



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 21 August 2006, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Carmel Keys welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Carmel led devotions drawing on several scripture passages: Proverbs 9: 1-6 – wisdom; Ephesians calling us to be watchful, wise, discerning; Psalm 33 one of the Psalms that should echo through each day; John 6:51-58 with its many meanings reminding us that Jesus' entire life was given, and affirms the goodness of creation. All Christians transform the world with love using their gifts for the hungers of God's people. We need God's mercy.

PRESENT: 43 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 18 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting on 19 June 2006 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Cela Cooper.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Day Conference – 18 September 2006, Salvation Army Headquarters, 140 Elizabeth Street. Morning Tea 10.00 am, Sr Patricia Stevenson 10.30. Cost \$25 includes MT, lunch. Mr Ian Minnis from Prison Fellowship will speak in the afternoon about Camp WerX, and one of the current Winifred Kiek Scholars, Vivian Cheung, will also share in the day.
2. Asian Church Women's Conference celebration is arranged for 2.30 pm Sunday 24 September 2006 at Eastwood Baptist Church. Olive Edmondstone reported that many groups representing a number of different countries will present an exciting program. Help is needed for providing afternoon tea and a board was sent around to enable members to indicate what they would bring. Helpers would be needed on the day for tasks such as hostessing, taking up the offering.
3. Nominations for certificates of appreciation. Certificates will be presented at the September Day Conference.
4. ACW Website is being formulated and the NSW information is to be compiled by Brenda Dickinson with Lyn Middleton and Nancy McLaren.
5. World Community Day Service 2007: NSW has been asked to prepare the order of service with the theme *Enough for Each Day* based on Matthew 6:11. Executive suggested that Marie Craddock, Jan Harrison, Lyn Middleton and Jean Porteous be invited to prepare the service and they have agreed to do so, with Isabel Hewitt as an additional member of the group.
6. 'Profiles' of Presidents NSW Inter Church Council/ACW NSW Unit: Council members are working on entries, some of which are proving quite challenging.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported a cash book balance at the end of July of \$472423. Moved Helen, seconded Thora Thomas that the report be received, and payments of accounts approved. Carried. The full cost of the book *Winifred* has been sent to National and to date almost half of the outlay has been recouped. Following a suggestion made at Executive Helen had followed up the interest payable on investment funds. After some discussion it was moved Helen Hill, seconded Bev Elliott, that Executive look into the investment of Unit funds.

(\$9000, plus)

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PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone welcomed back Shirley Wells following hip surgery. Olive reported that Beryl Kirkwood asked that Council members be thanked for their loving concern for her as she has undergone surgery for a cancer in the mouth. Winsome Penn's mother died recently. Lucelle King is now in a nursing home. Rosalyn Bemrose is still in need of prayer. Beatrice Kay's husband is very ill.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang gave details of the sewing group in South Australia which received a grant for 2006, the only grant made to Australia this year. The group has 43 women from 5 countries and 8 language groups who are receiving skills that can lead to employment, but also learning about education, health and literacy. Janet read a reflection on the inner compulsions, the still small voice that can lead to mighty deeds. As we celebrate 50 years of Fellowship of the Least Coin we see what can happen if we listen to God, do something about it, and engage others. The FLC prayer was a fitting conclusion.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman gave a full report drawn from the responses to Fellowship Day services *I am the Bread of Life*. The great fellowship, inspiring and encouraging messages, and hearty singing were applauded – with one request that the full scripture reading be included on the order of service.

Packing for World Community Day orders of service is on 28 August 2006. Nancy McLaren has prepared A5 handbills to be included in each package along with information about Merrijig, the Special Day Project to be supported from half the offering. The other half of the offering goes to ACWC and there will be opportunity for FLC offerings to be dedicated.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Preparations for ACWC celebration in September recorded in early part of minutes. Helen Richardson and Isabel Hewitt are to attend the ACWC Assembly in Kuala Lumpur in October.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer was absent but referred people to the WKS report in the latest *Newslette*.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird read the reply received from Cherie Burton MP on behalf of the Minister for Health outlining the commitment of the State Government to the issue of Mental Health. Details of the plan and money devoted to each aspect were listed, with further information available in *NSW: A new direction for Mental Health*, a booklet sent with the letter. Copies of the booklet are available from NSW Health, Locked Bag 961, North Sydney.

The National Alliance of Young People in Nursing Homes has been contacted by email with a request that direction be given as to the support that we as a group might be able to give.

NEWSLETTE: The deadline for copy for the next issue is the week of 16 October 2006. Copy may be emailed to ianmcl@bigpond.com

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren had prepared a poster and leaflets for September Day Conference, and small posters for inclusion in World Community Day packages.

The reports were received on the motion of Jan Harrison and Lyn Middleton.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 5/6/2006, 10/7/2006, Circular Letter 2/2006 addresses SA, WA;

Request for NSW to prepare 2007 World Community Day Order of Service, Circular letter 3/2006

ACWC – June, August Reports

ACW ACT – Newsletter 7-9/2006; ACW SA – Newsletter 7-9 2006; ACW VIC 2006 Annual Report

CWLA NSW – re Media Release against violence and sexual exploitation of women and children; Biennial State Conference in vitation

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AWC – National Council of Jewish Women/Muslim Women's National Network – 5 Sept at 7.30 pm

UCA Service 14/8/2006

Joan Tong – re 'Christian' Christmas

Lyn Middleton – re Certificates of Appreciation

Glebe Trust statements

Cherie Burton MP – re Mental Health

Ian Minnis – Prison Fellowship Australia

Australian Board of Mission invitation 27/9/2006 at 10.30 am

UNSW Domestic Violence Newsletter; UCAF Newsletter 6-7 2006

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

Judith Ryan – World Day of Prayer

Moya Fleming – Manly Catholic Church

Vivian Cheung, Ian Minnis, Patricia Stevenson – re September Day Conference

Jill Wells, Narooma – WCD Theme 2006 - *A Little becomes a Lot in the Master's hands*, Luke 9: 10-17

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

'Christian Christmas': Discussion on possible ways forward brought suggestions and questions, but pointed to the need for more thorough investigation as to what might be possible. Marie Craddock agreed to approach Pauline Press. Julie Bryant showed a calendar for children which some thought might be something to promote. A letter from ACW to the Department of Education to see whether material could be given out in schools was suggested, as was the possibility of a letter box drop. It was agreed that the matter should go back to Executive for further consideration.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: Carmel presented a card to Cela Cooper who is moving to Canberra in the near future. Cela spoke briefly of her time with ACW NSW which she saw as an extension of her faith, a learning situation with nurturing fellowship and support. In the position of NSW Social Issues Convener and as a member of National Executive Cela appreciated the support she received, and gave thanks to all for their friendship.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

PWA Conference

Catholic Women's League State Conference

Fellowship Day at Kincumber on the Central Coast

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Lily Hanlon reported that everything is in hand and packing day is set down for 16 October 2006. Helen Hill is now attending as an Australian Church Women representative.

PAN PACIFIC AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported on the speakers who have been describing the work of organisations in remote areas of Australia. In June the Rev David Thiem from Frontier Services outlined the work of 550 personnel whose work covers 85% of the continent, in Patrol Ministries and Community Services. In July the Rev Paul Dew spoke of the work of Bush Church Aid whose work also ministers to diverse, isolated communities over vast distances. The next speaker will bring news of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and then the Far West Children's Scheme and Services for the Aged will be addressed.

Edith also gave notice of an Ecumenical Service for Peace to be held at St David's Uniting Church Lindfield at 11.00 am 2 September 2006.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Ruth Dickenson reported that this is the quiet season when not a great deal is happening.

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BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant reported that the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs publication for women is making progress.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Thora Thomas was presented with her National Council of Women certificate of honour by Carmel Keys and Thora cut a cake to celebrate her 91st birthday.

Norma Dumbrell is going back to Myanmar early next year and would appreciate prayers as she prepares.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Carmel Keys closed the meeting in prayer, asking blessing on sick members.

NEXT MEETING: 20 November 2006

CHAIRS: Anglican
MORNING TEA: Uniting Church

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____