



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney on Monday 16 June 2003 at 10.30 a.m.

DEVOTIONS: President Jean Porteous opened with a prayer of thanks for our many blessings. Readings from Acts 1: 7 and Revelations 22 acknowledge the hope we have as Christians.

WELCOME: Jean welcomed all present, making special mention of Major Lyn Middleton our President Elect, and Ruth Dickinson the new Girls Brigade representative. Lyn Middleton gave a brief biographical outline by way of introduction, telling of her early childhood decision to follow Christ, teenage recommitment, becoming a teacher before undertaking Salvation Army officer training and serving in Queensland, NSW, ACT and overseas in Pakistan, Korea and the UK. 'Retirement' makes it possible to choose appointments, and Lyn spoke of her decision to accept nomination as President Elect. Her previous involvement with ACW was on the Gold Coast and in Canberra.

PRESENT: 45 as recorded

APOLOGIES: 12 as recorded

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of 14 April 2003 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Judith Cayzer. Carried

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES of 14 April 2003 were initialled on the motion of Robyn Collins and Jan Harrison.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE: Nancy McLaren reported as incoming National President that the first meeting of the Executive had been held. Consideration of a theme for the two years and the need for fundraising were among matters discussed. Council members were asked for prayer support for the work of the incoming National Executive.

2. NATIONAL CONFERENCE PERTH 6-10 October 2003 with the theme *Towards Community*. Registration forms were available for those considering attendance at the conference.

3. TREASURER: Jean Porteous announced that Helen Richardson had agreed to stand for nomination as Treasurer, and Ramona Cowle as Assistant Treasurer, and this would entail Helen resigning as Functions Convener. Henry Porteous would continue to do the books until July when he would hand over to Helen.

It was moved Thora Thomas, seconded Norma Dumbrell that Helen Richardson be appointed as Treasurer. Carried.

On the motion of Heather Reid and Olive Edmondstone, Ramona Cowle was appointed as Assistant Treasurer.

Janet Lang was absent but had indicated her willingness to become Functions Convener. On the motion of Nancy McLaren and Lily Hanlon this was carried.

Jean Porteous prayed for blessing on the ladies taking up the three positions.

4. DEDICATION SERVICE on 19 May 2003 at Church of Christ Epping went well, with 130 attending. In the absence of the advertised speaker Jean Porteous had stepped in and was commended on her address. Thanks were expressed to all who contributed and made it such a success.

5. SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY: 21 July 2003 in our normal meeting room - a time of prayer "In Quietness and Confidence". Jean Porteous proposed that the Churches of Christ ladies provide morning tea, and serve tea/coffee at lunchtime. Structure of the day: 10.00 Morning Tea; 10.30-11.15 first session led by Jean, with a WKS focus; 11.20-12.00 led by Lyn Middleton, to include FLC; 12.05-12.45 led by Cela Cooper on Social Issues - dividing into groups.

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6. **WORLD COMMUNITY DAY PROJECT:** The NSW application on behalf of PLC Sydney seeking support for their *East Timor Kindergarten Project* has been selected, along with *Cross Roads Community* ... assisting people suffering from addiction, which was proposed by the Western Australian Unit. Comments were forwarded to National by 30 April but as yet there has been no further response.

7. **LIST OF SPEAKERS:** Council members who have not already done so were invited to indicate their availability to speak about Australian Church Women and its activities to church women's groups, or of their skills as pianists, organists, soloists who might be called on at functions.

8. **FUNDRAISING:** The Trading Table raised \$89 and suggestions were made for having pens with ACW inscribed on them for sale, and selling fudge as a fundraiser.

9. **CITY WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE:** Pitt Street Uniting Church has agreed to host WCD Service on Tuesday 21 October 2003 at 12.15 pm.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. **PUBLICITY OFFICER:** Jean Porteous reported that Robyn Collins who has so ably fulfilled the role of Publicity Officer has been given an appointment at Collaroy which will prevent her continuing in the position of Publicity Officer. A prayer of thanks was offered for Robyn, asking for blessing for her work at Collaroy.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL:

2. The Festival is to be held 12-15 September 2003 and ACW NSW Unit has been asked to sponsor an arrangement. It was agreed on a show of hands that this be done.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Requests from National Executive:

- Motions for discussion at Conference by 1/8/2003
- Names of members who have received awards since last National Conference
- Names of members who have died since last National Conference
- Biennial Unit Report
- Names and addresses of 2 voting delegates and 2 observers

BURSARY BOOK: Need for a motion at National Conference to tidy up the confusion whereby the Bursary Book is seen as a memorial by some and as a means of honouring the living by others.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Jean Porteous reported that income since 21 April 2003 was \$755.55 and expenses \$947.53, leaving a balance of \$8492.60. Details of transactions tabled.

It was moved Jean Porteous, seconded Judith Baker that an amount of \$5000 be put in the Churches of Christ Trust Fund at a rate of 5.5% on call. This was agreed to on the understanding that interest be assigned on a pro rata basis for WKS, FLC etc.

It was agreed that the name of our account at the bank be changed to Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc., on the motion of Judith Baker and Helen Hill.

Moved Jean Porteous, seconded Lily Hanlon that the Treasurer's report be received. Carried.

PUBLICITY: Robyn Collins reported that she had prepared a Fellowship Day poster and leaflet and had done some work to update the general ACW leaflet.

MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery thanked all who had thought of her when she was not well. She reported that Pat Clough's husband had died. Elaine Wilson is doing well following her hip replacement. Bev Elliott may not be able to continue as a Presbyterian representative. Robin Phillis's husband is not well. Laura Wilkins is not well.

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer reported that she had recently written to the three scholars. Janet Watts, the National WKS Convener had forwarded on a letter from Monique Crabtree whose studies are going well. She asks for prayers for wisdom, discipline, openness, and a balance between study and family commitments.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Cela Cooper reported that Lily Hanlon had received a reply from the office of the Minister for Immigration with regard to the group called Tatu led by Ivan Shapovalov. Concerts set down for London and Berlin have been cancelled but the reply did not indicate that this would happen in Australia.

- Age of Consent Bill rushed through State Parliament, lessening parental influence.
- On behalf of Lee Edwards, Cela attended a Forum for Older Women which she had found to be excellent. Speakers from a wide range told of the incidence of domestic violence with regard to older women - need for awareness in the community to prevent it.
- Prison Fellowship monthly prayer calendar - copies available
- Cela had responded to a request from the National Social Issues Convener to supply information on culturally and linguistically diverse groups with regard to a poverty project looking at access and equity. The time frame was such that only anecdotal information was supplied, but it is hoped there will be a positive response.
- 2003 Aged Care Rights Service - report tabled
- Fairfield Champion - alcohol causing most grief - and it is a legal drug - Drug Arm NSW Street Out-Reach Program looking for volunteers.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Nancy McLaren reported that donations are still coming in. She had spoken at Leura Anglican Church. Nancy led a devotional based on the work of a Catholic priest in India working with the rehabilitation of children on the street, sharing God's love and bringing hope to those in need.

FUNCTIONS: Helen Richardson thanked those who helped and who provided for refreshments following the Dedication Service at Epping.

ACWC: It is proposed that the ACWC Service be held in Strathfield at the end of September and work is in progress for arrangements.

NEWSETTE: Deadline for next issue is 21 July 2003.

SPECIAL DAYS: Irene Carder reported on packing day with special thanks to Robyn Collins for the poster she had prepared. Readings and hymns for World Community Day are now available.

Agreed that the reports be received on the motion of Norma Dumbrell and Peg Cameron.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

1. National Executive: Minutes ; Circular 2003/11; Retyped Constitution/Guidelines; letter from Nungalinga College; Registration forms; ACW News; Travel Fund - 2
2. PPSEAWA Minutes and Reports
3. Salvation Army - Major Lyn Middleton as President Elect; Major Glenda Lucas, rep
4. Brenda Dickinson - response to NSW National Executive letter
5. Heather Badgery - thanks for thoughts and prayers
6. Cela Cooper - request from National re AWC
7. PWA NSW - Annual Conference 7/7/2003 at 10.00 am at PLC Croydon, rsvp 27/6
8. Beverly Beaman - NSW Churches of Christ CWF dissolved at State Level
9. Barbara Lacy - thanks on letter of congratulation
10. Judith Cayzer - apology and report
11. UCA - ACW reps
12. Ann Goodman - PWA rep at Dedication Service - thanks
13. St Mary's Cathedral Flower Festival - 12-19 Sept 2003
14. NCW - Foundation Day Luncheon 6/8/2003 - Nomination for Award?
15. CWL National Conference 13/8/2003
16. UCA Sydney Day Mission Support Group service at Roseville 11/8/2003
17. Aux Captain Robyn Collins - resignation

Publications: *Span* 5/2003; *The Branch CWL Parramatta* 5/2003

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CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

1. Annual Reports
2. Members of NSW National Executive
3. National Executive: Council Minutes 17/2/2003; comments on projects; accepting invitation to prepare order of service for Fellowship Day 2004
4. Rev Alison Todd - re Associate Membership
5. Rev Meredith Williams - welcome as new UCA representative
6. Notification of ACW delegates to other organisations
7. NSW Churches of Christ CWF - re its dissolution

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Lily Hanlon reported that she had attended her first meeting. The next service is from Panama and looks good.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Marian Smith has received an award in the latest list of honours. Fiona Collins spoke at NCW meeting and Edith Ridge suggested we should get an update from her.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Nola Dickson gave a report on the meeting held 31 May at St Finbar's Catholic Church Glenbrook. Matters included:

- Churches Community Housing Limited which seeks to provide affordable accommodation to those in need.
- Dialogue in the Ecumenical Journey - history of the movement and current dialogues
- Update on the situation of asylum seekers.

CHILDREN'S FILM AND TELEVISION: Dorothy Kenning told that a set of videos had been supplied to Yasmar Juvenile Detention Centre. She also told of videos using puppets which were helping in the counselling of children.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

- A successful Chinese luncheon had been held;
- six representatives from PPSEAWA had attended the Dedication Service at Epping;
- Dr Eileen Pittaway had been a speaker on refugee women;
- in October Sister Josephine Mitchell will speak about material for East Timor.

GIRLS BRIGADE: The new representative, Mrs Ruth Dickinson, who replaces Mrs Lorna Steel was introduced to members of Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

It was suggested that the Uniting Church Mission Support Group be thanked for the use of their PA system which we have been told we may use for our meetings.

Mina Whybourne reported that Peg Blake is not well and would appreciate prayers.

CLOSE: Jean Porteous closed the meeting with prayer - thanks for the exchange of views - called to do things - safe passage - for those not well - those unable to come.

NEXT MEETING: 18 August 2003

CHAIRS: Uniting Church

MORNING TEA: Anglican

Confirmed: *Jean I. Porteous*

Date: 18.8.03

ACTING TREASURER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL 16/6/03

INCOME received since Council meeting 21/4/03 \$755.55

EXPENDITURE " " " " \$947.53

BANK BALANCE at 21/4/03 \$8,684.58

PLUS deposits since 21/4/03 \$618.00

Cash on hand to bank 137.55 755.55

9,440.13

LESS cheques drawn since 21/4/03

947.53

Balance at 15/6/03

\$8,492.60

Jean S. Rousseau