



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 20th February 2012, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Jennifer Peffer, the immediate past President, in the chair for Mrs Nola Dickson, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. Special welcome to our guest speaker Susan Randall and also to Nancy McLaren, a previous Salvation Army representative, who is down from Armidale and able to attend our meeting.

DEVOTIONS: These took the form of reflections at the beginning of the new year. The need to seek God's wisdom in all aspects of life through prayer both for individuals and as an organisation. Proverbs 16 "A man's heart plans his ways but the Lord knows his steps." You fail when you take your eyes from the goal. We must pray every day that ends with a 'Y'. Jennifer ended her devotion with a prayer for the meeting and for this coming year.

PRESENT: 41 as recorded. **APOLOGIES:** 10 as recorded. **VISITORS :** 2

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 November, 2011 were confirmed on the motion of Rae Goth and Norma Dumbrell

BUSINESS ARISING: New National Committee keeping up constant communication on upgrade progress of Constitution.

GUEST SPEAKER: Jennifer introduced Susan Randall and invited her speak to the meeting. Before leaving to volunteer at Sanglam it was necessary to learn the language, she was also expected to wear the selected uniform, which Susan was wearing to show us to day. We were able to see photos of the group of volunteers Susan worked alongside.

Sanglam is a World Centre on an oasis, accommodates 70 people and has dozens of community affiliations. There is a huge water tank plus their own generator so they are independent of the restrictions experienced by many. The volunteers travel to the school by rickshaw. Teachers were well trained – days well structured. Concrete floors double as blackboards, but very little equipment. All games were played inside, the balls, balloons etc Susan had taken over were a great success. Older children have access to a "computer bus" which visits weekly. A requirement is a mobile crèche to be provided by the company, milk is delivered at 10am daily, lunch provided, which Susan felt might be the children's only meal. Doctors visit for health checks and to vaccinate the children. Hindi is the only language taught, this is what the children will need to live and work. When the building has been completed the whole family will move on to another building site further away and another crèche will be set up by the next company. Susan said this trip had given her a huge insight into life in India and she had enjoyed the whole experience. Helen Hill thanked Susan and presented her with a gift.

Nancy Mc Laren was persuaded to bring us up to date with her activities. She travels a great deal with her husband, their area stretches from Tamworth to Tenterfield to Bourke to Port Macquarie. She calls it 'travelling from Bush to Coast'! She left us with some verses from Ephesians.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the books have been audited and the Cash at Bank stands at \$6, 275.17. Accounts to be paid or ratified, passed on the motion of Helen Richardson and Jan Harrison.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Lillian Hodges said that this is a new year with new opportunities to serve God, so she would like us all to be ambassadors. She is due to speak in June at Lithgow and Hurstville Uniting Church. Gerringong and Smithfield are closing down, Lillian read a letter

from one group which told of the sadness this decision had caused. Lillian prayed about the woman at the well, she received so much more than water, she brought Living Water to the people. May we be like the Samaritan woman and take water to the people.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton confirmed that the Multicultural Concert will be at St Mary's Catholic Church in Manly, corner of Whistler and Raglan Sts; Public transport recommended, some parking at church and at nearby council car park. Lyn has begun to recruit items for concert but many more required. A prayer request from Rev. Lee Moon Sook for earthquake victims in Philippines. Ramona Cowle was able to enlarge on the situation there, many deaths and missing people. National Representative, Laurel Pearce had sent word from Australia. From Executive Lyn advised the meeting of the Young Woman's Forum, need to endorse Sonia Pell, who has been suggested by Jan Condon, Beatrice Kay spoke well of Sonia also. Lyn moved and Beatrice seconded the motion

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman said that most news is in Newsette. Posted amended constitution and insurance cover information to branches. Explained that the Special Project, Bear Cottage at Manly has visits from chaplain and pastor, local ministers are available to visit children and parents also. Carmel informed us that there is an Open Day on Sunday if anyone interested. Word had been received from Olive Dell- National that project needs to be ratified, moved Pamela Freeman, seconded by Carmel.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith remarked that Christmas cards etc are not as regular as in the past, but sometimes come later than expected. We need to be on the look out for possible applicants for 2013 scholarships. Alan Walker College has restructured at Oatlands due to finances and only the Principal travels overseas now. Judith read two letters of application for scholarships, they sound very fine young women. Denise Secomb was able to endorse one of them. Judith receives National News Circular from Convener, Meryon. Ruth Marsipal has left work but hopes to complete studies one day. Christ Ferguson (2009) sends regular newsletter from her Middle East Mission. Becoming accustomed to culture, good friendships growing. Recently helped at a neighbours wedding. Judith received details on the 3 Multicultural Australia Scholars, Sarah Dingle (SA), Denise Champion (SA), Kyounghee Cho (NSW) which she read out to the meeting.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys raised these concerns:- (a) Aged Care is insufficient, (2) Euthanasia is to be put to Parliament again, (3) Same Sex Marriage, (4) Women in Armed Forces- sexual abuse, in combat, (5) Problem Gambling, (6) Underage drinking and drug use, (7) Abortion, (8) Asylum Seekers, (9) People living with disabilities, (10) Constitution report.

MEMBERSHIP: There is to be a new Uniting Church Representative, Colleen Johnson, unable to attend to day. Life Member Marie McCann present.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone said there was nothing to add to Newsette, but she knew there were people who are suffering so to please let her know then she can send a card or make a phone call to them.

NEWSETTE: Jennifer Peffer reported that the February issue has been printed and mailed. An audit of the distribution is well underway but some items need clarification regarding payment. The introduction of a common renewal date for Newsette subscriptions and Associate membership, Denominational, Organisation and Branch Affiliations is proposed. Articles for inclusion in Newsette should be restricted to 300-340 words (an A5 page) at most. Copy should reach me by 7th of the month before circulation i.e. January, April, July & October. Priority for inclusion will be given to regular features about ACW and ACWC, also articles about inter- church cooperation, as these are more appropriate than those about any one denomination.

PUBLICITY: Isabel Hewitt is working on a prayer diary with information helpful to members. This will take us through to May.

The reports were received on the motion of Denise Secomb and Bernice Baker.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

- a) National Minutes for November, January and February
- b) Two letters from National
- c) National Circular for November and January
- d) ACT Unit Newsletters
- e) Letter from Jan Condon informing us of two new Salvation Army Representatives
- f) Invitation to attend UCA Adult Fellowship Annual Dedication Service
- g) Christmas Card from PPSEAWA
- h) Return thanks card from the family of Bruce King
- i) Information on Young Women's Forum from National
- j) UCA Sydney Day Mission support group, invitation to attend annual Get Together
- k) National- prayer request from Rev. Moon Sook
- l) SA Annual Report, Newsletter, advising new President's name and new Executive.

PUBLICATIONS: Newsette and SPAN

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward) acknowledging Jan Condon's letter re new representatives

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations discussed, volunteers to attend functions

HONOURING CHURCH WOMEN: Isabel told us about Lynette Bertwhistle, Pat Franklin, Mollie Ongley, Vera Thorpe, Pauline Crosby, outlining their life of service to the many areas of interest their service took them.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

Nola and Helen had attended the Thanksgiving Service for Judith Cayzer's Mother at Carramar,

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

Nola is to speak at morning service at The Entrance Presbyterian Church on 26th February.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: No Report, Helen Richardson said meeting is on Wednesday.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Shirley Mitchell reminded everyone the WDP Service is on 2nd March and to check where their local service is being held.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: No Report

GIRL'S BRIGADE: Ruth Dickinson reported that 136 young women, 14-20 years of age had attended the bi-annual event 'Fono Marae' (meeting place) at Stanwell Tops, focusing on developing leadership and team building skills. This is a week long camp, Ruth Chikasa the International President was present which was a highlight. Several girls committed their lives to Christ and many said they had grown spiritually and would never be the same again. Concurrently, the Pacific 'Fono Marae' was held in New Zealand, about 40 attended from 7 countries. Many new friendships were formed at both gatherings. All companies have reopened this year with no closures, so this is very encouraging – most are growing in numbers. Still looking for a State Treasurer, someone with skills in the financial area and has heart for ministry within Girls Brigade.

CHURCHES TOGETHER: Isabel reported Cardinal Pell has announced that Catholic Bishops are withdrawing soon, so this has caused concern, but there are 17 denominations who belong. Restructure and prayer is needed.

Reports moved on a motion by Isabel Hewitt and Shirley Mitchell

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) AGM 16th April, 2012, Jennifer has prepared a handout with information regarding the positions to better prepare members.
- b) Isabel spoke about Service of Dedication at 11am on Monday 21st May to be held in Uniting Church Carrington Ave Strathfield. Public transport is strongly recommended on the day.
- c) Secretary asked for annual reports to be emailed to her as quickly as possible.

Norma Dumbrell spoke briefly of the trip to Myanmar. She and her husband had been invited to visit so they could be thanked for all their years of devotion in ministry to the people there.

Thanks to the Uniting Church ladies for morning tea, and to the Catholic ladies for setting up the room.

CLOSING PRAYER was given by Jennifer, reminding us to pray on all the days ending with a 'Y' as her devotion had encouraged.

NEXT MEETING: 19th March 2012

MORNING TEA: Catholics
CHAIRS: Salvation Army

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____