

THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2016

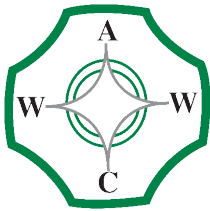
WOMEN WALK THE WORLD!

WI Pahang win the 2016 Cover Photo Competition

28th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

As you set off for the UK, we look back at the history of the Triennial Conference





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The Countrywoman is the official quarterly magazine of ACWW, and was named by Mrs Alfred Watt MBE, the First President of ACWW in 1933.

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Please note the following deadlines for submitting your articles, updates and photographs to The Countrywoman. We welcome new contributors and those in areas not recently featured- please get in touch with nick@acww.org.uk if you need any help in submitting.

October- December: 30th August 2016

January- March: 20th November 2016

April- June: 20th February 2017

July- September: 20th June 2017

The Editor's decision on acceptance and inclusion is final.

DEAR FRIENDS...

A Message from the World President



By the time you are reading this issue of The Countrywoman, the 28th Triennial World Conference will be happening or will be all over for another Triennium. You may have noticed that this issue is a little late, but owing to the pressure of writing, editing and printing all the documents for the conference there was never enough hours in the day to get it all done earlier.

Amongst all the organisation for the conference being attended to, we have had a few changes in office staff, which have blurred the issues a little. Nick Newland has replaced Jennifer Atigolo and is now IT, Media and Communications Manager, and Amit Patel has resigned from his role as Finance Manager due to ill health. Some of these changes have put pressure on the other staff, namely Manisha, Helena, Juliet, Sarah and of course our Chief Executive Officer Tish Collins. They have accepted the extra load of work, including the conference registrations and accommodation, with happy smiles, but I am sure they go home totally exhausted and not needing to be rocked to sleep. I express my thanks and the thanks of the Executive and the Board for them "walking the extra mile" for ACWW.

The Conference, as always, is the culmination of the work of the Triennium and a time for us to hold our heads up high and be proud of the work we have all done to make the world a better place for women in many communities in many parts of the globe. As this goes to press, we have had more than 600 registrations, including full time delegates, day delegates and partners, so this is a great result for the organising committees, both the Hostess committee and the TCC. The format of the Conference is a little different this time. There are key pieces of official business to attend to but then the

rest of the programme has been designed for the benefit of the attendees, keeping variety and interest.

The TCC, Finance and Executive Committees met in London in June, at the same time as the UK celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday and also the 95th birthday of Prince Phillip. This was a great time to be in London and the celebrations taking place across the country were quite a sight to see. I was able to attend the AGM of the National Federation of Women's Institutes held in Brighton. This was another grand occasion, and around 4,000 women lining up to get into the venue was impressive to witness. Whilst at the Office, there was not a moment lost, with Alison, Henrietta and myself all pitching in to help in any way with the sundry jobs of sorting, marking names, packing, checking and checking again, that goes with any large scale organisation preparing for a Conference.

As this is the end of the Triennium I would like to express my thanks to all members of the Board, the members of the Specified Committees and also the other members of the Executive. We have all worked well together and can be proud of the work we have done on behalf of you all. Also many thanks to those of you who have spoken to us, written, emailed, and in all ways, supported us. Remember, we are all members, just like you, but we have been brave enough to put our names forward to give what we can, however we can, for the betterment of women the world over.

My thought for this edition is:

Remember to relax- as you balance things in your life, don't forget to enjoy yourself. This is why I wish you warmth, health and happiness- and a little joyful excess- to balance the equation.

Ruth Shanks, A.M.
ACWW World President

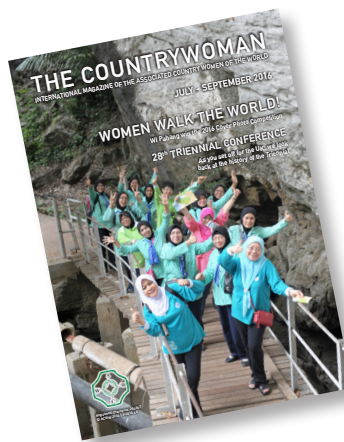
Photo: Ruth working in the President's Office at ACWW's London Central Office in June 2016. After a long flight from Australia, Ruth jumped straight into the organisational work for the 28th Triennial Conference in August 2016. © ACWW 2016

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COVER IMAGE

The 2017 Women Walk the World Cover Competition was won by the Pahang Women's Institutes with this fantastic image taken during their huge celebration. Congratulations to all involved- and to everyone who Walked the World in 2016.

MAKING YOUR MAGAZINE SUSTAINABLE

The Countrywoman has been delivered in an envelope rather than a plastic wrapper. This is because we have switched to use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. For every tree used in the production of this issue, three are planted in its place. This is part of ACWW's commitment to a healthier planet, and Sustainable Development Goal 12.





CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

Tish Collins, ACWW Operations Manager

The recent referendum vote for Britain to leave the European Union has dominated the media and most people's conversations for a few weeks now. No one knows exactly how this will impact life but the value of the £ Sterling has fallen considerably. This may benefit some coming to Triennial Conference who will now be able to spend more in the Country Women's Store and donate their last coins to Pennies for Friendship!

The deadline for Triennial Conference registrations was this week and it looks as if it should be a great Conference with delegates from 42 countries. As I write, Helena is still corresponding and helping people with enquiries but over 600 registrations have been processed so far. We have a relatively new staff coping with a new database system and I would like to thank everyone for their generosity of spirit and understanding when they have raised queries.

Sadly, Amit Patel, our Finance Manager retired at the end of May due to ill health. Amit had been with ACWW for 7 years and we wish him all the best for the future. Until we are able to recruit his replacement, I am picking up Amit's work and dealing with the auditors. The final accounts are running a few weeks late but will be with us by Conference.

In June we were joined by the Executive, Finance and Triennial Conference Committees for a busy week of Conference preparation- it is all getting rather exciting now! It has been a transformative Triennium for ACWW, with new staff, a completely new IT system, and a renewed energy for building a better future - we very much look forward to working with you and developing this in the three years ahead.

Tish Collins Operations Manager



MEET THE STAFF

Helena Alty Office Administrator

Welcome to ACWW! You've been here a few months now - how are you settling in?

Thank you- I've settled in really well and am enjoying my time here a lot. It's been pretty hectic, with the Conference preparations but I've loved getting to know ACWW through planning such an exciting event!

What did you do before you came to ACWW?

Before I came to ACWW I completed two internships with human rights charities in communications and campaigns roles, which was brilliant for preparing me for working in the charity sector. I'd also gone travelling around South India for three months with a friend, which was an amazing experience and is where I saw first hand the issues ACWW helps with. Both these experiences confirmed with me that working in human rights and international development was something I really wanted to do.

Our conference this year is at the University of Warwick, where you studied - are you looking forward to going back?

Yes, absolutely. I loved studying History of Art at Warwick but I think it will be strange to be going back working with ACWW and not as a student. Hopefully I will be useful and still remember where everything is!

What exactly does your job at ACWW involve?

My job at ACWW right now mainly involves working towards the Conference. I process all the registration and accommodation forms we receive, deal with queries and help arrange some of the logistics. But I also process all donations here, send off promotional materials and ensure the smooth running of the ACWW Central Office.

What do you do in your time off to relax?

In my time off, I love to cycle and have started yoga again, which I did a lot in India! I also have a part time job on a market stall selling organic fruit and veg so that takes up my Sundays. In my spare time I'm pretty lazy and love watching films or having drinks in the sun with friends (on the rare occasions we have some sun!)

Women Walk the World Central Office staff with Nelson Mandela's statue in Parliament Square.

Hard at work! Office Administrator Helena Alty (R) and Administrative Assistant Rebecca Ramsey (L) process the final few Conference registration forms.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Nick Newland

We've had a busy few months in the Central Office, with everyone preparing for the Triennial Conference, as well as carrying out their normal duties. Personally, my focus has been on writing and compiling the major documents for the Conference- the Triennial Report of Work, Conference Programme and lots of other documents that you'll be reading in August!

Compiling the Triennial Report of Work has been a fascinating and wonderfully rewarding experience, and has taught me a huge amount about the exceptional work carried out worldwide by ACWW members and societies. Thank you to everyone who submitted these reports.

The new website is proving popular with our members, and there is a detailed exploration of the site later in this issue. You'll want to check this out, as it also includes the password for the Members' Area!

The Countrywoman had a major facelift in the last issue, and this issue continues the theme- we have some brilliant photos from your efforts as Women Walk the World, and I've dug some lovely images out of our archive for a little Conference nostalgia. However, I am very keen to focus on each and every area, society and member of ACWW- please do send me your images, reports of your activities and events and any ACWW related news. If you're not sure of what we want to read about, why not download the Submission Guidelines from the website.

Don't forget- if you have any questions, thoughts or ideas, please feel free to contact me at nick@acww.org.uk



FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS



Alison Burnett, ACWW Finance Committee Chairman

This will be the last Finance report that I will write as Treasurer. When I took over in 2010 the world was in a financial slump and ACWW suffered along with everyone else. 2 weeks ago I was optimistic of us coming out of this difficult period but that was before the UK voted to leave the EU and put the UK back into financial uncertainty at least in the short term. Over the last 6 years ACWW's income from our investments has settled down but the banks are only giving about 1% in bank interest, and bank charges are very high.

The Finance committee – Heather Brennan (Australia), Ros Cooper (England) and Margaret McMillan (Northern Ireland) have worked hard over these past years. We would like to thank all the societies who have donated to the Pennies for Friendship Fund, which is used for carrying out all ACWW aims and objectives, and encourage the societies who are not able to donate money to become involved in promoting the work of ACWW in their societies, and try to increase ACWW membership by becoming individual members. As the individual membership increases we are also increasing our magazine circulation which brings down the unit cost of the magazine.

It is wonderful to see the photos from Women Walk the World where friendships grow, ACWW is promoted and ACWW funds increase directly through PFF or to specific projects. I do hope that this event will continue- especially on that date which is ACWW Day (29 April). Societies can also get involved with Tea Time, Just Giving, Gift Aid (UK), old jewellery and for those of a certain age – legacies.

REMINDERS

SUBSCRIPTIONS – Subscriptions are due from **everyone** (societies and individuals) on 1 January each year and should be paid by 31 March at the latest.

WORLD CONFERENCE- The next World Conference will be held in Melbourne Australia in 2019 when ACWW will be 90 years old, I would encourage everyone to start saving or raising funds. It would be great if every society was able to send at least 1 representative.

EMAIL ADDRESSES – we now have email addresses for almost all our societies but are short of some of the individual's email addresses. Please let ACWW know as soon as possible if you have not given them your email

I finish by thanking the committee members that have worked with me over the last 6 years for all their hard work, the members who work so hard to provide the funds to let ACWW continue their work and all the staff at Central Office especially in this past year who are working their 'socks off' to help all the committees alongside organising the Conference in Warwick.

I wish ACWW all the best in the future and look forward to seeing it become the top womens charity in the world!



Members of the Executive Committee join the Finance Committee in June 2016. L-R: Tish Collins, Henrietta Schoeman, Ruth Shanks AM, Heather Brennan, Alison Burnett, Margaret McMillan and Ros Cooper.

PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP



MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS USING ONLINE BANKING

Account:
Associated Country Women of the World
Account Number:
0124 4108
Sort Code:
56-00-33
Bank:
NatWest Bank, 57 Victoria Street, London
United Kingdom, SW1H 0HP
Branch:
Westminster
Swift Code:
NWB KGB 2L
IBAN:
GB67NWBK56003301244108

LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

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

You can be assured that your gift will make a genuine difference to our work. To find out more about leaving a bequest please email tish.c@acww.org.uk to receive a Bequest Information Pack.



BASICS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

Magdie de Kock, ACWW Communications & Marketing Committee Chair

Many great leaders owe their fame and influence to their skills as orators. The great speeches of Nelson Mandela, Winston Churchill and Mahatma Gandhi – to name but a few- are as memorable as their achievements. Being an effective speaker is one of the best ways to inform, to inspire, to influence and to motivate other people and yet, it is often also the most daunting. Clear thinking, preparation and practice are the skills to success whether at a meeting or a dinner party, what you are saying and how you're saying it, matters. It can open doors – or close them, it can make you friends – or lose them; it can get you noticed – or forgotten.

Various elements are important in the art of public speaking and addressing people, one being the way you use your voice to make an impact and to be heard. A well controlled voice is a powerful tool and a versatile voice can persuade, excite or intimidate; it can be intimate, impress or soothe. A voice is more than the pitch, volume and pace with which one speaks, it is one's whole being. Try to gain control of your breathing and you can project your voice which will not only affect how you are received, but also how you feel about yourself. Use your words to grab and hold attention with short sentences and simple language. Long convoluted sentences are difficult to follow. Use your personal style to get the most from conversations and presentations. As with so many other things in life, success in public speaking depends on both careful preparation and careful presentation.

“ *always give a speech that you would like to hear* ”

Preparation

One of the most important aspects of the preparation of your presentation is, apart from research on your topic, to be well informed about your audience. Get to know your audience and their expectations. It is all too easy to stereotype an audience, therefore make sure you have collected all the information available about your audience, and refer to the key characteristics as you prepare your speech. Think about structure and consider the order in which you will deliver the information. Decide on what you will say in your introduction, in the body of the speech and in your conclusion. Think of your opening or introduction as a promise to the audience. It should inform them what they are going to hear, and why it is important. This section needs to get their attention and give them a reason to keep listening. The body of the speech is where you deliver on the promise you made in the introduction by stating the facts, giving explanations and adding comments to fill out your message. Sustain interest by keeping the opening promise in mind, and making sure every element advances that goal. The conclusion is the “so what?” of your presentation. While you should spend less of your presentation time on the closure, remember that it will probably be the section that your audience remembers most clearly. Whatever you want them to remember, say it in your closing remarks.

Presentation

Effective speakers pay as much attention to style as to content, to how they will speak and look, as to what they will say. To make an impact on an audience, clear structure and well-judged content need to be matched by effective delivery. Remember the effectiveness of certain rhetorical tricks for getting key points across – particularly at the beginning and end of a speech. Among the most common are repetition and contrast and understanding non-verbal communication. Most of the meaning transferred from one person to another in a personal conversation as well as in a presentation comes not from the words that are spoken, but from the nonverbal signals. Learning to read, understand and use these wordless messages isn't easy, but is essential for effective communication. Visual support can be helpful to enhance your speech, by helping to explain, reinforce and clarify main points but take care not to overkill your message with too much visual information especially when making use of PowerPoint.

According to research, public speaking ranks at the top of many people's list of worst fears. Be assured that this is understandable and normal – and even highly experienced presenters sometimes feel some anxiety. Rather than fighting your fear, try to harness it so it works for you; as ever, this requires preparation, practice, and persistence. Take the following preventative action before you begin your presentation: Take several deep breaths, don't take your position too early, shrug your shoulders and stretch and release your facial muscles to help ease tension and give your voice a warm-up by humming.

Remember

To develop skills and confidence, it is recommended to take opportunities to speak to as wide a variety of audiences as possible. It is a fact that confidence is transferable and so are speaking skills.

Winston Churchill was the master of communicating with emotion, passion and conviction. These three attributes help to make the topic vivid and so have an impact on the audience. Imagine yourself taking the stage confidently and speaking well. See yourself enjoying the moment and be reminded of the wisdom of Andrii Sedmiev when he said: “Always give a speech that you would like to hear”.

Compiled by Magdie de Kock.

References

Effective Communication:
DK's Essential managers

GET IN TOUCH

Nick Newland
Media & Communications
Manager

I'm very keen to make The Countrywoman reflective of all ACWW's membership- if you haven't seen your area featured for a while, why not send something in to me?

Email nick@acww.org.uk

Note that if you send us images or text, you grant ACWW a perpetual, royalty-free, irrevocable and non-exclusive right to publish them. All this means is that we can use them in the magazine and on our website- which is why you send them!

THE NEW ACWW WEBSITE

Nick Newland, ACWW Media and Communications Manager



ACWW has had a website for a long time, and it has proven a fantastic resource for connecting with members around the world. However, advances in technology, and even national and international legislation mean that from time to time such sites need an overhaul. For ACWW, the time for these updates came in March and April 2016, and when I started in the new job, I set about a complete rebuild of the website.

There are some key features which are new, as well as a new look (which ties in with the new style of *The Countrywoman*). Follow me for a guided tour of the new site!

The Homepage

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
ACWW CONNECTS & SUPPORTS WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

Home About ACWW Support Us Triennial Conference

ACWW PROJECTS
Case studies of current projects, and how to apply for funding

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
ACWW is an association of women-led societies and groups working collectively for the shared vision of an improved quality of life for women and communities worldwide. With 420 member societies in 73 countries, ACWW gives voice to over 9 million rural and non-rural women.

ACWW believes that through cooperation and understanding we can empower our members to create opportunities for women to exercise more power, make better decisions and change their own lives for the better.

Particular concerns are the relief of poverty, relief of sickness and the protection and preservation of health and advancement of education. Membership is open to Societies and Groups as well as individuals.

Support ACWW online and connect with friends worldwide

ACWW is one of the largest international development organisations for rural women
Our network allows us to engage at the local, national, and international level with the aim of achieving these goals:

- TO RAISE the standard of living for rural women and their families through education, training and community development programmes
- TO PROVIDE practical support to our members and help them set up income-generating schemes
- TO SUPPORT educational opportunities for women and girls, and help eliminate gender discrimination
- TO GIVE rural women a voice at an international level through our links with key agencies and bodies

Learn more about the Commission on the Status of Women at 60

ACWW is committed to the

The homepage is where you land, the greeting page if you like. It includes links so you can learn more about ACWW's work, staff, Officers and Committees. It also includes a summary of ACWW's goals and efforts worldwide.

The General information section includes links to four pages – Home, About ACWW, Support Us and Triennial Conference, leading to each page as well as a specific link to Governance. Additionally, there is a link to the 'Terms, Conditions & Legal Policy Statements' page which includes Terms and Conditions for the use of the ACWW website, a Privacy Statement and a Cookies Policy. These are necessary legal documents, according to the legal requirement in the UK.

Each page includes full access links to our complete range of social media outputs, which should draw more traffic to them.

All pages have been designed to be clearer, cleaner and more easily viewed on a range of devices. The **Central Office Staff** and **Meet the Board** pages allow you to recognise those who support and represent you, which I hope will give a more engaged feeling for all users as well as clearer understanding of how the Board, Executive, Area Presidents and Specified Committees interact and cooperate.

The **Agriculture, Projects** and the **UN Committee** pages have been developed in collaboration with the Central Office staff responsible for each Committee and are a springboard for further development with the new elected officers after the next Triennial Conference.

Member's Only Area: A long-requested feature from both the C&M Committee and members, this new area will allow us to disseminate information to Members, as well as offering them resources and matters for their benefit and, crucially, give them a feeling of investment and participation in the website and day-to-day running of ACWW. This password-protected area has also allowed us to implement online postal voting for six Areas to be used in their Area President elections.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
ACWW CONNECTS & SUPPORTS WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

Home About ACWW Support Us Triennial Conference

ACWW MEMBER'S AREA
Welcome to the new password-protected area. This website is intended to assist the work done on the new ACWW site, but this site is designed to meet the needs of our members and is not intended to be used by the general public. If you are a member, please log in to access the full range of services available to you. If you are not a member, please contact your local Area President or the ACWW Secretariat.

Support ACWW online and connect with friends worldwide

ACWW MEMBER'S AREA
Click here to login

When you visit the Members' Area, you will see the screen above, and be promoted to login. When you do, you'll be asked for a password. Please use the following:

acww2016portal

Once you are logged in, you'll be able to find a whole host of exclusive resources and things to download- including the last issue of *The Countrywoman* as a one-off special offer! We have also included a range of helpful guides, like a Submission Guidelines factsheet for how to send in your articles for *The Countrywoman*, and how to fundraise for ACWW. More resources are being added to this page all the time, so be sure to check in regularly.

ACWW Zero Hunger Challenge Project No.1

Project ACWW Project No.973: To construct two large poly-tunnels to enable the production and sale of nutritious vegetables in Khorod Aimag, Western Mongolia

Sponsors Country Women's Council, USA www.cwccusa.org

Background Average temperatures over most of Mongolia are below freezing from November through to March and are at about freezing in April and October. This means that the growing season for vegetables in Western Mongolia, is just three months long, that is, from June to August. As a result vegetables are both scarce and unaffordable for most people.

With the help of the Sain Tus Center, two groups of 15 women from female-headed households formed co-operatives to produce and market a range of nutritious vegetable crops. Some of these vegetables were transplanted into the field once the temperatures were high enough, while the more tender crops, such as cucumbers and peppers were allowed to mature inside the plastic houses. Animal manure was used to fertilise crops.

Outcome Yields were high during the first year (2015) and each farmer profited by as much as 1,124,917 Mongolian Tugriks or US\$ 566.87, once the produce had been sold in the local market, see Table 1.

Women tending their crops inside the Poly-Tunnel
Cucumber ready for harvest
Significant growth in the Poly-Tunnel
Harvested crops ready for market
Farmers & children with their Poly-Tunnel

Table 1: Costs and benefits of vegetable production in two Poly-Tunnels in Khorod Aimag, Western Mongolia

Vegetable Crops	Input Costs* (US\$)	Yield (kg)	Selling price per kg (US\$)	Income (US\$)	Profit (US\$)
Cabbage	1,014.25	6,691	0.30	2,007.30	1,572.99
Carrots	655.96	5,874	0.40	2,349.60	1,693.64
Cucumbers	836.38	3,983	0.60	2,389.80	1,553.42
Onions	468.34	3,112	0.50	1,556.00	1,087.66
Peppers	260.90	1,246	0.60	747.60	486.70
Peas/beans	972.10	6,696	0.55	3,685.50	2,713.40
Tomatoes	2,336.67	6,410	1.51	9,679.10	7,342.43
Turnips	291.96	4,257	0.30	1,277.10	985.14

*Input costs were for seed, manure, pesticides, irrigation, labour and transport

Alongside ACWW's work funding projects and supporting women worldwide, we play an important role in reporting on the impact of our projects, and the needs of participants to other bodies such as the FAO and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Zero Hunger Challenge. The first of our Zero Hunger Challenge Projects is now shown on our website, with detailed reporting of its success and impact. More projects will be added in due course.

The page for the Zero Hunger Challenge has information on our pledge and a series of downloadable resources, and also includes a video of World President Ruth Shanks AM signing ACWW's Challenge commitment.

Other Features: The new site uses secure forms for various uses, including allowing people to signing up to ACWW's mailing list, the Triennial Conference registration form and Membership forms. Additional security measures are in place throughout the website and we are currently revising the ability to donate and carry out online transactions.

Policy updates and publication now mean we are legally compliant in the UK and EU. More developed mobile accessibility should open ACWW's website to new audiences, particularly in developing countries where 'smart' phones are increasingly more prevalent than computers.

We welcome input and feedback on the website, so please do contact us if you have any thoughts or suggestions.

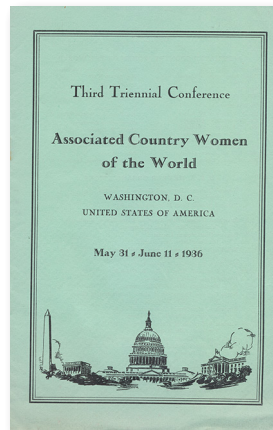
Email nick@acww.org.uk

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE MEMORIES 1930-2016

With the 28th ACWW Triennial Conference upon us, Nick Newland looks back at previous Conferences

The Triennial Conference is, to many, the defining point in the three year cycle of ACWW's activities. It is a chance to re-focus our efforts on the most pressing issues affecting women globally, a chance to meet new colleagues from around the world, and of course to catch up with old friends and acquaintances.

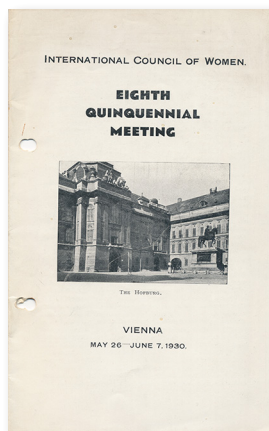
As this will be my first opportunity to attend an ACWW Triennial Conference, I have been digging through the archives, looking at the Programme booklets for each of the 27 Conferences since 1930, as well as selecting a few photos that really stood out!



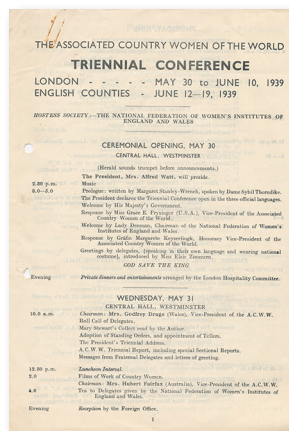
Washington D.C., USA - 1936



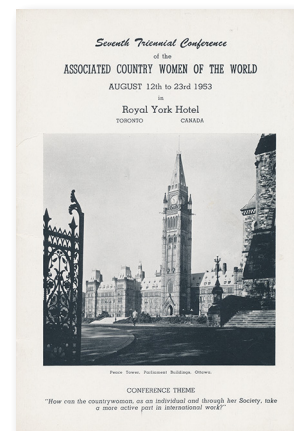
Copenhagen, Denmark - 1950



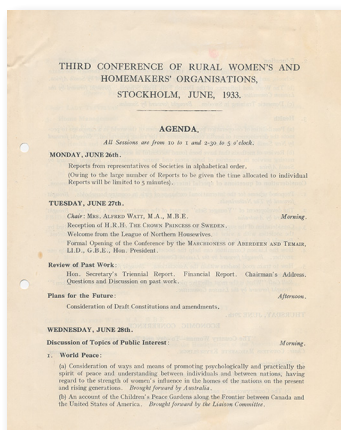
Vienna, Austria - 1930



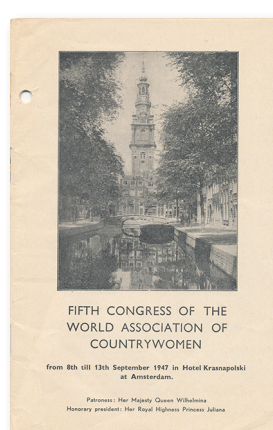
London, England - 1939



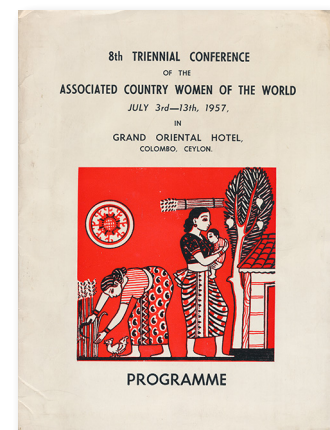
Toronto, Canada - 1953



Stockholm, Sweden - 1933



Amsterdam, Netherlands - 1947



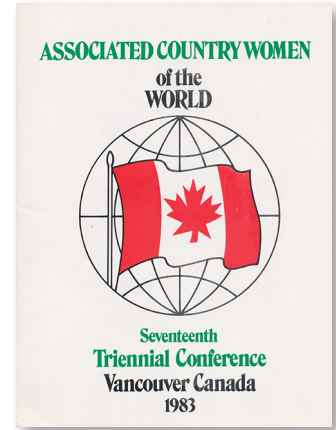
Colombo, Ceylon - 1957



Edinburgh, Scotland - 1959



Oslo, Norway - 1971



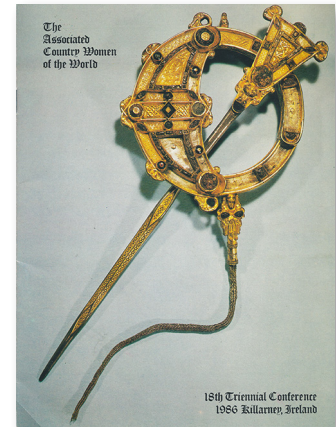
Vancouver, Canada - 1983



Melbourne, Australia - 1962



Perth, Australia - 1974



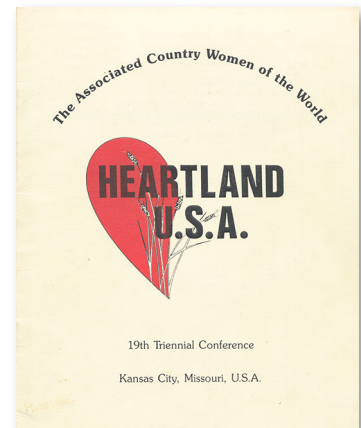
Killarney, Ireland - 1986



Dublin, Ireland - 1965



Nairobi, Kenya - 1977



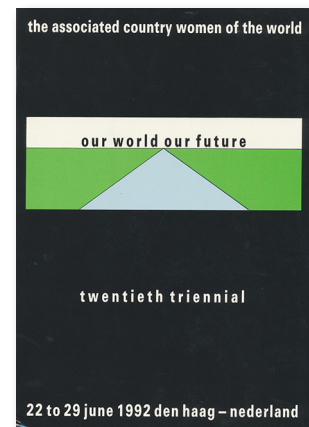
Kansas City, USA - 1989



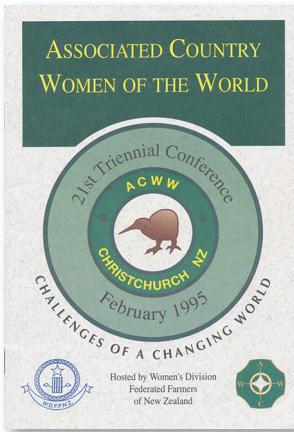
Michigan, USA - 1968



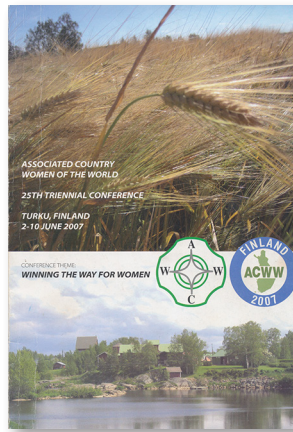
Hamburg, Germany - 1980



Den Haag, Netherlands - 1992



Christchurch, New Zealand - 1995



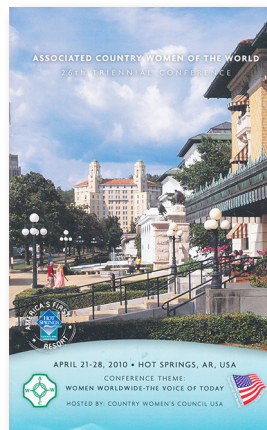
Turku, Finland - 2007



▲ Former World President Mrs Aroti Dutt of India with Mrs Wilmer Smith, then President of the Organising Committee of the National Extension Homemakers, USA at the 12th Triennial Conference in Michigan, USA, 1968



Pretoria, South Africa - 1998



Hot Springs, USA - 2010



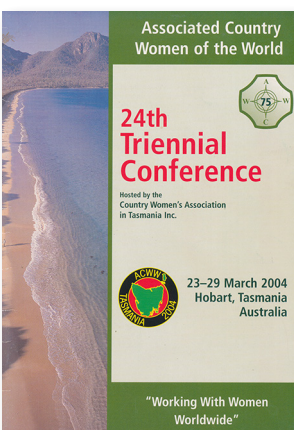
▲ Mrs Aroti Dutt with dignitaries at the same conference in 1968 - the hairstyles change, but the message of solidarity in working together for women's empowerment and development remains the same.



Hamilton, Canada - 2001



Chennai, India - 2013



Tasmania, Australia - 2004



◀ A huge number of attendees shown at the 12th Triennial Conference in Michigan, USA, 1968.

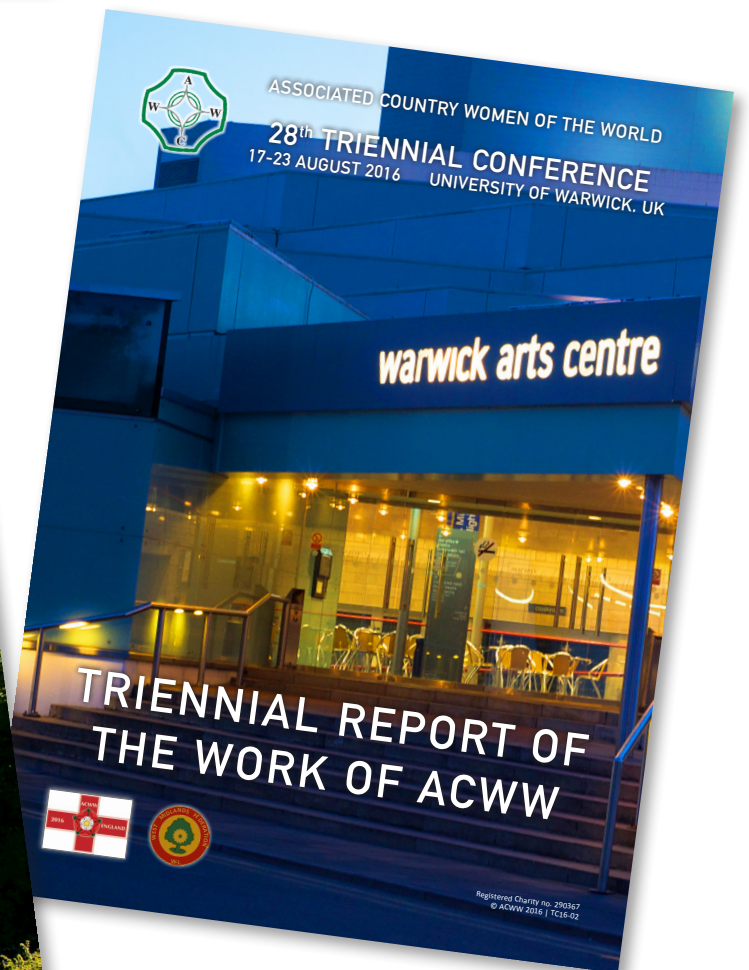
This conference was held at Michigan State University, in East Lansing.



- ▶ In the centre of this wonderfully cheerful photo from the 1992 Triennial Conference in The Hague (Den Haag), Netherlands we can see Mrs Bertha Jambaya (President of Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo Zimbabwe), Mrs Irene Vilakati (President of Malkerns Women's Institutes Swaziland) and Mrs Maybel Moyo (Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo Zimbabwe and current Area President, Southern Africa) with a colleague from Poland.

The 28th Triennial Conference Badge will be available to all attendees at the Conference in 2016.

How many Conference badges do you have in your collection?



▶ A very special treat for readers of *The Countrywoman* - a sneak preview of the covers for the Programme of the 28th Triennial Conference and the Triennial Report of the Work of ACWW for the forthcoming Conference at the University of Warwick, UK.

Did you know?

We've launched a brand new Twitter Feed which will broadcast useful updates about the Triennial Conference (this year, and in the future!) as well as featuring live tweets from the Conference and photos as they happen. If you'd like to follow this feed, please search for:

 @acww_conference

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD



Across the globe, women walked in support of ACWW's work for women

This year's response to Women Walk the World has been outstanding- we've had submissions from all over the planet, and we're pleased to share some here... Congratulations, well done and thank you to all of you involved!

Hillsborough County Home and Community Education, Florida USA

HACE have only five members, but took on the challenge of Walking the World in their office! Anna Wright, Treasurer of HACE sent in the \$200 US raised thanks to the group's efforts.



Norfolk FWIs, England

We received a superb email from Mary Dorrell, Chairman of Public Affairs for Norfolk Federation of Women's Institutes with this photo- taken on the Blickling Estate National Trust property in Norfolk, England. Their Women Walk the World event drew more than 300 participants, who were glad of the warmer weather after 2015's pouring rain! Mary also sent through some interesting statistics from their walk:

- 350 WI members
- 15 husbands
- 20 dogs
- £700 raised (so far!)
- 0mm of rain
- 7.8°C peak temperature

Springville-Island Women's Institute of Nova Scotia, Canada

The Springville-Island group held their 4th Annual Women Walk the World on 1 May, also celebrating with a dinner and recruitment drive. Rose Gillis, Secretary of the branch sent us this photo of ACWW Past World President Ellen McLean ready for the Walk (with some assistance from a sturdy all-purpose vehicle!).



Pictou District, Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, Canada

All 10 branches of the Pictou District of WINS joined together to Walk the World this year. Interim President-Elect Eleanor Lilley reports a 'cool evening with a warm up walk', and sent through this wonderful photo representing members from each of their District's branches- their smiles reaching across the world to supporters and friends alike.



Pambula-Merimbula Branch, Country Women's Association of New South Wales, Australia

Publicity Officer Jan Humphreys sent us this photo of the Pambula-Merimbula branch ladies ready to walk through the wetlands of Panboola conservation area; full of amazing bird life, saltmarshes, mangroves, fresh-water billabongs and walking and cycling tracks. The ladies all sat down together after their walk and discussed ACWW.



ACWW Central Office, London

A lunch time stroll from our office to Buckingham Palace (where we were joined by the Band of the Scots Guards!)- a great chance to spread the word about ACWW.



Did your group Walk the World? Email us your photos to nick@acww.org.uk



Yeovil Wraxhill WI, Somerset, England

A happy morning was had by all, as WI ladies managed 99 laps of the park and raised £230 for ACWW. Tea and cake rounded out the morning- this photo shows the ladies ready to start their adventure!

East Yorkshire FWI, England

A tremendous thank you to everyone who came and supported the 'Women Walk the World' bridge walk. The weather was appalling with high winds and horizontal hailstones and everyone hanging on, head down to battle across the Humber Bridge with 6 hardy souls making it all the way to Barton on Humber for a coffee at the Ropewalk. We had 32 walkers from eight Institutes and raised £125. As I explained on the day our ability to wrap up warm and make a choice of whether we walked or not has to be weighed against the women we are trying to help who have no choice in often having to walk many miles in heat and danger simply to get water which is all too often contaminated. So well done and thank you everyone, hope to see you next year and that we will have better weather.



Bundalagwah Branch, North Gippsland CWA, Victoria, Australia

Members of Bundalagwah CWA, with others from CWA North Gippsland branches, and community members with dogs, all joined together under our lovely new banner, made especially for the "Walk for Water" project. As we walked in fine sunny weather around Lake Guthridge and Lake Guyatt in Sale, we all thought of the women in the remote areas of Papua New Guinea, hoping our small financial contribution would help to provide them with much needed wells in their villages. At the completion of the walk, a happy gathering enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea.



FWI Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland

Betty Brace is on the Federation's International committee and organises a walk every year in the Abercorn Area to the west in N.Ireland raising record amounts, with 2016 totalling over £1,000!

Illinois Association for Home and Community Education, USA

Illinois Association for Home and Community Education President Jane Chapman leads the first participants in the WWtW 'Fun Walk' kickoff at the IAHCe Annual Conference held in East Peoria, Illinois in March 2016.



Jamaica Federation of Women, Jamaica

Once again members of the Jamaica Federation of Women assembled at 7 A.M. on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at our beautiful Emancipation Park. It was a cool, pleasant and enjoyable morning in spite of the large turn-out of regular walkers in the park. We did several laps and were warmly greeted by curious walkers who needed to know how we manage to develop such a walk for the world; a brilliant idea. We look forward to 2017!



Newtownbreda WI, Northern Ireland

Yes, it's the Newtownbreda ladies again and boy do they know how to do it in style! Eighteen members met for our ACWW walk at Malone House, Belfast. This beautiful late-Georgian house was built around 1820 and sits on the site of a 17th Century Fort. Sadly it was deliberately burned down during our recent troubled past but was then re-built, and formally re-opened in June 1983. Today it stands majestically in 11 acres of parkland and serves the community by hosting a wide range of events. But back to our ACWW walk! Off we set at 10am as arranged. We strolled in meadows and formal gardens before stopping for a photoshoot! Might as well pose for our award winning scrapbook! What an uplifting experience to walk and enjoy the colours and diversity of nature while laughing and chatting with WI friends. Then into the house for freshly made scones and coffee in a restaurant fit for a queen! We sure know how to enjoy our annual ACWW walk and raise some money for worthwhile projects throughout the world, where the need is great. Yes, we do indeed have a lot to be thankful for in this little corner of Belfast!



Mossley WI, England

Mossley W I ladies who took part in Women Walk the World event stop at Corr's Corner for a coffee break before continuing their walk.

Back Row: Sarah Gamble, Helen Thompson, Celia Catherwood, Lilian Smyth

Front row: Jennifer Cosgrove, Greta Crawford, Lorinda Hamilton

More Women Walk the World photos on the next page!

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD



Muckamore WI, Northern Ireland

30 Members of Muckamore W.I. took part in the Associated Country Women of the World "Walk The World 2016".

On a beautiful sunny morning members explored the grounds at Antrim Castle Garden to raise funds for ACWW Pennies For Friendship and then enjoyed refreshments in the Garden Coffee Shop.

Singleton Branch CWA, New South Wales, Australia

In their inaugural Women Walk the World event, 6 members of the Singleton Branch of CWA of NSW collected an impressive \$548! The walk was structured to include the main shopping street of town. Sponsors were approached in the businesses that lay on the route, with an amazing response. Thank you to the businesses and individuals who gave so generously. The Singleton Branch has been a member of ACWW for many years (as are many of our members) and is proud to be able to assist the ACWW help other rural women and families.



Angus Federation SWRI, Scotland

This is the 5th year that Angus members and friends have done the walk. This time they have raised more that £1,300 in sponsorship and donations. An excellent total, and double last year's. There may be a few pounds more to come, and the Federation Secretary will send it all to ACWW by internet banking.



WI's Northern Ireland

Women from Armoyn and Ballymoney walked with support from neighbouring WI's including Ballyrashane, Garvagh, Aghadowey, Glarryford and Broughshane- raising £260 for ACWW. At the end of the walk, Mosside WI provided scones and traybakes in Stranocum Community Hall with a display of ACWW work and projects.



Hume Group of CWA, New South Wales, Australia



Hume Group of CWA NSW Australia were asked at our March Council meeting if they would like to accept the challenge issued by Jennifer Bowe, Moss Vale Branch in the February 2016 issue of the CWA Journal. The target was to raise \$700 to match Moss Vale's effort.

Hume Group CWA members from Bellarwi and Kikoira, Cootamundra and Wallendbeen and Eurongilly branches along with friends joined together at different parks and walked for an hour on or near the 29 April 2016.

There was a lot of talking and laughter as they walked for disadvantaged women all over the world.

We were absolutely amazed that we were able to get sponsorship in that short time to raise \$1000. It will be on next year to meet or beat this target!

Prince Edward Island, Canada

Women from the Prince Edward Island group convened at Government House and walked along the water at Victoria Park. A member spoke about Farmers Helping Farmers, and there was a communal tea and refreshments.



Women Walk the World 2017 Challenge!

Count how many steps your group takes, multiply by the number of people, and tell us.

Can we Walk the Whole World?



CWA of Victoria Henty Group, Australia

A fantastic range of ages turned out to Walk the World!



Amatis Region, Namibian Women's Society, Namibia

C&M Committee Chairman Magdie de Kock joined members of the Amatis Region for a 5km walk in a nature reserve in southern Namibia. They were accompanied by two Leopards (who were camera shy and only wanted to show their beautiful spotted backs and not their faces!). The group also made large ACWW signs covered in collected Pennies for Friendship.



Award for the Best Animal
LEOPARD
Amatis Region,
Namibian Women's Society



Early sketches

We've been trawling the archives and thought you'd like to see these two badges. They are early versions of the Women Walk the World logo, which were replaced by the one we use today.



What to Wear Whilst Walking the World

This year many of you asked us if you could buy T-shirts for Women Walk the World events. We know that many groups around the world have shirts or scarves for this, and we thought you might like the new official T-shirt.

They will be available at the 28th Triennial Conference in August, and soon you will be able to buy them on our website.

£6 + Postage

PROJECTS UPDATES

Progress reports and Case Studies from the Projects Team

PROGRESS REPORT: SRI LANKA Lanka Mahila Samiti Build Latrines, Provide Sanitation Facilities to Preschools and Rural Members Supported by FWI's of Northern Ireland

Project 989: Lanka Mahila Samiti are a long-standing ACWW member organization who have been funded to build latrines for pre-schools and rural households in ten districts of Sri Lanka. The project was necessary because the facilities in the pre-schools were beyond repair and in some of the villages, there were people who still didn't have access to a toilet.

They report that construction was delayed in some areas due to bad weather but many of the latrines have now been completed and the others are in progress.

Those benefiting from the project include children attending the pre-school, teachers and some parents. The facilities will help the community maintain a clean environment, reduce disease and improve their health over the long-term. Lanka Mahila Samiti have also run an accompanying programme to raise awareness about the link between good sanitation and health to encourage the adoption of new habits.

Case Study 1

Sriyani is a single mother with 3 children and receives income support. She has been living on her mother-in-law's land, sharing her toilet, until use of this was restricted by the mother-in-law. Sriyani and her children have since been using a neighbour's toilet some distance away. Sriyani was very distressed and appealed to the LMS Field Officer, who arranged for her to be provided with her own toilet. She says "I am now relieved of my depression and stress".

Case Study 1

Padma lives with her family and aged mother near bushy jungle where wild elephants roam. The family had been using the jungle as a toilet, which can be very dangerous. Padma's banana crops had been destroyed by elephants just prior to the visit of LMS to Padma's house. As a result of this project, a toilet has been built close to her house for all the family to use.



PROGRESS REPORT: GHANA Our Lady of Mercy Community Services Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship Development and Start-Up Loans Supported by Cambridge FWI and Dorset FWI, England

Project 993: OLMCS reports that the beneficiaries of this project are girls and women aged 15 to 50 years, selected because they are school dropouts, HIV/AIDS victims, disabled or marginalized. The beneficiaries have received training in financial and business management as well as one of the following skills: batik, tie and dye, soap making, beads making, dressmaking, fashion and design. The 121 trainees were formed into seven groups and received loans either in the form of cash or in the form of materials in order to carry out their income-generating activity. Repayments are made after the sales of the products. Some beneficiaries wanted to stand alone instead of with the groups. This was tested and it proved successful as they were doing very well in their products and repayment process.

OLMCS has set up a strong monitoring team. All follow-up activities, reviews of sales and repayment records are monitored and recorded. Some beneficiaries have been slower at getting their businesses off the ground than others, and are accordingly making their repayments more slowly; however, OLMCS is providing mentoring as necessary and this is producing positive results.

The group has 31 new trainees in their Vocational Training Centre undertaking various skills training. They will be graduating in December 2016, after which new beneficiaries will be admitted for January 2017. These graduates will become potential beneficiaries of this start-up loan project supported by ACWW early next year. The rest of the beneficiaries for the second part of the project will be given their start up loans before the project is completed in October 2016. OLMCS is looking forward to a successful project completion in the coming months.

Case Study

Mavis Apio was uneducated and got married very young; she has had to engage in menial jobs to help support her family. She excelled in the training she received as a result of this project and is now a confident and independent young woman.

She says:

"I am fully engaged in my own business in the production of liquid soap, production of batik, tie & dye and producing flowers and wreaths for sale in Navrongo market with skills acquired and materials from the organization, which is giving me a lot of returns to support my husband and children. I have opened a savings account to save money monthly for my future and I also contribute towards the payment of my children's school fees however small. My husband now respects me and even assists me to produce some of my products."

MONITORING REPORT: PAPUA NEW GUINEA Country Women's Association of PNG Pepik Model Community Water Project Supported by East Sussex FWI, Essex FWI, Isle of Ely FWI, Somerset FWI, Suffolk West FWI, England; CWA of Queensland, CWA of Victoria, Australia

Project 990: Ruth Shanks, ACWW World President, visited and monitored this project in March 2016. She reports that this organisation does not have an office, nor any paid staff, but the volunteers work out of the home of Gertrude Andrias, President, and other local buildings.

The initial plan of the project was to drill down into the underground water supply and establish this supply so that water could then be pumped to various communities in the area. Between the easy access area and the village there is a main 'highway', and the plan was to place pipes beside the roadway and pump the water into the villages. Due to the government pledging to widen the roadway, there was to be no development for some distance beside the road.

The plans then had to be changed, but not the final object, of providing fresh and continuous supplies of water to three villages in the area. This was to alleviate problems with drought, which had been prominent in the last few years. The tanks have been or will be installed at the Pepik Lutheran Church, Pepik Nazarene Church and the Pepik Munge EBC Church, as this is the natural gathering place for the people. This also means that the tanks can be cared for and maintained by the local people, as part of the long term sustainability of the project.

Much of the work (drilling boreholes, installing pipework and tanks) has been done by voluntary labour, mostly students from the Technical college and the men of the villages. Some were not keen on taking part, but finally came around, and they are more than happy with the result of having fresh water for drinking, washing and cooking.

Ruth spoke with many of the users of this new water system and they were so excited about the fact that they would have more time to look after their children, who would be less affected by the waterborne diseases that are prevalent in that part of the world. Their everyday lives, such as cooking, washing and bathing would be so much easier for them.

The Technical College has become the custodian of the water system so the ongoing maintenance and sustainability of the project is assured. The village and the technical college is used as a regional, community based training centre, and many organisations make use of the facilities. The provision of this sustainable water supply helps in the marketing of this facility and in turn this helps the economy and sustainability of the village.

FINAL REPORT: INDIA Rural People Development Society Market-Driven Self-Employable Skills Training Supported by Huntingdon & Peterborough FWI, England; Clwyd-Denbigh FWI, Wales

Project 985: Initially, 25 women were trained in tailoring and 25 in running poultry units. All 50 beneficiaries are engaging in their business in a successful manner. They also received training in running vegetable gardens. They have an improved income and are enjoying a better diet than before. Their girl children are able to stay on at school.

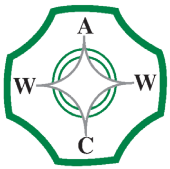
The seed money they received is being repaid so RPDS has been able to help further beneficiaries – the total number is now 70.

ACWW former Area President, Sister Viji monitored this project in January and reported:

"A number of women leaders have emerged as a result of the training which is a key part of this project, and they are training other women. The beneficiaries are viewed in their village as a model of self-improvement, and they are sharing their knowledge with others."

The project staff team is very active in accomplishing the objectives of the project and implementing the activities through mobilizing and organizing the 50 target members. Every week they conduct a review meeting and they submit their reports and agree targets for the next week."



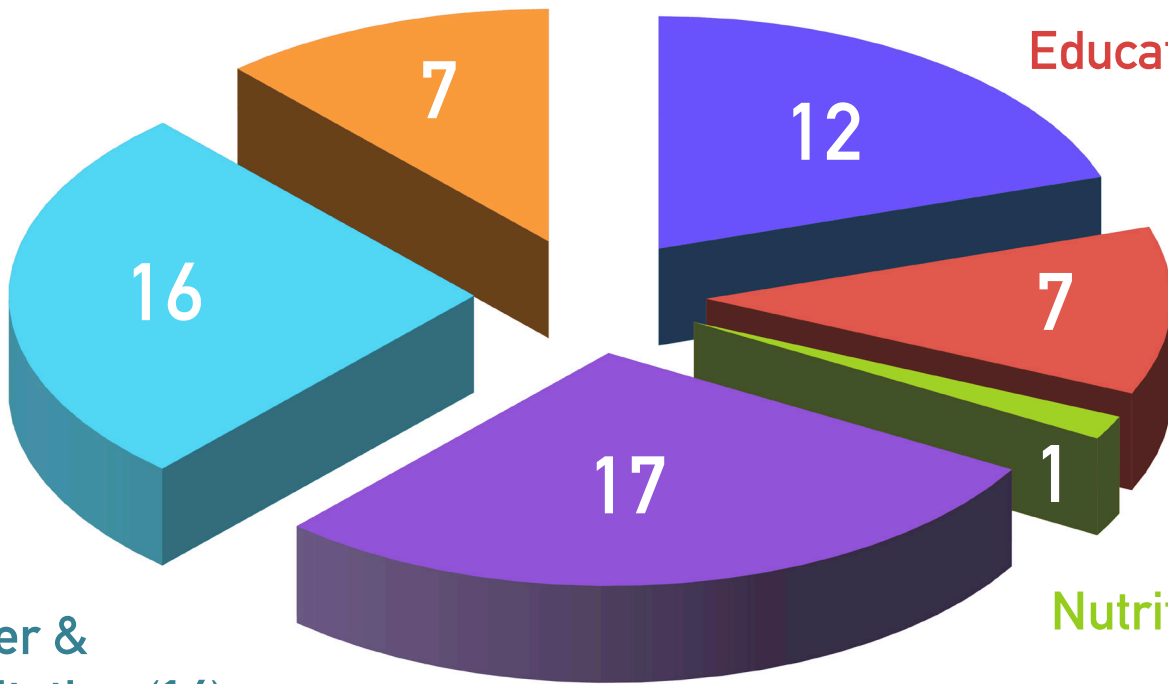


ACWW CURRENT TRIENNIUM PROJECTS

Agricultural Training & Development (7)

Education & Skills (12)

Health Education (7)



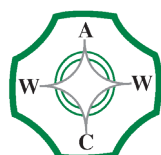
Water & Sanitation (16)

Income Generation (17)

Nutrition (1)

ACWW has awarded £285,309 in Projects Funds during the 2013-2016 Triennium

60 Projects: 31 Members / 29 Non-Members



ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

28th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE
17-23 AUGUST 2016 UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, UK



COMMITTEE FOCUS

Henrietta Schoeman, ACWW Triennial Conference Committee Chairman

Our preparations for the 28th Triennial Conference in 2016



COMMITTEE FOCUS

After last issue's look at the Projects Committee, we meet the Chairman of the Triennial Conference Committee; fitting as we approach the 28th Triennial!

Name: Henrietta Schoeman

Country: South Africa

Role: Chairman, Triennial Conference Committee and Secretary of ACWW

Term: 2013-2016

Previous Role: Member of the Finance Committee, 2007-2013

Member Since: 2004

Background:

I joined ACWW indirectly 36 years ago as a member of an affiliated society to ACWW when I became member of the then TWAU (Transvaal Women's Agricultural Union). This TWAU later, because of political changes in South Africa, unbundled and divided into 4 separate societies. One of the 4 societies is who I am member of now, WAU Mpumalanga. I became an individual member of ACWW about 12 years ago and have served on committees since 2007.

We all left Chennai in India with a smile after a successful event but also realising that the next Triennial Conference in the United Kingdom would be our responsibility. With only one committee member having had experience of the workings of the TCC, we knew we had a huge task ahead of us.

The committee members for the 2013-2016 period were Henrietta Schoeman (South Africa) as chair, Christine Trewick (England) as vice-chair as well as Lynn McLean (Canada) and Afrodita Roman (Romania). The hostess society, the West Midlands FWI, were represented by Jackie Gregory.

There is a specific plan according to which the upcoming conferences are planned. This includes the sending of mail outs (the Conference Circulars) to all societies with all relevant information and due dates. The cover of these Circulars were updated by our very efficient Digital and Print Media Manager, Jennifer Atigolo. A word of thanks and appreciation to her for all the time and effort she put in.

The hostess society came up with the ideas for the 2016 Conference badge. We hope you will enjoy wearing the one we chose. They also created a website which was then linked to the ACWW website and all information was made available here. The Registration Form was updated to include all possibilities of accommodation, tours and day visits. With the assistance and suggestions from the Treasurer and the Finance Committee, we were able to lower the fee for the 2016 ACWW Conference. We hope that this will encourage members to attend this very informative event.

The Excursion Day was moved to the end of the Triennial Conference so that attendees have a choice whether to join the tour or not, also saving on costs.

If a committee member could not attend a meeting in London, we had her join us via Skype (the handy online video-calling application)- that way everybody's input was guaranteed. We also visited the University of Warwick where we could put questions to the people there responsible for arranging conferences. The site visit was important as many issues could then be identified and addressed.

The Ad-Hoc committee on Resolutions and Recommendations met and all resolutions received were discussed. Some were amalgamated and some were not accepted for various reasons. Thanks to the societies that took the time and effort to submit resolutions. As the Conference is the voice of rural women, it is important that issues be discussed and followed through.



International Women's Day Concert, March 2016

Henrietta with (L - R): Tish Collins, Operations Manager; Magdie de Kock, Communications & Marketing Committee Chairman; Ruth Shanks A.M., ACWW World President; Alison Burnett, Treasurer; and Nick Newland, Media and Communications Manager.

Roma Patten will again serve as Returning Officer during the 2016 ACWW Conference. She will be shadowed and assisted by a member from Australia, Dorothy Coombs, in preparation for the 2019 Conference in Melbourne.

A Pre-Conference Workshop, arranged by ACWW, will also take place and promises to be informative and interesting.

The many aspects surrounding the organising of a conference of this magnitude call for inputs from many groups and volunteers. TCC members, staff members in the ACWW office, the hostess society as well as the Executive members all contribute to a successful event in the end. They all help in planning the program, getting speakers, allocating rooms, discussing voting procedures, getting the circulars out in time, processing of information received from members and societies, planning tours and entertainment, keeping websites updated, flag parades, meeting and greeting, and so much more. A simple thank you sounds so inadequate for all this work, but the TCC members want to thank all involved. No event can be successful without a great team working together.

With the internet it is easier and faster to address problems and the staff in the office have been so helpful in this. Tish Collins, Poonam Gill, Nick Newland and Helena Alty, I thank you.



AREA FOCUS

Maybel Moyo, ACWW Area President - Southern Africa



AREA FOCUS

Name: Maybel Moyo

Country: Zimbabwe

Role: Area President, Southern Africa

Term: 2013- 2016

Previous Role: National Country Deputy Director of Zimbabwe for Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo.

Member Since: 1980

Background:

Maybel is an experienced development worker and has worked within a number of women's organisations at local, national and international levels. Whilst Area President for Southern Africa she has undertaken monitoring visits to several ACWW projects. Maybel is also Deputy Director of Jekesa Pfungwa.

A native Zimbabwean that's all I was and all I thought I would ever be. Born in rural Zimbabwe, the amplification of the voice of the rural women has always been my passion. When I became the deputy director of a women's organization, I thought my time had come and I had reached my destiny. Little did I know that God had greater plans for me.

In 2013, when I thought I had seen it all and done my share in women's empowerment, I was elected Area President of ACWW's Southern Africa Area. At first I thought it would be too huge a burden for me, but the experience practically changed my life. From the women's clubs in Lesotho to the orphanages in Zambia and Botswana, to Royal Swaziland and the great Setswana Bafokeng Tribe, I knew I had a greater mission and

Area President's Report, July 2016

purpose in life than what I had settled for, indeed the past 3 years have made me see the world in a whole new light. I have become not just a spokesperson of the country women of Zimbabwe, but of all of Southern Africa.

The experience has made me realize that there is hope for every woman out there despite the underprivileged background, as I always imagine myself walking unbearable kilometres in the deep rural Zimbabwe I never thought I would be a tremendous Woman of virtue I am today.

ACWW has made it possible for me to experience inter-cultural dynamics of Various Women Worldwide. In most countries of the Southern region Women are faced with many trials and tribulations due to Drought, Climate change, Poverty and Discriminatory Gender Cultural Norms and myths. I have met very diligent Women who still put on a smile despite the hardships faced in everyday life. Meeting these Women taught me that ACWW is a unique mind opener encouraging Women to stay focused and have faith and act as it leads to success.

Area Conference: It was so very re-assuring to see so many of our members here today. I was truly humbled by the support and the loyalty that I have experienced since my election. Many of whom travelled from very far and even from neighboring countries. The World President Ruth Shanks graced us with her presence in the company of the Treasurer Allison Burnett, Secretary Henrietta Schoeman and Communication and Marketing Chairman Magdie De Kock. Past Area Presidents were also present. Speakers were invited to speak on different informed topics: MDGs, Food Security, Women Rights.

Botswana Visit: I was very honored to be Guest of Honor at the Botswana Council of Women Annual General Meeting whereby I learned of the struggles women go through everyday and how they strive toward a better future for their families. I proceeded to Francistown where I met the Francistown Women's Institute which partners with several aides so as to assist medically and financially.

I also visited various projects and societies in **Zimbabwe** (5 Societies in Zimbabwe); **Zambia** (4 Societies); **Lesotho** (3 Societies); **Swaziland** (1 society); **South Africa** (18 Societies) **SAWAU Congress** (7 Society Presidents).

A very exciting, memorable, motivational and educational experience for me as it was very impressive to see Southern region women coming together as one despite Race, Culture and Class. This proves that ACWW is a unity accord designed to bring women together.

Monitoring: I was privileged to do some extensive monitoring work in: **Zambia** (3 Projects: DMI Sisters, the Programme for Vulnerable Children and Women MPIKA, Chatulinga HIV Project Mansa). **South Africa** (1 Project: Yenzanathi Water Project) Fortunately past Area Presidents assisted me in carrying out some of the monitoring work in and around Southern Region.

Achievements: It has been a very interesting journey filled with many hardships and smooth flows as I experienced in Zambia, most of the places are unreachable and very far to reach due to poor transportation means but all went accordingly and well. The main achievement I can say is the opportunity to visit different nations and learn new ideas and experiences.

Networking: During my term of office I have managed to liaise with different Ministries that deal with Gender affairs and Women in different countries I have visited, bringing a main focus on ACWW and its goals, objectives and projects.

United Nations Treaties: Most societies in my region have observed the United Nations Conversional. Speakers from different walks of life have given relevant topics regarding the Treaties, i.e. Rural Women's Day, World Aids Day, Gender and Violence Activism, Breast Cancer Month to name a few.

Conclusion: Throughout my term in office I have learnt valuable lessons for life, I have created time in every visit to share about the Pennies for Friendship and narrate more about ACWW world wide. I would like to show appreciation to all the societies for their remarkable support. Past Area Presidents of my Region, my society Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo and all ACWW partners,. Above all I give a big thank you to ACWW for the financial and moral assistance making my work very manageable, I thank you ACWW for this lifetime opportunity.

All I can say for now:

P Pray **U** ntil **S** ome thing **H** appens



AREA FOCUS

Valerie Stevens, ACWW Area President - Europe



AREA FOCUS

Name: Valerie Stevens

Country: United Kingdom

Role: Area President, Europe

Term: 2013-2016

Member Since: 2007

Background:

Valerie served seven years on a committee of the Dorset FWI (2004-2011); and was Secretary for 3 years, and President for a further 3 years. She has been an individual member of ACWW since 2007 and served on the ACWW United Nations Committee from 2010-2013.

Valerie attended the European Area Conference in Southampton, 2008 and presented a UN Committee report at the Area Conference in Dublin in 2011. She attended the Triennial Conference for the first time in Turku, Finland in 2007 and was prevented from attending the 2010 Triennial Conference by the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud! Valerie has attended the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York, USA (2011, 2012), the UN Sustainable Development Conference in Bonn, Germany (2011) and visited many groups and projects in Europe. Valerie was previously a Teacher and Lecturer in Humanities.

“our crops have tripled in size this month due to heat, sun, rain and the promise of irrigation...”

So writes Kim Dixon, the American Peace Corps Worker, at the Internally Displaced People’s camp (IDP) at Koda, near Tbilisi, Georgia. Last year when I visited them, there was a sense of frustration at the inadequate water supply which was available for their homes, let alone their gardens.

A project application for two wells to ACWW last year was approved in December. Although the mains water supply has not improved, the determination to make life better has increased.

Forty families joined their small gardens together, formed a co-operative, and planned to create a business enterprise, growing fruit and vegetables for sale as well as for their own consumption. A second well was planned to enable those who chose to keep individual small gardens, to grow their own produce.

Work began in March 2016 and by my visit in May the first well had been completed and the second one dug. There was enormous pride in the achievement. The planned ceremony was kept a secret from me so, as we walked across the neglected common ground, once the parade ground of the Soviet Army, we collected more and more followers until we arrived at the new well and water tank, gleaming in the sun. A canopy had been erected over a large table on which there was an enormous strawberry cake and glasses for a celebratory drink. Around the table stood the women, dressed in their best, enormously proud of their achievement. The well had a red ribbon across it, waiting to be cut.

Together, Madona, who leads the group, and I cut the ribbon and drew up the first bucket of water. I had the honour of using the hose to water the rows of tomato plants, recently planted and waiting for their first drink. The cake was cut, the good health of the participants was drunk and we moved off to see the second well, now completed, but at that stage, just a very deep hole in the ground.

The wells do more than provide water. They give the people a sense of being in charge of their own lives. They enable them to make a living for themselves and their families. They engender a sense of pride and ownership. It was a perfect ACWW project, planned, carried out, on time and, without the interference of the money markets, in budget, by women, for women and their families.

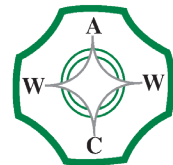
Now they have two wells...



Fresh, clean water is drawn from the first time from the new wells, crucial for agriculture and local social structure.



SOCIETY FOCUS



We hear from Members and Member Societies around the world



JEWELLERY SALES Sara Faddy, Queensland CWA

The Region Meetings held by the Queensland Country Women's Association in Australia have been including jewellery sales in support of ACWW.

Sara Faddy, the State International Officer says "The jewellery sales have been amazing - \$2,000 Australian so far, with another region meeting next week. The donations will be sent with other Pennies for Friendship collections later in the year."

ROYAL CHESHIRE SHOW Zeta Emmett, Cheshire FWI

Zeta Emmett, the new ACWW Representative for Cheshire FWI attended the Royal Cheshire Show with a stall of ACWW publicity materials and photos- including details of our projects and other undertakings. Zeta says 'I would like some of the new small leaflets to give out to encourage people to become members of ACWW, this would apply to the public at large who visit the WI tent, not just the members'

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY NEWS

We would love to hear from you! We want to know what you do in support of ACWW, what your local groups are doing, we want to know about your Area Conferences and Meetings and we'd love to see some pictures. So that we can share these things with other ACWW supporters, we would like you to include some basic information so we can make sure we get it right:

- Date of the event / conference / meeting
- Where was it?
- Roughly how many people attended?
- How much money was raised for ACWW?

Send Society News to nick@acww.org.uk



BRAS & TREASURE HUNTS Tracey Girdler-Rogers Buckinghamshire FWI

On 29 April, Buckinghamshire FWI organised a Treasure Hunt in Bourne End, Buckinghamshire which raised £479.13 for ACWW. The photo above shows Tracey Girdler-Rogers with Jenny Street (Federation Chairman) and the High Sheriff of Aylesbury, Mrs Millie Soames DL- Tracey reports that "this snap was taken at our ACM at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury, on 27 April in front of our ACWW stand. We had been collecting bras for ACWW- we've collected well over 3,000 in total- weighing about 150kg and stretching about a mile! We're donating to ACWW via Devizes Textiles, which facilitates charity donations through textiles; we will receive £0.70 per kilo of textiles, and this will go to support our adopted project, No.0992."

The photo below shows the fantastic response to Buckinghamshire FWI's Treasure Hunt!



If any other groups or Societies want to find out more about this textiles donation process, you can contact:

Devizes Textiles
The Hatchery
Garden Trading Estate,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire SN10 2HH
info@devizestextiles.com
www.devizestextiles.com

SARAWAK GO ALL OUT! Rhoanniza Amika Sarawak FWI

We've received some fantastic images from Rhoanniza Amika, the Executive Secretary of the Sarawak Federation of Women's Institutes in Malaysia. They show not only the Women Walk the World events hosted by the Sarawak FWI, but also their celebrations of Mother's Day on 22 May Rhoanniza reports "the programme ran from 9am until 2pm- our walk started at 10am, along the beach as members helped to collect rubbish. We also organised other activities, including aerobic, poco-poco competitions, dances, karaoke sessions, and a cake-cutting ceremony in conjunction with ACWW Women Walk the World and Mother's Day. More than 300 members joined the walk!



NEW OFFICES FOR CWA Jeanne Barsby, England

Jeanne Barsby of Kent (England) recently visited the new CWA State Office at Mascot, on her trip to see the Country Women of Australia, New South Wales headquarters in Sydney. In 2014, members voted to sell the previous office due to high maintenance costs- members can now access discounted accommodation through Metro hotels.



100 YEARS YOUNG...



Pat Weitzmann tells us all about Centenarian Margaret Sneesby

Pat Weitzmann, the International Director for the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education, USA has kindly submitted this update about Margaret Sneesby, an ACWW Life Member who has celebrated her 100th Birthday:

Margaret Sneesby looked festive and bubbled with enthusiasm as she interacted with her guests at her 100th birthday party in December 2015. For 70 years she has contributed to the goals, work and support of the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education (IAHCE) and its affiliates, including ACWW.

It all began when her mother said "Go for it!" when Margaret was asked to be a 4H leader and teach girls to sew. She dressed for the day in a traditional embroidered Norwegian dress that she made from a kit purchased when she attended the Associated Country Women of the World's 13th Triennial Conference (1971) in Oslo, Norway. Margaret's heritage is Norwegian. She is a pen friend with an ACWW member in New Zealand since 1968.

She was on the Board at the county and state levels for IAHCE. Margaret served on the IAHCE Board for 8 years. In one of her positions, Voluntary Action Officer, she developed a program for voluntary action in response to President Richard Nixon's call for volunteerism. Margaret researched and compiled a history book spanning 1932-1999 for the Lake County member society of IAHCE, which is a valuable reference tool to this day.

Margaret traveled to over 12 countries until age 85, mostly in support of ACWW at its various conferences throughout the world. She was an Illinois delegate to the ACWW Triennial Conference in both Oslo, Norway (1971) and Nairobi, Kenya (1977). She retired from employment as a bookkeeper at age 78. From age 80-95 she taught 'rosemailing', a traditional Norwegian painted decorative folk art, at a Senior Center. Now Margaret knits winter hats for needy children in her home township.

Margaret considers the 1977 ACWW Triennial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya of all those she attended, the most interesting because of good cultural displays and interaction. While in Nairobi, she purchased hand carved wild animal figures. Now great grandchildren are enjoying them. Margaret also says attending Triennial Conferences makes for lasting international friendships.



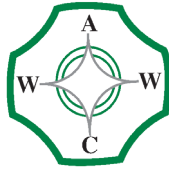
She feels fortunate to have lived one hundred years. The secret to longevity according to Margaret is keep busy, volunteer, keep a good attitude and be appreciative. Her advice to the women of the world is: "You've got to try things. If it doesn't do what you expect, you learn, good or bad. You try again. And listen to each other."

Margaret is moving towards her 101st birthday with her usual enthusiasm for life, learning and volunteerism. She completes 500 to 1,000 piece puzzles, enjoys breakfast on the veranda during warm weather, continues to knit hats for needy children, keeps up with current events, and attends social and educational gatherings. In April she was particularly pleased to attend the Good Bye Tea held in honour of the two Estonian women visiting Illinois in a society member exchange program.

She initiated a discussion with Ene Paks, one of the Estonian visitors, about the invention of Skype which has its origin in Estonia.

Margaret continues to encourage awareness of and membership in ACWW and her home society. She says ACWW has marvelous programs, but not enough people know about ACWW. She suggests making and taking opportunities to drop the ACWW name into conversations with friends, acquaintances and strangers. Margaret thinks it's great that her home society, Lake County Association for Home and Community Education, recently formed a Men Supporting HCE unit.

Her latest advice is "People should build volunteerism into their lives. Volunteering makes you feel happy and helpful."



Associated Country Women of the World

ACWW CONNECTS AND SUPPORTS WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

1 Board
6 Committees
9 Areas
74 Countries
412 Societies
9 Million Women


#WeAreACWW

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