

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, HELD AT 222 PITT STREET, SYDNEY
on Monday, 15 March, 1993.

OPENING:- The President, Miss Phyl McKinnirey in the Chair welcomed all members, especially mentioning Patricia Clough who has been absent from meetings for some months.

THOSE PRESENT:- numbered 45 with 14 recorded APOLOGIES.

SPECIAL APOLOGIES were received on behalf of Peg Blake, who is still awaiting news of her operation date; Shirley Wells, home from hospital and making good progress; Glad West, whose five months in and out of hospital with a bad foot are now at an end, as the graft seems to have been successful. These three members sent their love to the Council. Dorothy Lumb, Unit Treasurer is ill in Concord Hospital. Greetings are to be sent to her.

We were sorry to hear that Rae Aldridge is again undergoing tests.

ANNOUNCEMENT of PRESIDENT-ELECT. It was with much pleasure that President Phyl announced that Mrs Lucelle King has been appointed by her church thru the Baptist Women's Fellowship to be the President-Elect of A.C.W. Lucelle comes to this office with a great deal of experience and enthusiasm for A.C.W. She has served the State Unit as Publicity Convener and was the National W.K.S. Convener for one term. The announcement was received with applause. Welcome, Lucelle!

DEVOTIONS:- Mrs Major Joan Tong combined the opening devotions with the F.L.C. prayers. Using Circle of Prayer she developed the thoughts written by the Canadian member around the verses in Isaiah 40. These thoughts on empowerment challenge us to look for areas where the struggle for freedom continues. Our voice is needed in our communities. A beautiful song written by an Asian woman was shared with us. Joan concluded with Prayer.

GUEST SPEAKER:- Maisie Cavanagh was introduced by Phyl McKinnirey. Married with three children and grandchildren, Maisie has found her life's work in working with aboriginal women. She has completed studies in aboriginal work at T.A.F.E. and has worked for twenty years in aboriginal education centres. Now as Liaison person with Kuri-Ngai Partners, her job means much travelling as she tries to raise awareness in white Australian and Koori communities.

OUR SPEAKER thanked us for the invitation to speak and said how pleased she was to be with us. Our support and encouragement is much appreciated. Her family is the Worradgerie people, the largest language group in N.S.W. Her totem is the brown snake. In a very moving address, Maisie told us the story of her life and shared with us the spirituality of her people. Notes taken while Maisie spoke to us will be attached to the original copy of these minutes. We were challenged to learn more about our aboriginal sisters and brothers and to give support to people like Maisie and to organisations doing the work of healing and educating. It is a slow process, but Maisie believes that slow is best. Carmel Emmett thanked Maisie on our behalf. In thanking her for her time of sharing, Carmel confessed that we have all been conditioned to the beliefs we carry with us. We have had tunnel-vision, may we now begin to see the Light at the end of the tunnel.

F.L.C. GRANT. We will prepare a submission for a Grant on behalf of Kuri-Ngai Partners, for this year's applications, 1993. CARRIED.

MINUTES of the FEBRUARY 15 MEETING were CONFIRMED as a correct record after a slight alteration was made.

BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES:-

1. An Asian Anthology. Members were again encouraged to send contribution

to this Anthology, through Joan Tong.

2. A.C.W. BADGES and SOUVENIR STOCK:-Joan reported. Most of the articles done for the National Conference in 1991 have now been sold in N.S.W. Any continuing orders made on this stock will now be for our Unit Funds. Present stock of teaspoons, etc. are selling at \$3, but it is expected that new stock will sell for \$3.50 The Key fob was exhibited and recommended as a good gift for guest speakers.

BADGES will be up-graded to a larger crest and will sell for \$3 or \$3.50 We have ordered Council Member Badges, they will be metal with a hard resin finish and the quality is guaranteed. It will be a P.R. exercise for members to wear this badge. We expect them to sell at \$6.50 Eighty badges have been ordered initially.

Coffee mugs would sell at \$7 each and the idea is still under consideration by the Executive.

3. International Year of the Family, 1994. The Executive is still to prepare ideas for the submission to be written by Major Elizabeth Johnson. We would now like to incorporate with our ideas, some of the ideas given us by Maisie Cavanagh.

4. The Burma Appeal:- We were appalled to hear that conditions in Burma are very bad. A 'new' Burma Railway, using Christians as slaves is reported. Our response was to allocate some of the offering collected at the Annual Dedication Service in May to this Appeal. CARRIED.

5. Written Invitations to the Branch Presidents to the Annual Meeting on 19 April are to be sent.

6. The Annual Dedication Service:- will be held at 11a.m. on May 17, in the Salvation Army Congress Hall. Lunch at \$7 head will follow on the premises, the money to be collected on the day. Special music is being arranged and the Speaker is Mrs Pearl Wymarra Bond. Photos taken of Pearl during Living Under the Southern Cross were circulated.

CORRESPONDENCE:- The Correspondence was received, read and dealt with.

BUSINESS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:-

1. An invitation has been sent to the Shalom Christian College for a speaker to attend our June Council meeting.

2. Invitations. The President and Executive members will represent Council at a number of functions.

3. World Community Day, 1994. The National Convener, Pauline Wells has invited the N.S.W. Unit to write the W.C. Day service for 1994. We have been pleased to accept this invitation. In reply to our suggestion that one of the services in 1994 should incorporate in its theme the subject of the Year of the Family, Mrs Wells has indicated that it is considered that the chosen themes can easily be adapted to accommodate the 'Family' theme. Speakers are to be asked to try to do this.

4. Items of interest from the NATIONAL MINUTES, February 22:- Anne Pattel-Grey will be present at the Conference in September on the fifteenth. Opportunity will be taken during the Conference for discussions about the proposed meetings between A.C.W. (on behalf of W.K.S. Trust) and aboriginal women.

REPORTS:-

1. Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Reports from the Convener concerned recent scholars. Doreen is doing well with her school. Ana is back at work in the Church office in Tonga and at present has shelved ideas about theological studies. Rachel has written with the good news that she is pregnant. We rejoice with her. Her expected date of confinement is June 30. Prayers are asked for Rachel.

1993 Scholar, Malai is expected to arrive in April, but so far she does not have her entry visa. After she arrives and begins her study, it is expected that she will have free time during the week-ends. Members will be invited to arrange outings and hospitality for Malai during her time here.

REPORTS continued.

2. Fellowship of the Least Coin. Shirin Samuel has sent up-dated information on the F.L.C. Grants. Copies of these reports were given to representatives of each denomination for their interest.

3. Promotion and Publicity. Members were asked to make sure that notices about the Annual Dedication Service are featured in local church and community bulletins. This is an open service, all are welcome.

4. Newsette. Deadline for the next issue, by Easter, please. Members were asked to look out for people with Editorial expertise who may be interested in contributing their skills to A.C.W.

5. A.C.W.C. Asian Church Women's Conference will meet in Sri Lanka in 1994. Prayer is asked for this Assembly as there will be big discussion about the future of A.C.W.C. and International Council of F.L.C. Joan has been in contact with Ruth Harwood of New Zealand who has some positive ideas on the matter.

A.C.W.C. Quadrennial Conference will be in Taiwan in either August or October, 1994. Members are encouraged to consider attending this conference.

Prayers are again asked for A.C.W.C. Exec. Secretary, Eunice Kim. Her need for a secretary is basically financial as Eunice feels it is no longer acceptable to pay such a person an inequitable wage.

3. PROMOTION and PUBLICITY. (see 3 above) An up-to-date list of people who are prepared to be speakers for A.C.W. is being prepared. Branches are encouraged to use it. City branch has never needed to go outside this list and they have always been pleased with their speakers.

Packing Day for Fellowship Day will be at 222 Pitt St. on May 3 from 10a.m. The more helpers, the shorter the job!

Spiritual Enrichment Day at Woy Woy. All arrangements are well in hand. Surrounding churches have been invited, local papers and radio stations notified. Council members were invited to attend this day. The train leaving Central at 8.16a.m. is the one to catch.

We are grateful for the excellent write-up A.C.W. received in SPAN the magazine of the Presbyterian Women's Fellowship.

Members were again directed to the map of N.S.W. where at a glance we can see where we are operating and where F.L.C. support is heavy. An invitation has been sent to Bourke Branch for one member to attend the city Spiritual Enrichment Day in July. We will pay the travelling expenses and offer hospitality.

6. NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN. The delegate announced that a seminar on the subject 'Men and Women Against Violence' will be held under the auspices of N.C.W. at the state Parliament House on August 30.

GENERAL BUSINESS:-

1. REPORT from the Executive.

It was announced that in 1994 the first of the N.S.W. State Conferences will be held. The dates are 29, 30 April, 1994 and the Executive will co-opt a member of Council to be in charge of the arrangements for this new venture.

2. Notice was given that the Executive will move in June that a new Convenership be added to the By-laws of the NSW Constitution. This person will be called Special Days Convener and her job will be to take from the Promotions Convener such tasks as are currently done by her towards the organisation of Fellowship and World Community Days and any other 'special' days.

3. Proxy Members for country branches. After much consideration, Executive recommends that instead of asking people to take on another responsibility, extra copies of the Council Minutes will be produced and those branches not represented at Council meetings will have the minutes mailed to them.

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Members were reminded that Annual Reports will be tabled at the A.G.M.

NOMINATION FORMS were distributed, after the President declared that all positions except the Presidential ones are open for election at the Annual General Meeting.

Nomination forms are to be in the hands of the Secretary by the last mail on Friday, 2 April, or handed to the Executive Meeting on Monday, 5 April.

Congratulations were gladly given to Yvonne Davis, whose first grand-child was born in Perth over the week-end.

Deaconess Mary Andrews celebrates her birthday during the coming week. We were happy to wish her a continuing year of blessing.

Attention was drawn to the brochure 'Thursdays in Black', available from the U.C.A. Assembly office. This leaflet tells of the violence that women around the world, especially in the Balkan countries, are undergoing. We were invited to read the brochure, buy and wear a badge and to wear black on Thursdays, in solidarity with our sisters around the world.

CLOSING:- The President closed the meeting with prayer. She gave thanks for the meeting we had had, especially for the message brought by Maisie Cavanagh and asked for blessings for her and her work. Prayer was raised for our sick members, and for the preparations for the day at Woy Woy, for Elaine Seccomb and all her helpers. The prayers concluded as we prayed for all our families. The Benediction was said.

The members were grateful for the morning tea prepared by the Catholic delegates.

NEXT MEETING:- Monday, 19 April, when the A.G.M. will also be held and elections will be held.

The hostesses will be Morning Tea, Salvation Army.
Chairs, Catholic delegates.

CONFIRMED.

P. M. G. H. M. S.
19.4.93

