



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

*Minutes of Council Meeting Monday 15th February, 2016
10.30 am, 222 Pitt Street Sydney*

WELCOME: President Tricia Graham welcomed all to the meeting, especially new member Tex Quirk and visitor Joan Madden. Tricia included the Pastoral Care segment at this point, mentioning Helen Hill undergoing surgery, Jan Jeffery cataract operation, Bible Society representative, Jo Armstrong, recovering from a car accident, and Olive Edmondstone.

Lyn Middleton addressed the meeting stating that it was lovely to see Edith Ridge at the meeting. For many years Edith was responsible for the archives. She did a marvellous job keeping the records stored at her home. When no longer able to continue with that we were able to put them in a room at Eastwood Baptist Church. Lyn wanted Edith to know how much ACW appreciated her over all those years being responsible for the archives and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation from ACW and thanked her for her dedication in the name of the Lord for ACW. Edith thanked everyone and commented that she has missed ACW. She has been encouraged by the knowledge that she and her husband were prayed for and asked that we continue to pray for Barry.

DEVOTIONS: Tricia shared a bible reading from Titus 2: 11-15. She commented that we have just recovered from the Christmas Season and are now into Lent and preparations for Easter. The year seems to be rushing by, and she hoped that everyone had time to relax and enjoy some quiet time, to prepare for what will again be a busy year. Doug Hewitt, Isabel's husband, received an AM in the Australia Day Honours for service to ecumenism and inter-faith dialogue and to the Uniting Church in Australia. Tricia encouraged council members to nominate women who have made a significant contribution to their organisation, as there are more men than women nominated. The Honours cannot be awarded, if the committee does not hear about the good works of your volunteers.

Tricia asked that Incoming President, Pamela Freeman be upheld in prayer. The devotions were closed with prayer:

PRESENT: 30 members and 2 visitors

APOLOGIES: 8

MINUTES: The minutes of the Council meeting of 16th November 2015 confirmed as correct. *Moved by Janice Willis and seconded by Denise Secomb.*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1 NSW Unit Life Members – There is a vacancy for two life members. The Executive needs names of people who would fill that position. Nominations can be handed in at the end of the meeting. The executive would like to make a decision and bring it to the next Council meeting.
- 2 ACWC Concert 21st August 2016 – This will be held at Epping Baptist Church at 2.00. Pamela Freeman reported that some of the groups that have previously been involved have indicated they can come. Susan Ang and her children aren't available this year. Catering arrangements will be discussed at a later meeting.
- 3 Membership Strategy – A new brochure is being designed to hand out to people to tell them about ACW. Jennifer Pepper is looking into a more vibrant design. It is hoped that this will be ready for distribution by Dedication Day in May.
- 4 Essay Competition – the booklets with the 10 best essays, are available for \$5 each.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented the Treasurer's Report. The books are with the auditor. This report is to the end of last year for November and December. The Total Income for 1st November to 31st December 2015 was \$12,378.91; Total Payments for Nov-Dec. 2015 \$20,683.75; Credit Balance 31st December 2015 \$1850.44; The Churches of Christ Property Fund \$18,076.49
Accounts to be paid: President PPSEAWA Lunch \$40; H. Reid, Postage (\$16.10; Newsette printing \$180.80; Postage Newsette \$200; Eastwood Baptist 50% share Archive Room \$150

It was moved by Jan Harrison and Seconded by Heather Reid that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and the accounts passed for payment.

The Commonwealth Bank will no longer be issuing statements, but they can be accessed on the internet. Two people need to come into the bank to be registered for internet access.

Pat Cory moved that she and Pamela Freeman go to a Commonwealth Bank and become operators of the account through the internet; Seconded by Tricia Graham, carried.

Fellowship of the Least Coin – Lillian's year has started off very quietly and she is enjoying the peace and quiet. She will be speaking at Turramurra Uniting Church about FLC in the second half of the year. Circle of Prayer books are for sale \$3. Lillian shared a devotion from Inez Penney in Canada 'Through the eyes of a child', which is similar to the WDP theme for this year 'Receive children, receive Me'. Lillian prayed for children around the world.

Special Days: Lyn Middleton thanked everyone for their support for Special Days during 2015. While there haven't been dramatic increases in attendances, numbers are being maintained. Lyn encouraged council members to support this year's services. Some branches are finding it difficult to conduct two services each year and are mostly opting out of Fellowship Day. This could put funds for Winifred Kiek Scholarship in jeopardy. Lyn suggested that if your branch no longer holds Fellowship Day and you are without an opportunity to donate to WKS that donations can be made to the treasurer at any council meeting. The Order of Service has arrived for Fellowship Day. Topic: Change starts from within, prepared by the Vic unit. Bible Readings: Luke 8:43-58 (The women with the haemorrhage); John 4:4-28 (The woman at the well). This material will be available for branch reps at the April Council Meeting. It will be mailed out to all other branches.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Judith Cayzer reported that a detailed report is in Newsette. Judith read from a letter from Nighat Gulzar (1994) expressing fond remembrances of Mina Whybourne, who she described as being 'the best caretaker' when Nighat

was in Australia. There is no news from last year's scholars. Judith asked that we remember this year's scholar, Esline Toamavute from Vanuatu in prayer.

Isabel reminded the meeting that applications are open for Winifred Kiek Scholarships 2017 for a young woman who is resident of a country which is a member of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

Social Issues: Rae Goth brought three issues to the attention of the Council members: Public Transport Safety (congratulations on crackdown against anti-social behaviour on trains); Experimenting on animals (suggested letter to Sussan Ley, Minister for Health) and Children in Detention – concern about 95% of asylum-seeker children developing post-traumatic stress disorder. Letter to Peter Dutton, Minister for Immigration.

Membership: No report

Pastoral Care: Brenda Dickinson reported that Pat Sutton has moved into Peakhurst Lodge Nursing Home.

Publicity: Pamela Freeman handed out leaflets for Dedication Day.

Newsette: Newsette for February has been posted.

CORRESPONDENCE Inwards

ACW National Executive – re AFL matches & Report of Conference

Lynette Green – Essay booklets

Lynette Green – ACW Newsletter

Helen Raymond – request information for ACWC Newsletter

Alyson Madsen – death of Margaret Florence's husband

Jan Currie – PPSEAWA Minutes

Annie Whybourne: Return thanks

Brigade Affect Newsletter

Margaret Florence – Return thanks

Valerie Hazlewood – Return thanks

Patricia Burke – Letter re Natalie McLeod & Beryl McLaughlin

Marie McCann – Christmas Card

PPSEAWA Invitation Women's Day Lunch

PWA – SPAN, December 15

CORRESPONDENCE Outwards

Christmas Cards to Marie McCann, Peg Blake,

Edith Ridge and Joan Tong

Sympathy card to Margaret Florence

Letter of thanks to Patricia Burke

State Unit Secretaries – change of address/phone NSW Sec.

NSW ACW Council members – change of phone NSW Sec.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: Tricia will attend PPSEAWA Lunch for International Women's Day on 11th March.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bible Society: No report – apologies were received from Jo Armstrong.

Girls' Brigade: Elizabeth Neale reported that the International Theme for 2016 is 'Be Courageous'. GB countries will take part in the International Project of creating a video clip using the sentence 'Because of GB I am....'. GB NSW had their first State Council for 2016 on 6th February. A Kidsreach Conference will be held in February and Leaders Training will be held on 27th February. Elizabeth advised that difficult decisions have to be made regarding Brigade House in Toongabbie which has development going on around them – whether to join with the developer or relocate somewhere else.

NSW Ecumenical Council: Isabel Hewitt reported that this year there will be two Taize Brothers visiting Australia as part of their world-wide ministry. A lot of vital work is done in difficult places. There is a small book out 'Act for Peace' – this book is a really good one. Many churches having a Lent related look at development. For anyone not doing something special for Lent they might make a contribution to Act of Peace. The next half-yearly meeting of NSW Ecumenical Council is coming up in a couple of months. Think about your churches contribution to peace and justice throughout the world.

National Council of Women (NCW): The National Council of Women celebrate their 120th Anniversary this year. An Australia Day Luncheon was held where 12 young women were given a Certificate and \$1000 to assist them in their studies. Guest Speaker was Kathryn Greiner. Governor and Mrs Hurley will host an afternoon reception at Government House next Thursday. Mrs Hurley is the Patron of NCW. A Breakfast meeting is being organised on 13th April at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel; Tricia will have further details at the next meeting.

The Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon will be held on Friday, 6th May at Parliament House, to honour ladies 90 years or older, who have worked in their communities over many years. Look around your organisation to see if you have a member who falls into this category and if so, let NCW know. Council Meetings will commence at an earlier time of 4.30 pm with the Business meeting, followed by a time of refreshment at 5.30 then the Guest Speaker at 6.00 pm. NCW will continue its advocacy to speak for women suffering from domestic violence and they will look to ways to be of assistance to refugees.

Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA): Helen Richardson reported that there had been no meeting since November. The last meeting discussed recycling. There will be a meeting next week.

World Day of Prayer: A meeting is being held today. WDP is Friday 4th March.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AGM – April Meeting: Nominations will be received for Office Bearers for all positions to be voted for at our Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers in April

Vote of Thanks: Carmel Keys acknowledged the work done by the NSW National Executive, commenting that they did a wonderful job.

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.45 am, with prayer by Tricia Graham.

NEXT MEETING Monday 21st March 2016

Morning tea: Presbyterian Chairs: Baptist

Trading Table: The Salvation Army