

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING, held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney
on Monday, 21 February, 1994.

OPENING:- President Miss Phyl McKinnirey welcomed members to the meeting, the first Council meeting for 1994.

A special 'welcome back' to two members who have been absent through prolonged illnesses was to Peg Blake and Rae Aldridge.

New delegate Mrs Major Averil Whybird was welcomed as a member of the Salvation Army team. Averil is an old friend to many members, through their association with her at the National Conferences in Brisbane and Perth, where she attended as President of the A.C.T. Unit.

Mrs Nola Dickson has been a faithful 'visitor' for a number of meetings. As she is a member of the Neutral Bay-Mosman Branch, we were delighted to 'appoint' her as the representative for that group.

DEVOTIONS:- Mrs Beth Finlay, Convener for Branches, led our thoughts on the theme 'God's tranquility'. The meditation was based on a reading from "A Closer Walk". We were reminded of the beautiful words in Psalm 46, a favourite of many people; 'Be still and know that I am God' -- very hard to do at times, but it is the secret of the success of meditation. A half-hour's meditation every day is a good prescription for mental health. When we allow God to 'drop his still dews of quietness' into our busy lives, our 'ordered lives' will 'confess the beauty of His peace.' A prayer for tranquility ended the devotional segment.

THOSE PRESENT:- 48

APOLOGIES:- 12

MINUTES OF THE MEETING, November 15, 1993 were CONFIRMED.

BUSINESS from the MINUTES:-

1. Reception for Rev. Violet Sampa-Bredt. This was a very happy morning. 27 people attended and listened with great interest as Violet told us her story since she left Australia after her training in theological college in Brisbane, which began with her Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Her stories about life in her country Zambia were received with enthusiasm and we were grateful for the opportunity of hearing Violet speak. ACW members gave her a 'love-gift' of \$140, for herself, to use as she would like. While she was in the building, it was arranged for her to meet members of the Assembly offices of the Uniting Church and the General Secretary of the UCA Assembly, Rev. Gregor Henderson was invited to join us for morning tea.

2. WORKSHOP, January 17. Thirty-seven people attended this meeting. Groups of denominational representatives considered the list of questions and recommendations, in an effort to discover ways in which ACW can be given greater priority through the denominational sponsoring groups, e.g. Fellowships. The workshop was conducted with great enthusiasm, under the leadership of Mrs Major Joan Tong and a paper on the reports to the plenary session is attached to these minutes. Copies are available to each denominational group and by request to other interested people. Groups decided to meet after Council meetings in the next few months, with progress reports to follow.

3. STATE CONFERENCE:- Mrs Marie McCann, Convener for Special Functions reported on the work done by her committee. Registration forms have been distributed and some registrations have been received. Members are asked to send their forms back with a deposit of \$10 by the March Council meeting, 21 March.

There will be three segments to the Conference, the theme being "The Family! Work will be done on ACW, our Branches and Ecumenism. In this segment, Rev. David Gill and Dr. Ray Williamson will be the speakers.

Day visitors will be welcome, and are asked to register by 9am. Reports of each segment will be available each day and at the end of the Conference. There will be a Press Statement at the close of the Conference.

PRESENTATION:- Mrs Dorothy Lumb, former Treasurer, was given a Council Member Badge to mark her retirement from the Executive.

CORRESPONDENCE:- The Outwards Correspondence was ratified and the Inwards Correspondence was received and dealt with.

BUSINESS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:-

1. Papers were tabled and members invited to read them.
2. Invitations were received from :- Community Aid Abroad, Luncheon on Monday 28 February.
St. Andrew's Cathedral Flower Festival Committee, Flower Demonstration, 11 March.
Tour of the Great Synagogue and morning Tea, 20 April, replies to Clare Cusick (National Council of Women) 449-3133
3. Greetings from National Secretary Marion Dodds, & South Australian Unit Treasurer after the Bush Fires in N.S.W. We have appreciated the kind enquiries from our inter-state sisters.
4. Letters of appreciation for a. David Jones' Staff Choir's presentation of Christmas Carols in the main store before Christmas and Grace Brothers' Nativity Scenes window displays were sent by the Executive. Replies from the managers of these stores expressed their pleasure in hearing from ACW and assurance was given that we could expect to enjoy such activities in the coming years.
5. N.C.W. NEWS There were many interesting items in this journal of the National Council of Women of N.S.W. which have been noted and from time to time the Council will be reminded of the events as they come.
6. National Minutes, 12 Nov. 10 Dec. 28 Jan. From these minutes we learnt that the 1995 National Conference will be held at Corpus Christi Seminary, Clayton from 21-25 August, 1995.
Affiliation of The Girls' Brigade with ACW as a Special Interests Group. N.S.W. Council was pleased to read this item and endorses the action of both Girls' Brigade and the National Executive.
World Community Day 1994 Special Offering. We were glad to read that our suggestion that Shalom Christian College, Townsville should be the recipient of this offering has been ratified by the other Units.
Other information was referred to the appropriate Conveners for action.
7. Death of Mr Roy Stanhope. A letter of condolence has been sent to Dr. John Stanhope. His father and mother were very good friends of ACW. The late Mrs Marjory Stanhope was assisted in her work for our Council by Mr Roy Stanhope. Their home was always open to the W.K.S. scholars while Mrs Stanhope was active as a member of the W.K.S. Committee. Her position was F.L.C. Convener for some years and she was the first Australian to be a member of the International Committee of F.L.C.

REPORTS:-

1. **TREASURER.** The Statement for three months ending 31-1-94 was presented and received. Payments were ratified for a number of accounts.
Delegates were reminded that affiliation fees are due.
2. From the Executive meetings:- 1. The President's Installation. There will be a Craft Table on 16 May. Members are invited to contribute craft items for sale. Proceeds to Administration Funds. All sorts of Craft will be welcome; cooking, sewing plants, other hand work, etc.
2. A.G.M. This will be held at the April Council meeting. Reports are to be tabled at that meeting. If they are later than that, they will not be included in the Annual Report, which will be ready for distribution at the State Conference.
3. Nomination forms for the Election of Officers in April will be available at the March Council meeting.

4. Conveners. The Executive asked permission of the Council to change the name of the Convener for Special Days to the Convener for Special Functions. This title more suitably describes the function of the convener, who is responsible for planning Spiritual Enrichment Days, Dedication Services, State Conferences, etc. 'Special Days' is the name used by the National Committee for the Convener responsible for Fellowship and World Community Days; N.S.W. calls this convener 'Promotion'. The Council agreed to the change of name.
5. Co-opting members to the Executive. There has been no provision in writing for this. The Council agreed to the proposal of the Executive that this should be added to the Constitution or the By-laws.
3. Report from the Incoming President. Mrs Lucelle King tabled invitations to her Installation Service. She has written a letter to the women of the Baptist Church in N.S.W. inviting them to attend the service and to be her support during the two years she is ACW President. The service will be at the Central Baptist Church in the city, where the congregation is 98% Chinese. The Minister Rev. Edward Yu will be at the service in his role as minister of the church and as President of the Baptist Union of N.S.W. Refreshments following the service will be provided by the Executive of the Baptist Women's Fellowship (sandwiches) the members of the City Branch of ACW and the ACW Executive members (slices etc.) Members of Council were invited to bring food to assist if they desired to help.
4. FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:-
Convener Shirley Wells used for the devotions "Keeping Our Lamps Burning" the page written by Mary Grey from England, Circle of Prayer. In This segment, we were reminded that it is our calling to be Peacemakers in a world where there is no peace. In announcing that Kuri-ngai Partners have received an I.C.F.L.C. Grant of \$ US 6,000 as a result of our application for them, Shirley asked us to pray for Maisie Cavanagh and the work she is doing with Kuri-ngai Partners. We are working on a grant submission with Shalom Christian College. In a letter from Shirin Samuel, her Christmas message from F.L.C. she reminded us that the coming of Jesus to us in His birth in a stable means that He came in the 'most accessible place to everyone'. Because He chose to be born in an 'ordinary' place, we can find Him in ordinary places.
5. W.K.S. WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:- Convener Mina Whybourne was pleased to announce that the 1994 has been chosen. She is Nighat Gulzar, a twenty-three year old Pakistani woman, who works for the Women's Development & Service Programme in the Raiwind Diocese, Church of Pakistan in the area of finance. She is seeking two months in office management and will be in either South Australia or Victoria for her scholarship. Members were delighted to see a photo of Rachel, her husband and baby taken while Rachel's husband was home on compassionate leave when Rachel's mother died in September. A letter from Doreen Tie announces the date of her wedding to Philip on 19 March. They have rented a house in Kuching. Her work is going well and she is enjoying the excitement of many engagement and pre-wedding parties. A card to be sent to Doreen for her wedding. Malai has written and she reports that she is very busy, lecturing nurses. She has been asked to study for her Master's Degree in Education. She sends love to all ACW members. Letters in reply to our Christmas letters to former scholars gave us news of several friends. From Dien we heard that she is now both ordained and married. She lives in Indonesia. For Barkat we are asked to pray; she is experiencing a lack of support for her work in the hospital. Violet Sampa-Bredt is to undergo surgery for her back condition, which gave her some trouble during her recent visit here.

- Surgery will be either in Zambia or in Germany. Violet has to decide.
6. **WORLD DAY of PRAYER.** Delegates reported. The City service will be held in St. Mary's Cathedral Crypt and an invitation is open to any who cannot attend in their own area. There will be services in 400 areas. Deaconess Mary Andrews will speak about World Day of Prayer on Radio 2CBA FM at 8.30pm on Thursday 24 February.
 7. **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:-**Two new delegates were welcomed, Mrs Major Averil Whybird and Mrs Nola Dickson.
Heather Reid again thanked the Council for the opportunity given to her to represent ACW at the NCW Seminar 'Men and Women Against Violence'. It is an on-going experience in Heather's life. She also represented ACW at the Media Awareness Project Australia (MAPA) and recent information came to Heather about an advertisement produced for a leading Sydney Jeweller. This advertisement was considered to be in bad taste by many people, who saw it as demeaning women. Only 750 people objected but the advertisement was withdrawn. From this experience we learn that we must WRITE our Complaints, it is an effective method.
Discussion followed on the Gay Mardi Gras, soon to take place in Sydney. WCTU had received some disturbing material. There is to be a Rally at Scots Church on March 5 at 7.30pm and a 24 hour Prayer Vigil on 4 March in St. Andrew's Square.
Membership Lists are under revision. Members are invited to look at the current list and to make any corrections needed.
 8. **BRANCHES:-** Convener Beth Finlay has had some feed-back from her recent letter. Branches have been notified that help is available to them, especially assistance with speakers for their services, and members of Council are available to speak at Branch meetings.
Dalton and Gunning members will send a box of craft goods for 16 May.
 9. **ACWC:-** Joan Tong thanked those who attended the Workshop. Denominational members were encouraged to tell their groups about our letters to Grace Bros. and David Jones. Use the people designated by the groups to do the work of ACW. Use denominational journals to publicise ACW.
Matters for the ACWC Conference. Joan has written with her replies to the questions raised regarding I.C.F.L.C. and ACWC. Executive members assisted Joan with these replies.
 10. **PROMOTIONAL ITEMS:-**Members are encouraged to use our tea towels and key rings as gifts to speakers. Our tea spoons are finished at present, but some at \$2 are available. Council Member badges are \$6.
 11. **PROMOTION:-** Convener Peg Blake thanked everyone for the welcome back and for prayers, cards, messages during her illness. Jeanne Sutherland and other people were especially thanked for their help.
New order & report forms are ready for posting for Fellowship Day. To be returned by the end of April.
Packing Day 23 May at 10 am. in Room "C" 9th. floor, 222 Pitt St.

GENERAL BUSINESS:-

1. Members were invited to the CWL Conference 2 March at Parramatta.
2. Taize papers were tabled. Posters were displayed. Billets will be required for interstate and overseas people. Inquiries, ACW Secretary or the A.C.C. office. 299-2215
3. Trading Table & Morning Tea contribution. Proceeds from sales go to Overseas Travel Fund. Morning Tea money goes to Administration. Please support both these funds.
4. Bush Fire damage at Como. Yvonne Davis expressed her thanks to the churches that have assisted the Presbyterian people at Como. Their church buildings were destroyed and the minister lost his home. Services are being held in the Anglican church and the Uniting Church gave practical assistance. Prayers are asked for the Minister and his family, living three suburbs away in rented accommodation and for the people.

CLOSING:- The Presbyterian delegates were thanked for Morning Tea.
 Next MEETING:- 21 March. The Catholic delegates will provide Morning Tea.

BENEDICTION:- The meeting closed with prayer and the Benediction.

A. McKeown
 CONFIRMED.

21.3.94

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (NSW STATE UNIT)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
for three months ending 31-01-1994

CR BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1-11-1993 11373-27

ADD RECEIPTS FOR THREE MONTHS

Affiliation fees		5-00	
A.C.W.C. Bulletin		105-00	
" Partners		10-00	
"Newsette" Subs		438-00	
F.L.C.		6433-11	
Winifred Kiek Scholarship		114-90	
World Community Day		2528-82	
Associate Members		10-00	
Sale of Souvenirs		1020-50	
Overseas travel - Trading Table		57-60	
Tea Money		14-65	
Interest Rec'd - Glebe Board		94-76	
2% Allowed for Administration -			
F'ship of the Least Coin	414-37		
" Day Service	253-70		
World Community Day Service	207-17	875-24	
Donation		15-00	11722-58
			23095-85

DEDUCT - PAYMENTS FOR THREE MONTHS

Imprest A/c - FLC Convener/Treasurer/Publicity		150-00	
Printing		34-90	
Newsette - Printing	47-82		
Postage	89-75		
Labels	30-95	168-52	
Purchase of souvenirs/Promotion-			
Collectors World	506-39		
Pen Man	98-00	604-39	
Government Charges		22-79	
A.C.W.National Conference -			
O/Seas Travel Fund		150-00	
F'ship of the Least Coin		7873-15	
" Day Service		4517-45	
World Community Day Service		3542-57	
World Community Day Service -			
Printing		22-78	
Publicity		50-00	
5% Allowed for Administration -			
F'ship of the Least Coin		414-37	
" Day Service		253-70	
World Community Day Service		207-17	18011-79

5084-06

Balance B/Forward		5084-06
A.C.W.C. - Partners	500-00	
" - Bulletins	135-00	
Flowers - Peg Blake	20-00	
Phone Calls - Secretary	44-31	
Publicity - Postage	45-00	
Gift for Rachael	20-00	
Nat. Ccl. Women - Affiliation fee 1993	40-00	804-31

CR. BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD - 31st JANUARY 1994 \$ 4279-75

A/cs to be passed for payment (ratified)

	\$
Imprest a/c - F.L.C. Convener	50-00
Dept of Accounting - Printing	15-00
" " " - " 30-00	
" " " - Newsette 48-60	78-60
Marie Majoor - Labels for Newsette	30-95
J Sutherland - Postage - Publicity	45-00
A.C.W. Nat. Exec. - Balance F.L.C.	
- Winifred Kiek Scholarship	
5% Admis. - F.L.C./W.K.S.	
Beth Finlay - Postage - Branch Convener	14-40
<i>Cornel G. meth - Newsette - Postage</i>	<i>81-15</i>
<i>CW Doeane Parameters - Printing</i>	<i>36 27</i>

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

1994 Scholar appointed - Nignat Gulzar from Pakistan. She has a degree in commerce and works as an accountant in the women's office of the Raiwind Diocese. Nignat's aim is to gain skills in office management. She will study in Adelaide in all probability.

1993 Scholar - Malai Mahaneerat - lecturing at Hospital - also studying for Master in Nursing Degree. She sends loving greetings to all.

1991 Scholar - Rachel Sobana Kanley - Rachel's mother died in September - her husband came from Kuwait for 2 months - and had to return before Christmas. Their little son Brian is thriving. Photo enclosed. She also sent loving greetings to all members.

1990 Scholar - Doreen Tie - is engaged to be married on 19/3 - will be married to Philip in Penang and then return to Kuching to live - very happy and sends love to all. School very busy with new intake of children.

1980 Scholar - Bev. Dien Sumiyatiningsih (Indonesia) is married - sends greetings.

1978 Scholar - Sr. Barkat Kishan Dass - having some difficulty with nursing staff in hospital - needs prayer for stability.

1971 Scholar - Violet Sampa Bredt - needs to have back operation, possibly in Germany.

All our Scholars need our prayers to sustain them in their various difficulties and walks of life.

Mina Whybourne.
W.K.S. Convener.

21/2/94

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

WORKSHOP, January 17, 1994 held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Members from almost all of our affiliated denominations and organisations attended this workshop. The purpose of the gathering was to enable us as members of Australian Church Women representing our denominations to consider how we can assist the organisations and churches which we represent to tell other members about A.C.W.

Mrs Major Joan Tong Past President, welcomed the 37 women who were present and who had enjoyed a time of fellowship over morning tea, provided by the Executive. Apologies were received from Executive members Shirley Wells, Heather Reid, Lucelle King and Peg Blake.

In her opening prayer, Joan gave thanks to God for His grace and mercy. We remembered the many people in our state who are suffering loss and grief after the disastrous bush fires this month. Prayers are still needed for these people. In these days of tragedy and grief we prayed for courage and compassion, and that while we are thankful for the courage and sacrifice already shown, we need to continue to learn from these experiences. God knows and cares about us, His love is never failing. We asked for blessings on our Workshop, that we might equip ourselves to serve better in the coming days. Prayers were asked for absent members, and for Beryl McLaughlin's son, critically ill in Brisbane.

STATE CONFERENCE. Special Days Convener Marie McCann spoke about the Conference to be held in Sydney during April, 1994. Registration forms were distributed and members were encouraged to give this conference their earnest consideration. Five excellent speakers will attend during the two days (Thursday 28 and Friday 29) but it is recommended that it would be good to come on the Wednesday night and stay until the Saturday morning. The programme will give first emphasis to ACW. The conception of ACW, plans for the future. Help for Branches. There will be an ecumenical section and a statement from the conference for the Year of the Family will be produced. All branches have had notice of the Conference and will receive more information in the letter from their Convener later this month.

Background to the Workshop. Two-three years ago we had a session to form denominational Task Groups. The object was to decide how we can best operate in our individual denominational systems. Now we are starting again, with the object of identifying a role for each representative, bearing in mind that the suggestions on the worksheet are only 'ideals'.

Members broke into denominational groups, those who had less than three joined with another denomination. After the groups had worked for their allotted time, a plenary session was held and the groups reported back, as follows.

ANGLICAN:- The group will compile a list of Anglican churches in Sydney and each member will have a copy.

UNITING CHURCH:- This denomination has delegates from out of Sydney. Using the church's Year Book, members will endeavour to make a list of all UCA churches. They will also use lists of contact people available from the Branches' Convener and the F.L.C. Convener. It was suggested that if delegates know when new branches are being formed, they may be able to make useful contact with members of their denominations in that area. Some Branches have difficulty with certain ministers or churches in their area.

This is an area where it might be possible for the delegates to use their experience and influence within their own denomination.

The denominational Co-ordinator would be the first person to contact.

PRESBYTERIAN:- Lists of their churches are available to them. Their excellent organisation through PWA and their magazine SPAN enables them to send out information, and they are willing to use this network.

CATHOLIC:- These delegates will work within their three Dioceses, to contact Parishes and branches of Catholic Women's League. In those parishes where there is no CWL extra effort will be necessary.

Contact will be made through some well-known women.

When contact has been made in the local Catholic church or CWL it will then become their aim to encourage their women to work with members of the other churches in the area for ACW.

CHURCHES of CHRIST and BAPTIST:- The Churches of Christ delegates will set up a Task Group and will work through their State Council.

SALVATION ARMY:- These delegates will get out information through their contacts in their two Divisions.

The meeting requested that time for follow-up to today's Workshop be allocated on the Agenda of the Council of ACW. February, March or April.

Task Groups were encouraged to report back and to hold meetings at their convenience following Council meetings in the next few months.

Mrs Tong thanked delegates for their attendance and invited them to stay for a cup of tea over lunch.