

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT
MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 222 Pitt Street, Sydney
on Monday, 19 April, 1993.

OPENING. The meeting opened with the singing of the A.C.W. song, "We, being many". Two Branch Presidents were welcomed to the meeting, Chatswood-Willoughby Janine Alves and Strathfield-Homebush Anne Burton.

THOSE PRESENT as recorded in the attendance sheets numbered 41 and there were 21 APOLOGIES. Special apologies were received from Dorothy Lumb, recovering in hospital from major surgery, Peg Blake, Shirley Wells and Doris Mitchell, who has been unwell, but has recovered.

SPECIAL VISITOR Malai our scholar for 1994 was introduced by Mina Whybourne. Mina reported on the arrival of Malai on Good Friday from Bangkok. Over the Easter week-end she was hosted by Mina and was introduced to some of the sights of Sydney. She attended Easter Saturday Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta with President Phyl, who later entertained her and some of the Executive members at dinner; on Easter Monday she moved to the home of the family with whom she will be living while studying English in a two month course. We were delighted to meet this charming young lady and received her and the greeting she brought us from Thailand with great pleasure.

DEVOTIONS. President Phyl shared with the Council some of the readings she has been using for Executive devotions. From Marilyn Norquist's book "Thy Kingdom Come" she read the chapter 'Where is the Kingdom of God'. The disciples were always trying to find the answer to this question. They wanted to 'pin down' God's kingdom. Jesus didn't share this view. In Luke 17 v.21 we find the answer -- The Kingdom is within you. So we should look for ways of growing into the kingdom as Jesus showed it. The verse can be interpreted in different ways. The kingdom within us can be an inner condition. Our way of responding, a spiritual process - God reigns within our inner selves. The kingdom among you. The kingdom as we relate to others, we must live justly. The kingdom in our midst. It is already with us, as we accept the rule of Jesus in our lives, it comes with Him, we belong in the kingdom right now.

In a time of prayer, we remembered our unity through A.C.W. We gave thanks for the arrival of Malai and her visit to us today and for Mina's loving care for her and our other scholars. We remembered our sick members especially Dorothy Lumb in hospital, Shirley Wells recovering her strength and mobility at home and Peg Blake, waiting for relief through the operation that may not be until July.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. President Phyl McKinnirey reported on functions she had attended for us since the last Council meeting. -- Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association morning, the Governor's Prayer Breakfast, at which General Eva Burrows of the Salvation Army was the speaker, the Uniting Church's Mission Get together, Woman's Christian Temperance Union's President's Reception. Today she would attend the Luncheon given in honour of Miss Jean Arnot.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING having been distributed were taken as read and confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

1. Fellowship of the Least Coin Grant Application. The application has been completed and is ready for dispatch to the National Convener. Please pray for the success of this grant application on behalf of Kuri-Ngai Partners and for the work being done.
2. Badges and souvenir items are being produced. It is hoped they will be on sale on May 17.
3. New Convenership. The Executive gave notice for the second month of its proposal to add to the list of conveners (Constitution By-laws) a new position, 'Special Days.'

4. Executive recommends that another Convener be added to the By-laws, 'Convener for Branches'. This person would look after mailing to country branches and those branches unrepresented at Council of items like monthly minutes etc. First month of notifying.

CORRESPONDENCE. The Outwards Correspondence was ratified and the Inwards Correspondence was read and dealt with.

BUSINESS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE.

1. National Conference Forms. Forms were distributed to members wishing to attend the Conference in September as visitors. Costs are;= \$180 all inclusive for the Conference. Air fares can be obtained for \$295 return if travellers are willing to stay in Tasmania on at least one Saturday night. Members were encouraged to decide quickly if they could avail themselves of this opportunity and to see Joan Tong for details.

OUR DELEGATION. Council agreed to the recommendation of Executive that our delegation be ;- The President and the Secretary, voting members; and that we pay all expenses for these two delegates. That our observers be the President-elect and the Treasurer and that ACW pay their airfares. These two observers to ask their denomination to pay the Conference expenses.

MOTIONS for the Conference. At the June Council meeting, the Executive will ask Council to approve motions it has considered for the Conference. If members have any items they would like discussed, they are asked to send them in writing to the Secretary before the Executive meeting on June 7.

2. A.C.W. NEWS April copy was distributed. Attention was drawn to the prayer requests for Sri Lanka on page 5.

3. Council ratified the action of the National Committee in appointing Mrs Shirley Brookes to the position of National President for the rest of the term, replacing Mrs Lorraine Davis, who had resigned from the position of National President.

4. Letters of congratulation have been sent to A.C.T. Unit on the appointment of some new officers. We look forward to meeting at the Conference Mrs Evonne Sullivan, ACT President and her Secretary, Beth Webb.

REPORTS.

1. FINANCIAL. The President reported that the books have been balanced to the end of our Financial Year, 28 February, 1993. Rev. Barry Ridge has worked on the statement with Phyl and this statement was presented as an interim Annual statement. In the absence of a Treasurer, it has not been possible to present a monthly statement again this month. Monies are being banked and urgent accounts have been paid. Receipts are being sent also. There will be an Annual Report as soon as it can be prepared, and the books are now ready for Audit. The President was asked to write a letter of thanks to Barry Ridge.

2. WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP. Convener Mina asked for members to consider asking Malai to their homes over week-ends. Malai brought from Thailand a box of orchids for ACW members, the gift of the Sisters at Malai's hospital in Bangkok. Word has been received that the cheque for the Toy Library in Kuching has arrived and it was for \$4,106.00

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN. Joan read from Circle of Prayer the reading prepared by A.C.W.C. Treasurer, Yoko Sugimori. Christians are less than 1% of the population of Japan, but Yoko believes that they could be empowered to serve God in solidarity with all the people of God in the world.

Prayer is asked for the appointment in 1994 of a new Executive Secretary for A.C.W.C. at the Conference in Taiwan.

PROMOTION and PUBLICITY. Congratulations were extended to Elaine Secombe

and her team of Woy Woy ladies for the wonderful day they gave us in March for a Spiritual Enrichment Day there. Sixteen members of Council travelled by train to Woy Woy, where they were joined by other members who had come by car and by train from the north. Almost 60 people (yes, there were some men as well as women) enjoyed the fellowship provided and joined in the uplifting of the spirit which was the main purpose of the day. Thank you, Elaine for all the thoughtful touches that made the day memorable for us. Elaine's husband was willingly engaged in doing some extra photocopying, thank you!

Photos taken on the day, scored one for the history books. Present were a number of Past Presidents of the Unit and the President-elect, so Jeanne took advantage of this to get a photo of them all together. Thank you, to Margaret Jessup, our official photographer.

Members of the Inter-church group at Gosford took advantage of the gathering to propose to the Woy Woy people that a Central Coast Branch might be formed. We await confirmation of this idea.

The A.C.W. Poster has been laminated and was on display.

Elaine Secombe showed the ACW teatowel that a friend decorated by a variegated blue crochet surround. We recommend this idea to our members, what an attractive gift one would make for a speaker.

One of the heartening things we noticed at Woy Woy was the group of young women who attended and brought their (well-behaved) small children with them. They were very welcome.

NEWSETTE. The new issue is under production, will be in the mail soon.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

1. ANNUAL DEDICATION SERVICE. Invitations were distributed. All arrangements are in hand and we look forward to a good day. President Phyl heard Pearl Wymarra Bond speak at an Easter Breakfast, and she comes highly recommended to us.

2. PACKING DAY, Fellowship Day services. In Room A on Monday 3 May, at 10a.m. Many helpers will make light work.

3. Prayers were asked for former W.K. Scholar, Rev. Mary Au. Her work in a parish near to Hong Kong airport is a large one with great responsibilities and in addition, she is responsible for two schools. Mary has been awarded a Travelling Fellowship from W.K.S. and expects to be in Australia for the National Conference.

4. Conveners and other people with reports for the Annual Report are requested to post them to Joan Tong as soon as possible, please.

5. World Community Day Offering, 1994. Council ratified the recommendation that we suggest to the National Committee that the collection be dedicated to the Shalom Christian College in Queensland.

NEXT MEETING. The Council will meet for business next on Monday, 21

June, when it is expected that a speaker from Shalom College will attend. Uniting Church ladies to do the morning tea. Salvation Army delegates were thanked for this morning's hospitality.

CLOSING. There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the BENEDICTION and the Annual General Meeting was convened.

CONFIRMED.

21.6.93

