



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 16 March 2009, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: President Jennifer Peffer opened the meeting with a greeting and reported that Secretary, Isabel Hewitt is recovering well after surgery.

DEVOTIONS: A reading from Matthew 26. The story of the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed "My Father, if it is not possible...not my will but yours". We note Jesus' response - he prayed and put his trust in God. What lesson do we learn from this? Do we say, "Your will not mine"? In prayer we prayed for the way ahead for ACW.

PRESENT: 42 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 9 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Council Meeting on 16 February 2009 were confirmed on the motion of Jan Harrison, seconded Winsome Penn. All agreed

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Service of Dedication will be held at Eastwood Baptist Church at 11.00am Monday 18 May 2009. Parking is in Railway Parade and Second Avenue. Leaflets were available to advertise in local churches.
2. Newsette: Executive recommended an increase in the price of Newsette. Moved Beryl McLaughlin seconded Lyn Middleton that the cost of Newsette be increased to \$10. As a consequence of this, it was moved Irene Roberts, seconded Bev Elliott that Associate Membership be increased to \$15. All agreed. The President advised that Executive is still considering changes to Associate Membership, and as part of their investigations Bev Elliot had been invited to attend the next Executive Meeting to share how the PWA handles their Associate Membership people.
3. Annual General Meeting will be held 20 April. Nominations for all positions other than President need to be in today. Isabel Hewitt has stated she will stand down as Secretary in 2010. Council members were asked to start thinking and praying for a new Secretary.
4. Address List New list is progressing.
5. National Conference: Canberra 21-25 September. Concern was expressed at costs and President had written to National expressing concern at the increase and late advice. To date there has been no response and Registration Forms and details have not been received as yet.

Proposed motions for National Conference, as put forward from Executive, engendered considerable discussion, including the need to know the legal ramifications of saying the services are 'copyright'. The first motion dealt with the format and text of orders of service and the perceived need for flexibility in the conduct of the services. The second related to supplying an 'ideas page' suggesting ways local groups could use the service to meet their needs.

Council discussed these provisional motions for the National Conference in Canberra with the request that Executive give further consideration to the actual wording of both the motions and the rationales that accompany them. The issue of the registration of Copyright on the orders of service needs to be investigated, because unless it is registered it may not be binding. The minutes of the March meeting do not contain full details of the discussion, but final wording of motions/rationales will be presented to Council at its June meeting.

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REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported Bank Balance \$2121.17. \$2000 had been transferred to Investment Fund. Moved Helen Richardson, seconded Irene Roberts that the report be received.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmonstone has had a Cataract Operation. Peg Blake has Bronchitis and is undergoing minor surgery next week. Naline Edmonstone continues to progress well.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton reported on recent ACWC meeting in Bangkok, and Cyclone in Burma. Support for pregnant /pre-natal women was very important. Nepal officially established as ACWC Member on 15 November 2008. They need our prayers and support. Members had offered prayers for the victims of Australian Bush Fires and Floods. Next Conference has been confirmed for Indonesia, 4-10 October 2010. Concert is taking shape.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys will attend a seminar on Saturday, 28 March by Network of Immigrant and Refugee Women to discuss the Challenges of housing and homelessness. UN is planning to establish a "Gender" Unit. Australian Government has agreed to discontinue "mixed wards" in Health facilities, a change that may take up to 4 years. Parental leave is still a topic, as is Stem-Cell Research. Government Funding rules for overseas aid have been changed. CEDAW Conference on Human Rights has now been completed around Australia and Report is being prepared. Heather Reid mentioned that Cadburys in UK had adopted "Fair Trading" Policy for its chocolate and suggested we should write to Cadbury's Australia.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang will be in Scotland until September. During her absence last year Helen Richardson sent receipts, but it was felt that there is a need to have a Convener to promote FLC rather than let it languish.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported that packing day for orders of service for Fellowship Day in July will be after the April Meeting.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer reported news of Christine Ferguson in College at Lilydale. Rachel Otto says thanks for continuing prayers and support. She now has only 15 weeks Practical Teaching remaining. The Student for 2010 will come from the Pacific Islands. Beryl Kirkwood recently returned from Golden Jubilee Celebrations in India where she spent some years. She met 2004/5 scholar who is now Secretary in Department of Women in Bhutan. She attended two services each with 15,000 people. At the Golden Jubilee there were 6 – 10,000 at each meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: Martha Noel reported the attendance 2008/9 had been 12% lower than the previous year, an average of 37. This represents 63% of membership. She found that 16% of absentees do not send an apology. Her thanks to Heather Reid whilst she was in Argentina in November 2008.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin advised that the deadline for copy for the next issue is 20 April 2009.

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren had flyers available for Dedication Service.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 13/2/09

National Council of Jewish Women – re Harmony Day – ACW National would like representative from NSW

ACW National Executive – Re AWC annual report

Reports for Annual Report: Edith Ridge, Janet Lang, Judith Cayzer, Bonnie Lyons

Bible Society

ACW ACT Newsletter 2/2009, PWA Span 3/09, NSW Women 2/09

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

National Executive – re cost of National Conference

UC Sydney Day Mission Support Group - rsvp

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PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

Insurance needs to be looked into. Reading the small print indicates some insurance policies have an age limitation on claims.

A letter has been received from the WDP President regarding the number of representatives from ACW. Both these items are to go to April Executive Meeting.

It was suggested that venues, costs, types of accommodation for future National Conferences be a matter for discussion.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

President attended PPSEAWA Luncheon. The Speaker was from Afghanistan and was in Australia sponsored by UNIFEM studying Political Law and will be able to return to Kabul to continue working with the UNIFEM provided she lives with her family.

Also attended Mothers Union Annual Festival Service and Lunch

Carmel Keys represented National President and State President at Jewish Harmony Day.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Because of illiteracy in China, health in rural areas is taught by song and dance as an illustration. UNIFEM is supporting education of women and girls in Afghanistan. Twelve Year 12 Students from north shore schools were invited to attend the recent PPSEAWA luncheon.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells reported on death of Nancy Bird Walton, a patron of NCW and Lady Margaret Wyndham, sister of Helen Stutchbury. The Jean Arnot Luncheon will be held 8 May 2009. Do we have any Member in her 90th year whom we could nominate?

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: A number of members reported very successful services. Peg Blake held a service in her Village at which Lyn Middleton spoke and it was well received. The WDP President is now planning for 2010.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant reported on the launch of the Jesus, All about Life program to have continuous publicity for six weeks in September and October. The Society has loads of outreach material and she will be happy to come and speak about it. There is also a program to teach literacy to women in gaols in PNG.

GIRLS' BRIGADE: There are all new people in the office this year. National Conference will be in ACT in September 2009 and noted cost is \$700 as is ACW.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Jean Porteous reviewed a book by Robert Davis "My Journey into Alzheimer's". Jean read several paragraphs from sections of book and highly recommended it.

CLOSING DEVOTION was read by Jennifer from UK World day of Prayer publication.

NEXT MEETING: 20 April 2009

CHAIRS: Presbyterian

MORNING TEA: Anglican

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____