



As we approach 2017, I write to you with news of ACWW's achievements in this past Triennium, and update you on our aspirations going forward. If you want to know more about our work, visit our website.

At the end of the Triennial Conference in August, we asked for your feedback on how we contact you. In response to this, we have replaced the E-Newsletter with this new format World President's Newsletter. I will bring news and updates, as well as my personal involvement with events and travels on behalf of ACWW

I recently visited the Rural Women New Zealand National Conference in Wellington, where both ACWW South Pacific Area President Gail Commens and I spoke. Whilst at the Conference, we also had the opportunity to meet with the Organising Committee for the South Pacific Area Conference, to be held in New Zealand in May 2017. The trip was marked by the devastating earthquake in the Wellington area, and I know I speak for all ACWW members when I say that our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.

Whilst travelling, I also visited our project No.959 in Tonga (an archipelago of 169 islands in the South Pacific) to monitor their progress. This project, 'Nursery and Home Gardens for Home Production' is organised by the Aloua Ma Association in Tonga - they are doing a great job and are providing for the possibility for members to have a solid foundation for their homes and also to provide

fertile soil for the growing of vegetables etc. both for their own use and for the excess to be sold at roadside stalls to provide valuable income for their families.

My next trip will be to Melbourne for a site visit to the Melbourne Convention Centre, and to meet with the Country Women's Association of Victoria members of Triennial Conference organising committee - this is in preparation for the 2019 Triennial Conference and will build on great work already undertaken by the Triennial Conference Committee.

After Melbourne, I will be at home until the beginning of February, allowing me to catch up with family and 'normal' life - my husband Greg has taken to calling me the 'Fly In, Fly Out Wife', a nice parallel with the Flying Doctor Service! I have already started the process of re-engaging with my own society, the Country Women's Association of New South Wales, Dubbo Evening Branch - this week I won 3rd Prize in a cookery competition with my Christmas Plum Pudding!(It goes to show that cooking is like riding a bike- you never forget how to do it!!- I'm looking forward to the Christmas meeting, and to hearing more from our local members.

In mid-November, ACWW's Chief Executive Officer Tish Collins attended the Women's Dialogue: Infinite Charity Forum in Russia on my behalf. Joined by European Area President Margaret McMillan and Media & Communications Manager Nick Newland, our delegation travelled to Moscow for meetings

with ACWW member organisation the Women's Union of Russia and Senator Irina Gekht, Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Federation Committee for Agrarian and Food Policy and Environmental Management. The group then travelled to Ufa, capital city of the Independent Republic of Bashkortostan.

The forum was organised by the Council of the Federation (the Russian senior legislative body) and the Government of the Republic of Bashkortostan, and was a stepping-stone meeting towards the 2nd Eurasian Women's Forum to be held in 2018. The forum brought delegates together to focus on development of charitable activities in Russia, exchange best practices and develop international cooperation mechanisms. Tish addressed the Opening Ceremony, bringing my greetings to the delegates; all three of our representatives spoke at 'round table' meetings and contributed to the conference outcomes, as well as making fantastic new connections with organisations from around the Russian Federation, Europe and the rest of the world. This was a great opportunity to "spread the word" about ACWW and make contact with those women who need our assistance.

On behalf of all the Board and Staff of ACWW, I send you best wishes of the season and for 2017. Please keep up your efforts in support of ACWW, and don't forget to renew your membership at the new rates for January!

Ruth Shanks AM - ACWW World President

*The World President,
Board and Staff send
you their very best wishes
for the festive season and 2017*



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