



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 20 August 2007, at 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Carmel Keys welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Carmel led devotions based on Psalm 16. We believe in God who has provided all the good things we have, but do we do anything about our beliefs? The God of the Bible created the world and loves each one of us. Jesus is the example of God supreme, and we want to know God better. God found in silence has been a long tradition from hermits and monks, and in silence we can know ourselves better, and find a balance between us and God in whose image we are made.

PRESENT: 31 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 20 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Council Meeting on 18 June 2007 were confirmed on the motion of Olive Bolliger and Lyn Middleton.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Spiritual Enrichment Day: Held at Scots Church, Margaret Street, the four sessions on spiritual enrichment with focus on scripture, mission, social issues and neighbour had been a very good day. The contributions from those who participated were excellent.
2. The position of ACWC Convener is still vacant, and Carmel again reminded Council members of this need. The ACWC Celebration at the Salvation Army Hurstville 21 October 2007 at 2.30 pm is to include an item from a group from Punchbowl. Current Winifred Kiek Scholar, Leinamau is hoping to attend and to speak as part of the program. A board was sent around for people to indicate the food they will bring.
3. 'Profiles' of Presidents NSW Inter Church Council/ACW NSW Unit for Salvation Army ladies have been completed, thanks to the efforts of Lyn Middleton. There are still 5 photos needed to complete the task.
4. National Conference – Geelong 23-28 September 2007. Profiles have been sent to National nominating Edith Ridge as a National Life Member, and for Shirley Wells, Joan Tong and Nancy McLaren for inclusion in *Honouring Australian Church Women*. NSW is responsible for devotions Tuesday evening 25 September.

Jean Porteous asked whether the question of insurance has been resolved by National Executive.

5. National Executive has foreshadowed the need for hospitality for Shu-Wen Chiang 3-4 October 2007 following National Conference which Shu-Wen will attend on a Winifred Kiek Fellowship. People who may be able to help with hospitality include Ramona Cowle, Norma Dumbrell, Winsome Penn, Nancy McLaren and Jan Harrison. No further information has been received on this matter.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the cash book balance at the end of July was \$3763.27, slightly different from the bank balance as two cheques had not been presented. Moved Helen, seconded Jan Harrison (1) that the report be received and accounts paid, and (2) that \$3000 be invested with Uniting Financial Services. Carried

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PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone reported on the deaths of Rosalyn Bemrose, Olive Beverley and the husband of Judith Baker, and asked for prayers for their families. Bernice Baker is undergoing chemotherapy. Marjory Baker, a Past President is really ill and her daughter has moved in to look after her. Sandra Wise was experiencing the difficulty of moving her mother into a nursing home. Jennifer Peffer's granddaughter is doing well. Bonnie Lyons had a fall and is making good progress. Lucelle King celebrated her 80th birthday and sent thanks for the greeting given by Jan Harrison at one of the three birthday celebrations.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Nancy McLaren advised that Circle of Prayer 18 was available. She read a poem which demonstrated how we can let our prejudices become a barrier between us and those who differ from us, before all joined in the FLC Prayer.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported packing for World Community Day would be held after Council. As well as Orders of Service for WCD she was including a sample newsletter from Kincumber Branch with the thought that other Branches might like to do something similar.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer brought greeting from Una Birtchnell. The half yearly reports on Leinamau Seru and Cathy Paraka had been received by National and would be available soon. Leinamau is back from Vanuatu and will undertake a counselling course as the next part of her study. She has been translating Know Your Bible material, and hopes to be at the ACWC Celebration in October. The choice of the 2008 scholar has been made, and details should be available soon.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird drew attention to the cards put out by Micah Challenge to enable people to ask the government to honour the commitment to support *Make Poverty History* by 2015. Joan gave an outline of the Millennium Development Goals this project supports.

Cards produced by World Vision are available to register support for the abolition of human trafficking. Members were encouraged to contact World Vision to obtain cards for themselves and their organisations. Joan is to attend an Anti Slavery Seminar at UTS Law School.

Copies of the booklet *Climate Change – Our responsibility to Sustain God's Earth* were available for purchase.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin gave the deadline for copy for the next issue 19 October 2007. A new email address for copy is newsette@aanet.com.au

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren had prepared leaflets advertising ACWC Celebration in October.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 4/6/2007, 9/7/2007; PWA Federal Conference invitation; updates/reminders

Joan Tong – Associate membership, HACW entry

UCA Sydney Day Mission Support Group – invitation 13/8/2007

Chris Pfeiffer – re Nancy Pfeiffer

Richard Horsbrough – re Elsie Deane

Jean Ashton – re Mary Millar

Dorothy Woodhouse – President Profiles

Heather Badgery

Edith Ridge

Shirley Wells

Marie McCann – re Phyl McKinnirey

UCAF Newsletter; NSW Women 7/2007; *The Record* Winter 2007; PWA *Span* 6/2007; Prison Fellowship *Unbound*

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

National Executive: NSW Minutes AGM16/4/2007, Council 16/4/2007, NSW State Report;

Entries HACW; Nat Life Member Profile; Working Papers info;

Jan Harrison – proposed motion

Edith Ridge – Nat. Life Member nominee

Shirley Wells – HACW entry

Jennifer Peffer – update

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FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

PWA Conference 2/7/07

PPSEAWA Winter Luncheon, represented by Lyn Middleton

UCA Mission Support Group at Roseville, represented by Jan Harrison 13/8/07

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported on the Winter Luncheon where the speaker was Monica Duckworth JP of the NSW Women Justices' Association. Among its goals are the improvement of the legal status of women and children, changes in the practice of the law in the interest of the general community, and the promotion and support of acceptable standards in family life. At the July meeting Mrs Pamela Baxter spoke of her experiences as she assisted in a project called *Decade of Lessons Learned* which from 1997 provided programs for Peace Education in developing countries. Starting in Kenya, then all East Africa, West Africa and finally Asia programs are developed for particular schools giving 36 hours over two weeks, including special teacher seminars. The tenets of Dignity – Respect – Inclusion are upheld, in the belief that “As human beings we are more similar than we are different”.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: The Annual General Meeting will be held in September. Stephanie Lenger had been a recent speaker on the topic of Youth and Alcohol Abuse. NCW had received a grant which enabled them to purchase a computer.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Helen Hill reminded members that Hostesses Day is set down for November, and the actual date will be confirmed at our November meeting.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Celebrations this year mark the 80th year of Girls Brigade. Activities continue in many local areas. A new field worker is being sought.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant reported that the Bible Society is collating information on attendance of churches and groups at screenings of *Amazing Grace* in an effort to determine the best avenues for advertising similar types of movies.

In July, Julie visited Cambodia for Bible Society NSW. She showed the meeting a solar powered, digital audio player which holds 500 hours of information and is being launched there as a trial for other countries. The device, called the ZVox holds the full Bible in Khmer, discipleship & evangelism helps, as well as subjects such as HIV/AIDS awareness, health and sanitation lessons etc. The Bible Society NSW is also partnering with local churches to provide literacy training to disadvantaged (generally women and children), with particular focus in rural areas. The classes are held every day for one hour each day over three months. At the completion of the course the adult students receive a New Testament and the children, a Bible Story book, which they are then able to read! The ZVox Project costs \$100 per digital device and \$1,000 for the full program per village. The Literacy, Train the Trainer program costs about \$1,000 to train and pay the trainer for their services plus all the equipment. Bible Society NSW has a DVD available if you would like further information, or Julie would be happy to visit you or your group (Mob 0410 492 020).

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION: Legal avenues for the setting up of a foundation are being explored.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Pamela Freeman is to attend the AGM on Saturday 23 June 2007 and referred members to her report in *Newsette*. The next meeting will be held in Canberra in late October.

The adoption of the reports was passed on the motion of Helen Hill and Lyn Middleton.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS: 2008 70th Anniversary NSW WICC/ACW NSW – suggestions for celebrating the event included invitations to past presidents/members, representatives from other ecumenical groups, selecting a colour, asking Branches to display their banners, a choir, archival material, conference reports, having a cake. Timing of the celebration could link with the Service of Installation and Dedication, in the time of fellowship which follows, but no decision was taken as to when it should be. Members were asked to give further consideration as to how best honour the occasion.

Helen Richardson had back copies of ACWC Newsletter which were available for people who wished to see them. Subscriptions for 2008 are due at November meeting.

A request was made for the return of the FLC Anniversary Book which had been borrowed but has not been returned.

The movie *Jammed* which deals with the problem of human trafficking was recommended as a film to see.

Thora Thomas was unable to attend Council but phoned to report on her visit to Byron Bay to speak at the request of her oncologist. Thora said that it had been a success and she had enjoyed the VIP treatment afforded her. She requested prayers as she went for a further scan on Wednesday 22 August.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Carmel Keys prayed for deceased members and their families, for members who are ill and for family members who are ill, and for Thora Thomas who is to have a scan on Wednesday. Prayer was offered for the success of National Conference, for fellowship and understanding.

NEXT MEETING: 19 November 2007

CHAIRS: Uniting Church
MORNING TEA: Baptist

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____