorities, fewer social interactions, limited or no access to childcare, cuts to local public services, poor access to technology, high housing costs and poor access to healthcare amongst other issues. It was commented that many of these issues can be applied globally to developed and developing countries. Lady Hodgson's main comment on the CSW was that it is not sufficiently highlighted in the press. An event attendee asked 'How can we make these issues the news, and not just women's news?'

May Kidd highlighted stories of rural women in Croatia and Latvia to show how rural women are 'all in it together'. She commented that women may be diverse in many ways, but that they all share the same rights; rural women's rights are human rights.

Vicky Cosstick of UN Women has been working with rural women in Africa since 2005, and recognised the importance of women associating together and working with one another. Vicky referenced a paper by Randolph Kent, which claims that we have moved from the thinking that 'all politics is local' to 'all politics is global'.

CSW is an environment where women should be able to come together and have a voice. The attendees at the event commented that there needs to be a better

way to connect government statements at CSW to NGO findings, thereby ensuring a stronger voice for rural women. Jo Almond made reference to a comment made at the 2011 CSW, in a parallel event – "poor but not incapable." This phrase makes reference to the fact that the voice of many rural women can be heard if they are given the appropriate education, which in turn builds self-esteem. Jo also said that for many rural women worldwide the phrase "speak with me, not about me" is relevant. It is the voice of women at grassroots level which needs to be heard.

Amy Fehily spoke of economic empowerment for rural women and how important is ownership of land and education, supported by access to finance, will be a help to women facing issues such as those outlined by Lady Hodgson.

The event concluded with a discussion on why agreement and conclusions at CSW can be hard to reach. Often, differing traditional and cultural values are what means we cannot agree. To progress, there needs to be greater discussion around human rights vs traditional and cultural rights.



Left to right: Lady Fiona Hodgson, Nicky Venning & ACWW World President, May Kidd

## HOW CAN RURAL WOMEN'S COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & LEADERSHIP BE ENHANCED?



Left to right: Kate Hoey MP with Baroness Hilary Armstrong

ON 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012, Kate Hoey MP hosted an ACWW panel discussion in the House of Commons, England. The Chair was ACWW World President, May Kidd. The panel for the event brought together Kate Hoey MP, the UK's first female Sports Minister; Mandana Hendessi OBE, who has advised the British government and UN Women and currently works with the peace building NGO International Alert, ACWW Deputy President, Anphia Grobler, from South Africa and ACWW Secretary Jo Ellen Almond from Illinois in the USA.

**Why should rural women's involvement in community affairs be encouraged?**

Kate Hoey MP noted that there were 39 female MPs when she first entered Parliament and that number has now climbed to 144. She argued that women should be considered in every element of policy and not just treated as an afterthought.

This process should start from the bottom up and doesn't need to involve party politics and elections, thus allowing women's varied perspectives and strengths to be recognised. Attendee Hilary Ratcliffe, of Soroptimist International, discussed the difficulty of doing this in Sierra Leone, where 90% of employment occurs through NGOs. Evelyn Nojang, ACWW's Area President for East,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6



Left to right: Anphia Grobler ACWW Deputy World President, Kate Hoey MP, May Kidd ACWW World President, Mandana Hendessi OBE & Jo Almond ACWW Secretary

West & Central Africa, noted the importance of self-determination, with education, political involvement and community schemes being means of overcoming cultural issues related to women's activities. Sister Viji, ACWW's Area President for Central & South Asia, took up this theme of cultural obstacles to women's empowerment by describing the Indian situation.

The discussion then moved to the topic of **Promoting a strong role for rural women in troubled societies**. Mandana Hendessi commented that connections between rural women are important in all areas, whether "troubled" or not. She described her work in Iraq, where she had been the British government's gender adviser. One problem was that only elite women, and no rural women, were represented there. However, dialogues among rural women

slowly began to develop and eventually a 25% quota for female parliamentarians in Iraq was agreed. In Afghanistan, Mandana had observed that progressive people are influential at the local level, not the national level. Anphia Grobler emphasised the importance of education in encouraging women to have a strong role.

One example is subsidising girls' tertiary education if they haven't had a child. Attendee Valerie Stevens, a member of ACWW's UN Committee, used the example of Hungary to describe a different type of "troubled" society – a lack of identity. The project Valerie had monitored there had used a local cooking business to boost pride and promote a more active role for rural women.

ACWW's South Pacific Area President, Ruth Shanks, indicated the importance of men being educated in order to support women's empowerment. Rainatou Sow, of 'Make Every Woman Count', identified several other barriers to women's participation, such as the lack of training for older women, as the focus of development projects is often on primary education, women's lack of access to resources and NGO projects that finish too early.

**On the topic of informal vs. formal means of encouraging rural women's participation**, Jo Almond discussed the important role that grassroots organisations can play in spreading informal education and raising women's self-esteem. Two ways of doing so were noted by Kate Hoey MP and the blogger Minna Salami: sports and the arts. Alison Burnett, ACWW's Finance Chairman and Treasurer, picked up on this idea that the

arts create space for rural women to become more active and empowered, mentioning choirs and clubs, where women can be trained in valuable skills like public speaking, often without even realising it.

**Finally the panel explored the role of education and culture in promoting the visibility of rural women.** Mandana Hendessi gave the example of laws in certain Muslim sects that require women who have



Left to right: Jo Almond ACWW Secretary and Valerie Stevens ACWW UN Committee member

been divorced three times to marry a virgin for one night. Kate Hoey MP closed by describing her experience as a monitor of the first democratic elections in Angola in the mid-1990s. She had seen a woman in her 80s crawling 5 miles to reach the polling location in order to vote. This shows how one means of participation that many people take for granted is highly prized by others. The event Chair, May Kidd, thanked everyone for their valued contributions and expressed thanks on behalf of ACWW, to Kate Hoey MP for hosting such a lively event.



## CANADA

Margaret Yetman ACWW Area President, Canada

### Our apologies

*In the 2011 Annual Report, included in the October- December 2012 issue of The Countrywoman, it was reported that six Area Conferences took place in 2011, but only five were featured. We would like to apologise to the Canada Area for omitting their Area Conference and invite our readers to read their report below:*

**In July of 2011** the Canada Area Conference, with the theme, 'Empowering Women Worldwide - Encourage, Educate, Enrich' was held at Mount Saint Vincent University in Nova Scotia. There was a great deal of excitement, as 129 delegates registered. It was a time for meeting old friends and making new ones. The Opening Ceremony was very impressive with the procession of flags followed by greetings from dignitaries, societies, Beverley Earnhart, ACWW's USA Area President and Margaret Yetman, ACWW's Canada Area President.

In her opening address Margaret welcomed a new Category IV Society, Southern Ontario Support Group. She spoke about ACWW's Caribbean, Central and South America Area project entitled 'Climate Change and its Effects on Women and Agriculture-Women as Change Agent', to which Canada Area donated \$10,000.00 to assist the financing of the workshop and Area Conference, which took place in Grenada. Margaret told the group that Caribbean, Central and South



Left: Back row-left to right: Debbie Bauer & Margaret Yetman, ACWW Canada Area President. Middle row-left to right: Cindi Rabstein; Annemarie McDonald & Anne Innes. Front row: Hania White

Below: Left to right: Dr Ellen McLean, Past World President with Margaret Yetman, ACWW Canada Area President



America Area President, Rose Rajbanjee informed her that the project was very successful and she was very grateful to the Canada Area for their financial support.

There were several speakers at the Conference: the keynote speaker Dr. Wanda George, described empowerment as an expansion of freedom of thought and action. Reflecting on the restrictions of women in the 1800's, to the movement for equal rights for women in the 1990's when issues ranged from reproductive rights to taking on combat roles, issues unimaginable to women in the 1800's. When Margaret officially closed the conference, in her closing remarks, she hoped the conference had empowered all delegates to do the best they could do to encourage, educate and enrich women worldwide and work towards making our world a better place for all.

## VISIT TO SURINAME



Above: Rose Rajbansee Central, South America & Caribbean Area President, visits a town in Suriname. Below: Rose travelling via motorbike

ACWW'S CENTRAL, SOUTH AMERICA & Caribbean Area President Rose Rajbansee, visited Moengo, a town in Suriname in northern South America, from 5th to 13th September 2012. She was accompanied by representatives of the Network Rural Women Producers. The purpose of the visit was to advise the Maroon Women's Network on the way forward. The Maroon Women's Network, which became a member of ACWW in 2012, is a network for individuals and women's organisations with the following objectives:

- To promote sustainable development of Maroon women through a network system
- To stimulate collaboration between Maroon women and the Maroon society
- To create a good consultative structure of Maroon women from the city and the interior through a network system.

The Network provides training and awareness activity for the women to empower themselves in their work and daily lives. The Network has trained women in income generating schemes, such as making soap, and a few of the women have continued with the making of soap and have sold these products to their local community.

The Network also promotes entrepreneurship among women of the Maroon community, which will help to support their families. Prior to Rose's visit to one of the Maroon Women's Network programme, she visited the District Commissioner of the District of Marowijne in his Moengo office. The Commissioner felt honoured with the courtesy visit and was very positive with the activities of the Network, promising to contribute to the activities of the Maroon Women Network.

### Meeting with the women

After the visit to the District Commission, Rose addressed the women's group at the conference room of the District Commissioner. She talked about the activity of ACWW and mentioned that the Network could submit a project proposal for funding to ACWW's Projects. The women shared

their views on the project proposal to be submitted and shared their experiences during their work.

### Visit to the Farm

Rose visited a farm where a programme was being carried out. She wanted to experience the work of the women and the conditions in which they did their farming activities. The products they planted were called 'Cush-Cush', 'Dasheen', 'Tanyer', 'Sweet potatoes' and 'Napi'. At one of the farms Rose visited, she learned that the women organised themselves to collectively help with the planting of one farm, after that was finished they moved onto another.

In addition to meeting the Maroon Women of Moengo, which was a four hour drive from the capital, Paramaribo, Rose also met with the Para Women who lived in and around Paramaribo.

These women comprised the following:

- Amerindian group
- Creole (from African decent)
- Indian (East Indians)
- Chinese
- Japanese
- and others

The main languages these women spoke were Dutch with Hindi, Chinese, Japanese and the Amerindians with their own local language. The Para Women Organisation is eager to become a society with ACWW in the near future.

### Evaluation and conclusion

The Maroon Women Network was honoured with the visit of the Area President. This visit motivated the women to continue with their work. It also gave the women the opportunity to broaden their horizons and it will help to share ideas and experience in their work to go forward.

### Acknowledgements by Area President Caribbean and Central and South America

Special thanks to the following:

- The women of Moengo and Para for giving home hospitality and all other transportation to the Area President.
- All the Government Officials who assisted in making the visit a successful and productive one.



- The Surinamese Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago for arranging the trip.
- Sonja Bron for the Photography.
- Justina Eduards for the narrative and compilation of the report.
- ACWW for financial assistance.
- To members of the Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago who accompanied me for their support.

## EUROPEAN AREA

## WOMEN'S POWER & INFLUENCE IN NORDIC SOCIETIES



Merja Siltanen, ACWW's European Area President

**The Nordic Women's League NKF** (Nordens Kvinnoforbund) is the oldest women's network

in the Nordic countries - Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Finland - with more than 75,000 individual members. All the member societies are also members of ACWW.

They are Hem och Samhalle, Sweden; Norges Kvinne- OG Familieforbund, Norway; Kvenfelagsamband Islands, Iceland; Marttaliitto (the Martha Association) and Finland's Svenska Marthafarbund. Its most important, international activity is the Nordic summer conference being organised in one of the Nordic countries in June and August of each year.

In June 2012, a conference for the Nordic Women's League was held with the theme: 'Women's Power and Influence in Nordic Societies'. The conference was held in Iceland Air Hotel Natura in Reykjavik, which is the capital of Iceland. Altogether, roughly 120 women from Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Finland participated in the conference that ran from 8th to 10th June.

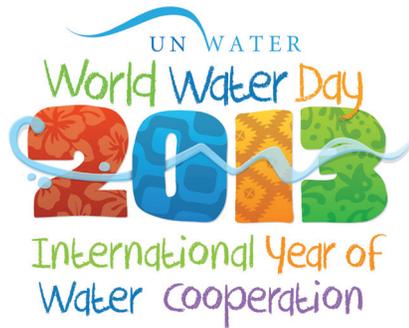
At the conference, ACWW's European Area President, Merja Siltanen, delivered a speech on ACWW's history, aims and work with special emphasis on the many successful projects financed and made possible via ACWW. She also spoke about the 2013 Triennial Conference. Her speech was well received and following several discussions, several women became interested in becoming individual members.

During the conference, workshops were organised and women shared experiences of their organisations activities.

# WATER & GENDER



Anphia Grobler, ACWW Deputy World President & Agriculture Committee Chairman



WATER MANAGEMENT is a worldwide concern; every human has the right to clean water. To think beyond the tap is almost impossible for those living in cities and areas in developed countries, where service providers manage water under strong policies. It is important to note that in agriculture, water is vital, especially in farming. Water and gender do not seem to have anything in common, yet it can be a major stumbling block for prosperity and

development. In aid of discussing water and gender, farming should be looked at from a different angle. According to Dr Barbara van Koppen, a leading Rural Sociologist and Gender Expert from the International Water Management Institute, farming takes place in four major patterns.

#### The four patterns of farming are:

**Male farmers** – where the men are the decision makers, mainly in developed countries

**Female farmers** – where women farm as individuals and are the decision makers, mainly in developing countries

**Separate farming system** – although the farming takes place on the same land, it is two separate businesses, where the male and female each has their own production portion

**Joint farming system** – male and female work together, sharing decision making processes, with a joint share of the income

Water usage is one of the main decisions farmers need to make. The safety aspect of water for human consumption is a priority. The household also needs water for sanitation, cleaning and cooking of food.

On the farm, water is needed for making bricks, planting crops and for drinking water

for livestock. Conflict can arise if the water needs for the household are overlooked. For example, for most women, collecting water could be just another of the many household chores. On the other hand, a female farmer might want to irrigate land and this can be seen as unnecessary by men.

Women should have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities in economic, social, cultural and political aspects of water development and management. The balance between use of water for humans on the one hand, and agricultural needs on the other, should be clearly formulated.

Keeping the mentioned, non academic patterns of farming in mind, conflict regarding gender and water in agriculture could be minimised. Women in agriculture are as valuable to food production as men.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has calculated that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, their increased yields could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by an estimated 2.5 – 4 percent, which could reduce the total number of hungry people by 12 – 17 percent and contributing to improve family nutrition and health.

## CLIMATE CHANGE A CAUSE OF SPIKES IN FOOD PRICES



Marketplace in Cameroon

RECENT RESEARCH has suggested that climate change is leading to greater hunger by making extreme weather events more likely. The recent drought in the US, with July 2012 being the hottest month ever in that country, is an example of severe weather driving up prices for food and therefore increasing food insecurity. This is most serious for people in developing countries, who spend up to 75% of their income on food. In Africa, one in three people are already chronically malnourished.

There are many negative consequences of such hunger and malnutrition; in children, for instance, it often leads to stunting, early marriage and withdrawal from school.

Another impact of sharp increases in food prices is political instability, including riots in low income countries.

Researchers argue that climate change could account for up to half of the increase in food prices in the next 20 years. The lack of preparation for such increases could be disastrous for vulnerable consumers as well as small-scale farmers, who find it difficult to purchase inputs and make investments when prices are volatile. And this volatility is increased by financial speculation on food, where banks and other speculators make bets on future food prices in financial markets. This type of speculation was a factor in the 2007-2008 global food crises and has almost doubled in volume since then.

At a policy level, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, commitment to environmental measures, and regulation of food speculation

are seen as necessary to reducing food insecurity. At a national level, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and others recommend a number of measures, such as preparing communities for disasters, building up food reserves, increasing adaptation to the effects of climate change, strengthening farmer organisations and cooperatives, and ensuring that social protection schemes are in place for the most vulnerable.

At a community level, observers are calling for more support to small-scale food producers in order to encourage greater self-sufficiency when it comes to food supplies.

One way to do so is the planting of local vegetable gardens, which is one of the aims of ACWW's Agriculture Committee.

These vegetable gardens ensure a source of food that is nutritious, low-cost, environmentally friendly and independently managed. As small gardens give more food-producing power to the grassroots people or communities, they should be encouraged in all countries.

# GROW LOCALLY,



Agriculture Campaign Logo

## ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

### The Background

Resolution 114, passed at the 2010 ACWW Triennial Conference in Hot Springs, calls for the retention of arable land for food production. One of the ACWW Agriculture Committee's objectives for the current triennium is to promote this resolution.

### Mission Statement

In light of the loss of arable land for production to mining, building of infrastructure and biofuels, leading to a world food shortage, ACWW encourages families to utilise their own vegetable gardens.

## THE BENEFITS OF VEGETABLE GARDENS

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) notes the following benefits of vegetable gardens:

- **ENVIRONMENT.** Gardens can help to conserve water and reduce waste. (This is particularly true of home gardens, which are usually organically managed.)
- **FOOD SECURITY.** Gardens lessen the impact of food price increases.
- **INCOME.** Even very small-scale gardening can be profitable, especially in rural areas. Much of the income gained from home gardens is spent in the community.
- **INCLUSIVENESS.** Gardens provide opportunities for disabled, elderly, poor and young people alike to participate in safe and productive activities.
- **NUTRITION.** Gardens provide the most affordable and accessible sources of vitamins and nutrients.
- **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.** Gardens increase women's involvement in independent economic activity. Also when women manage gardens, more produce is eaten by women and children.

### VEG GARDEN FACT BOX

Households with gardens usually obtain over half of their fruits and vegetables from their gardens.

Source: Marsh, R. 'Building on traditional gardening to improve household food security.'  
FAO Food, Nutrition and Agriculture.  
Issue 22. 1998.

## HOW TO START OR MAINTAIN A VEGETABLE GARDEN

There are many types of gardens including market gardens, kitchen gardens, community gardens and container gardens.

Several organisations offer plans for simple gardens that are suitable even for beginners.

An example is the food garden plan on page 11. Other garden types will be featured in future issues of The Countrywoman. For more vegetable gardening resources, including gardening manuals, please contact Central Office. You can also send in your gardening tips to share with others.

### VEG GARDEN FACT BOX

A very small mixed vegetable garden can provide 20% of your protein, iron and calcium needs, 80% of required vitamin A and 100% of required vitamin C.

Source: Marsh, R. 'Building on traditional gardening to improve household food security.'  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/X0051/T/X0051T00.htm>

### VEG GARDEN FACT BOX

In Indonesia, the gardens of poor farmers provide a quarter of their household income.

Source: Landon-Lane, C. FAO Diversification Booklet 2. Livelihoods grow in gardens: Diversifying rural incomes through home gardens. 2004.

### VEG GARDEN FACT BOX

Home gardens in the Philippines provide over 50% of the recommended daily allowance of calories.

Source: Mitchell, R. and Hanstad, T. FAO Livelihood Support Programme Working Paper 11. Small home garden plots and sustainable livelihoods for the poor. 2004.

# BENEFIT GLOBALLY

## GET INVOLVED: WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **ENCOURAGE EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES** to incorporate gardening into school curricula. For example: Lesley Young of the Agriculture Committee has reported on the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (see page 12) in Australia, which is funded by national and state governments and teaches school children how to grow, harvest, prepare and share food (<http://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/>)

- **ENCOURAGE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS** and community authorities to make unused land available for vegetable gardens and markets. For example: In the UK, the Space for Food Growing Guide, also known as the 'Spot a Plot' scheme, suggests ways for individuals and communities to request the use of vacant land for growing food. Visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/foodgrowingguide>

- **ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY CENTRES** and libraries to add gardening tools to their collections. For example: The US has many tool lending libraries and organisations like Share Starter provide guides for people to start their own tool lending libraries.

But these "libraries" don't have to be formal affairs; you could simply start a list of gardening resources that the people in your community are willing to share (<http://sharestarter.org/>).

- **START A VEGETABLE GARDEN** in your yard, school or community. For example: Rooftop gardens in a Palestinian refugee camp and kitchen gardens in a Haitian tent camp have been valuable in improving income and employment, and show that gardens can be started anywhere. If they can do it, so can you!

### Food Garden Plan

**GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES USING THE EASY FOOD GARDENS METHOD - FILL YOUR STOMACH, STAY HEALTHY AND SAVE MONEY!**

**1 MEASURE THE BED.** 2 METRES x 1 METRE

**2 DIG THE BED KNEE-DEEP.** 1 TOPSOIL, 2 SUBSOIL

**3 HALF-FILL WITH RUBBISH. WET THE RUBBISH.** USE ONLY RUBBISH THAT WILL ROT.

**4 COVER THE RUBBISH WITH SOIL. SUBSOIL FIRST.** 1 SUBSOIL, 2 TOPSOIL. MAKE THE BED 10cm HIGHER THAN THE GROUND. TOPSOIL, 10cm, RUBBISH

**5 COVER WITH MULCH.** DRY GRASS. FOR MULCH YOU CAN ALSO USE: DRY LEAVES, DRY CUT GRASS, NEWSPAPER, STONES.

**6 PLANT 4 OR 5 KINDS OF VEGETABLES.** MAKE 9 ROWS ABOUT 20cm APART. USE HAND TO MEASURE. 20cm

**7 WATER AND PROTECT THE BED.** MAKE YOUR OWN SPRINKLER AND YOUR OWN NET.

The Food Gardens method is good -  
 • it improves the soil  
 • it saves water  
 • you can grow many vegetables in a small space.  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FOR CHEAP SEED, WRITE TO

**FOOD GARDENS FOUNDATION**  
 BOX 41250 CRAIGHALL 2024  
 OR PHONE (011) 880-5956  
 FAX (011) 442-7642

## CONTACT US

We'd love to hear about your activities! Please send us photos of your vegetable gardens, news of your advocacy efforts, recipes that use home-grown vegetables, etc. for possible publication on ACWW's website or in The Countrywoman.

# GROWING VEGETABLES IN AUSTRALIA

**ACWW's Agriculture Committee** member, Lesley Young writes: Vegetable gardens have always been present in Australia, but changes are taking place. Vegetables used to be grown in backyards in the suburbs of Australian cities and towns and also in rural and remote communities. They used to provide the vegetables that the family needed for most of the year. However, over the years this has changed. Where people were previously able to purchase their veggies from the corner store, or from supermarkets, we now see this disappearing from the towns and cities, but still continuing in the outskirts.

Over the past few years there has been a resurgence of people growing their own vegetables, not just in their backyards but in community spaces.

A well known cook/chef in Australia, Stephanie Alexander, set up a programme for the growing of vegetables in schools. The 'Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation', established in 2001, is changing the way children approach and think about food, with over 260 schools, (around 35,000 children) getting their hands dirty and learning how to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh, seasonal food.

By engaging children's curiosity, as well as their energy and their taste buds, it will form the basis of positive lifelong eating habits.

Children spend structured time in the veggie garden and home-style kitchen as part of their everyday school experience and learn skills, as well as discover just how much fun it is, to grow and cook their own seasonal vegetables and fruits. The diversity of the locations of schools – from Coober Pedy in the outback, to Alawa in the tropics, to beachside Bondi – means that each school community has its own challenges and successes. But all are united in their passion to bring the benefits of food education to their students.

An ABC television station gardening programme has been highlighting the use of land between footpaths and the road and establishing verge gardens. Streets are beginning to have vegetables and herbs growing down the verges and neighbours are working together to maintain them.

A project has been undertaken in the Northern Territory with Indigenous communities commencing community gardens with a twofold purpose; the project is introducing traditional native foods back into the diet and is also a source of fresh fruit and vegetables for people in these remote communities. This entire upsurge in vegetable and fruit growing in backyards and in communities is supporting the push for the use of Australian produce.

# A CHILD'S RIGHTS



A child in Morocco

SHARON HATTEN, ACWW UN Committee Chairman writes: Recently, I received an email from the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights asking for feedback about a child's rights to health. Information was requested on the main health challenges related to children. The main barrier in implementing children's right to health when it came to protecting and promoting good practices, was relating children's right to health to children whose circumstances were especially difficult.

A simple email sent to the nine ACWW Area Presidents and 15 other ACWW members resulted in an overwhelming response, when it came to discussing a child's right to health. Women were interested in sharing the challenges and the successes. The responses came from as far as Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Norway, Scotland, South Africa, USA, Trinidad and Gambia etc. I had reports about children who went to jail with their parents; children who suffered from the cultural practises of female genital mutilation; children who were spanked with sticks resulting in long term injury and deformity; children who suffered from poor nutrition – either too much of the wrong food, or not enough of any food; children who suffered from a lack of a government's will to change policies that would benefit

children; parents who suffered from substance abuse and who were unable to nurture their children; the lack of family support structures when children had very young mothers, or a single parent; children suffering from curable or preventable diseases, because of lack of water and sanitation; the lack of early childhood screening programmes for hearing and vision resulting in long term disability; childhood labour; youth suicide; distance and isolation and children who suffered simply because their parents did not want outside intervention or support.

The ACWW member societies have responded to these challenges and barriers by providing programmes and infrastructures. Examples include mobile clinics; networking with medical students; family health centres; vaccination programmes; income generating programmes for mothers; programmes for mothers to learn child care and cooking skills; encouraging the youth to learn about home economics. There are also school feeding programmes; Royal Flying Doctor service in Australia; advertising good practices; programmes for preschool children and youth; programmes that are sensitive to the needs of indigenous peoples; breast feeding clinics; advertising to stop violence against women and children; mental health programmes for youth; teaching children the benefit of exercise and healthy play; teaching cooking and caring classes and providing the 'support shoulder' for those who need one.

From prenatal care to babies and children, families need advice, education and support and governments and non-governmental organisations need to continue to work together to ensure these requirements are fulfilled. Governments need to be lobbied to pass appropriate family laws and child labour laws; provide the infrastructure to rural areas such as roads, schools, health clinics and hospitals and enable appropriate economic development.

The UN defines 'children' as every human being below the age of 18 unless the law of his or her country deems him or her to be an adult at an earlier age, which is rare. UNICEF estimates that 130 million children are born each year and in many countries children represent more than 50% of the population.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A FRIEND OF ACWW'S UN COMMITTEE?

From time to time, ACWW's UN Committee would like to invite you to attend UN functions held in various locations around the world. Often it is more appropriate for women in the regions to attend. If you are interested in doing this, please contact me, Sharon Hatten the UN Committee Chairman at [un@acww.org.uk](mailto:un@acww.org.uk).

# ACWW, THE UN & HUMAN RIGHTS

VALERIE STEVENS, ACWW UN Committee member, writes: Each member of ACWW's UN Committee has the responsibility of monitoring key areas of UN policy and reporting her findings at the twice yearly committee meetings. My given area is that of Human Rights.

With Eleanor Roosevelt in the Chair, the Commission on Human Rights began work in April 1946. Finding the right words was a monumental task. The phrase 'All Men' was finally resolved as 'All Human Beings', which became the definitive term in the draft. Debate continued and at 3am on 10th December 1948, the General Assembly voted to adopt the draft. The thirty articles begin with a statement which recognised that all members of the human family had the inalienable right to freedom, justice and peace in the world. That being so, they had the right to freedom of access to medical and educational facilities, to food, public services, employment, rest and leisure; they had the right to freedom of thought, religion, conscience, their own nationality, their choice of marriage; they had the right to equality before the law; freedom from torture; exile; hunger; slavery and arbitrary arrest.

It was clear that this all-encompassing list had more expectation than realisation, more hope than fulfillment. We are aware that our world has scarcely begun to realise these aspirations and ambitions. It is evident that many of those countries, which were instrumental in setting up this vision, have fallen short in its execution. It is clear that these aims and ambitions can only be achieved in so far as signatories have the will to do so.

To illustrate the enormity of the tasks and the restrictions placed upon those who seek to implement them, I have selected three examples from a national newspaper (The Independent, September/ October, 2012). They are examples of international, national, community and perceived individual violations for which the Declaration of Human Rights has become the standard.

- Civil war in Syria and the Human Rights issues it is creating. The inability of action on the part of any nation or agency to save civilian lives, let alone continue with the basic processes of living became all too apparent this week (28th September 2012), when the Human Rights Council suspended its activity and its spokesperson admitted its hands were tied.

- The position of the poorest slum dwellers in Nairobi where 2.65 million of its 4 million inhabitants live in slums. Corruptions in the police and court systems, land grabbing and the enormous population explosion, have put all thirty Articles of the Human Rights Declaration under scrutiny.

Two thirds of the population live in shacks measuring less than 5x5 metres; three hundred and eighteen slum dwellers, three quarters of them less than 35 years old and forty per cent unemployed, are living on an acre of land. Two households per acre live in Nairobi's wealthy suburbs near the UN complex in Runda. The UN's Millennium Development Goals seem out of reach. Razing the slums to the ground has done and will do nothing to achieve Human Rights for the slum dwellers.

- Individuals call upon the Human Rights provisions to protect themselves from many kinds of discrimination and dangers. The issues relating to the WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, now in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, will be solved by the extensive human rights safeguards in UK extradition law.

Navanethem Pillay, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights reminded the OHCHR\* conference on 19th October 2011 that there are 56 human rights field presences and a Rapid Response Section whose expertise is solicited more than ever.

OHCHR news, week beginning 20th September 2012 included concerns about Syria, DR of Congo, Sudan and S. Sudan and Cambodia. In Georgia – prisoner abuse exposed on TV footage was condemned; in Pakistan – serious challenges remain to stop enforced disappearing; in Iran – experts voice their concern over the situation of religious minorities; in Libya much work remains to consolidate what has already been achieved.

The UN 'Good News' page sounds a more positive note:

- From India where a total ban on child labour has been enacted
- From Myanmar where direct media censorship has been abolished
- From Ecuador where it was established that the government had exceeded its rights in relation to the communal property and cultural identity of indigenous people
- From Libya where there was a high turnout for the first free national election for 60 years
- From Peru where a promise has been made to fight for the eradication of child labour
- From Malawi where the President has vowed to repeal the ban on gays

There are many more stories, reported and unreported, where nations, societies and communities are edging towards the benchmarks set by the Declaration of Human Rights. Unfortunately, the violations, the suffering and the horror continue.

ACWW has a part to play in making a difference.

\*Office of the Human Commissioner for Human Rights

## MY TIME AS AN AREA PRESIDENT



Sister Viji – Area President for Central & South Asia

**Sister Viji** is a member of Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI), the Host Society for the next Triennial

Conference in Chennai, 2013. Reflecting on her time as Area President, she recalls one particularly memorable experience: "I visited a project for welfare of the Treble people in Tamilnadu who live on top of a hill.

To reach them we walked 7km in the hills and when we arrived, all were gathered together and received us happily, offering us food they had collected.

Through talking with them I came to learn how difficult life is in the hills. Through ACWW's support, their children are studying in the mainland and they have learned to bargain for their rights. I was impressed by their gratitude and confidence."



Ruth Shanks - Area President South Pacific

**Ruth Shanks** has been a member of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales for 43 years. She

reports on the most enjoyable aspects of her term: "The opportunity to meet and learn about other countries within our Area has been amazing. 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.



Rose Rajbansee – Area President Caribbean, Central and South America

**For Rose**, a former President of her WI in Trinidad and Tobago, her time as Area President has meant helping

poor women to engage in income generating activities so that they can make better lives for their children and themselves.

Rose says "I have also enjoyed meeting women from all over the world and learning about different cultures. In fact, I have realised that the more we appear to be different, the more we are the same!"



# CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

THE HOST SOCIETY DMI has negotiated with **Hoteliers** for discounted room rent for the benefit of Conference delegates in selected hotels near the Conference venue in Chennai. In order to book accommodation online, after conference registration, delegates are **requested to quote their registration number** and use the link given in the website **www.acwwindia2013.com**. For offline booking, accommodation reservation forms may be used. Further details available at [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk).



**VIJAY PARK**  
(30 Rooms reserved for conference delegates)

Deluxe Single US \$45  
Deluxe Double US \$51  
Executive Suite US \$98  
12.5% Luxury tax and 5.15% Service Tax  
<http://www.thevijaypark.com/>



**AMBICA EMPIRE**  
(30 Rooms reserved for conference delegates)

Standard Single US \$ 70  
Standard Double US \$79  
Deluxe Single US \$112  
Deluxe Double US \$122  
Executive Single US \$127  
18.68% Luxury Tax & Service Tax  
<http://www.ambicaempire.com/>



**GREEN PARK HOTELS**  
(20 Rooms reserved for conference delegates)

Deluxe Single US \$108  
Deluxe Double US \$108  
Executive US \$ 206  
12.5% Luxury Tax  
[www.hotelgreenpark.com](http://www.hotelgreenpark.com)

Deluxe Single US \$152  
Deluxe Double US \$176  
Deluxe Garden View Single US \$200  
Deluxe Garden View Double US \$230  
12.5% Luxury Tax and 7.42% Service Tax  
<http://www.tridenthotels.com>



**LE ROYAL MÉRIDIEN**  
(150 Rooms reserved for conference delegates)

Standard Single US \$196  
Standard Double US \$215  
12.5% Luxury Tax and 7.42% Service Tax  
<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/lemeridien/>



**HILTON**  
(70 Rooms reserved for conference delegates)

Standard Single US \$217  
Standard Double US \$217  
12.5% Luxury Tax and 7.42% Service Tax  
<http://www.3.hilton.com>

## WHY ATTEND A WORLD CONFERENCE?

HENRIETTA SCHOEMAN, ACWW's Finance Committee member writes: The membership of ACWW is currently spread across over 70 countries. Being a member of a society, or an individual member, is what binds us together. At Triennial Conferences, we share common problems and women's experiences from around the globe and seek solutions. Despite language barriers and cultural differences, women share experiences from their daily lives. The strong network supplied by ACWW members can become life-changing for many women around the world.

This is precisely the reason why no member should miss a world conference, if it is in their means to attend. The compassion felt by women for each other's daily struggles, binds us together. The realisation that we are all affected by health, nutrition, generating incomes, education and other matters that affect communities and families, should be paramount in our decision regarding attending such a meeting of women, for women. The collective knowledge of our members can solve many a problem and being at a conference is the perfect stage to make solutions known.

As the Triennial Conference is the decision making body of ACWW, the inputs by attendees is of immeasurable importance. This is where we also learn about the financial aspects of running ACWW and how our contributions are spent in a structured and responsible way; ensuring projects continue to be supported. Triennial Conference attendance means making friends throughout the world and enriching our minds as well as giving our perspectives on common matters.



**TRIDENT CHENNAI**  
(50 rooms reserved for conference delegates)

## CHARMS OF INDIA



Chennai

### Captivating Chennai

Tamil Nadu, the southernmost state of India, is a land where traditions and culture blend to offer visitors all they can hope for and much more. Chennai capital is an attraction for both the young and old alike, starting from an innocent child who loves to collect pebbles along the sea's shoreline, to the respectable elder who seeks spiritual solace in shrines of enlightenment.



Santhome Cathedral Basilica Chennai

### Balmy Beaches, Blissful Shrines

Marina Beach, claimed to be the second longest in the world, has a wide sandy sea shoreline that offers an idyllic spot for relaxation. Wetting one's feet along the shore and watching the sun rise and set is a fascinating experience. A five minute drive or a half hour walk from Marina will take you to Santhome Cathedral, where the martyred body of St. Thomas, the direct apostle of Jesus Christ, is believed to have been buried. At equal distance is Mylapore where there is an 8th century Pallava temple Kapaleeswarar temple and the Gopuram (tower), of which is characteristic of Dravidian style architecture. Around are many more temples and other ancient attractions.

### A City that Celebrates Unity

Elliot's Beach, far from the madding crowd of Marina, is great for spending quality time with family and friends. Adjacent to it is the famous Annai Velankanni Church, a Marian Shrine, alongside is the Ashtalakshmi Temple revered by Hindus. If you move a little further from Besant Nagar, you will find yourself in the Theosophical Society, Adyar, situated in beautiful sylvan settings, that encourages the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science. Apart from shrines of all faiths and the peaceful Garden of Remembrance, there is a 95-year old library, which has a very good collection of rare Oriental manuscripts

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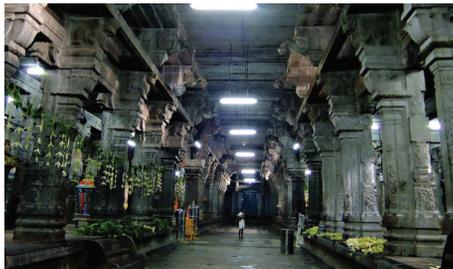


The Pondicherry Beach

written on palm leaves and parchment. There is also a huge banyan tree that is a few hundred years old!

**A Lot for those who love Learning**

A two kilometre travel from Adyar will bring you to Guindy National Park which is spread over an area of 270 hectares of dry evergreen scrub and thorn forests which houses birds, animals, vertebrates and invertebrates of rare species and beside it is a snake park. On the left are several memorials built in honour of great leaders. On the road perpendicular to the park are Birla Planetarium and Aringar Anna Centenary Library, each very special in its own way. Aringar Anna Zoological Park - Vandalur, in the south western region of Chennai, is a habitat for exotic and endangered species with safari and eco-drives.



Kancheepuram Ekambaranathar Temple, Corridor I

**Resplendent City with Rare Reminiscences**

Also within the city are places of importance like Fort St. George built during the Colonial occupation, St. Mary's Church and Fort Museum within the Campus, the War Memorial, The Island Grounds, The High Court with the decorative domes and corridors reminiscent of Indo/Saracenic architecture, the Rippon Buildings, the Connemara library, Valluvar Kottam in honour of the saintly poet who gave immortal couplets, Kalakshetra, a temple of art where music recitals and dance performances are taught and performed and several other places.

**Ancient Memoirs, Aesthetic Beauty**

While the City itself has so much to offer,



Pondicheri Pongdi Gandhi

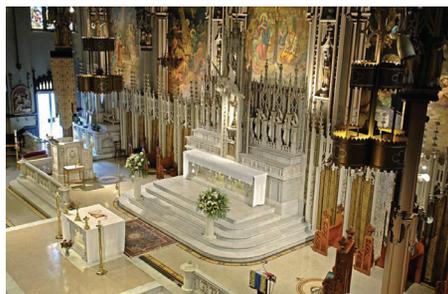


Mahabalipuram



Mahabalipuram Beach Temple

a one or two hour journey in any direction will take you to mind-blowing experiences. Mahabalipuram, the sculpture town with its rock hewn temples and dance festivals, is an enthraller. On the way to Mahabalipuram, you can stop at many places like Dakshinachitra, a house replicate with the ethnic life and ethos of the different states of India, Muttukadu boat house, Crocodile Bank and a score of theme parks.



Pondicherry Our Lady Church

**Pondicherry, Pleasant and Placating**

Proceeding a little ahead, you will feel welcome in the clean ambience of Pondicherry which was historically a French Colony. Colonial buildings, some which trace back to the 18th century, Gothic Churches, the sprawling premises of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville, the international City of Unity, and a modest beach which is an ideal place for swimming and sun bathing, are few of its attractions.



Vivekananda House & Museum, Chennai



Bharatnatyam NrityaGriha

**The Silk Town Kanchipuram**

Travelling Southwest of Chennai, you can arrive at the ancient Kanchipuram in an hour. It is known as the city of 'a thousand temples'. There now remain about 126 Hindu temples in the town and a few more in the outskirts. It is an important place of pilgrimage for Buddhists and Jains alike. It has an enviable reputation for the best silk Sarees produced. Woven from pure mulberry silk, the Sarees in dazzling colours are embellished with fine gold thread (Zari). With Sarees available in every imaginable design and variety, it can make selection quite challenging.



Bharatnatyam Shridha

**A Cosmopolitan City with All Comforts**

Holidaying in Chennai and the places around is not at all taxing. Being a truly cosmopolitan city, Chennai has every type of comfort at affordable prices. It has impressive hotels, refreshing restaurants, dazzling shopping malls, scintillating art galleries and elegant entertainment and cinema houses. There are also rail and road networks, banking and currency exchange facilities and everything else a visitor would wish to have without a hassle.

**Have an Enthralling Experience!**

A hearty welcome to the gateway of South India! Chennai and its surroundings are not simply tourist attractions, they are life time experiences. Experience it and feel enthralled - be prepared for a different type of palate, not only to your tongue - with Idli Sambar a local Indian dish - but to your mind and soul, with eye-catching sights and soul-searching insights!



Skywalk Chennai

## SOCIETY FEEDBACK



ACWW was approached in the summer of 2012 to get involved in a worldwide project being run from Malaysia called 'Hand in Hand, Piecing together'. The Programme, run by Persatuan Seni Jahitan Kreatif Malaysia (The Association of Creative Sewing Art of Malaysia), of whom our Area President, HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar is Patron, aims to promote the advantages and importance of creative sewing skills to women as an expression of love, a way to improve the household economy and as a fun hobby.

The programme asked NGOs worldwide, women's organisations, or women's institutes to contribute one piece of quilt block each,

## HAND IN HAND, PIECING TOGETHER HOPE OF LOVE QUILT

which would be added to the others and called the 'Hope of Love Quilt'. The quilt would show the identity, art and culture of each of the respective countries involved.

ACWW asked long time member and crafter Susan Watkins, of Derbyshire, to take on the challenge of preparing a block for 'England'. Inspired, Susan got to work on the quilt block, and the results are clear to see in the photographs (left). Susan said "Like so many ideas coming through ACWW, the idea of a collection of 100 quilts from 100 different countries appealed to me enormously. It was a great surprise to be asked to make the England exhibit for a quilt collection the Malaysian women were to assemble. What a challenge to represent my country and culture abroad! Since becoming familiar with ACWW some years ago, I felt when I was coming up with the design I needed to include the circle of friendship in my square. In the Calendar Girls 2003 film, it suggested that all women were different shapes and sizes, were of different ethnicities and had different abilities, as varied as flowers! Suddenly it all fell into place."

"I began making a design using a sunflower but felt it limited what I wished to encompass. I wanted the piece to be immediately appealing but also to have more layers of symbolism, for example incorporating campaigning and ACWW's work towards a greener future. With the circle of flowers symbolising women holding hands in the circle of friendship, the choice of flowers was the most difficult. The actual choice of flowers and leaves eventually came down to colour, size and meaning."

Susan explained that each flower and leaf represented an English girls name and each plant represents a quality of life. Three generations of fabric were used in the quilt—Susan's daughter's childhood shorts, fabric from Susan's curtains and from her mother-in-law's curtains as well.

Susan concludes "It has been an honour and huge pleasure to work on this little quilt. I hope you like it too. If it brings a smile to your face, my 'hope of love' has been fulfilled!" The quilt blocks will be displayed in an exhibition in Malaysia in May 2013.

## IN MEMORY



**Joan Coady 1915 – 2012**

The Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) was saddened by the passing of one of their members Joan Coady RIP 1915 – 2012.

Joan Coady was a stalwart of ICA and her contributions at Federation (County), National and European level are hugely valued. Joan joined the ICA in Dublin in the 1950's and immediately became immersed in the Association. She was actively involved serving at many levels.

In 1954 The Kellogg's Foundation gifted ICA with the Adult Education College 'An Grianán' and Joan became the founder and editor of 'An Grianán' News Quarterly, a very important publication at the time, as it circulated news and activities of the association to its members nationwide. In the late 1960s she moved to Waterford and played an active role in Tramore Guild and Waterford Federation. In 1987, Joan received the highest accolade that ICA could bestow on a member, by making her a Buan Cara, an honour for exceptional service.

Joan had a huge interest in ACWW and was a regular attendee at the Triennial Conferences. In 1965, when ICA hosted the Triennial Conference in Dublin, Joan was the Honorary Co-ordinating Secretary. She was elected ACWW European Area President in Hamburg in 1980 and served for the three year term. This was a tremendous honour for ICA and especially for Joan. In 1986 when ICA hosted the Triennial Conference in

Killarney, Joan was an Advisory member for the Organising Committee. Although not so active in recent years, Joan Coady has always been remembered - may she rest in peace.



**Mildred Keith  
1937-2012**

Mildred Josephine Keith (nee Coates), 74, passed away peacefully with family at her side at Monarch Hall, Riverview

on Friday, October 26, 2012. Born in Kinnear Settlement on 18th December, 1937, she was a daughter of the late Ward and Florence (nee Henry) Coates. Mildred was married to Ralph Douglas Keith and they raised their family in Lower Ridge, New Brunswick. Together for over 50 years they worked the farm and proudly watched their four boys become men. Mildred's first love was indeed her family and her second love was for the Women's Institute. She attended meetings for over 50 years and during that time she held titles, which included: President of her branch Lower Ridge WI and President of the New Brunswick WI.

Her knowledge and dedication continued when she became President of the Federated WI of Canada, where she represented all of Canada and spoke passionately about women's and children's issues for not only Canada but the world.

Her final pinnacle came when she was made Area President for Canada with ACWW, whereby she represented her country on the international level. Her time with the WI allowed her to develop her interests in travelling both in Canada and

abroad. Mildred Josephine Keith is survived and sadly missed by her beloved husband Ralph, her sons, daughter in law, seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, as well as her sisters and sisters in law and many nephews and nieces.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



**CHOCOLATE REFRIGERATOR CAKE**  
Alison Bayley, Scotland

3 ounces butter  
1 ounce sugar  
1 tablespoon golden syrup  
4 ounces plain chocolate  
8 ounces digestive biscuits (or other biscuits that can be crushed into crumbs, e.g. Grahams crackers)  
Crush biscuits into crumbs. \*\*Melt chocolate. Cream butter and sugar.  
Beat in syrup and chocolate. \*\* Add the crumbs. Pack mixture into cake tin.  
Place in refrigerator until set.  
\*\* Alternatively: Melt butter over low heat. Add sugar and syrup. Mix in chocolate while mixture is sufficiently warm to melt chocolate. \*\* Quantities of ingredients can be scaled up so that mixture fills a larger baking tray.

## VISIT TO DERBYSHIRE



Left to right: Susan Watkins, Derbyshire Federation; ACWW Operations Manager, Lisa Barker & ACWW UN Committee, Valerie Stevens

On Monday 19th November, Derbyshire Federation in the UK hosted an ACWW Supporters Group meeting alongside an International Market, with stalls selling produce from around the world. Over 60 ladies took part and heard Valerie Stevens from the ACWW UN Committee speak about the importance of working with the UN to improve the lives of women and girls

worldwide. Operations Manager Lisa Barker was presented with a significant donation for the 'Water for All Fund' by the West Midlands Federation and ACWW would like to thank all involved for their hard work and dedication. Thanks also go to Repton WI for their donation and to Baslow WI who presented a cheque raised for a project they are sponsoring.

## A BRILLIANT FUND RAISING & AWARENESS EFFORT FOR ACWW

Elaine Cuzner, ACWW Rep for Lancashire FWI in England, organised a card making competition at the end of summer 2012. For making the cards, the winner would receive a £20 voucher. The competition was successful and it raised just short of £200 for ACWW.

In autumn of 2012 Elaine's WI at Mawdesley held a grocery raffle. Members were asked to bring groceries in for 2 months and Elaine then made up a hamper which was raffled, this raised £60. During that time Elaine's WI held their Autumn Council meeting at Preston, at which Elaine gave a 5 minute speech on ACWW. The comments about her speech were positive; one member said that in the 35 years she had been a WI member; Elaine's was the most informative and best delivered speech she had heard on any charity!

## OLYMPIC DREAMS



Sylvia Baker, 87, who is President of Patcham Morning WI and a dual member of Preston Village WI in England, was chosen to be an Olympic torch bearer in the summer of 2012 after being nominated by her daughter.

Before her retirement Sylvia was a swimming teacher at St Mary's Hall School in Brighton. Coming from a family of sportsmen and women, sports had always been her passion. Following the torch carrying, Sylvia had tea with the Mayor of Brighton and Hove and met Steve Ovet, a

former Olympic middle distance runner from England. She reports that she is still on a high and does not think she will ever come back down to reality! This year Sylvia plans to visit as many WI's as possible using her bus pass, and hopes to hold a raffle at each one, using knitted 'Town Crier' dolls as prizes. She said 'I live life to the full by keeping active, getting involved, inspiring others, raising money for charity and never thinking I'm too old to try something new. When adversity strikes, I look for the silver lining and being involved in sport throughout my life has given me the strength of spirit to do so. People call me crazy as I do so much, but life is for living'. We wish her well and hope to bring her story later on in the year.



Sylvia Baker, carrying the Olympic torch

## ANNE MARIT HOVSTAD HONOURED



Anne Marit with Trude Drevland Mayor of Bergen and Elisabeth Rusdal, President of Anne Marit's society

Anne Marit Hovstad, ACWW Projects Committee member, from Norway, who is also the Project leader from the Women's Association from Sibiu / Romania, was honoured with a very important award of His Majesty the Norwegian King's Medal of Merit' in silver.

The medal was represented to Anne Marit by Trude Drevland, Mayor of Bergen, at the Norwegian Women and Family Association organisation's National Congress opening ceremony, at which 140 were in attendance. The Norwegian Women and Family Association have their National Congresses only every second year and in 2012 the

Congress was held in Bergen - in the western part of Norway. Anne Marit was honoured due to all her national and international work, as well as for her work within ACWW.

## ZIPPY NOMAD DOES IT AGAIN



To celebrate ACWW's international Board meetings, which were held in October 2012, Zippy Nomad decided to visit as many WIs as she could in England to raise ACWW's profile once more and raise money at the same time. On target to complete 100 WI visits in 2012, Zippy Nomad visited WIs in Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Essex. We wonder if this is a record? Please help Zippy Nomad in her quest to raise funds for ACWW, by purchasing her book, 'Wizzing Round Britain-Celebrating Fellowship amid Jam and Jerusalem' at [www.zippynomad.com/buy-the-book](http://www.zippynomad.com/buy-the-book) Paperback.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ICA

The Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) has a long association with ACWW, since one of its members, Lucy Franks, was enrolled as one of 'The Hundred Founding Friends' in 1933. Anne Maria Dennison, former ICA National President 2009-2011, said, "In 2011 ICA hosted the European Area Conference in Dublin, which was one of the highlights in my term of office as ICA National President. We are pleased to add that two of our members served as European Area President, Joan Coady 1980 - 1983, who unfortunately passed away in 2012 and the late Margaret Earraught 1983 - 1986. It was a great honour for ICA that our members were elected to hold this office.

I would also like to say that during the 1980s, the Triennial Conference was held in Killarney (Ireland) in 1965 and in Dublin in 1986. Through our Guilds' (branch) International Officers, we continue to promote the work of ACWW and our member's organise fundraisers to support and promote the great work of ACWW."

## CONGRATULATIONS **ELSIE BROWN**



Elizabeth Brown wearing her British Empire Medal (BEM)

11TH SEPTEMBER 2012 saw the sun shining on a clear morning, when a special thanksgiving service to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was held at Melrose Parish Church in Scotland. It was full to bursting with around 600 guests, drawn in from across the Borders, along with Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, who was representing the Queen. The service was conducted by the Reverend Alistair Bennett, minister of Bowden and Melrose Parish Church and Chaplain to The Queen in Scotland.

As well as paying tribute to the Queen, the event celebrated the achievements of many of the guests, including our very own Elizabeth Brown, who is fondly known as Elsie. Elsie Brown, who is a former UN and Agriculture Committee member from Ayton and a member of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes (SWRI) and Ayton Women's Rural Institute (WRI) for many years, was presented with the British Empire Medal (BEM).

Elsie, who was honoured for both her community and charity work, said she was absolutely delighted to have received the award, adding the Princess has shown a keen interest in her charity work.

Elsie said "ACWW is the only charity the SWRI is affiliated with, and I have helped raise £5,000 for one of its projects in Sierra Leone. Princess Anne asked if I had been out there, but I hadn't, although I have a good friend who has spent many years there.

Elsie continued "I think my involvement in charities is hereditary, my parents were very involved in the community and always attend community events to help people. I think having come through the war did that to you. I've thoroughly enjoyed the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes, which I joined when I came to Berwickshire in 1961. I've taken advantage of the projects SWRI has been involved with and travelled all over the world, making great friends."

## BEADS, QUIZZES, A RAFFLE & JAMS



Three of the event helpers Binegar WI and husbands planting a tree in the autumn of 2012, as part of the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

APPROXIMATELY 80 plus people attended an event at Binegar Village Hall, England on 1st August 2012. There were displays: ACWW leaflets, two tables for fair trade goods, jams from Jackie Gregory from the West Midlands and quizzes available about Belarus and Iceland. There was also a darts competition and a 'guess the beads in a jar' run by Jackie. The prize for 'guess the beads in a jar' was a beaded necklace.

Members from as far away as Somerset attended, and were joined by Reps and friends from Devon, Dorset, Wiltshire, Surrey, Worcester and the West Midlands plus the Chair and Vice-Chair of Somerset Federation.

The first speaker at the event was Valerie Stevens, ACWW UN Committee member, who told attendees of her second trip to Belarus in 2012. It was very poignant as she told them about the war victims and the many thousands of Jewish people who died in the two wars. The war affected the citizens of Belarus a great deal because it was a through

route for so many armies and countries. She stated that many in the cities tended to avoid the memorials of the past Jewish people who once lived there, because the thought of the horror, where hundreds of thousands of people had been killed was almost 'too much' for them.

The second speaker Kay Trippick, Ambassador for the Children of Chernobyl, told the attendees fairly briefly of her involvement, her visits and her impressions of the country. Especially in regards to Belarus, being in the direct 'line of fire' from the doomed reactor and the fact people still suffer today from radiation.

Mary Andrews, ACWW Triennial Committee member, presented a short presentation on the upcoming Triennial Conference in Chennai. She mentioned the 'recycled bag' competition and Eileen Hurd, ACWW P&P Committee member, amused people with her knitted bag lined with an old trouser leg plus a waistband handle.

Eileen told members about the reports from those who were unable to attend and spoke about Women Walk the World and its successes. Susan Jonas, ACWW Rep from Wiltshire, told about the resolution she hopes to send to ACWW for inclusion in Chennai. If accepted by the ACWW Board the subject would be: 'Energy for All'.

During the lunch break, the quiz and darts were played as well as 'guess the beads in a jar' and the raffle, while some bought jams from the fairtrade tables.

The speaker, Dr Robert Chaplow, a retired Geologist from Wantage, Oxfordshire, England spoke about a holiday with his wife in Iceland with special emphasis on the geology of Iceland. He gave a fascinating lecture -

many thanks went to him for coming down from Oxford area to join the event. This was followed by a cream tea, results of the quiz and raffle.

The whole day was much enjoyed - many thanks went to Binegar members who rallied around, making so many drinks for everyone on arrival at lunch and tea time, and for their unfailing good natured help. The total raised for the Somerset Project was £685.66.

## GRANTED A SCHOLARSHIP



In 2011 a student Judith Anyango was granted the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship from ACWW to go towards studying for her, BSc in Community Health. With hard work and dedication she managed to pass the first two years achieving both A's and B's in subjects such as, Human Anatomy, Medical Microbiology, Clinical Chemistry and HIV/AIDS. Judith will soon be going onto her third and final year, which will see her graduate in 2013. Well Done!

# PROJECTS FINAL REPORTS



## UGANDA Psychosocial Support and Reintegration of Vulnerable Children into the Community with Emphasis on the Girl Child Prisoner

The project run by Companionship of Works Association (COWA) involved working with child prisoners between the ages of 14 – 17.

The project titled 'Psychosocial Support and Reintegration of Vulnerable Children into the Community with Emphasis on the Girl Child Prisoner' covered various activities like skills training and counselling with COWA staff.

At least 250 children have so far acquired skills in crafts, including carpentry and joinery, wood carving, knitting and tailoring, as well as weaving and bead making. Other skills include computer studies and gardening. Under this arrangement, the children have been taught how to optimally use small plots of land for farming. Through this activity, the children have also been able to supplement their diets from the garden harvests of bananas, cassava, greens and vegetables.

During the program implementation period, 36 juveniles including 6 females, participated in the international children's day of broadcasting, where each of the participants received a token of appreciation. With the funds from ACWW, there was support for the rehabilitation of the children

and many were able to access justice leading to the release of 119 children.

There were some minor problems faced during the project, where the mandatory time of imprisonment was six months, thus making it hard for the children to acquire all the required skills in that space of time. This led to the release of children with lack of skills, with several of them end up being rearrested. Also some of the activities like wood carving involved the use of expensive materials, making it hard to sustain the training. Lack of market for some finished products, like the paper beads was another problem, making it hard to replenish the supplies.

However, apart from some setbacks, COWA has had the opportunity to interact with and learn from various stakeholders. Through networking, they have been able to further enrich their experiences, share ideas and improve the lives of some of the children whom their society seem to have forgotten and who are continually suffering in silence.



## ROMANIA Women's Association from Sibiu/ Romania (Asociatia Femeilor din Sibiu): "Knitting to Secure Women and Children, Victims of Domestic Violence"

The Women's Association from Sibiu Romania, Asociatia Femeilor din Sibiu who received funding for a project intended to help women and children of domestic violence, have provided ACWW with a final report. The funding received enabled the organisation to set up a shelter and buy materials for income generating projects such as knitting and selling teddy bears. The organisation discovered that the skills and experience could be used after the women and children left the shelter.

All of the women have been involved in making teddy bears and other items for sale. Some of them have learned how to use a sewing machine, make cuddly toys, crochet bags and pot holders. They have saved money and become more independent when leaving the shelter.

During their time, the sheltered women were helped to overcome the traumas from, in some cases, years of domestic abuse.

They discovered they were able to do things, which they did not believe they could do, helping them to become more conscious of their possibilities and to raise their self esteem. The mothers were also involved in their children's activities, which has led to the development of a closer relationship and better communication.

The organisation knew from experience that doing handicraft could be therapeutic. A spokesperson said "When our victims of domestic violence have a useful occupation they forget their problems for a while and become calmer and so it is with the children. The children are less aggressive and become more cooperative when they participate in our programmes."

in the Adamaighi upazila of Bogra district had no latrines at all and without access to tube-well water, 25% of families were using pond or river water for drinking and cooking purposes. In this region, about 30 children die every year of water borne diseases and 50% of the mothers suffer from diarrhoea, dysentery, jaundice, worms, gastritis, pneumonia and other fatal diseases.

However, the sanitation project by POWER (Platform of Women's Empowerment and Right) means the families (made up of 142 women, 250 children and 138 men) now have fewer healthcare costs and the improved conditions are allowing them to build their health in order to work and earn a living.

The women from the families were given one day orientation training about equipment maintenance, protection and self-sustainability. POWER report that one of the key lessons from the project was that it's essential to develop the latent potential of beneficiaries. The orientation was not just one-way, but a mutual exchange of ideas and an opportunity for all of the women to get involved.

Another group of beneficiaries from the project are women from the surrounding areas who have seen and learnt the strategies of the project for replication for their own upliftment and empowerment. The final report also mentions how the staff of POWER, who implemented the project, have been affected. They now have unique experience and have gained a good reputation in the voluntary welfare services sector of the country.

One woman from the main beneficiary group, Sokhina Begum, has been able to increase her family's earnings, now that they have better health and fewer medical costs. Where they used to have just one meal a day, the family now has 2 full meals. Sokhina is working hard to save money to send her children to primary school in January 2013.



## BANGLADESH Provision of Clean Water and Sanitation for uplift of poor women's families

The installation of 5 hand wells and 15 sanitary pit latrines for 125 of the poorest rural families in the Bogra district of Bangladesh means they now have hygienic living facilities, are free from water borne diseases and have improved health and quality of life. Prior to the project, 30% of families

## FOR SALE

VAT REG. NO 240 0467 05.

All prices are exclusive of postage & packing.

- ACWW Promotional Pin 3/4 inch diameter - £1.00
- Badges (Brooches) - £2.00
- ACWW Greetings Cards - each 60p, £2 for four

Overseas orders will be sent by surface or 'small packet' rate.

(If remittance not sterling, please add sufficient to cover bank charges)

## Publicity Material

Leaflets are available from Central Office. Please state quantities required and date needed.

- ACWW Bookmarks
- Resolutions & Recommendations booklet
- Working with Women Worldwide – Highlights of 75 Years of ACWW £5
- Individual & Society Membership forms
- ACWW 2010 Constitution £3
- Pen Friend Scheme form (via email)
- ACWW Stickers
- ACWW Tri-fold promotional leaflet
- ACWW Projects & Funding leaflet
- You can make a difference leaflet
- Pennies for Friendship labels available at <http://acww.org.uk/acww-label.html>
- Louis Van Nieuwenhuizen Supporting ACWW- Pipe Mania CD £10

## ADVERTISE YOUR ACCOMMODATION WITH US

Delegates, members and representatives all round the world are always on the look out for accommodation, especially in the lead up to conferences.

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## LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

A BEQUEST to ACWW is no vague charitable gesture. The organisation has always approached the funding of projects that will aid rural women in need in a strictly practical way. Proposals are carefully evaluated and, if they qualify for backing, programmes are monitored on the spot by experienced people like ACWW's own Area Presidents. Money given is made to work and to show results.

ACWW is active in more than 70 countries worldwide and supports a range of rural women's development projects. Around 30 are funded every year providing leadership and skills training, nutrition education, literacy and basic education; including family planning and HIV/AIDS awareness. Small businesses and income-generating schemes are actively supported.

Bequests can either be for a fixed amount or a share of your estate and your solicitor will be able to help you make the appropriate choice. Safeguarding the future of ACWW and its unceasing work is up to you.



## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS

Please use this form (or fax/copy if you don't want to cut your magazine) to make donations, join ACWW or renew individual memberships.

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(Cheques, in any convenient currency, should be made payable to ACWW. If paying in other than sterling, please add sufficient to cover bank charges. International Money Orders or Bank Transfers are also accepted.)

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