



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

### *Minutes of Council Meeting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 10.30 am, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney*

**WELCOME:** Past President Tricia Graham welcomed all to the meeting and gave President Pamela's apologies. Tricia introduced new Council Member Judy Hicks, a Uniting Church member from East Maitland.

**DEVOTIONS:** Tricia read from James 1:2-8 about faith and wisdom. 'What aspect of day-to-day life do you find difficult to deal with? The answer is a little bit different for each of us, yet we all face issues and situations that threaten to push us into discouragement or depression. Perhaps unanswered prayer is pressing you down; the longer you pray with no answer on the horizon, the further away God seems. Whatever comes to mind in answer to these questions is a test – a wilderness, a weakness, or a trial – designed especially for you by a good God. But we question his good intentions toward us and sink down in doubt and discouragement. How can a good God allow this? But God is wiser than we can ever be. He places us in situations that provoke us, not to cause us to doubt but to strengthen us against our doubts. Tricia closed the Devotion with prayer thanking God for sustaining us in difficult times.

**PRESENT:** There were 28 members present and 1 visitor, Colleen Fuller.

**APOLOGIES:** There were 8 apologies.

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Council meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017, were confirmed on the Motion of Tex Quirk, Seconded by Elizabeth Delaney.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

##### **1 ACWC Concert – Date and Venue**

Elizabeth advised that Jennifer Pepper contacted the Epping Baptist Church and we're able to have the ACWC Concert there. As the 26<sup>th</sup> August is the Sunday following the Council Meeting, this was the best date for us. The hall and kitchen have been booked from 1.00 pm to 5.30 pm, and the church from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, but they would like us to be finished in the church by 3.30 pm to enable their youth group to rehearse. The concert program will need to be organised with this in mind. We're grateful to Jennifer for making these arrangements with Epping Baptist.

##### **2 Jean Arnot Memorial Lunch, 21<sup>st</sup> May.**

ACW State Life Member and National Life Member, Edith Ridge, will be the ACW Nominee at the Jean Arnot Memorial Lunch to be held at Parliament House on 21<sup>st</sup> May. The luncheon honours ladies in their 90s who have contributed to their communities in a variety of ways to improve the status of women. The nomination form will be received shortly from the National Council of Women who will be meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February to finalise details of the luncheon. ACW Council members are welcome to attend this event.

#### **REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:** Pat Cory read a letter received from National Executive member Nancy McLaren, thanking the NSW Unit for the annual submission sent in of \$18,859.05. Pat presented the Financial Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The Total Income for November & December was \$9,992.55; the Total Payments for this period was \$19,288.45; leaving a Credit Balance at Bank 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 of \$3011.68. Accounts to be paid were: Donation to Bible Society \$100 (auditing); Donation to Uniting Church (use of rooms) \$350.00; Reimbursement Isabel Hewitt for postage \$100; Petty Cash \$45.60; Reimburse M. Noel, Postage \$10.00 and E. McEwen, photocopying \$21.60.

*Pat moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, and the accounts be paid; Seconded by Carmel Keys.*

**Fellowship of the Least Coin:** Judy O'Hara commented that there was a fair bit of money coming in for FLC and thanked church groups and individuals for their support. Judy shared a devotional item based on Exodus 15:20-21 – the Song of Miriam.

**Special Days:** Lyn commented that the World Day of Prayer is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and Fellowship Day is on the last Friday in July. The Fellowship Day service has been prepared by the NSW Unit when a group met at Eastwood Baptist Church in January. The service has been sent to National for approval. The theme of the

service is 'Women of Encouragement'; and the theme that the National Executive have chosen for their term is 'Women Serving Open-Heartedly'.

**Winifred Kiek Scholarship:** Judith Cayzer was unable to attend the meeting but sent in her report: 'Christmas greeting replies were received from Esline, Yane, Christy, Leinamau and Nighat.

**Yane (NT 2015)** has moved with her family to Wyee, north of Sydney, for 12 months. She thanks us for prayers for her nephew, Riel in Indonesia, who has been declared cancer free, and now looks well and healthy.

**Prayer is appreciated for:**

- Christy Ferguson (Melbourne, 2009) who is hoping to do another short-term mission trip this year;
- Leinamau (Vanuatu 2007) who is back in Fiji at Pacific Theological College to do her Master's Degree.
- 2018 Scholars: Lauren England (Qld.) who will be studying with reduced time ministry and Elise Ruthenback (SA) also studying with ministry. Both these women are highly qualified and experienced. We look forward to partnering in prayer and support.

Remember the book 'Winifred' is for sale. It would be a helpful preparation for Fellowship Day in July with the theme of 'Women of Encouragement'.

**Social Issues:** Rae Goth highlighted three issues, and prepared letters ready to be sent:

To the NSW Premier regarding the use of speed cameras to prevent accidents; The Minister for Health regarding the reduction of alcohol consumption and bottle shop licences; and The Minister for Revenue and Financial Services regarding people with total or permanent disability cover kept waiting for long periods to have their claims heard and paid out.

**Membership:** No Report

**Pastoral Care:** Helen Hill asked for prayer for Arthur & Judith Cayzer, Olive Edmondstone and husband, Janice Willis, Heather Reid, Pamela Freeman and Jennifer Pepper.

**Newslette:** Items for the next issue should be sent to Isabel by mid-April.

**ACWC:** No Report

**Publicity:** Peg McEntee will look after items needed for Dedication Day.

*The Reports were received on the motion of Denise Secomb and Seconded by Beatrice Kay.*

#### **Correspondence – Inwards**

Anne Kennedy – Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> Nat. Conference  
ACT Unit Newsletter  
UCAF – Invitation Dedication Day  
PPSEAWA – Invitation Int. Women's Day Lunch  
MU Sydney Donation for FLC  
WA Unit – List of Office Holders  
CWL Parramatta, membership query

#### **Correspondence – Outwards**

Nat. Exec. Corrections to address list  
MU Sydney Secretary – bank details  
Pat Cory to CWL Parramatta re membership  
UCAF – acceptance of invitation  
Anne Kennedy – Congratulations & thanks for Conference Minutes  
Dawn Fishburn re resignation from Council

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:** - Nil

#### **FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/ TO ATTEND**

Elizabeth attended the UCAF Dedication Day on 14 February  
PPSEAWA Women's Day Lunch is on 9<sup>th</sup> March at North Turramurra.

#### **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:**

**Bible Society:** Mitch Hammond will attend March meeting.

**Girls' Brigade:** Report presented by Elizabeth Neale. This year Girls Brigade is celebrating 125 years. The theme is 'Abundance'. A bible will be given to every member to commemorate the occasion. The National Conference will be held in October in Launceston, Tasmania. There will be an International Conference held in Zambia in July. Elizabeth will be attending this conference with 5 leaders. Renelle Neale will be doing some training in PNG and responding to the cyclone in Tonga.

**NSW Ecumenical Council:** No Report

**National Council of Women (NCW)** Tricia Graham reported that the NCW commenced 2018 with their 'Celebrate Being an Australian' Luncheon on January 24<sup>th</sup> in the Strangers' Dining Room at Parliament House. There were 150 people present, including Mrs Linda Hurley, wife of NSW Governor. The Guest Speaker was Mahboba Rawi OAM, Founder and President of Mahboba's Promise. Twelve young women students each received a NCW Australia Day Award Certificate and a cheque for \$1,000 to assist them in their studies.

The next major event is the Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May, where women in their 90<sup>th</sup> year or older are acknowledged for their contribution to their community. Monthly morning tea will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Upper Room Café in Wesley Centre, 200 Pitt Street at 10.15 am. Monthly meetings are on the last Thursday of the month in the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street at 4.30 pm.

**Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA)** No Report

**World Day of Prayer:** Tricia Graham reported that the first WDP meeting for 2018 was held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February, with 15 members present and where a new member representing the Seventh Day Adventist Church was welcomed. The theme for the upcoming World Day of Prayer on 2<sup>nd</sup> March is 'All God's Creation is Very Good' prepared by the women of Suriname. The offerings this year will go to the 'Kids at Risk' project, overseen by the Bible Society of Suriname. Last year NSW was able to donate \$93,000 to the Bible Society for the 2017 Philippines project. The next meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Annual Report 2018:** Elizabeth reminded conveners and branches to send in their reports to be included in the Annual Report ready for the April AGM.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Morning tea:** The Salvation Army    **Chairs:** Churches of Christ    **Trading Table:** Uniting

**Close of Meeting:** There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.45 am.