



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

Minutes of Council Meeting Monday 17th August, 2015 at 10.30 am, at 222 Pitt Street Sydney

WELCOME – Immediate Past President, Isabel Hewitt, chaired the meeting and welcomed all to the meeting, and thanked the Salvation Army ladies for setting up the chairs, the Catholic ladies for morning tea, and the Church of Christ ladies for the trading table

Death of President Natalie McLeod - Memorial Minute

It is with sad hearts that we record the death of Mrs Natalie McLeod, NSW State President of Australian Church Women. Natalie died peacefully in her sleep on Monday 29th June 2015. At the time of her death she was also serving as a co-opted member of ACW National Executive. Natalie led the Unit with a graceful, Godly presence which blessed us all. We remember her personal interest in each one of us, her love of a laugh, her gentle compassion and her encouraging nature.

DEVOTIONS: Isabel related the story of a lady she met in Switzerland who had walked around Lake Geneva (180 kms). This was done as thanksgiving for her recovery from operations on her legs and to raise money for people with disabilities. She had planned her walk and had a friend to walk with her. The walk took a month, and the money was raised. The goals she set out to meet were accomplished. She found confidence in her ability to walk again. There are many New Testament stories told of Jesus and disciples walking from place to place. One of the special stories is the walk to Emmaus. 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?' May we walk with confidence with Christ as our companion on the road. Isabel then shared one of Leunig's prayers and prayed that we be mindful of the needs of others and our responsibility to them and to be guided and activated by love.

PRESENT: 32 members and 2 visitors **APOLOGIES:** 10

MINUTES: The minutes of the Council meeting of 15th June, 2015 were confirmed as correct. Moved by Tricia Howard and seconded by Pamela Freeman. Passed.

BUSINESS ARISING from the MINUTES:

1 National Executive Report Lyn Middleton advised that Delegates to Conference will receive their Working Papers today. Day Visitors on the Thursday Open Day (NSW Spiritual Enrichment Day) will need to speak to Lillian if they want a lift up the hill.

Lyn attended the Annual Mass for CWL Sydney last Tuesday, which was a very pleasant event.

The last issue of *e-NEWS* has been circulated. Those who are on email will have received a copy, but there are hard copies for those who have not seen it.

Forward Group: Seventy-two applications for the essay competition have been received from WA, SA, QLD. There has been difficulty in contacting the schools in NSW, TAS and VIC so they have extended to cut-off date

2 NSW Delegate to replace Natalie: Lyn nominated Tricia Graham to be the NSW Delegate at the National Conference. All in Council members agreed.

3 Archives – Isabel reported that NSW will still be looking after the National Archives as well as the State. The National archives will be in order before passing on.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: The Treasurer's Report was for the period 1st June – 31st July 2015.

The total income for June & July 2015 was \$1294.88

Total payments 1st – 30th June were \$2063.42

Credit Balance at bank as at 31st July 2015: \$4953.66

The Churches of Christ Property Fund Credit Balance at 30th June 2015: \$17,829.32

Pat Cory moved that the Report be received and accounts presented to the meeting be paid. Seconded by Yvonne Coorey. Passed unanimously.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: New *Circles of Prayer* with the theme of 'All God's Children', available for \$3. Lillian reminded Council members that any Christian group could apply for a FLC grant for a program within their church. Messy Church from Tasmania and Mums' Cottage in Newcastle has received funding. Perhaps next year will apply again – start thinking now so that an application can be made for a grant for Australia.

We are surrounded in this world by family, relatives, church members and friends who are our companions. How should our relationship with these people be? Psalm 103:5 'Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he uttered.' We should know how our relationship is with our heavenly father then it will be easier to examine our ties with other people. Make sure our relationship with God is right first. Lillian thanked God for his love and prayed that we can be an example of his abundant love.

Special Days: Lyn reported that she has had a few verbal reports on Fellowship Day and each one seemed to go well, but no report forms are to hand as yet. Verbal reports received from Newcastle, Cooma, Burwood/Concord/Strathfield, Epping and Sutherland. Maitland had their first Special Days meeting; this was not as well attended as hoped but it was a beginning. Lyn thanked Janice Willis for her efforts.

Material is all prepared for WCD – Building for Peace and Reconciliation, which has been prepared by QLD Unit. Branch reps here will receive their packages today, and the rest have been posted. Lyn advised that she had Special Project Applications with her and would need to be completed and returned to her by November Council Meeting.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: In the recent Newsette Report Judith Cayzer gave an update on 2015 scholars Caryn Rogers and Yane. Christy Ferguson (2009) was to be preparing for return to the Mission field. Denise Champion (2012 scholar) was Ordained as a Deacon in the Uniting Church SA. She is the first Aboriginal woman in any denomination in SA to be ordained. Leinamau (2007) continues with further studies in Fiji. Leinamau is having a much needed break from Ministry. She sends love to all and asks us to keep up the prayers.

Social Issues: No report

Membership: No report

Pastoral Care: Helen asked that we keep the McLeod family in our prayers. Beryl McLaughlin has recently experienced gout, but is cheerful and grateful to receive Newsette and follows the ACW activities with interest. Helen has written to Peg Blake and Mina Whybourne. A card has been sent to Beryl Duncan who has had further surgery, and to Dawn Fishburn, who has had a slight stroke. Helen will also contact Ros Abbey. Denise reported that Jan Jeffrey has not been well.

Newsette: Jennifer advised that Items for the next issue are needed by 6th October.

It was moved by Shirley Mitchell and seconded by Ramona Cowle that the Reports be adopted. Passed.

CORRESPONDENCE [Inwards]	CORRESPONDENCE [Outwards]
Ruth McKeller, Grenfell Uniting Church Ladies Fellowship re FLC	Ruth McKeller, Grenfell Uniting Ladies F'ship re FLC
PPSEAWA 2016 Conference Malaysia 24/8 to 31 st August	Sister Marie Craddock – letter re resignation from ACW
Juanita Miller, ACW TAS Unit – Letter of condolence	Sister Catherine McCahill – welcome to ACW NSW Council
Marion Rowe, ACW Vic Unit – Sympathy Card	Affiliated Denominations & Organisations (from Lyn Middleton) re death of Natalie McLeod
QLD ACW Unit – Sympathy Card	Anglican Women's Ministries (from LM) re death of Natalie McLeod
Women 2 women, Baptist Church, Letter of condolence	Mrs Wendy Mayer, Mothers' Union (from Lyn Middleton) re death of Natalie McLeod
PWA – Sympathy Card	Juanita Miller, TAS Unit – thank you letter
CWLA – Sympathy Card	Fran Moss, QLD Unit – thank you letter
Marion Rowe, Vic Unit re Natalie and ACW Rep.	Marion Rowe, Vic Unit – re ACW Rep. and thank you
NSW/ACT Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Committee, condolence letter	ACW NSW Council – e-News
PPSEAWA Meeting Minutes 24/06/15	ACW NSW Council – re ACWC concert venue
Lyn Middleton - ACW <i>e-News</i>	Uniting Church Synod: request dates for 2016
PWA: Members elected to represent PWA on ACW	Women to Women – thank you letter
PPSEAW Minutes 22/7/15	CWLA – thank you letter
Uniting Church Synod: confirm dates 2016	PWA – thank you letter
Lyn Middleton re ACWC appeal for Nepal	PWA – acknowledgement of nominations
ACW National Re AGM	Girls Brigade Report

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Appointment of New President: A letter has been written to the Anglicans asking if they would appoint someone to this position. No reply at this stage. Isabel asked the Council to give permission for the Executive to move on the reply received from the Anglican Church. All agreed.

2016 Calendar – ACWC Concert: The actual date will be dependent on the venue. If anyone can suggest a suitable venue let Pamela Freeman know. Epping Baptist may be available, but it would be good to open it to other churches as well.

Donation to ACWC for Nepal Disaster: This arose from a request from Nepal. Some Asian countries sent money in so then ACWC Executive thought to ask everyone to make a donation. Most people give through their churches, so put to State Units that could be consolidated and sent as an Australian donation, by the end of September. It needs to be a reasonable contribution because of bank transfer charges. We are asking whether you would be prepared to pay in some money for a donation for Nepal especially for women and children associated with Asian Church Women's Conference. It's a bit like FLC – give a little so as a whole group we might make it a worthwhile contribution.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bible Society: Jo Armstrong, National Fund Raising Manager reported on current project in SE Asia – Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos bible translation and distribution. In Vietnam there are a lot of tribal groups who have Vietnamese as their second language so bibles are supplied in the tribal language. The Sower magazine has information about the projects. In Pakistan there are literacy projects for women and girls.

Girls' Brigade: Elizabeth thanked everyone for their prayers. The Girls' Brigade held their State Council at the Beginning of August. Elizabeth has visited Girls' Brigade Companies in both Deniliquin and Goulburn. On 14th August she and other ladies from Girls' Brigade NSW enjoyed a visit to Government House for International Youth Day.

NSW Ecumenical Council: No report

National Council of Women (NCW): Tricia Graham reported that a morning tea will be held on Wednesday 24th August. ACW is invited to nominate someone from our organisation to be recognised at the Foundation Day Lunch for women in the community. The next meeting will be the last Thursday of the month.

Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA): Helen Richardson reported that at the last meeting the speaker was from Oxfam and spoke about the work they're doing in Nepal.

World Day of Prayer: Shirley Mitchell reported that the AGM was held on July 27, with Mrs Elizabeth Clarke accepting nomination for another year. Offerings from WDP 2015 were \$93,936.23, with a donation to the Bible Society of \$72,000. The Bible Society undertook much of the printing for 2015 WDP and this has greatly reduced costs. Over 325 Orders of Service for 2016 will be sent out in mid-October. The Service has been prepared by the Cuban WDP committee with the theme 'Receive children, receive me'. The Cuban woman plays an important role in society, church and family, although she faces a long chain of suffering and discrimination. The WDP committee comprises faithful women who continue to keep alive this special day each year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brenda Dickinson reported that Mina Whybourne did the WKS segment at Fellowship Day, which was an inspiration. Isabel asked all to keep Mina in their prayers.

Sister Marie Craddock, who has recently retired from ACW Council, spoke about her involvement with ACW and said that it has been a privilege to be associated with the organisation and its members. Isabel assured Sister Marie that she will always be welcome to attend Council Meetings.

NEXT MEETING Monday 16th November 2015

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

Close of Meeting: There being no further business, the meeting closed with prayer at 11.50 am.