

# THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

APRIL - JUNE 2015

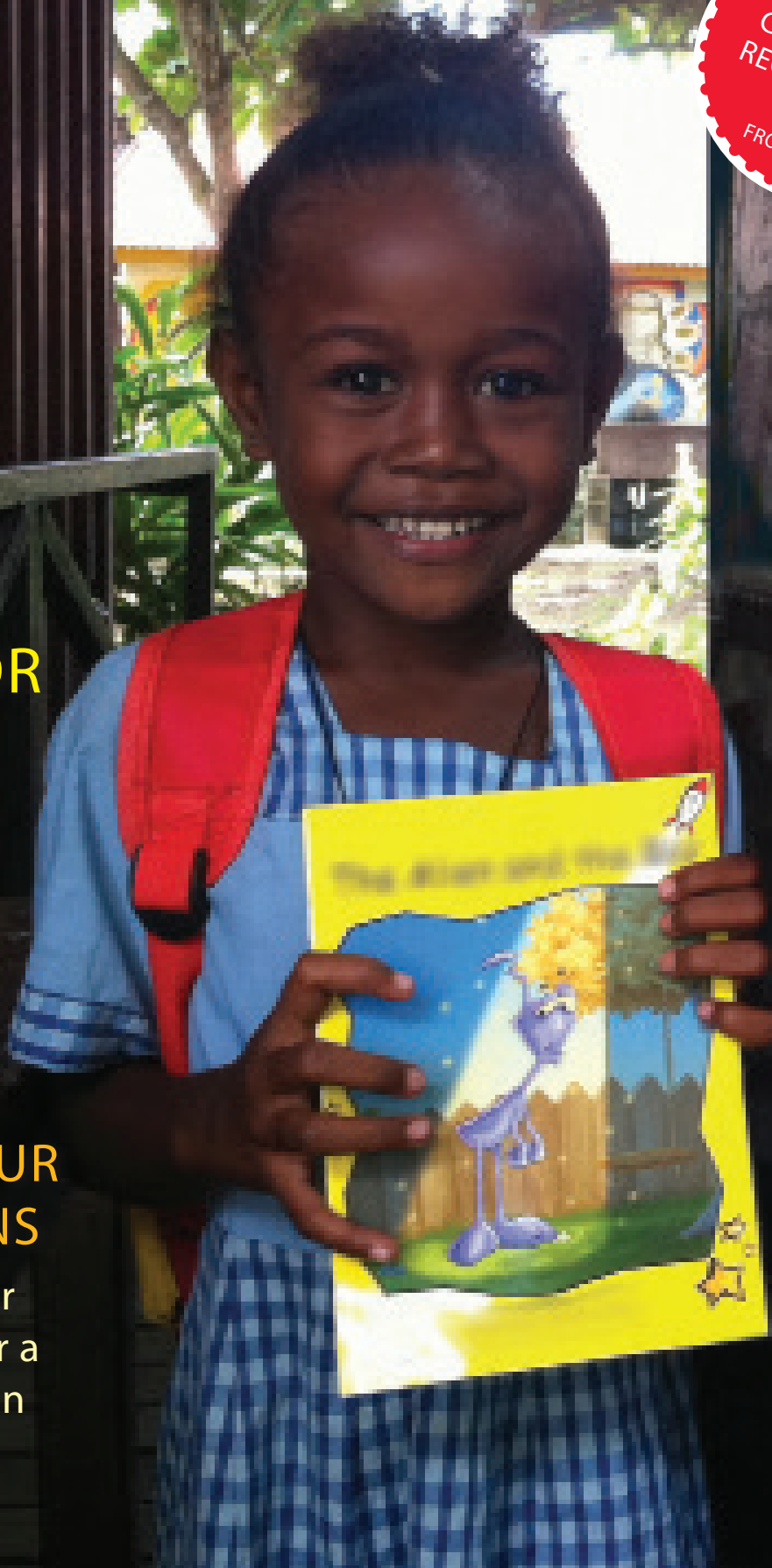


## BOOKS FOR HONIARA

New Zealand  
members  
help school  
children hit  
by floods

## WRITING YOUR RESOLUTIONS

Hints and tips for  
putting together a  
strong Resolution





Coverimage:Booksfor Schools in Honiara. 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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Named in 1933 by Mrs Alfred Watt, MBE, MA First President, ACWW

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**DEADLINES**

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

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

Editor's guide on submitting articles & photos on page 4

THE EDITOR'S DECISION ON ACCEPTANCE IS FINAL

**WORLD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Ruth Shanks A.M. ACWW World President, monitoring projects in India

**DEAR FRIENDS**

THE MEMBERS AND MEMBER societies of this organisation never cease to amaze me with the wonderful work they do, without any fanfare or trumpeting, to improve the lives of people throughout the world.

A trip to India in January certainly reinforced these thoughts as I was witness to many amazing projects, women, situations and life in general in the developing world. The initial reason for my visit was to celebrate with the members of Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary. This organisation was established in memory of Saroj Nalini Dutt who was the mother-in-law of our previous World President Aroti Dutt (1965-1971).

The fact that the organisation has continued to flourish for 90 years is a testament to the many women over the years who have contributed selflessly to the ideals and aims of "improving the lives of women". The organisation started its work in 1925 with just 3 girls being trained, by 1941 the school became a training college and today has 24 departments and is still working for the development of women and children belonging to the disadvantaged section of the Kolkata community. The other important information is this organisation has been with ACWW since the beginning. Congratulations and well done! I also had the opportunity to visit and monitor a number of projects both in Kolkata and in the state of Andhra Pradesh, specifically in Khammam and Kadapa Districts. These projects have been very successful and have spread the word about ACWW far and wide. 2015 is looking to be a very busy year as we go about the business of



promoting ACWW and supporting thousands of women worldwide. A parallel event which was organised by the UN Committee and held in conjunction with the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, was another opportunity for us to celebrate being involved with the UN for 68 of the 70 years of its existence.

There will be a few events organised this year starting with "Women Walk the World". This is a great opportunity to get together and let others know about our organisation. It is also a great opportunity to involve other people in your communities, such as schoolchildren and young adults who, after learning about what we do, can spread the word. The other purpose of our Women Walk the World event is to raise much needed funds to "assist us to carry out the many activities that we do".

The Board has just had the March 2015 Board meeting and the Committees have also had their meetings. There was much activity in the London office at this time, with many languages and/or accents floating around the office. This was a great time of networking with members of the Board, members of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



INSIDE THE COUNTRYWOMAN



02

World President visits India



19

European Area President visits Tbilisi



23

Rural Sanitation and Water in India



15

A Dream come true for SAVF's Job Creation Project in South Africa

5 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Reminders

Ways to help ACWW increase funds for PFF

5-6 ACWW NEWS

Join in with Women Walk the World 2015!

What you might not know about ACWW's Funds

6 AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

2015 International Year of Soil

6-7 COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEE

Guidelines for Writing a Resolution

7-8 UN COMMITTEE

Congratulations to the NGO Alliance for Health Promotion in Geneva

Celebrating 68 years of Advocacy

8-12 WORLD CONFERENCE

Conference information

Registration & Accommodation form

Conference Competitions

ACWW World Choir

12-22 SOCIETY FEEDBACK

Food for thought

SAWAW provide training to help women in South Africa

Almost 15 years in the making: A book for a Great Rural Sisterhood

A Dream come true for SAVF's Job Creation Project

Books for schools in Honiara

Rag rugs for nursing home

Rose honoured for her years of service

Basic home cooking & needlework from the WI of Pahang

Pick a Date

Doll's cots, bedding and linen cupboard

In for a surprise at a London WI meeting

ACWW coffee morning in honour of International Women's Day

Baton of friendship: creative fundraising idea

Water for all

European Area President Visits Capital City of Tbilisi

Educating Women in South Africa

How an Idea turned Ordinary Women into Entrepreneurs

120 Guests attend ACWW Lunch

Empowering rural women in economy & nutrition

22-23 PROJECTS

Dominican Republic | India Romania | Tanzania

CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

I have just experienced 10 days of back-to-back day-long meetings and my admiration of Committee and Board members, which was already high, has risen to new levels – dedication and stamina par excellence! It was also great to meet the Board for the first time and be a part of the exciting plans for the year ahead. Registrations have already started to come in for the Warwick World Conference next year and there are plans for celebrating International Women's Day with a Central London concert and a day at the NFWI Education Centre Denman College – of which more in the next issue.

Since the start of the year we have changed over our computer system – both software and hardware. Whilst there have been a few teething troubles (as expected) the changes will enable Central Office to work in a far more efficient manner, help the administration of the Triennial World Conference and be a financial saving in the long run.

Tish Collins, Operations Manager

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THIS ISSUE

There is so much to read in this April-June 2015 issue. For example on page 2 and 4 read about Ruth Shanks A.M. World President's visit to India. On page 6 read Magdie de Kock, Communications & Marketing Committee Chair's guidelines on how to write a strong resolution, on page 12 read about the competitions, which are being run for the 2016 Triennial World Conference and finally on page 14 read about an inspirational book on Madge Watt, ACWW's first World President. Enjoy...!

Jennifer Atigolo, Editor

SAVE THE DATE  
17th - 23rd August 2016  
Triennial World Conference,  
Warwick, England



WORLD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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. Please make sure that names of attendees mentioned in your article are spelt correctly, as well as names of groups, organisations, as well as the country/region it was held. 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 in your article, we will assume that the names provided are correctly spelt. We will also assume that your submitted written article is accurate. Please note articles will be edited.

Submitting Photos

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

When taking photo(s) please make sure the 'date stamp' on your camera/smart phone is switched off. 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/when the photo was taken. Please ensure that the names are spelt correctly, as previously stated, if we do not know who the people are, we will assume that the names provided are accurate. Also, please ensure that the correct photo goes with the correct name and caption.

Photo Use & Release Agreement

By submitting your photo(s) you agree to grant ACWW a perpetual, royalty-free, irrevocable, non-exclusive right to publish your photo(s) in The Countrywoman and on ACWW's website. To reproduce, modify, adapt and incorporate your photo(s) in ACWW's other works and publications in any form, media or technology now known, or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist for your photo(s). By submitting your photo(s) you warrant that you have the right to grant this, or have obtained permission from the original owner.

Please follow these instructions, as ACWW cannot accept any responsibility for inaccurate articles, or mislabelled photos and will not be liable for any disputes relating to the rights of use of any photos from any third party.



Committees and the Central Office staff. We all learnt from each other in this environment.

I hope you were impressed with the 2013 Annual Report, which was inserted in the last issue of The Countrywoman. When we actually sit down and put pen to paper about the work we do, it is really impressive.

This document can be used by you and the members to publicise our work; this hopefully can then engender funds for our use. The time has come for nominations for the positions of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Area Presidents for the 2016-2019 Triennium. Please bear in mind that we need committed, enthusiastic and capable women to take on the role of Members of the Board.

Please think about who you nominate and make sure they are capable of carrying out the tasks expected of them in the role. Just because members have been long serving and/or held Executive positions in your organisation, doesn't necessarily mean they can effectively work for and on behalf of ACWW. The ability to read, understand and speak English and communicate effectively (mostly by email) must be one of the very important criteria for these positions.

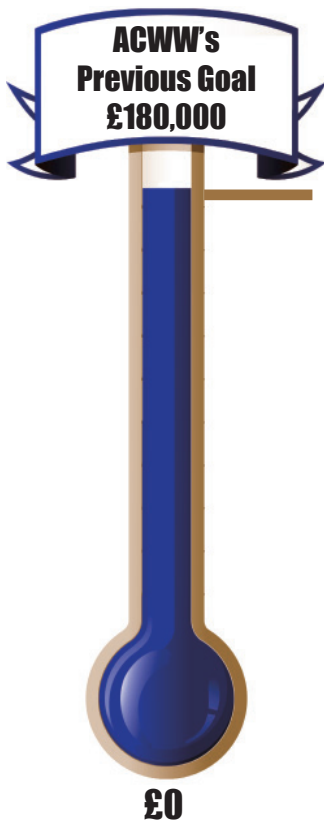
Above: Ruth Shanks AMACWW World President, monitoring projects and celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association with its members in India. Below: ACWW Board at Central Office for the Area President's training - March 2015 London

They must have the ability to contribute at meetings and communicate effectively with the wider community. In saying all this, it is a wonderful opportunity to take one's place as a Member of the Board and the feeling "You are making a difference" outweighs the responsibilities. Please think about these positions as the organisation cannot exist without a Board.

My thought for this issue is:  
 If you want something, you look for options.  
 If you don't, you look for excuses.  
 (Henry Evans, USA)

Cheers  
*Ruth Shanks*  
 Ruth Shanks A.M.





£171,825 - what ACWW raised in 2014

Just under 95%

Thank you for your support!

**Help us do better in 2015**

**Our target is  
£200,000**

**We still need your support!**

£0

## WAYS TO HELP ACWW INCREASE FUNDS FOR PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP

How can you help ACWW increase funds for Pennies for Friendship?

For fundraising ideas, please go to [acww.org.uk/get\\_involved/fundraising](http://acww.org.uk/get_involved/fundraising) to download our fundraising ideas PDF.

[Do you have any fundraising ideas? Let us know and we could share them with our members!](#)

### Announcements

Alison Burnett, ACWW Finance Committee Chair/ Treasurer and Margaret McMillan, ACWW Finance Committee member and Pennies for Friendship promoter are both celebrating their 70th Birthday in July and August 2015 and are each having a party to celebrate, but instead of presents, they are asking for donations from guests.

### ACWW NEWS

## WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

### Have you planned your walk?

2015 marks the 4th year ACWW will be running its annual Women Walk the World event, so we want it to be bigger than ever. We want to raise money and promote ACWW by asking members, families and friends to walk on or around ACWW Day, 29th April 2015.

Like previous years there will be a best photo competition, so take photos of your walk and either email them to [cm@acww.org.uk](mailto:cm@acww.org.uk), or post them to ACWW's Central Office for the attention of the Editor. Please include a short write up (see inside cover for full address). The best photo will end up on the front cover of our July-September 2015 issue. For more details please visit: [www.acww.org.uk/women\\_walk](http://www.acww.org.uk/women_walk)



Alison Burnett, ACWW Finance Committee Chair

## REMINDERS

All subscriptions for individual members and member societies were due on 1st January 2015 (excluding members who paid a 3 year subscription in 2013 or 2014). If you have not yet renewed your subscription, please visit [acww.org.uk/become\\_a\\_member](http://acww.org.uk/become_a_member), where you can pay online, or download our forms. Please reference your payment as 'membership' and give your membership number. If you need further assistance, contact Manisha Vora, Finance and Membership Administrator at Central Office on Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 3875 or email: [manisha.v@acww.org.uk](mailto:manisha.v@acww.org.uk).

I would like to remind our readers about Gift Aid - which is for all UK Donors. If you are planning to donate to ACWW at any point over the next months, or years and you are a UK taxpayer, we urge you to fill in a Gift Aid form - available from Central Office and on our website under 'Members'. This allows us to claim an extra 25p from the UK Government for every £1 you donate.

I would like to send a big thank you for all the donations received throughout 2014 and to all who took part in our third 'Women Walk the World' event. Please take part in this year's event, which we hope will be bigger and better than last year's. 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.

### MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS USING ONLINE BANKING

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



ACWW NEWS

## WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT ACWW'S FUNDS

Did you know that ACWW has scholarship funds, which were established to commemorate two founders of ACWW, which are open to our members?



**Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund** enables voluntary and qualified group leaders to participate in the following types of training:

- Nutrition
- Instruction in conservation through short courses, seminars and projects
- Leadership and the study of co-operatives
- Training trainers in community welfare, nutrition etc.
- Arranging exchange visits between rural women from different countries to study rural community welfare, and gain experience of the administration of women's voluntary societies



**Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund** is available for scholarships in the field of social welfare, particularly for training in organisation and leadership. Any applicant applying must be a member of an ACWW member society.

The idea behind this fund is that study takes place in the member's own country, or a neighbouring country.

Please contact Central Office's Projects staff if you would like to apply for either of these funds.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE



Margaret Yetman, ACWW Agriculture Committee Chair

## 2015 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOIL



After two years of intensive work, 2015 has been declared the International Year of Soils (IYS) by the 68th UN General Assembly (A/RES/68/232). The IYS aims to be a platform for raising awareness of the importance of soils for food security and essential ecosystem functions.

The specific objectives of the IYS 2015 are to:

- Raise full awareness among civil society

- and decision makers about the profound importance of soil for human life.
- Educate the public about the crucial role soil plays in food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development.
- Support effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources.
- Promote investment in sustainable soil management activities to develop and maintain healthy soils for different land users and population groups.
- Strengthen initiatives in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals process and Post-2015 agenda.
- Advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels (global, regional and national).

Here is a simple experiment that you and your fellow gardeners can do to find out how much organic matter is in your soil:

- Half fill a glass jar with dry soil from your garden.
- Cover the soil with water.
- Allow the soil to stand for about 15 minutes, while it becomes saturated with the water.
- Screw the lid onto the jar.
- Shake the contents vigorously.
- Allow the soil to slowly settle in the jar.
- Measure the amount of organic matter that is suspended or floating in the water, compared with the total amount of soil in the jar.

## GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A RESOLUTION

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEE



Magdiede Kock, Communications & Marketing Committee Chair

In just over a year's time ACWW will be holding its 28th Triennial World Conference at the University of Warwick in England. In the lead up to the conference members societies will be asked to put forward their resolutions for consideration. To aid societies Magdie de Kock, ACWW Communications & Marketing Committee Chair, with help from Maggie Simons,

ACWW Communications & Marketing Committee, Vice-Chair, has compiled a guide on how to write a resolution, which societies may find useful.

Magdie writes: One of the most unique and powerful privileges of your ACWW membership is participating in the policymaking process. A concern can become a resolution which, by majority vote of the Triennial World Conference, will become policy that has the weight of ACWW behind it. Presenting a resolution can be a wonderful way to get involved in ACWW, and to raise awareness of issues that demand attention internationally. The following information is intended to help members navigate successfully through the resolution-writing process.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

### 1. What is a resolution?

A resolution is a proposal that asks ACWW to take a position on issues, which relate to the work of ACWW. Any Category I, II or III member society or Area Conference can submit a resolution for consideration by the Triennial World Conference. A good resolution consists of one issue accompanied by supporting statements or facts. Once a resolution is submitted to the Triennial World Conference it is debated by delegates. If passed by a majority it will become a mandate, which must be worked on.

### 2. How do I write a resolution?

The basic elements of a resolution include:

- Title - The Title should succinctly state the main issue addressed by the resolution.
- Author(s)  
The Author(s) should include the primary author or sponsoring society followed by co-authors (supporters), all of whom should be prepared to discuss the resolution at the meeting.
- Resolution Wording  
"Be it resolved that ....." followed by the actionable request. This should comprise ideally one sentence and no more than two sentences and clearly state what the resolution is asking ACWW members and member societies to do. This will become an ACWW policy.  
The resolution wording should be clear and concise. Each resolution should only deal with one issue. If there is more than one issue involved the resolution becomes confusing and weaker.
- Supporting Statements and back-up information  
These should paint a picture of why the topic should be addressed by ACWW, whom it affects and explain the rationale of the resolution including how the resolution will correct the problem. It should include all back-up information and clearly state what is needed for the resolution to be successful.
- References and Relevant ACWW Policy  
Statements of fact should be cited with the appropriate reference.  
The References and Relevant ACWW Policy are extremely important. All resolutions must include pertinent references and clearly state present ACWW policy on the issue or explicitly state that no such policy exists.  
Also try to find relevant statistics, analyses, surveys, commentaries, etc. both for and against your resolution. This information will be used to develop your resolution,

and will guide the defence of your resolution during debate at the Triennial World Conference.

There should be a clear statement of any other organisations already working on the subject and whether there is an opportunity for ACWW to work with them.

### 3. I've written my resolution, so what's next?

All resolutions must be submitted in writing by Category I, II or III Societies or the Area Conferences and must reach Central Office at least twelve (12) months before the date of the Conference. That means that for your resolution to be considered at Warwick it must reach Central Office by 29 August 2015.

Prior to the Triennial World Conference in 2016 where your resolution will be discussed, you should talk to other delegates to recruit support for your resolution and be prepared to counter opponents' comments.

After the resolution has been discussed at Conference you will need to be able to bring together the points that have been discussed and summarise why you feel the resolution is important. If the resolution is passed you can then propose ways of working and achieving a successful outcome for the resolution.

### Hints and Tips for putting together a Strong Resolution

- Allow plenty of time to develop your idea, carry out relevant research including any other organisations already working on the issue.
- Consider if the issue is topical and if it will still be relevant in a year or more's time if it is passed at the next Triennial World Conference.
- Consider who you are asking to take action on your resolution – e.g. ACWW member Societies, ACWW Individual members. The more levels where action can be taken the more successful the outcome is likely to be.
- Consider what action is needed to achieve a positive outcome – e.g. pressure on governments, pressure on other organisations, local action campaigns. It is important to ensure the right individuals, groups or organisations are targeted.
- The resolution should have a clear objective.
- The resolution should call for something which is achievable.
- Finally, before submitting your resolution, check that all your information is accurate and up-to-date.

## UN COMMITTEE



Sharon Hatten, ACWW UN Committee Chair

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NGO ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION IN GENEVA

Sharon Hatten, ACWW UN Committee Chair and ACWW would like to say congratulations to the NGO Alliance for Health Promotion in Geneva (ACWW is a charter member) on receiving official relations with World Health Organisation (WHO) in January. Their goal is to improve the health and development of all people by building a collective NGO voice and strengthen advocacy, policy and action in the promotion and protection of health.

## CELEBRATING 68 YEARS OF ADVOCACY The Impacts of ACWW's First Conference Resolutions

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations (UN); it also marks 68 years of advocacy by ACWW. In the last issue we looked at the history of ACWW's association with various UN bodies – this time we will look at the outcome of ACWW's early Conference Resolutions and their long-term impact on the work of the UN.

In 1947, ACWW passed its first Triennial Conference Resolutions regarding the UN. The first one urged members to study the recommendations of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and give practical help by raising the standard of food production and nutrition in their own countries. FAO has since grown into

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# 70 68

**Celebrating 70 years of the UN with  
68 years of advocacy work by ACWW**

a massive organisation that serves millions of small-scale farmers around the world. Its three main goals are: the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all; and, the sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Also in 1947, ACWW recommended that 'member societies support, to the utmost, the work of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in developing the various bonds that unite the nations of the earth and improve the status of women in all countries'.

An ACWW Triennial Conference Resolution passed in 1950, urged UNESCO to 'give increased consideration to the basic and fundamental education of young women and girls in the under-developed areas of the world'. This was in recognition of the fact that 'two-thirds of the people of the world are rural, that half of the people are illiterate, that illiteracy is a barrier to balancing food and people, and that educating a woman tends to educate a family'.

Less than half of the world's population now live in rural areas and according to UNESCO, illiteracy among those remains high, especially for rural women, and many of their children still go to bed hungry.

Another Resolution passed in 1950, urged the UN FAO to 'expand its technical advisory assistance by improving agricultural extension services, in order to help farmers improve agricultural practices for better diets throughout the world'.

Government-funded agricultural extension services were once relied on to provide education and training for farmers around the world. Unfortunately these services were mainly staffed by men and often failed to address the needs of women farmers, especially food producers in Africa. Many of

these services have now been privatised and serve the needs of agro-chemical companies, rather than those of women farmers struggling to provide 'better diets'.

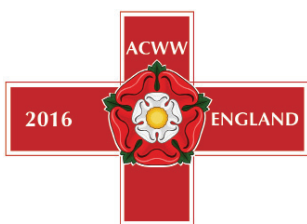
A Resolution passed in 1953 resolved that 'ACWW give support to the forest policies of FAO and urged societies to do everything possible to educate members in the value of trees and to encourage adequate and appropriate tree planting'.

This resolution is now more valuable than ever – hopefully ACWW members are continuing to plant trees in order to prevent soil erosion and sequester sufficient carbon to prevent dangerous climate change. 2015 marks 'International Year of Soils', let us know how you've been involved?

While the objectives of these early resolutions have been partially filled the goal posts are changing and as such we will continue to advocate on behalf of rural women worldwide.

In March 2015 ACWW's UN Committee attended the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York to review the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action + 20 years, with our focus on the plight of rural women. Watch this space for a full report in a future issue.

## WORLD CONFERENCE



## CONFERENCE INFORMATION FOR 28TH TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, COVENTRY, UK  
17TH - 23RD AUGUST 2016

**THEME: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

TIMETABLE: (Detail may be subject to change)

Wednesday	17 August	Registration at University of Warwick. Outgoing Board Meeting
Thursday	18 August	Area meetings. Official Opening Ceremony. Plenary
Friday	19 August	Thanksgiving Service. Elections. Plenary
Saturday	20 August	Plenary. English Night
Sunday	21 August	Plenary. Gala Dinner
Monday	22 August	Plenary. Closing Ceremony. Area meetings
Tuesday	23 August	Excursion Day (optional at £50 per person). Incoming Board Meeting

PLEASE NOTE: THAT ACWW IS NOT RESPONSIBLE IN ANY WAY FOR:

- TRAVEL Participants must make their own travel arrangements
- INSURANCE All participants are advised of the importance of arranging comprehensive cover for personal accident, personal liability, medical expenses, baggage, cancellation charges, etc. as soon as they register.
- VISAS Participants must check whether a visa is required for the UK and apply for that in time.



**PLEASE ALSO NOTE:**

ACWW is not liable for any event beyond its control. These include unusual, unforeseeable or unavoidable events beyond our control, the consequences of which could not be avoided even if due care has been exercised, including but not limited to war, threat of war, riot, civil disobedience or strife, government action, terrorist activity, natural or industrial disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, level of water in rivers or floods and closure of airports. This will include industrial dispute involving third parties, technical or maintenance problems or unforeseen operational decisions of air carriers, such as changes of schedule or any failure in the information technology infrastructure.

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND VOTING RIGHTS**

- The Officers of ACWW
- Maximum of 5 voting delegates from each Category I Society
- Maximum of 2 voting delegates from each Category II Society
- 1 voting delegate from each Category III Society
- Chairmen of Specified and Ad Hoc Committees
- Category IV (a) and IV (b) members as space allows.
- Past World Presidents.
- ACWW UN Representatives
- Visitors invited at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Fully paid-up Member Societies may send voting delegates according to membership category. Fully paid-up Individual Members of ACWW may attend as observers as space allows.

**HOW TO REGISTER**

All fees (registration, day excursion tour and accommodation) will be payable to ACWW. To reduce costs, please pay in one transaction, itemising your requirements on the appropriate section of the form.

Please fill in one form per person.

**On-Line Registration**

- Go to Triennial World Conference section of our website [acww.org.uk](http://acww.org.uk)
- Download Registration Form and fill in Conference and Accommodation details as appropriate.
- Email completed form to [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk) and
- Pay for Registration and Accommodation together by:
- PayPal giving your full name as reference.

Note: You do not have to have a PayPal account to use this secure system to pay by credit or debit card. A surcharge is levied by the bank on all credit card transactions.

Or

- Bank transfer to:
 

SWIFT details for Associated Country Women of the World	
BIC	NWBK GB 2L
IBAN	GB67 NWBK 5600 3301 2441 08
Sort Code	560033
Account Number	01244108

- An optional interactive form is in development; please check our website for details.

**Registration by Post**

- Complete the Registration Form, sign and date it.
- If you would like to keep the information you see on this page, please photocopy and send your registration on the next page to ACWW, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB, United Kingdom, together with the Conference registration and accommodation fees payable by PayPal, bank draft/ transfer (details above), credit card or cheque, including bank charges to arrive at our London Central Office no later than the cut-off dates. You can also detach the registration forms.
- All cheques and bank drafts should be made payable to the "Associated Country Women of the World." If you wish to pay by credit card, please download and complete the Card Payment form on the website: [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk) (Please note that a surcharge is levied by the bank on all credit card transactions.) Please ensure to reference with your FULL Name.

**Registration Fees**

- EARLY BIRD conference registration rate is £390 per person to be paid before 16th April 2016.
- After 16th April 2016, the fee will rise to £415 per person and the cut-off date will be 1st July 2016.
- The Day Delegate rate is £85 per person per day. The cut-off date for Day delegates will be 1st July 2016. No more than 3 days as a day delegate will be allowed.
- The Day Excursion is £50 per person.
- Optional visits will be arranged for registered spouses, partners, and friends at no extra cost. Details to follow.

**Accommodation Fees per person**

- En suite accommodation with dinner, bed and breakfast at £73 per night.
- Shared bathroom facilities (females only): dinner, bed and breakfast at £58 per night (limited availability so will be allocated to those travelling furthest).
- Twin or Double rooms are available with dinner, bed and breakfast at £156 per ROOM per night, 2 people.



# REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION FORM

## ACWW 28TH TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE

Full Delegates/ Observers: Complete Parts A,  
 B, D, E and F Day participants: Complete Parts A,  
 C, D, E and F Spouse/Partner/Friend: Complete Parts A,  
 D, E and F

Conference No.  
 (Office use only)

**PART A FULL DELEGATE, OBSERVER, DAY PARTICIPANT, SPOUSE/PARTNER/ FRIEND**

Title (Miss/Mrs/Ms/Mr/Dr/Other) <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Membership no. <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Surname <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	First name(s) <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Street name and number <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
Town/City <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Province/State <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Country <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Postal/Zip code <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Telephone (including country and area code): <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
Mobile (Cell) phone number: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
E-mail address <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
Home language <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	

CONFERENCE FEE PAYABLE BY Full Delegates, Observers and Spouses/Partners/Friends (for whom some special visits will be offered).  
 Non Refundable but Transferable, a fee of £10 will be requested if transferred. (Tick )

<input style="width: 100%;" type="checkbox"/>	I enclose £390 (Early Bird Registration) to arrive at Central office no later than 16 April 2016.
<input style="width: 100%;" type="checkbox"/>	I enclose £415 for registration after 16 April 2016 and before 1 July 2016.

**PART B FULL DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS**

Society Name and Membership Number

**PART C DAY PARTICIPANTS ONLY**

Day delegate - I will attend on the following day(s) at £85 per day up to maximum 3 days

Thursday 18 August	<input style="width: 100%;" type="checkbox"/>	Friday 19 August	<input style="width: 100%;" type="checkbox"/>	Saturday 20 August	<input style="width: 100%;" type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 21 August	<input style="width: 100%;" type="checkbox"/>	Monday 22 August	<input style="width: 100%;" type="checkbox"/>	Total days	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>

**PART D DAY EXCURSION TOUR (Tick)**

I wish to book the Day Out Tour on Tuesday 23 August @ £50



PART E ACCOMMODATION: (Dinner, bed and breakfast per person per night)

If Day Participants or spouses/partners/friends wish to make use of the accommodation, they must also complete this part.

Please book me the following accommodation Date in [ ] Date out [ ]

Total Number of nights [ ] At £73 per person per night single en-suite I enclose £ [ ]

Total Number of nights [ ] At £58 per person per night, shared bathrooms (females only) I enclose £ [ ]

Total Number of nights [ ] At £156 per ROOM per night superior en-suite twin / double (delete as appropriate) I enclose £ [ ]

Twin / Double only I will be sharing with: name [ ]

PART F PAYMENT INCLUDED

REGISTRATION FEE [ ]

DAY PARTICIPANT FEE [ ]

DAY EXCURSION FEE [ ]

ACCOMMODATION [ ]

TOTAL PAID [ ]

FINAL DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS 1 JULY 2016.

I indemnify ACWW of any liabilities arising from the personal injury or loss of personal property during my attendance at the Conference.

SIGNED: .....

DATE SENT: .....

ACWW will send confirmation that you have been registered for the Conference.

- Please bring this confirmation to the on-site Registration Desk when you arrive for the Conference.

I REQUIRE A LETTER OF INVITATION FROM THE Hostess Society to support my visa application. ACWW Central Office will forward this to you.

(Tick) [ ]

# TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE COMPETITION



Henrietta Schoeman,  
ACWW Triennial Conference  
Committee Chair (TCC)

For the 2016 Triennial World Conference there will be not one, but two competitions!

As ACWW members have a variety of talents and to give more of you the opportunity to participate, we have decided on both a handcraft, as well as a photograph competition.

## Mobile Phone Sleeve

Let your creative juices flow with this competition. Design and make a mobile phonesleeve using any medium. Any handcraft is permitted – crochet, embroidery, knitting, craft, paint techniques, needlework – the possibilities are endless.

To find the winners there will be a silent auction, as well as a people's choice. Pennies for Friendship will benefit when members bid to buy these special unique handmade sleeves.

## Photograph Competition

Since ACWW conferences are the place where members gather from around the globe, the Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) thought it would be good to learn more about each other's worlds. One way of doing that is to be able to see photographs of your society in your country doing ACWW activities. The theme is: "We are ACWW". Grab your cameras and start taking those pictures. It will be easy to transport to Warwick and will be displayed at the Conference. A good size will be an A4 when mounted on a strong cardboard to protect it. Pictures can be in colour, black and white, or sepia. Be original, let loose your imagination and show fellow members what activities you do. Remember to include a caption of where your photo was taken.

Please note that your photographs will become the property of ACWW after the World Conference. Please remember to add your name and society on the back. Only one entry can be accepted per individual member, or society.



## ACWW WORLD CHOIR

For the next World Conference in 2016 Suzanne Garrett, ACWW UN Committee member, has been asked to form a choir from those attending and would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining.

Suzanne says: I have a CD available, as well as the words to allow you to practice. There has already been a lot of interest from those members who I have mentioned it to. If you would like to join us please send an email to me at [suzanneblodwen@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneblodwen@gmail.com) and I will make the CD and words available to you. If it is at all possible it would be great to all meet a day early at the University to practice, but we are flexible, we just want you to join us.

## SOCIETY FEEDBACK

### CHERRY CREAM PIE

Nema Rowoth, Missouri, USA

#### INGREDIENTS

##### Crust

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup finely chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar

##### Filling

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling

##### Directions

In a small bowl, combine the flour, walnuts, butter and brown sugar. Transfer to a 13-in. x 9-in. baking pan. Bake at 375° for 15 minutes,

12 | [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

stirring once. Set aside 1 cup of these crumbs. While warm, press the remaining crumbs into a greased 9-in. pie plate, firmly pressing onto the bottom and up the sides.

Chill for 30 minutes.

In a small bowl, beat the cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and almond extract until smooth.

Spread over bottom of crust.

Gently fold whipped cream into the pie filling; spread over cream cheese layer.

Sprinkle with reserved crumbs.

Chill for at least 4 hours before serving.

Yield: 6-8 servings.



Photocredit: [CherryCreamPie-thegratefulspread.files.wordpress.com](http://CherryCreamPie-thegratefulspread.files.wordpress.com)



## SAWAU PROVIDE TRAINING TO HELP WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA

Henriette Vorster, Public Relations Officer  
Ellisras WAU South Africa wrote:

When South Africa Women's Agricultural Union (SAWAU) made funds available for community upliftment and training, Ellisras WAU in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, immediately took up the challenge. Under the leadership of Tharina Rossel, a domestic staff training programme was launched in January 2015. The aim of this training programme was to help the women improve their standard of living, by providing them with skills, which might help generate an income.



The training courses have been successful and the women have been trained in hygienic practices in the workplace, setting of tables and tea trays, basic needlework and first aid. Future training will include cooking, baking and financial planning. After completing the classes the attendees receive a certificate to confirm their achievement. Words of

gratitude and appreciation from the ladies, assures SAWAU that they are making a difference, which is inspiring them to keep on enriching and empowering rural women's lives. At the moment the classes are given for free with the financial aid of ACWW. SAWAU hopes to continue this programme with further funding if and when needed.

## QCWA Holiday Units, Cairns

Escape to Tropical North Queensland, Australia

QCWA Holiday Units offer 1 or 2 bedroom fully self-contained units catering for singles, couples or families – plus we have everything you need to make your Cairns holiday enjoyable and stress free.

Our Cairns Units are located just two blocks from the Cairns Esplanade and easy walking distance to the Esplanade Lagoon and Cairns Central Business District.

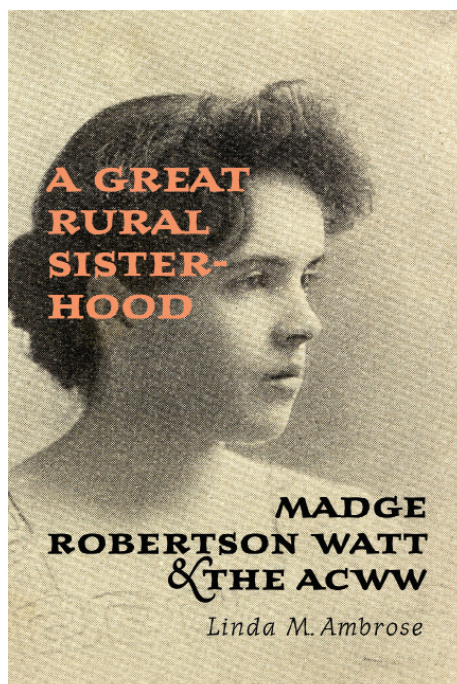
Restaurants, entertainment and shops are just a stroll away.



For more details: 258 Grafton Street, Cairns Qld 4870, Australia  
Phone: 0740 312 557 | Email: [enquiries@qcwaholidayunits.com](mailto:enquiries@qcwaholidayunits.com) | Web: [www.qcwaholidayunits.com](http://www.qcwaholidayunits.com)

# ALMOST 15 YEARS IN THE MAKING

## A BOOK FOR A GREAT RURAL SISTERHOOD



As the first World President of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), Madge Robertson Watt (1868–1948), also known as Madge Alfred Watt, turned imperialism on its head.

During the First World War, Madge imported the “made-in-Canada” concept of Women’s Institutes – voluntary associations of rural women – to the British countryside. In the interwar years, she capitalised on the success of the Institutes to help create ACWW, the now international organisation for rural women we know today.

A feminist imperialist and a liberal internationalist, Madge was central to the establishment of two organisations, which remain active around the world today.

Linda M. Ambrose, a Professor of History at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, uses a wealth of archival materials from both sides of the Atlantic to tell the full story of Madge Robertson Watt’s remarkable life, from her early years as a Toronto journalist to her retirement and memorialisation after the Second World War, in her book titled ‘A Great Rural Sisterhood: Madge Watt and the ACWW’.

In an interview between Linda and the Editor of The Countrywoman, we find out how this amazing book was realised.

Photo: Book cover design by Natalie Olsen. The image itself is courtesy of Library and Archives Canada.

**The Editor:** What inspired you to write a book on Madge Watt, ACWW’s first World President?

**Linda M. Ambrose:** I came to this project as a logical extension of my work on the Women’s Institutes in Ontario, Canada. My first book, *For Home and Country: A Centennial History of the Women’s Institutes of Ontario, 1897–1997*, was a history told from the members’ own point of view.

To do that, I met and interviewed hundreds of WI members in their own homes and community halls across the province. Over and over again I kept hearing the name “Madge Watt”, a Canadian, originally from Collingwood, Ontario, who had gone on to be one of the founders of ACWW in the UK, and later became its first World President.

Although everyone in WI circles seemed to know about Madge Watt, no one was able to satisfy my curiosity about her life before, during, or after her involvement with ACWW. I grew up in the same part of Ontario where Madge Watt was born, and the thought of such a formidable woman hailing from my own area intrigued me.

**The Editor:** In putting your book together, how easy was it to find material about Madge Watt?

**Linda M. Ambrose:** That was the most difficult part. There is no central place where Watt’s papers have been collected in an archive. As a result, I adopted the posture of a travelling detective, looking for clues about her in the many, many places where she had lived, worked, and left a legacy. I began in her hometown with the local library genealogy room and museum, where there is a historic plaque in her honour. Using records from the University of Toronto, (where she was the first woman to graduate with a master’s degree in 1890), I tracked her to British Columbia, where she lived for 20 years as a married woman and first described herself as ‘rural’. In 1913 she moved to England, so I went to London to work in the archives of

the National Federation of Women’s Institutes in the UK.

Meanwhile, my friend Bethan Williams in Wales was scouting out the earliest WI branches in the UK and invited me to Anglesey to visit the site of the first British WI at Llanfairpwll. Added to all this, I read the publications of ACWW, the diary of Watt’s travel companion in the 1930s, the government records in the Library and Archives Canada, and the archives at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where Watt had hoped to relocate ACWW’s office during World War II. It was like piecing together a very challenging jigsaw puzzle about Watt’s life and significance.

**The Editor:** How long did the book take to research and write?

**Linda M. Ambrose:** Almost 15 years! In part, that long time span was due to what I’ve just described about the time-consuming process of locating sources, and then the challenge of finding funding to travel to all those places. Meanwhile, I maintained a full university teaching load, some administrative duties, and other research projects. Those were busy years in my family life as well, but the whole experience led to some great adventures as I travelled across Canada, to the USA, to the UK and to Australia.

**The Editor:** What do you hope this book will do for the memory of Madge Watt?

**Linda M. Ambrose:** I hope that this book will complicate the memory of Madge Watt. For some, especially Canadians, she is a hero and her admirers might be surprised to learn what a difficult person she could be. She did accomplish important things, but I try to put those achievements into context to illustrate the possibilities and limitations that women like Watt faced during their lifetimes.

I also think readers will be surprised to learn the variety of roles that Watt occupied: university coed, journalist, wife, mother, widow, consultant to governments, organiser of women’s clubs, and world traveller. Watt’s life is a story about colonial relations, but as I argue, she exercised a form



## A DREAM COME TRUE FOR SAVF'S JOB CREATION PROJECT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

of "reverse colonialism" where she took a Canadian idea and exported it to Britain and beyond. In the last chapter of the book I take up the question of how Watt has been commemorated, and why various groups and authorities have attached particular meanings to her life at particular times.

So that's why I say that I hope my book serves to complicate the life of Madge Robertson Watt. As I learned, just when you thought you knew her, there's more to Madge Watt than first appears.

**The Editor:** Your book 'A Great Rural Sisterhood Madge Watt and the ACWW', sounds like it would be very interesting to our reader, where can it be bought?

**Linda M. Ambrose:** My book on Madge Watt is being published by the University of Toronto and its website address including the title of the book is:

<http://www.utppublishing.com/A-Great-Rural-Sisterhood-Madge-Watt-and-the-ACWW.html>

In addition to being directly available from the press through their website, the book is available for purchase from most major online retailers, such as Amazon's various national sites, The Book Depository, Chapters-Indigo in Canada, Barnes & Noble in the US, as well as various chains and independent bookstores.



It was a dream come true when the office of Suid Afrikaanse Vrouefederasie (SAVF) Family Care in Potchefstroom, South Africa, could begin their new job creation project in their offices at Spoelstra Street back in November 2012.

The project started under the leadership of Yvonne Groenewald, with the help of Elize Eager, Magdel van Niekerk and Adrie Roux, all of which are volunteers of SAVF. The project started with seven foster care mothers of whom five are still part of the project today. More recently two mothers were recruited in the community by means of the job creation project. The project started at first with making shopping bags, which were decorated by the members. This was the easiest way to begin with items that could be sold to the public as the members were unfamiliar with using a sewing machine. Due to this project members become more skilled and began making blankets and embroidered handbags. The community praised them for the high quality of their work. At this stage they are



now able to make use of a sewing machine provided. The project received money in 2013 from the South Africa Lotto. With this money they were able to purchase two sewing machines, material scissors, needles and wool, as well as contribute to transport costs.

Without this financial support, this project would not have been able to continue. For the last few years, the money received from selling the items has been divided between the members. With this project SAVF has helped members generate additional income and more importantly, helped them feel empowered. To date, the members now make their own items at home, which they themselves sell to the community and earn an extra income to support their families. Apart from the lotto money received, this project could not show such achievements without the unbelievable support from the community.

On a weekly basis donations are received such as material, wool and other needlework items, which they make use of for other products, which can be sold.

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Now 'stopped from visiting' need not mean 'stopped from caring.'

## BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS IN HONIARA



Photo: School children from St John School in Honiara

When the Rural Women of New Zealand members heard about the devastating floods in the Solomon Islands in early 2014, they decided to do something to help.

Through a sponsored walk, raffles, donations and the sale of plants, members raised \$11,500 with the goal of replacing lost books for 40 schools that were washed away, or damaged in the floods. With the helpful assistance of Penguin Random House, they were able to purchase 4,000 school reading books to the retail value of \$34,000. These were divided up into sets and packaged into vermin and waterproof plastic boxes for each of the 40 schools. The WI received the exciting news before Christmas that the

books were on their way to the Solomons, where the New Zealand High Commission had arranged the waiver of Customs Duty and liaised with the local Ministry of Education to distribute the books.

Now, as the new school year started, Rural Women of New Zealand members were thrilled to see photos of the books in the hands of happy school children.

Anna Reid of the New Zealand High Commission said "I had a lovely chat with each of the Head Teachers and explained the background - they were all extremely grateful for the WI's support, and all mentioned how they didn't have enough books, and so it was an extremely relevant contribution".



Photo: Left to right - Margaret Farr, Tessa Pemberton and Lynne Fitzgibbon - Roothings WI Group, Essex, England

## RAG RUGS FOR NURSING HOMES

27 members of the Roothings WI Group met at Hatfield Broad Oak Village hall in Essex, England for a workshop on 'Rag Rugs' in preparation for their competition to provide bedside rugs for their local nursing homes. They started small and after an afternoon of tea, chat and rags, all went home with a very stylish brooch as pictured above. Their workshop raised £25.00, which the group kindly donated to ACWW. Thank you!



## ROSE HONOURED FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE

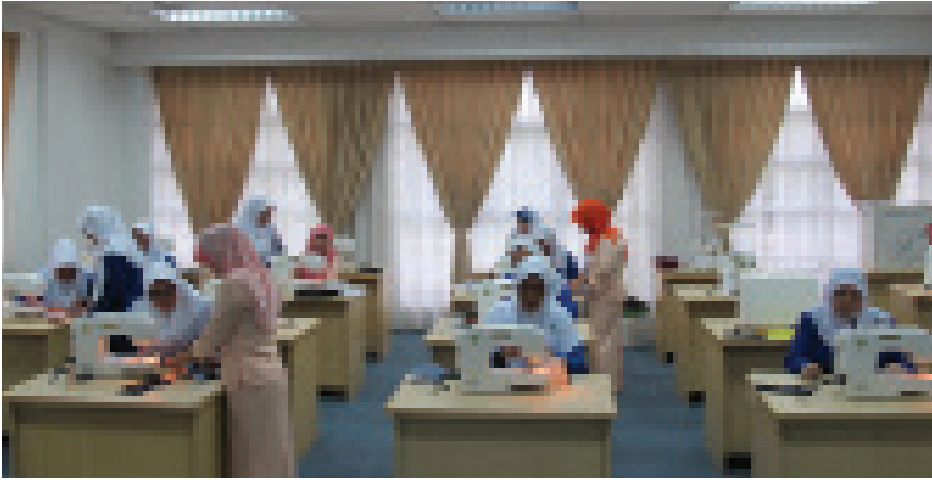
Photo: Left to right Madam Professor Pearl Gopaul - First President, Emeritus, Director of the Trinidad & Tobago College of Therapeutic Massage & Beauty Culture Limited, Rose Rajbansee - former ACWW Area President Caribbean, Central & South America and Amir Ali - Immediate Past President of The Massage Therapy Association of Trinidad & Tobago

On 1st February 2015, Rose Rajbansee previous ACWW Area President for Caribbean, Central & South America was presented with an award for serving as Treasurer for The Massage Therapy Association of Trinidad & Tobago (MTA T&T) for almost 20 years.

The function coincided with MTA T&T's Annual General Meeting, where approximately 70 Licensed Massage Therapists and 10 Special guests attended. Well done Rose!



## BASIC HOME COOKING & NEEDLEWORK FROM THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OF PAHANG



In its pursuit to teach basic homemaking skills for its members, especially the younger ones, the Women's Institute (WI) of Pahang established the Tunku Azizah Cooking School and the WI Needlework Centre.

Various programmes have been undertaken through the years in various forms by members in collaboration with other NGOs and government agencies all with the aim to equip members with basic cooking and sewing skills.

These skill-enhancing programmes were to encourage them to set up small scale enterprises that will help to bring some household income particularly to single parents. HRH Princess Azizah, President, WI of Pahang and ACWW Area President of Asia South East & the Far East, is an avid

and passionate champion of all kinds of fine arts; sewing, embroidery, crochet, designing, printing and weaving of batik and traditional textiles. She headed the programme of basic sewing and now WI of Pahang have their first batch of ten Certificate holders of the National Training Programme on Sewing Ladies Apparel, by the Skills Development Department of the Ministry of Human Resources. In awe of Ruth Shanks A.M. ACWW's World President's fantastic skills at quilting, HRH Princess Azizah has now started quilting as a hobby. The WI is lucky because one of their members owns a Sewing Academy and has formed the National Cooperative of Commercial Sewing Arts of which HRH Princess Azizah has been made Royal Patron.

## PICK A DATE ANY DATE!



Sylvia Baker President of Patcham Morning WI and member of Preston Village, decided to try out one of ACWW's fundraising ideas created by Hazel Armstrong, where dates are sold in a calendar and who ever lands on the winning date, chosen by ACWW, wins a small part of the money raised. It took about nine months for Sylvia to sell as many dates as she could.

The winning date of 17th July, was chosen by ACWW's Editor, which Wendy Windsor, a member of Patcham Morning WI had selected. Wendy used the money she won to take her daughter to the Theatre. Sylvia said "I found people very willing to buy a date with the prospect of a cash prize. Good idea, ACWW". The photo above was taken at St. Johns Church, Preston Park in Brighton and is of Sylvia on the right with Wendy Windsor on the left.

## DOLL'S COTS, BEDDING AND LINEN CUPBOARD

### VOLMOED BRANCH OF WAU CONTINUE TO HELP AN EARLY LEARNING CENTRE



Photo: Children saying 'Thank You' are here with Tsweleng staff and Volmoed members Monda Monareng, Gill Roberts, Mirandavari Heerden, Drieniedelange, Santiede Wet, Annah Makhubela and Jane Ngobenj, with Kate Makenain front showing the children the contents of the cupboard and how each item is used.

Children at Tsweleng Early Learning Centre for ages 3-4 near Rustenburg in the North West Province of South Africa, were given doll's cots, bedding and a linen cupboard from members of the Volmoed Branch of the Women's Agricultural Union (WAU).

Volmoed members try each year to make something useful for the Tsweleng children. Since the Centre's cots and bedding were no longer usable, their 2014 project was to repair, or make new ones for the dolls to sleep in. The linen cupboard was added to teach the children how to clear up and put bedding away when not in use. Two students, who work for one of the members during the holidays, painted interesting pictures on the cots and on the cupboard.



SOCIETY FEEDBACK

## IN FOR A SURPRISE AT A LONDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING



Photo: Left to right - Ruth Shanks A.M. ACWW World President, Annemarie McDonald Silver-Wood Branch, Guelph Area Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Canada and Margaret Yetman, ACWW Deputy President

Annemarie McDonald from Silver-Wood Branch, Guelph Area Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Canada said: The most surprising thing that happened to me while my husband and I were visiting England happened at a Women's Institute meeting.

With the help of Google, I was able to locate a WI in London that would be meeting during the time we would be there. The October 2014 meeting of London West End WI was held in Upper Vestry Hall, Bloomsbury. It was wonderful meeting the branch Secretary with whom I had been emailing and be so warmly welcomed by all the members. The Secretary mentioned that it was an unusual night – besides myself visiting from Canada, they were expecting several other women visiting from other countries.

Imagine my surprise when I turned around and saw ACWW Deputy World President, Margaret Yetman, from Newfoundland, Canada. She is the past ACWW Canada Area President and we have met at conferences and conventions in the past. The other visitors were Ruth Shanks A.M., ACWW World President from Australia, Henrietta Schoeman, ACWW Secretary from South Africa, Alison Burnett, ACWW Treasurer from Wales and Tish Collins, ACWW Operations Manager. Tish is also a member of London West End WI and had invited ACWW's Execs to her branch meeting before they left for home the next day after a busy round of ACWW Executive meetings.

As a member of ACWW, I was interested in visiting the office so the next day my husband and I went to Mary Summer House and had the pleasure of meeting Sam Godolphin, Projects Development Administrator and Juliet Childs, Projects Administrator. All in all, an unforgettable WI/ ACWW experience!

## ACWW COFFEE MORNING IN HONOUR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Photo: Left to right - Valerie Stevens ACWW European Area President, Eileen Hurd, Somerset Rep, Angela Bunting, Vice-President, Binegar WI and Jeanette Dellow, Cranmore Strawberry Line WI who brought the baton to Binegar for the ACWW coffee morning

Approximately 50 people attended an ACWW Coffee Morning on 9th March 2015 in honour of International Women's Day. It was a Fairtrade coffee morning, which had two stalls of Fairtrade items, a White Elephant stall and ACWW information boards. With lots to eat and drink, the event took place in the morning from 10.30am - 12.30pm at Binegar Village Hall, on a dull but dry day.

Valerie Stevens, ACWW European Area President spoke to the ladies about her busy year as Area President and about her recent visit to Georgia women's groups. Members expressed interest in supporting any project in Georgia - if there was one. They also had the NFWI Centenary Baton displayed on a cushion, which had been touring all over England and Wales in the centenary year. The coffee morning raised £438.90 for ACWW's project no. 0966. Well done ladies!

## BATON OF FRIENDSHIP CREATIVE FUNDRAISING PART 5

Hazel Armstrong brings readers another great idea for raising funds for ACWW.

Hazel says: I unashamedly stole this idea from Triella WI in East Yorkshire, England when I visited them and asked if I could share the idea with you all. The end result was that each member had filled a decorated baton with coins as a sign of friendship around the world.

### Instructions

Step 1: Take a tube such as the inside of a kitchen roll, or toilet roll, Steradent tube (tablets for cleaning false teeth) candy tube... the list is endless.

Step 2: Cover one end of the tube with paper, then use strong tape to strengthen it, so the coins don't fall through it when filled.

Step 3: Decorate the tube with paper or a decoupage of ACWW pictures; you are only limited by your own imagination. (Maybe groups could have a competition for best decorated tube)

Step 4: Cover the other end in strong tape with a slit in it to put coins through then pass it around your friends and tell them what ACWW is all about and ask them to donate their coins.

Whenever you decide to end your collection take a photo of all the batons, empty and count and give yourselves a pat on the back!! Then send the money to ACWW.



Photocredit: handimania.com



## WATER FOR ALL

Jean Lineham, President and Jody Took, Treasurer for North Ferriby WI, England, sent in a cheque for £38 for ACWW's 'Water for All' fund, which were the proceeds of a bottle collection, where money was kindly donated by their members.

## EUROPEAN AREA PRESIDENT VISITS CAPITAL CITY OF TBILISI

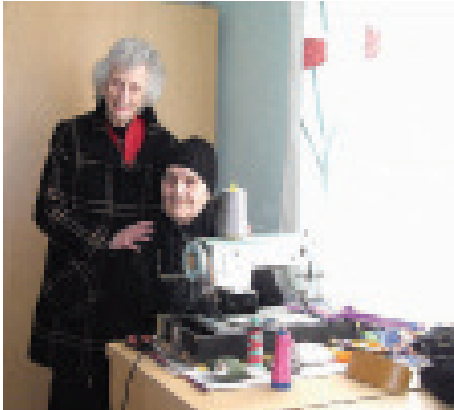


Photo Above: Valerie Stevens, European Area President, at an Internal Displaced People's (IDPs) settlement. Below: A Children's Choir entertain the visitors.

Valerie Stevens, ACWW European Area President wrote: I had many questions in mind when I left my home in Weymouth on the morning of the 13th February 2015 for Tbilisi, Georgia. Would I manage the changeover in Istanbul airport; would it be cold; would my transport be there at four o'clock in the morning to greet me; would the hotel be ready to welcome me an hour or so later; what did the ladies of the 'Women in Georgia Regions' expect of me; and whatever it was, could I deliver; above all could I represent ACWW well and encourage them to join? I need not have worried.

The Georgians are a proud, hospitable people. Their ancient history, culture and traditions are all reflected in their capital city of Tbilisi, where East and West meet; where Persia, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Syria and the Crimea have added to the rich mix which is modern Georgia. But its recent past and political upheavals have left many of its people in need of support, and that of course is where ACWW comes in.

I was asked at a recent meeting in Somerset what did the Georgian women's groups expect of me. I think five things:

1. They wanted to be part of a worldwide network of women's groups, which exists to support, encourage and improve the lives of women.
2. They wanted us to know that they were there and would welcome our presence for conferences, European or Triennial. There would be government support for such conferences.
3. They wanted us to be aware of their rich heritage, which they celebrate and wanted to share with us.
4. They wanted us to see and be aware of their problems and offer help if we could.

5. They wanted us to be aware of the work women's groups were doing to overcome the severe problems many faced, as they moved from a Soviet political and economic era into a Western, democratic, capitalist one.

On my first day I wandered on my own through narrow streets, visited three churches and two art galleries, found that being English is welcomed and became aware of the contrasts between the newly constructed international hotels and some poor housing, beggars and roaming dogs.

The next day, Naira, the leader of the group which invited me, and Nino, who was my valiant interpreter, showed me their city, introduced me to its cuisine and wine, took me to museums and explained their history, their sulphur baths, a wedding, their buildings, ancient and modern, and the square where Mosque, Synagogue, Armenian church and Orthodox churches sit almost side by side.

On my last evening I enjoyed a visit to the theatre for a performance of Moliere's 'Le Misanthrope' in Georgian, quite a challenge!

Then it was time to meet the women's groups. What a humbling, memorable experience it was. We went to the youth centre of the Sarajevo region where I joined an English class for youngsters aged 8-12. After school I met a group of confident, articulate young women aged 16-18 on a leadership course, was sung to by a wonderful children's choir and enjoyed a traditional Georgian meal in a very fine restaurant.

Visits to Internal Displaced People's (IDPs) settlements provided a stark contrast. Two thousand refugees from the war in South Ossetia had been housed since 2008, in an old Soviet army barracks, which had been abandoned for ten years, with water from standpipes three times a day; and seven thousand IDPs housed in a vast field in square, one roomed concrete blocks, without bathrooms - row upon row with little to please the eye.

The women I met had arrived with nothing. They had left family farms, businesses, professions, government jobs. Yet the women, young and old, were setting up workshops, attempting to find resources for small businesses, training others in crafts, IT and working with young people, preparing them for work - CV preparation, interview techniques etc.

There was so much to do and so little to do it with - some sewing machines from the USA, some computers from Germany, some wood for furniture

making from the Czech Republic. One lady who had now taken on the responsibility of teaching craft skills using the machines, had arrived alone, her husband having stood in front of her as she was about to be shot and was shot instead.

I have read about soup kitchens for the down and out, the alcoholics, the drug addicts, those with mental health problems but I had never envisaged one for elderly, educated, professional, highly intelligent, middle-class musicians, writers, academics, teachers, business men and government officials.

Yet led by Maia, the leader of 'Women of Georgia for Peace and Life', such a soup kitchen exists. Housed in a broken down building, with primitive cooking and toilet facilities, between forty and fifty men and women were fed every day, every week - a bowl of soup, bread, rice and a piece of fruit. Meat is possible once a week. An old-age pension of about £25 a month leaves very little for food. It was heart-breaking. I gave my £100 'just-in-case' money. Maia said it would buy the food for the centre for a week.

Meetings round long board tables with regional representatives of the area's village women NGOs revealed common problems - lack of work, credit, transport, education, business training and marketing opportunities.

The emptying of villages - men with cars going to Tbilisi, living in their cars and working as taxis; the women leaving the villages to work in Turkey and neighbouring countries; the young people going abroad for work - destroys age-old communities.

Passivity and depression are difficult to overcome from within. This showed me that these women who work in the most difficult of circumstances deserved our friendship and our support.

For me this was a truly memorable visit. I hope that their membership with ACWW will be a rewarding one.



## EDUCATING WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA



Elsa van Rooyen from the WAU Jubenett Branch in the North West Province, South Africa has used her skills to help less privileged women for the last eight years.

What started as a demonstration at the local library on Woman's day ended up as a working session every Wednesday at the local library. The local women gather at the library for the sessions in cooking jams, baking and embroideries. With her time and skills she teaches them to create presents for any occasion with beads and of course something special for the children at home.

Elsa says Wednesday mornings are just as constructive and educative for her as for the ladies who attend the workshop sessions.

South African Women's Agricultural Union donated funds towards the project, which were used to buy soap, ribbons and raffia.

The final products were sold for a profit of R300.00. Pictured left are some of the ladies who participated in these projects.

## HOW AN IDEA TURNED ORDINARY WOMEN INTO ENTREPRENEURS



learn how to crochet a hat (bonnet). Before long, there were about 8 ladies who came to crochet. This was a very pleasant and cheerful get together and so we all decided that we would get together every Thursday from 2pm till 5pm to crochet. Soon we asked ourselves who we were actually crocheting these little hats for. We all agreed that we would make the hats for the destitute children in our

Drika Kruger, a member of the Pandamatenga Ladies Needlework Group in a remote area of Botswana and a member of the Botswana Women's Club wrote: Pandamatenga is a village in Botswana in Southern Africa. I came to this area in 2004. My husband is a farmer, one of 18 farmers at the time, and we farm in a fenced area of 21,000 acres near the village of Pandamatenga. There are approximately 3,000 inhabitants in the village. The farmers and their wives and children counted about 60 in 2004.

The Pandamatenga Ladies Needlework Group started because I was interested to

village. "Destitute" means that you do not have ANY relatives to take care of you at all and in Pandamatenga we had over 76 destitute children. We received wool from the farmer's wives and soon we had 200 hats. We organised a special occasion and the children received their hats together with a blanket and toiletries. The remaining hats were sent to the Somalian refugees together with bags of sorghum and blankets, which were donated by the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board. It was a wonderful exercise and I asked the ladies whether they would like to learn how to quilt.

The answer was an overwhelming yes and we decided that the needle work class would still be on Thursday afternoons from 2pm till 5pm. Our first quilt class was under a beautiful tree next to the Ghosie's offices in the village where we crochet. We put tables there and made it into a wonderful place.

The ladies progressed very well and they soon saw what quilting was all about. One lady, named Mado, kept taking little pieces of material out of my "rubbish box" and sewed them together. I looked at her and her friend, Maggie, working all these little pieces together and wondered what we could do with that. Our needle work class was quite chaotic... I had to cut all the blocks they needed and with the help of one of the farmer's wives, Nelie Fourie, we managed to keep the stitches straight.

The quilt blankets were made over a period of about 8 months. One day, Mado showed me her little blocks, all worked together in 3x3 cm squares and I had a light bulb moment! Why don't we make potholders? It would be much easier than making a blanket and it would return a revenue for the ladies very quickly. I mentioned the idea to the group and everybody was excited! We started working

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20



Photo: Above blanket presented at ACWW's Southern Africa Area Conference to Ruth Shanks AMACWW World President Below Women admiring the blanket before it was presented. The women making squares and selling them at their local market



with the aim to have a stall at the next Pandamatenga Agricultural Show, where we would sell blankets, potholders and handbags.

The stall at the show was a big success!! All the products were sold and the ladies received their money.

The question was asked: "Do you ladies want to carry on with the sewing classes or shall we call it a day?" They decided that they wanted to carry on and soon we received a big surprise from the Welfare Department in Kasane. They donated 3 electric sewing machines, 3 hand sewing machines, an industrial iron and ironing board and 2 rolls of material. We had to start training the ladies on the sewing machines and we traded the two rolls of material for lots and lots of 2m pieces of material at a shop in Kasane. Now we were ready to make more potholders!!

The ladies worked very hard and made potholders for the 2013 Pandamatenga Agricultural Show. The value of the stock was P12, 500.00. One of the farmer's wives looked

at the boxes and boxes full of potholders and asked whether we would sell all of it? I was very nervous and anxious, but at the end of the day we sold ALL the stock and the ladies were paid 75% of the revenue. Their hard work paid off. Then Mado decided that she did not want her blocks of material to become potholders, but instead be made into a blanket. She sewed them all together and asked me to finish the blanket for the 2014-ACWW South Africa Area Conference, which we were invited to attend.

At the Conference she decided that she wanted to hand over the blanket to Ruth Shanks A.M., ACWW World President. This was a wonderful occasion and many thoughts went through my mind when the blanket was put in the President's hands.

Many emotions stirred and I felt that all the hard work was worthwhile. To date, with the orders that we have receive from far and wide, the group will carry on with the needlework for as long as we can.



## 120 GUESTS ATTEND ACWW LUNCH

Annette Smith Chair of the Public Affairs and International Committee, a sub section of West Kent WI, England, reported that her WI held a lunch in aid of ACWW on 6th November 2014, with 120 guests in attendance. They were all treated to a Ploughman's lunch, which is an English cold meal consisting of cheese, pickle and bread, boiled eggs and ham. There was a raffle held and Valerie Stevens, ACWW European Area President who also attended, gave a talk on her role within ACWW, and with a nudge from Jeanne Barsby, previous ACWW Rep for West Kent WI, talked about the upcoming 2016 Triennial World Conference. Kay East, the current ACWW Rep for West Kent WI also attended the lunch.

The lunch raised an impressive £796.63, which is going towards ACWW's project number 0958- 'Enhancing Farm Livelihoods of women through Dairy Programme'. This project run by the Vinmathee Educational and Rural Development Society in India was initiated in order to support widows in the local community by providing them with dairy animals, which would give them a means of earning money and supporting their families.

These women had taken part in training programmes and received revolving loans as part of their participation in the project. What is great is that some have already repaid their share of the revolving loan after benefitting from the facility. All have been very positive about the programme and the impact it has had on their lives. Vinmathee Educational and Rural Development Society say the emphasis now is on how this project can continue so that more vulnerable individuals could come to benefit.



## EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN IN ECONOMY & NUTRITION

In January Hazel Armstrong, member of ACWW's Projects Committee and Projects Resource Person monitored project number 0957, run by Sarojini Naidu Rural Welfare and Educational Trust on behalf of ACWW in India. The project, 'Empowering Rural Women in Economy and Nutrition' seeks to empower women in their region through improving their health and economic capacity.

In her report Hazel wrote: I visited this project in January 2015 and met with 17 women beneficiaries, each with their cow. The rest of the cows are to be purchased shortly but need to be of a high enough standard to pass inspection and of the right age to be sustainable. The ones purchased so far all seemed to be in calf heifers or second calves. Most participants had been members of the

Women's self-help group for the last 4 years and the cows had enabled them to get a better daily wage from selling the milk in the village and to the roadside tea shops. These are 'village cows' as opposed to Hybrid ones and they are inspected by the District Cattle Inspector and have what is known as a 'dollar' tag in their ear to show to whom they belong and also that they are insured. Village cows are cheaper to buy and give around 4 to 6 litres per day but thrive better in the harsh hot dry conditions in this area than the Hybrid cows, which give more milk but in dry times their yield can drop substantially.

Some of the cows had been decorated with coloured powder as this is the festival of Pongal – similar to harvest festival, and the bathing and decorating of all the animals is an important part of the rituals (we saw cats, dogs, goats, horses all covered in coloured powder dots). We also went to see the sieving machine, purchased as part of the project where the accumulated cattle dung, which has been kept in a heap with worms, is sieved of small stones and uncomposted material – the worms are also separated to be returned to the heap. The resultant compost is produced very quickly and has a fine texture and is a highly saleable item.



### PROJECTS REPORTS

#### PROGRESS REPORT



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

##### Implementation of an Integral Women's Centre to Prevent the Risks of Sexually-transmitted Diseases

Organisation: Organizacion para el Desarrollo de las Mujeres Inmigrantes Haitianas y sus Familiares (ODEMIHF)

Supported by: East Sussex FWI, Leicestershire & Rutland FWI, Teesside FWI, England; FWI of Northern Ireland

Organizacion para el Desarrollo de las Mujeres Inmigrantes Haitianas y-sus Familiares (ODEMIHF), the organisation running this project, with the help of ACWW, have equipped their base centre with medical equipment, including beds, in order to carry out smear tests, colposcopy and other gynaecological procedures. Consulting services have also been offered three times

22 | [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)

a week to the female community who previously had no access to health services, due to not having health insurance, or in the case of the immigrant population from Haiti, lacking identity documents.

Three workshops have been carried out, attended by 35 women and in some cases the women have been accompanied by their husbands or partners.

Led by a local doctor the women have received awareness training, which covers women's reproductive health such as cervical and breast cancer and sexually-transmitted diseases. ODEMIHF have provided transport and refreshments for the attendees.

ODEMIHF hopes to provide birth control products for all who need them, when the final instalment of funds is received. ODEMIHF's current aim is to buy sonography (ultrasound) equipment in order to scan pregnant women. At the time of reporting, ODEMIHF was trying to obtain a used machine, however, the price has risen since the project was planned. Another problem has been an intermittent electrical power supply. The doctor at the centre is working with the company which provides electricity to try to address this issue. Both the doctor and ODEMIHF's personnel are evaluating the project by asking for feedback from those who visit the centre, and speaking with people in the community.

#### PROGRESS REPORT



#### INDIA

##### Socio-Economic development of the Poor Women Farmers for Better Yields through Vermi-Composting Technology

Organisation: Mahila Seva Samithi (MASS)  
Supported by: Sheila Goater (individual supporter), England; Dinas Cross WI (PembrokeshireFWI), Wales; Cerclesde Fermieres du Quebec, Canada

The aim of this project, planned and run by Mahila Seva Samithi (MASS), is to improve the socio-economic living conditions of a number of women farmers by training them in vermi-composting techniques. The expected outcome of this approach is that the women would be able to produce crops with higher yields, providing them with higher income, more opportunity for business growth and the means to offer more support



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to their families. 50 female farmers from the rural village of Vemula, Andhra Pradesh, were identified and selected to take part in this innovative project. So far, all the women involved have taken part in training sessions (15 of which have taken place so far) to give them skills and experience in producing better quality compost through the use of vermi-culture techniques. These sessions involve basic theory of the various techniques used, together with practical demonstrations and hands-on examples.

The women have also received informal training in business and agriculture, with ten sessions being carried out each month. The final element of this programme will involve the distribution of small loans to the women to help the women start up small businesses.

#### PROGRESS REPORT



TANZANIA

#### Mushroom Production Project

Organisation: Tumaini Women Group

Supported by: Derbyshire FWI, England

This project run by Tumaini Women Group in Tanzania, involved providing tools and resources and teaching the poorest in the community the production of mushroom growing as an income-generating activity, with the aim of contributing towards the economic and social empowerment of women and other disadvantaged groups in society.

The beneficiaries involved in this programme were overwhelmingly women, many of whom had been selected for this programme due to their challenging economic circumstances. A large number of women involved are the heads of households and have dependents relying on them for survival. Others involved in the programme have HIV positive parents who they need to sustain, whilst some are involved out of the desire to pass on the skills they learn to others who could benefit.

The initial report documents show how the first step undertaken in delivering this project was the planning and execution of a number of community mobilisation meetings. These involved raising awareness about the project among the community.

A total of four meetings were successfully carried out, where beneficiaries were identified. This stage was followed by the acquisition and distribution of the mushroom seed (spawn or spores) itself. 81 individuals (70 women and 11 men) received seed as part of this project. The project staff faced a challenge here as they were unable to purchase seed from their anticipated local provider. Instead, they had to travel to Dar-es-Salaam to acquire seed from the market.

This was not anticipated in the project proposal and resulted in higher costs than had been expected previously. The next stage of the programme was training the beneficiaries in mushroom growing, which involved a number of theoretical and practical training programmes.

More people attended than had originally been anticipated, which demonstrates the interest that the local community had in this project. When the project is concluded, it is hoped that all the groups involved will be able to manage their own mushroom growing businesses to generate income.

#### PROGRESS REPORT



INDIA

#### Rural Sanitation and Water

Organisation: Nirmala Mahila Samajam

Supported by: Derbyshire FWI, England

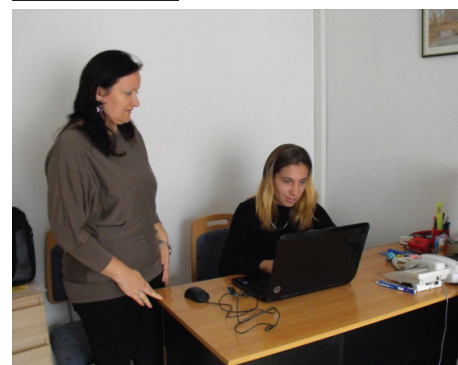
The purpose of this project was to provide sanitation facilities to 15 of the poorest rural and tribal families, especially those with women as the head of the family and widows' families in Pallikunnu, Kerala, and to construct a well for pure drinking water for a crowded rural poor people's housing colony in Eachom.

Further aims were to give awareness lessons to the beneficiaries of the importance of consuming pure water and using clean water for bathing, washing and sanitary purposes in order to prevent water-borne diseases; also to make these rural communities aware of the serious consequences of open defecation. Some leaders emerged from the beneficiary group, with women and girls feeling empowered.

With some becoming interested in the construction work it means that in the future they could assist the construction group as helpers, and later perhaps as skilled

workers. The implementing group did face some problems: During 2014, Kerala suffered from heavy rain, so the construction of the wells did not go smoothly. The number of work days and consequently the expenditure increased. Due to these increased costs, only 7 latrines have been built so far instead of 15.

#### FINAL REPORT



ROMANIA

#### Computer Literacy and Activity Scheme for Women and Children

Organisation: Women's Association from Sibiu/Romania (Asociatia Femeilor din Sibiu)

Supported by: FWI's of Northern Ireland;

Cambridge FWI, Oxfordshire FWI, England

This project was designed and implemented to offer to women and children who experience violence, access to training in computer skills in addition to a counselling and support service.

So far the beneficiaries have acquired skills in Word, Excel and using the internet and email. Some of the beneficiaries have compiled, edited and adapted their own curriculum vitae in order to find work, or to change their current jobs.

At first some of the women were nervous because they had no knowledge of computers, but this changed over time as they became actively involved, and interested in using the data and information in order to help solve their current personal problems.

The association, Women's Association from Sibiu/Romania who runs the project have reported better communication and cooperation skills amongst the women, a higher level of confidence and a self-image closer to their real ones and not the deformed image imposed by their aggressors. They have also reported an improved ability to deal with the normal problems of life without fear of being judged by their abusers.

For the children, learning computer skills has been very helpful in encouraging them to develop their concentration whilst learning basic applications in Windows, Word and Excel and working with files and folders.

The children have also been encouraged to play learning games; with a particular software involving increasing typing speed, which also requires a high level of concentration.



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