



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held at 222 Pitt Street on Monday 15 September, 2003 at 10.30 a.m.

**WELCOME:** Jean Porteous welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced Fiona Collins as our Guest Speaker for the day and was especially pleased to see that Peg Blake was well enough to attend. Rosalyn Bemrose, Church of Christ Women's Ministries, was attending as an Observer.

**DEVOTIONS:** Jean used Romans 12:4 and 5 as the basis for Devotions, remarking that, we who are many in Christ form one body and each member belongs to all the others. Also reading from 2 Cor 5:6-9: "We make it our goal to please him" living together, working together and following our Lord Jesus Christ.

**PRESENT:** 39 as recorded.

**APOLOGIES:** 7 as recorded.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** The minutes of 18 August, 2003 were confirmed on the motion of Sandra Wise and Nancy McLaren. Carried.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Edith Ridge introduced Guest Speaker Fiona Collins. In 1996 ACW helped Fiona with a scholarship for her studies. In 1998 she went to Indonesia. When she came back she raised some money by riding around Australia on a pushbike and established an Australia/Indonesia project to help Indonesians to buy food that they could afford. The credit bank project in Indonesia continues. Today she is working for the Fairfax Family Foundation, which distributes funds to charitable organizations. Fiona is an accredited translator for Indonesian and is communications officer with the Red Cross. Fiona has built her own Website and builds Websites for people and organisations.

Fiona is currently doing a Leadership Program course managed by the St. James Ethics Centre. In response to a letter she wrote which was published in an Indonesian newspaper expressing condolences to Indonesian families after the Bali bombings, she received hundreds of mobile phone text messages saying that good Muslims do not condone violence under any circumstances and saying sorry. She wrote an article about it, which was published in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Fiona's talk was very well received. Jean thanked Fiona very much for coming and prayer was said for Fiona and her family.

**PRESENTATION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO PEG BLAKE:** Mina Whybourne read a Citation she had prepared for the occasion, noting that this presentation has been on hold since May, due to Peg's ill health. Special note was made of Peg's valuable contribution to Council, having acted as President in 1996-1998 and having held positions on Executive as Special Days Convener, Minute Secretary, Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener and Publicity Officer. Peg

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also undertook the revision of our Constitution and formulated our Mission Statement. She represented Council at many functions and National Conferences. Peg was also President of the Sutherland Branch for some 20 years and a foundation member of the Caringbah Presbyterian Church and the PWA Branch. Peg is also involved in Prayer on Wheels, is a volunteer reader for Royal blind Society and taught English as a Second Language. In recognition of these and other fields of service she has received five local awards regarding her valued contribution to the community. In all of these activities, Peg has always acknowledged Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour. In receiving this award, Peg now joins with Joan Curtin, Marie McCann, OAM, Lucelle King, Edith Ridge, Dorothy Woodhouse as a Life Member of the NSW State Unit.

Jean presented the Life Membership Certificate to Peg, clipped the badge to her jacket and gave her a pot plant.

Peg responded by saying she was overwhelmed and humbled to receive this award. She also thanked Heather for all her caring phone calls and encouragement she had received during her illness, and thanked everyone for their prayers. Peg said after reading Romans 12:12: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" she realised that, like the Apostle Paul, she can glory in tribulation. Peg paid tribute to Mina who has been her "minder and mentor" and has kept her informed of all ACW happenings. "My prayers will be constantly with you all".

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

1. NATIONAL CONFERENCE, PERTH: (moved to "General Business")
2. CITY WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE, 2003: To be held at Pitt Street Uniting Church on 21 October at 12.15 p.m. Speaker: Rev. Laurel Barr and Leader: Rev. Isobel Bishop. Pamphlets made available to give to friends.
3. FUND RAISING: Design and cost of calico bags still being worked on, fudge is nearly all sold, decoupage boxes made by Major Peter Holley, husband of Eileen, have been produced, and the trading table making good returns.
4. CONSTITUTION: Isabel has made the required amendment to add the word "Incorporated" to the State Unit's title, e.g. "Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. wherever it is mentioned in the Constitution. Peg offered to effect this amendment to the Constitution on the original computer copy.
5. AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S COALITION: Jean advised that the National Executive would like a few nominees so we can vote for someone to represent us on the Australian Women's Coalition. Members to pray about this.
6. ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL: Jean reported that she had attended this Festival. The flower arrangement from ACW NSW State Unit displayed the theme of "Peace", from John 14:27: Jesus said, "My peace I give you". Her prayer was that somebody reading it will remember that it is only through Jesus that peace comes.

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REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson provided a Statement of Receipts and Payment for the month of August, 2003. Balance as at 31 July, 2003 \$6,208.09, Receipts for the period totalled \$3,522.30 and payments \$782.43, leaving a balance of \$8,947.96. Amounts for ratification/ payment were: Postage for WCD Services \$107.85, Printing for same and President's expenses \$294.17, Heather Badgery expenses \$74.00, and Reimbursements of Delegates' Expenses. Helen sought permission to invest \$5,000 with the Churches of Christ Investment Fund. It was moved Judith Baker, seconded Bev Elliott that the Treasurer's report be received, accounts be passed for payment, and money moved to investment account. Carried.

ACWC: Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, Korean Uniting Church, 98-102 Albert Road, Strathfield. Sunday September 28, 2.45 p.m. Joan asked for volunteers to help set up for afternoon tea (Shirley, Heather, Jan volunteered) plus two people at the door to give out Orders of Service and take up the offering (Nancy and Judith volunteered).

MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather asked for prayer for Alison Todd.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Nancy will be typing up the allocation of grants. Members asked to let her know how many copies they need.

Devotions: Nancy read from Ruth 1 "Do not press me to leave you, etc, " and encouraged us to always walk with God.

SPECIAL DAYS: Irene Carder reported that Fellowship Day went very well. She has some Winifred Kiek Scholarship brochures if anyone would like them.

Reports received, with thanks for all the work involved.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE: Jean reported that 17 people are going from this Unit, of whom 7 are eligible to vote as representatives of NSW Unit and the incoming National Executive. Quite a number of motions are being presented. Jean asked Council's permission for those 7 people, after arriving at the Conference and hearing debate on the motions, to vote as a group as they feel is appropriate.

It was moved by Bev Elliott and seconded by Lily Hanlon that decisions on motions from the floor of the National Conference be left to the delegates, to vote as a group.

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES: Regarding care and treatment of the mentally ill, who are often not looked after. Cela is happy to help us word a letter to send to State and Federal governments and this is also something that the new National Executive will be able to take

up. It was felt that Government could do more in this regard. At present the charities and Christian churches are doing all they can to help. Members were asked to provide written reliable, pertinent information on the subject, which will add weight to our letter. A number of people living on the street are suffering mental illness, and hospitals can only take acute cases for a short time. Jean added that everyone has a right to shelter, a right to have enough to eat, a place to sleep and the correct medication.

**PRESBYTERIAN MARKET DAY:** Bev Elliott reported a fund raising event to buy a new land cruiser for the North-Western Patrol Padre. The Padre ministers to people in drought situations, acting as a mechanic, postman, fence-fixer, etc. and minister of the gospel. Event is at Willoughby Civic Centre on Wednesday October 1, 2003 from 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

WCTU: Beryl McLaughlin reported that the WCTU had not been included in the Alcohol Summit but had been given a place in the working group on family and health and felt it was very worthwhile.

**PRAYER TIME FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE:** Prayer was offered for the speakers, devotion leaders, delegates and observers.

Confirmed: Jean J. Poteaux  
Date: 17.11.2003