



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 19 March 2007, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Carmel Keys welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Carmel led devotions based on Psalm 33. Gifts of nature, God's gifts, are to all but half of the world goes hungry. Prayer is important but we need to be doing for others, supporting the hungry and the homeless. Life is not all about ME, there is the spiritual side, thinking of others. As with the prodigal son, God waits patiently for our return. How do we wait for those in our family and beyond?

Edith Ridge reported the death of Mrs Marjory Verco and gave a brief outline of her contribution to Australian Church Women. Marjory was a foundation member of ACW and a National Life Member appointed by National, and she always continued her interest in ACW. A time of silence was observed in acknowledgement of Marjory's life and work.

Corinne Linsell who is a youth minister with Miranda Catholic Church spoke about World Youth Day to be held in July 2008. Although this is an event of the Catholic Church the organisers are hoping to make it wider in its appeal. The program for the five days will include teaching, sharing and reconciliation. The Pope will celebrate mass at Randwick Racecourse and a large international gathering is anticipated.

PRESENT: 43 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 14 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting on 19 February 2007 were confirmed on the motion of Nancy McLaren and Jan Harrison.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. The Service of Dedication is to be held at St Brigid's Church Millers Point at 10.30 on 21 May 2007. The church is on the corner of Kent and Argyle Streets and dates from 1847. Buses 431 and 433 along George Street, and 399 and 343 along Elizabeth Street provide access for those who are unable to walk from Circular Quay or Wynyard stations. Major Elaine Johnson, National President is to be the speaker. Lunch will follow the service and a board will be sent around closer to the event for catering purposes.

2. ACW Website: Brenda Dickinson's report indicated that the Beta format for the ACW website is almost completed. WKS and FLC information is being sent to Julie Hoy who is working on the compilation of the website, and this can be updated each year.

3. 'Profiles' of Presidents NSW Inter Church Council/ACW NSW Unit continues – any help with information or photos welcome.

4. The address list of Council members was again available for checking in preparation for a new list to be available next month. An email list is also in preparation.

5. The Annual General Meeting/Election of Office bearers will be held 16 April 2007. Most reports have been received for inclusion in the Annual Report.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the end of February was \$1861.25, with \$2000 having been transferred to an investment account. Moved Helen, seconded Lily Hanlon that the report be received and accounts paid. Carried

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PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone requested prayers for Beatrice Kay and her family, Rosalyn Bemrose, and Judith Cayzer's grandchild.

Best wishes were extended in word and song to Shirley Wells on her coming birthday.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang reminded members that applications for FLC grants needed to be in by 31 March 07. Lola Adams, the National WKS Convener is asking for ideas for promotion of FLC. Janet led a devotional written from Lebanon. In wartime prayer is needed for calm and peace to overcome the greed for power and the futile wisdom of the world. Children of God have the Holy Spirit to support and guide them.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Beryl Kirkwood reported from National that Pat Walker had received an award for her involvement in the cause of Social Justice. Mongolia is to hold a conference on abortion. Shu Wen, Secretary of ACWC is to visit a number of Asian countries – and has received a WKS Fellowship to attend the National Conference in Geelong in September.

Preparations continue for the ACWC celebration at Hurstville Salvation Army, 21 October 2007. It is proposed to begin at 2.30 with afternoon tea at 4.00. There is an hourly bus leaving opposite the station which will set down close to the venue. The walk from the station is not too far. Asian congregations have been contacted and Council members especially from the St George/Sutherland area will be asked to help with personal contact.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported that she has been receiving replies to the letters she had sent to local branches outlining the themes for 2007. The committee appointed by Council to prepare the 2007 World Community Day Service would meet following Council.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Carmel Keys reported that she and Mina Whybourne, together with the Rev Ian Stehbens had met our new WKS Scholar, Leinamau Seru from Vanuatu at the airport the previous evening. Leinamau will attend Alan Walker College at North Parramatta. Opportunity will be made during her time in Sydney to meet her.

The other Scholar for 2007 is Cathy Paraka from Papua New Guinea.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird had sent a written report. The issue of Climate Change is dealt with in a position paper from Catholic Earthcare: Climate Change – Our responsibility to Sustain God's Earth. Executive is ordering 20 copies at \$3 each. A free workshop on Human Trafficking and Slavery in Australia will be held at Parramatta Town Hall Tuesday 3 April organised by Immigrant Women's Speakout and the Anti-Slavery project of the Faculty of Law of UTS. The launch of the Sydney Chapter of the Centre for an Ethical Society will be held at Pitt Street Uniting Church 29 March 2007: website www.ces.org.au

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin gave the deadline for copy for the next issue 16 April 2007.

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren drew attention to the posters and leaflets advertising the Service of Dedication in May. She is also working on leaflets for associate membership. A conference on Social Issues is to be held at Salvation Army Headquarters 30-31 March at a cost of \$40 and Nancy encouraged Council members to attend.

The reports were received on the motion of Helen Hill and Denise Secomb.

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CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 12/2/2007; ACW SA Addresses; *National Newsletter*

Barbara Lacy – re National Finances

Margaret Ralph – re President Profiles

Winners Without Drugs – Luncheon 26/3/07 \$25 RSVP13/3/07

Anne Murray – re Nat Cncl Jewish Women Harmony Day 19/3/07; *HACW* entry

Ian Minnis

Judith Cayzer – report, apology

SCEGGS Redlands – re Gertrude Roseby

YWCA – Y hotels

Australian Domestic & Family Violence Newsletter 27, Issues paper 12; Span 3/07

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

National Executive: NSW Minutes 21/8/2006, 20/11/2006

Elaine Johnson – re visit to NSW

Barbara Lacy – re National Finances

Ian Minnis Prison Fellowship – re prayer points

Rev H John Taylor – re President Elect

Anne Murray – re Betty Ashton entry *HACW*

Judith Cayzer – re WKS Scholar Leinamau Seru

Correspondence was received on the motion of Lyn Middleton and Julie Bryant.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Ian Minnis provided prayer points regarding the child being sponsored to Camp WerX:
thanks for a full complement but support for those who missed out,
pray for leaders' preparation and connection with kids,
pray for Brittany aged 11.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: A letter has been sent to Noelene Roose congratulating her on the award of OAM.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

MU Service

WCTU Luncheon

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported that in February Margot Wagner spoke about Friends of Farming Families, a registered charity. Household goods and clothing are collected and sent to opportunity shops with names such as: *The Wellness Emporium* at Tambar Springs, *The Old Church Boutique* at Nundle, *The Olive Branch* at Binnaway and to *Betty's Boutique* at Pilliga. Goods must be in good condition, and profits from sales benefit schools, pre-schools, and also help buy medical equipment. Money from the International Women's Day lunch at which Hind Karouche of the Muslim Women's National Committee was speaker was sent to the UN Trust Fund in support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, and to PPSEAWA work in promoting peace and understanding in the Asia Pacific Region.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Lily Hanlon reported that there were good reports from centres using the order of service produced in Paraguay. The WDP meeting in April will look at the service for next year which will focus on Guiana. Merle Menzies reported on the service held in the farming community in Yeoval which she found to be very good.

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BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant showed a copy of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs book which is expected to arrive from China any day. Julie expects to attend the launch of the Cambodian project in July which uses Z-boxes, solar powered digital devices like transistor radios with recordings of the Bible in Khmer and health information. It is proposed to move into different language areas when this is possible.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells reported on the speaker who had addressed the first meeting of NCW for the year. Sophie York is the mother of three children and a barrister, and her husband is a doctor with the Navy. Paul was with one of the first relief contingents into Aceh. Sophie has written a book, *Angels of Aceh* to let people know what has been done following the devastation. NCW Executive has copies of the *Entertainment Book* on consignment at \$60 as a fundraiser. The President of NCW, Bev Pavey is still sick after severe surgery.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION: The luncheon on 26 March 2007 will celebrate the 124th State Convention.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Rev Dr Ray Williamson has retired and his successor is the Rev Dr Jonathan Inkpin.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

With the death of Marjory Verco NSW is eligible to nominate another person as a National Life Member. Council members were invited to make suggestions for consideration.

The photo albums which had been held by Margaret Jessup have not been recovered. It has been suggested that Council members who have photos of ACW events could bring them in so that they can be scanned and retained on CD. Some photos have already been received from Dorothy Woodhouse.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Carmel Keys used words of St Gregory the Great as a closing devotional before praying for the sick and bereaved.

NEXT MEETING: 16 April 2007

CHAIRS: Catholic

MORNING TEA: Salvation Army

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____