



# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

## NSW STATE UNIT INC.

Minutes – Council Meeting – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012

**WELCOME:** President Isabel Hewitt welcomed everyone, particularly Yvonne Coorey from Strathfield Branch and Elizabeth McEwen as a visitor. Council members were told of the death in South Australia of Dorothy Wright, and in Victoria of Rathi Salvaratnum.

**DEVOTIONS:** Isabel gave glimpses into the plight of the community of Tuvalu in the Pacific region living with the encroachment of the sea water onto their island home and the impact on their farming soil. These inhabitants will need to be relocated. The names of the 4 young women as potential Winfred Kiek Scholars, coming from this Pacific region with its amazing natural diversity were recalled. Psalm 24 reminds us that the world and all that is in it belong to the Lord. We were reminded to give thanks and to pray for the preservation of these communities, especially those affected by recent disasters; people who have learned to live in harmony with the environment; who live with a strong presence of the church and community. Those present were urged to pray for the rights of the indigenous people; for answers to political unrest; for the many challenges faced in this area. Vala Palu wrote a prayer requesting that God would provide extra paddles to bring us together. Isabel prayed committing the meeting to God.

**PRESENT:** 34 & 1 visitor

**APOLOGIES:** 16

**CONFIRMATION of the MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were confirmed on the motion of Tricia Graham / seconded Lyn Middleton.

### **BUSINESS ARISING:**

1. State Conference Day Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at Uniting Church cnr Chester and Oxford Sts commencing with morning tea at 9.30 am. Final session concludes at 2.15 pm. Flyers available
2. National Executive from NSW 2013 Nominating committee Nola Dickson, Lyn Middleton and Janet Harrison. Such positions are for the 2 year period of the National executive only. Prayerfully consider.
3. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for NSW State Unit in 2013. Notes were sent with the materials posted for World Community Day 2012, inviting suggestions. President Isabel offered that Council members may travel to join with country branches in celebrating this event. No responses at this point.
4. Latest contact details for Council members are prepared and ready to be checked prior to printing.
5. Vacancies for Convenerships for Special Days and Publicity. NSW State Executive discussed the priorities of roles on the executive. Lyn Middleton offered to move from the responsibilities of ACWC to Special Days as this is the main link with the branches. Lyn spoke about the ACWC role within the NSW State Unit, as sharing the news from ACWC to the Council members. Nola Dickson offered to take on the role of Publicity Convener. ACWC Convener position is still vacant.
6. Banner for NSW State Unit Isabel displayed a copy of an idea for the banner. This could be incorporated into cards as well.

### **REPORTS:**

Treasurer: Helen Richardson presented the balance sheet for 1<sup>st</sup> June – 31<sup>st</sup> July. Cash book balance \$ 10889.60. Two accounts ratified for payment as per balance sheet.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Lillian absent after appendectomy – No report

Asian Church Women's Conference: Lyn Middleton highlighted the devastation in Japan and the Philippines and the accompanying prayer requests. ACWC concert flyers passed around. A tick sheet for food for afternoon tea for the ACWC concert was passed around. Names of support personnel for that day were recorded by Lyn.

Special Days: In the absence of a convener, Pamela Freeman stated that the materials for the World Community Day had been posted out. The Theme is *Love in Action* based on the account of Mary washing the feet of Jesus as recorded in Luke chapter 7, prepared by the Tasmanian State Unit.

Copies were available of the Order of Service, and brochures about *Bear Cottage* which will benefit from a portion of the offering taken at World Community Day 2012. Reports are coming in from the branches about the Fellowship Day.

### **WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS:**

Leinamau [Vanuatu -2007] : Still busy ministering around the islands, thinking of us all.

2012 Scholars - Sarah Dingle: still difficulties earning a living and studying, so has put studies on hold and is lecturing in Theology at present.

Remember Denise Champion, and also Kyoungee Cho having attended the Conferences.

Christy Ferguson [Aust. - 2009]: Mid-East Mission. Waiting on new visa, she is now in new city, smaller and prettier - needing a house /mates and good relationships .

Imelda Aquino [Philippines -2008] Going to Dubai Nov. 8. A Gathering to take place of Missionaries and Mission Entities in Arabian Peninsula and Middle East - looking to church expansion . Imelda would like to plant churches amongst Filipino workers in Egypt. Requests prayer for smooth transition and needed funds.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS: [continued]

Scholars for 2013 have been selected ...there were 7 applications and 4 chosen :

1. Vereasi Toga : Deaconess from Fiji Islands . Studying for Bachelor of Divinity at Davuleva Theological College. Married aged 30 .
2. Berebere Katauea : an ordained minister of Kiribati Protestant Church. Studying for a Bachelor of Divinity [2] at the Pacific Theological College. Single, aged 36.
3. Lou Momora : PNG. Studying Discipleship Training at Metago Training Institute in Port Moresby. Married aged 36, 3 children. Husband , Jack, doing same study course for 2 years .
4. Christine Taviti : Presbyterian Church, Vanuatu . Studying for Diploma of Theology. Single, aged 24.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Rae Goth absent – No report

PASTORAL CARE: In the absence of Helen Hill Pamela Freeman gave the report. Helen has been in touch with Olive Edmonstone regarding the health of her daughter in law; spoke with Shirley Wells and Marie Craddock; sent cards to Jennifer Peffer and Lillian Hodges. Judith Cayzer and Dorothy Kenning are passing through difficult times.

NEWSETTE: Report sent in by Jennifer Peffer.

Newsette copy for next edition needs to be to Jennifer by 6<sup>th</sup> October.

At Executive meeting, Jennifer's report had outlined the breakdown of funds coming in for Newsette.

Motion (1) that the \$10 contribution from individuals for Newsette be transferred entirely to Newsette funds.

Proposed Pamela Freeman                      Seconded Jan Jeffrey - Passed.

Motion (2) that \$10 from the affiliation fees from other (i)organizations and denominations (ii)Associate membership and (iii) the Branches be transferred to the Newsette account.

Proposed by Pamela Freeman                      Seconded Olive Edmonstone. - Passed.

PUBLICITY: No report

The reports were accepted on the motion of Jan Harrison and Denise Secomb.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

1. Hard copy of NE Minutes for June 2012
2. Acknowledgement from National Secretary re appointment of Rae Goth as Social Issues Convener for NSW
3. Prayer request from NE re ACT Unit Life member and ACT Unit Newsletter Editor, Eileen Holley on the death of her father
4. National Executive note for June
5. National Executive - Letter regarding Constitution review.
6. National Executive - Draft Constitution requiring response by August.
7. National Executive – copy of report from Sonya Pell
8. National Executive – Constitution Review : Letter and draft
9. National Executive – Contact lists for all State /Territory Units as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
10. N.E. Prayer request forwarded to NSW State Unit re Bangladesh & India (5/7), Cambodia ( 12/7),Japan (16/7), Philippines (18/7) – disasters .
11. N.E. Prayer request from Corazon Reyes re illness of Philippine rep for ACWC
12. National Executive – Information regarding Joan Stott Bursary [ Uniting Church]
13. Request from N.E regarding address of Julie Bryant for purpose of forwarding National Newsletter.
14. Invitations to President Isabel Hewitt from CWLA Sydney – to (i) Conference & (ii) Annual Mass 14/ 08/2012
15. Invitation to Uniting Church Home and Inland Mission Thank Offering Service. - (ii) CONNEXION magazine July 2012
16. Pamphlets from BEAR COTTAGE for World Community Day 2012
17. Jan Harrison – re: National Executive 2003 – 2005 selection process
18. Beryl Kirkwood – response on Receptive Ecumenism
19. Judith Baker – Letter stating that she will not be putting her name forward as Presbyterian Representative for the future.
20. Notice from Sth Aust. State Unit re the death of Dorothy Wright
21. Lily Hanlon – Letter of Resignation from position as Presbyterian Representative.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

1. Forward NE minutes and circulars as received.
2. Email to Margaret Ker National Secretary regarding appointment of Rae Goth to Social Justice Convener NSW State Exec.
3. NE draft copy of constitution forwarded on to NSW State Unit Executive persons.
4. Forward Prayer requests as sent out by NE.
5. Pamphlets re Bear Cottage to NE.
6. NSW State Executive to National Executive regarding request for Julie Bryant's address and response
7. Note to HELLO re Pamela Freeman attending seminar on Osteoporosis August 12<sup>th</sup>
8. Letter to Jan Dunstan regarding Denise Secomb representing ACW at Annual Thank Offering Service 13.08.12
9. Information regarding Joan Stott Bursary [Uniting Church] forwarded to Uniting Church ACW NSW State Unit Council members.
9. Rev Mark Lieschke/ Sabine Sloan re Lutheran membership
10. Gideon Goosen – Receptive Ecumenism
11. Letter of condolence from NSW State Unit to Sth Aust State Unit on the death of Dorothy Wright

Correspondence was accepted on the motion of Merle Menzies and Beatrice Kay

HONOURING AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

President Isabel gave insight into the lives of Mary Earner; Betty Laurie; Major Miriam Pratt; Joan Trudgian and Molly Carroll

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED / TO ATTEND: Isabel had attended the Presbyterian Women's Association Conference at Croydon, and the Catholic Women's League Annual Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. Denise Secomb had represented ACW at the Uniting Church Thank Offering Service at Roseville.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Pan Pacific and South East Asian Women's Association [ PPSEAWA] Edith Ridge as delegate to PPSEAWA gave report of Adrienne Hirst who works as a volunteer at Australian Museum and Taronga Zoo as part of visitor services and animal handling. Adrienne spoke of her visit to Namibia to see the animals. In June Mrs Irene Thom spoke of REDIPlan – preparing for emergencies. Four Step Plan – Be informed; Make a plan; Arrange an emergency kit; Know your neighbours. In July, Robyn Hanstock spoke of the effects of malaria and of the efforts to defeat it. Necessary safeguards need to be observed when travelling in areas where this disease is prevalent. Estimated that 1,000,000 people are affected by malaria at any one time.

Girls' Brigade: In the absence of Ruth Dickenson there was no report

World Day of Prayer: Olive Edmonstone reported that the Orders of Service for 2013 would be coming out during October. This service comes from France with the theme - *I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

National Council of Women: [NCW] Tricia Graham - **1.** NCW held President's Lunch on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June. **2.** Foundation Day Luncheon celebrating 116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 6 women presented with Certificates of Appreciation to acknowledge their contribution to advance the status of women. **3.** Attended Presbyterian Women's Association Annual Conference July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Uniting Church Home and Inland Mission Thank Offering Service August 13<sup>th</sup> Catholic Women's League Annual Mass August 14<sup>th</sup> **4.** Presentation of Marie Bashir Peace Awards to female students in years 10, 11 or 12 - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September at Parliament House. All welcome.  
NCW invites a representative of ACW to join the Executive of NCW for mutual benefits. Nomination form presented.

Churches Together: No report

Bible Society: Rhyllis Davey – has been travelling around the state, speaking about projects in Rwanda, Lebanon, China, Mozambique and the Remote and Indigenous work in Australia. There is no whole bible for any indigenous group. Many indigenous groups have never heard of the OT stories. Bible Society Hymnfests are well attended. Counting down to the Bible Reading Campaign where people are encouraged to register for the month of October. Free banners can be provided for churches that register. Rhyllis has had speaking engagements at churches through her contact with ACW.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Nola reported that she and Mina Whybourne had enjoyed the luncheon where Mina was one of those celebrated in her 90<sup>th</sup> year.

Pamela reported on the HELLO seminar on 12<sup>th</sup> August giving information for living with osteoporosis.

Thank you to the Presbyterian team for Morning Tea and the Baptist team for setting up the room.

CLOSE and BENEDICTION: President Isabel Hewitt closed the meeting with prayer

NEXT MEETING: 19<sup>th</sup> November MORNING TEA: Baptist CHAIRS: Anglican

CONFIRMED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_