

Australian Church Women Inc National Executive 2011-2013
Minutes of Meeting held Monday 17 June 2013
97 William Street Perth WA 6000

1. **Welcome** The meeting was opened at 10.05 am by National President Major Laurel Pearce. Laurel expressed deep appreciation for all the messages of support received from members over the past few weeks and shared an email just received from Lyn Middleton.
2. **Devotions (Lee Edwards)** Lee shared with us extracts from a book recently given to her entitled: A Gift of Grace. We concluded with shared prayer.
3. **Attendance** Laurel Pearce, Lee Edwards, Marie Majoor, Margaret Ker, Olive Dell
4. **Apologies** Donna Bryan, Meryon Goode, Leeola Loughnan
5. **Minutes of Previous meeting (13 May 2013)** Confirmation as a true and accurate record moved Marie Majoor, seconded Olive Dell.
6. **Business Arising** Dealt with later in meeting
7. **Correspondence** *List circulated/ attached.*
8. **Reports** *Written reports in the Secretary's File.*
 - **President (Laurel Pearce)**
 - 14 May From Donna Bryan re World Council of Churches request.
 - 15 May From Sonya Pell – Happy to come to National Conference with baby.
 - 21 May From Donna Bryan – ACWC Visit – Church parade on Sunday
 - 21 May To NSW Unit – Congratulations on 75th Anniversary of Unit.
 - 23 May To Aust/Asian Assn re Hall for ACWC Meeting
 - 24 May Response from Aust/Asian Assn.
 - 24 May From Aladina Foster – NCW/ACW Event for ACWC guests
 - 24 May To Judith Parker re Child Slavery Seminar
 - 24 May Response from Judith Parker
 - 26 May From Commissioner Ayelene Finger advising her appointment as Territorial President of Women's Ministries for The Salvation Army concludes 31 May, and commending her successor, Commissioner Trace Tidd from Canada.
Thanks for Ayelene's support of ACW sent.
 - 27 May From Donna Bryan re WCC General Assembly and Conference Motion
 - 27 May Prayer support promised to Margaret Ker
 - 28 May From ACWC re Airport Arrivals and departures
 - 29 May To ACWC re Projector for ACWC Friday function and response.
 - 29 May To ACWC re airport arrivals and departures and response
 - 31 May To Donna Bryan re ACWC visit and response from Donna.
 - 2 June To all Units – Request for prayer for Margaret Ker
 - 2 June Response from Tasmanian Unit re Margaret Ker.
 - 3 June To ACWC advising change of people meeting arrivals at Airport
 - 3 June To all Units. Prayer request for Lee Edwards
 - 3 June To all Units. Update on Lee.
 - 3 June From ACWC promising prayer for Lee and National Executive
 - 3 June From Isabel Hewitt NSW Unit. Thanks for update on Lee and re Esther's Visit
 - 3 June From Judith-Ann Sjostedt ACT -Motion for National Conference
 - 4 June Contact with Jean Thomson re ACT Motion
 - 4 June Response from Jean Thomson re Motion
 - 4 June From Lyn Middleton NSW – Sonya and Tom Pell have a son
 - 4 June From Jean Thomson ACT- Thanks for news of Lee – Prayer support for us
 - 5 June From Elaine Johnson Vic. Prayer support for NE, Response sent.
 - 4-12 June. Hosting of ACWC Executive Committee during their visit.
 - 6 June To all units advising death of WA Unit member Barbara Bourhill

6 June From Juanita Miller Tas Unit – Support on death of Barbara Bourhill
 7 June Isabel Hewitt NSW Unit. – Prayer support on death of Barbara Bourhill
 7 June From Jan Harrison NSW – Prayer for WA Unit and National Executive
 13 June From Corazon Reyes – Thanks for ACWC Meetings in Perth
 13 June To ACWC Executive Committee members- Thanks for visit to Perth
 13 June To National Executive Members - Thanks for their contributions to the success of the ACWC Executive Committee visit to Perth
 13 June From Marie Wilson Council of Churches WA- Thanks for bringing ACWC guests to Council of Churches WA.
 13 June From Devika Ukwatte Sri Lanka – Thanks for Perth ACWC Visit
 14 June From Auranat Katue Thailand – Thanks for Perth ACWC Visit
 17 June From Shakuntala Abraham Malaysia – Thanks for Perth ACWC Visit
 17 June Details of Costs of ACWC Visit given to National Treasurer Leeola Loughnan.
 17 June To Sonya Pell – Congratulations on birth of son, Mark Benjamin on 2 June.
 18 June From Lyn Middleton – Prayer support for NE from Incoming NE

- **Vice Presidents (Lee Edwards/Marie Majoor)**

- Lee met with Meryon and advised her we wanted her to continue as a member of the National Executive even if she is not at present well enough to continue as WKS Convenor or attend meetings. Meryon will take sick leave for the coming months, but hopes to come to the Conference as a member of the Executive. Meryon was also a contributor to the official Lunch held for the ACWC visitors, and attended the Taize Service we shared with them.
- Marie and Lee are keen to get on with the next issue of the National News, and have already received articles about the 3 members who have died [from their respective Units], and know the President's report about her visit to South Australia is pending We will also be printing information about the Asian Church Women's Conference meeting here from June 5th to 10th. We will be including the necessary information about and invitation to all members for the ACW Inc. Annual General Meeting to be held during the Conference.
- The exact program for the Conference needs to be finalized this coming month, and a visit is to be made to the Shoalwater venue for finalization of plans for accommodation, meeting venues, and the program as a whole – also to meet with the Photographer who wants to consult with us re the details, especially a suitable site for the official photograph. We also need to work on the Ecumenical Service and forward this information to Archbishop Herft .
- Marie is processing registrations as she receives them, but so far they are slow in arriving.
- Olive, Marie and Lee plan to re-visit Shoalwater. Lee and Marie will also visit St John's Bookshop in Fremantle, with whom Lee has already discussed our requirements. Arrangements have been made to stock the books recommended by Angela McCarthy.
- Marie further reported that she had had a lengthy discussion with National Treasurer Elect Jennifer Peffer re Public Liability Insurance. It was agreed that the current policy should be renewed on a pro rata basis until the end of 2013.

- **Secretary (Margaret Ker)**

- Margaret apologised for delays caused by computer failure (most files as yet unrecovered) followed by her unexpected visit to the UK. She had been very sad to miss the ACWC Executive Committee meeting but very grateful to Laurel for sending regular updates.
- After the May meeting she had prepared a travel schedule for all our visitors and had also forwarded fare details to Laurel and Marie in relation to calculation of the Conference Travel Pool, and had sent out a Conference Circular.
- She had also sent out a WKS Circular and news of the birth of a daughter to Lou Momoru.
- The Conference Ecumenical Service had been discussed at some length after the WA Unit meeting on 17 May. Notes were circulated and discussed later in meeting.

- **Constitution Review** Advice had been received from Nicholas Tebbey that all our proposed changes are acceptable. He also advised that legally it would be permissible for us either to accept minor changes to the draft at Conference or to rule this out. It was agreed that changes to the draft at Conference would be logistically difficult and that in circulating the final draft to Units we would state our preference not to accept changes and ask Units to let us know immediately if they had concerns about this approach. It was noted that the draft and special resolution must be circulated by 7 July and that if the most recent draft (incorporating changes suggested by Units in May) cannot be recovered Margaret will need to re create this.
- Also still pending because of loss of computer files are
 - **National Directory June 2013**
 - **Guidelines revision**
- **Treasurer (submitted by Leeola Loughnan)** *Circulated/attached.*
 - Acceptance of report moved Olive Dell seconded Lee Edwards. Ratification of cheques for payment moved Marie Majoor seconded Lee Edwards.
 - The Travel Pool will be calculated this week on the basis of updated figures to be provided to Laurel and Marie by Margaret. Also to be paid as per Guidelines are subsidies to Incoming and Retiring NE and full costs to ACWC and WKS representatives.
 - It was agreed that rather than the investment with the Anglican Community Fund being terminated it should be renewed on a short term basis.
- **Winifred Kiek Scholarship** Meryon had sent in a short final report which was much appreciated.
 - She had written to all Units with a request for conference reports for July so we can include in the working papers.
 - After difficulties contacting Christy Ferguson (2009) several kind persons sent her “Daily Rice” to her including her father’s N.Z. email address. Christy has attended a conference in Thailand with other workers in similar circumstances in Asia. She really enjoyed the training, fellowship and support. Her work experience did not turn out well and she has been recalled and they will review her situation. Christy seems to be coping with this situation, but did go back home to N.Z. and enjoyed quality family time. We commit her to God and pray for guidance for her future missionary work.
 - At the time of writing Meryon had not had any news from our other Scholars.
 - it was agreed that with Fellowship Day approaching Margaret on behalf of NE would send out a further circular as soon as possible.
- **Special Days Report (Olive Dell)**
 - Hard copies of Order of Service for World Community Day 2013 have been sent to Units. Olive had previously suggested to NSW that they contact ACT re Fellowship Day 2014. They have had a positive response from them. NSW asked for the name of Unit responsible for World Community Day 2014. Olive was able to tell them it was NSW. This will solve any problem in handing over National Executive.
 - Thanks again to Margaret for seeing to the printouts of the World Community Day Service 2013.
 - Olive had an email from Elaine Johnson, Special Days Convenor, Victoria, asking for the return of the submission for Special Project. Olive will return it at Conference.
- **Fellowship of the Least Coin (Olive Dell)**
 - Have had a request from Fran Moss requesting FLC boxes. She is doing well with speaking to groups about FLC Olive is expecting all reports from Units by the end of June so that she can prepare her report for Conference.
 - Olive has requested a supply of FLC boxes as her supply is very low and will need replenishment for Conference.

- **Social Justice (Laurel Pearce)**

- The Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Newslink has announced a valuable new website. Uniting for Change. <http://www.unitingforchange.org.au/> Current issues include. Gambling reform, energy poverty, children matter, disability advocacy, income support justice.
- The Movement to End Poverty is a joint petition of the Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge coalitions for all Australians who believe we can end extreme poverty. It involves many Australian charities, community groups, overseas aid agencies and civil society organizations. By adding your name to the Movement to End Poverty, your name will appear in the public mosaic image of signatories. For more information go to [movementtoendpoverty.org.au /](http://movementtoendpoverty.org.au/)
- Laurel attended the World Day against Child Labour Seminar on Wednesday 12 June organised by United Nations Association of Australia, WA Division, The World Organization of Early Childhood Education and National Council of Women WA. Lee Moon Sook (ACWC) and Donna Bryan also attended this seminar. Donna was one of the excellent speakers. Child Labour is a big problem in the world and Australia is not exempt from the problem. It was reported that a number of businesses have been reprimanded by Government for labour practices involving children. We need to be alert to the problem.
- The news in Australia this week has been dominated by examples of sexist behaviour and attitudes. A strong reminder say AWAVA that there is a way to go to address gender inequality and ultimately the prevention of violence against women.

- **Website Updates** Awaiting advice from Margaret Flint re improved wording.

- **ACWC (Donna Bryan)**

- **Executive Committee Meeting** The ACWC Executive Committee met in Perth from 5-10 June for their annual meeting. Many thanks to the National Executive of ACW Inc for hosting this meeting. Their careful preparation and organisation was very evident, particularly when illness and family matters meant that some members were not able to participate in all that they had planned. Our ACWC sisters were very disappointed not to meet Margaret Ker after all she had arranged for their visit to Perth. Accommodation for the ACWC members was in two units at The Salvation Army's Graceville Refuge for Women and the meetings were held in the next street at the office of the Catholic Women's League. Our Asian sisters remarked on how relaxed and 'homey' this arrangement was, especially with Olive Dell preparing lunches in the larger unit's kitchen and Terry Loughnan (Leeola's husband) delivering the evening meals. Laurel Pearce was also on hand to give lots of assistance and oversight to the arrangements, particularly in regards to transport, Sunday services, and ensuring everyone was comfortable and coping with the cool weather.

The main items on the ACWC agenda were reports, scholarships, project grants, the 2013 World Council of Churches Assembly in South Korea, and the 2014 ACWC General Assembly that will be held in the Philippines. It was encouraging to have all members contributing to the discussions and committed to the tasks ahead.
- **World Day against Child Labour** In Perth on 12 June an evening forum was held jointly by the United Nations Assoc. of Australia WA Division, The World Organisation of Early Childhood Education and the National Council of Women of WA for WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR. Donna was one of six speakers and focussed on the activities of ACWC within the context of an Asian perspective. About 60 people attended this event and it was interesting to hear what other organisations are doing to combat child labour. Hopefully, the organisers will write an action plan based on the matters raised and discussed

- **Australian Women's Coalition (Laurel Pearce)**

- 26 May From Robyn Gaspari. AWC – AWAVA Announcement. New organization being formed to boost efforts to prevent violence against women. Press release by Julie Collins MP.
- 28 May AWC meeting will be on 14 July at Mater Hospital Crows Nest , Sydney.
- 28 May To Jean Thomson, alternate delegate to AWC. Advice on AWC Meeting date. Jean responded that she can attend.
- 8 June. AWC – WIGB Research Report on Women in the Workforce and Grant Opportunity for organizations involved in multicultural opportunities.
- 9 June. AWC – AWAVA weekly roundup..
- 12 June. – Behka Custovic to AWC Members – Flyer on Multicultural Housing Assistance seminars 2013 by Housing NSW and Shelter NSW 26 June Fairfield Sydney and 28 June Ashfield Sydney. Flyer forwarded to NSW Unit.
- 15 June. From AWC – AWAVA Weekly roundup.
- 16 June AWC Correspondence forwarded to Jean Thomson

8. General Business

- ACWC Executive Committee Debriefing The visit of our Asian sisters to Perth went well and smoothly. Setting up of accommodation, airport pickups, the welcome meeting on Thursday morning, the Thursday night visit to Council of Churches WA and to the Taize service at the Catholic church in North Beach, the night tour along the beaches and to see the lights of the city from King's Park, the function at Australian/Asian Association rooms to meet Perth women, the Sunday Church services, meal and sightseeing, the provision of meals. It was hard work, but went well. The ACWC folk were very appreciative of our hospitality. Thanks to all NE members for all their help.
- **Conference Planning: V**
- **isit of Esther Kilaghbian**
 - Barbara Grear (WKS Treasurer) has booked all of Esther's flights except the Sydney to Korea leg. When that is finalised Laurel will advise Units hosting Esther of arrival and departure times in their cities. Esther is organising travel insurance to cover her visit.
 - ICFLC is happy to provide some assistance towards the Sydney Korea leg of Esther's journey as Esther is attending the ICFLC Committee meeting in Korea after her Australian visit rather than returning directly to Lebanon. ICFLC is happy that we have invited Esther as our WKS Fellowship guest to our national conference.
 - Esther is keen to know what will be expected of her by Units when she visits so that she can prepare. Margaret has written to Units asking them to let us know before the end of June so that we can advise Esther. Replies have been received from two Units.
- **Ecumenical Service** Further discussion took place on format and choice of readings and hymns.
- **Closure of Meeting** 2.30 pm

Next Meeting Monday 8 July 9.45 am. **Devotions** Donna Bryan

Minutes confirmed

National President

Date

Minutes prepared by Margaret Ker 92 Vincent Street Mt Lawley WA 6050 passerella.dei@gmail.com