

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE VICTORIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OFFICE  
ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1994, AT 10 A.M.

PRESENT : Mrs. E. Reidy (President), Mrs. M. Dodds (Secretary), Mrs. J. Stott, (Vice-President), Miss D. Clack (Vice-President), Mrs. M. Wall (FLC), Mrs. J. Cooper (W.K.S.), Mrs. Major E. Johnson.

APOLOGIES : Mrs. H. Boatman, Mrs. H. Banks, Mrs. B. Lacy.

OPENING : Mrs. Reidy welcomed members to the meeting and led devotion on the theme - God is watching over us, and the hymn "His eye is on the sparrow". God is with us in all our problems - in good and bad times.

MINUTES : of 8/7/94 were passed on the motion of M. Dodds, 2nded M. Wall.  
Business arising -  
1. ACWC Carry Bags - J. Tong (N.S.W. Unit) and M. Napier (W.A. Unit) to be asked to share transport of these bags to Taiwan prior to the Assembly.  
2. ACWC Banner - no report to hand.  
3. WKS Consultation - to Correspondence.  
4. Constitution - update is underway.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT :

CAPOW PLANNING MEETING, 31/7/94, at YMCA House, Sydney - This meeting proved to be an interesting learning experience, and a very full agenda awaited the 22 women present, representing 18 women's organisations. I felt some concern that only 18 of some 40 groups were represented, and that there was no one from National Council of Women. Although not all agenda items were covered, a good deal was accomplished over the day.

Time was spent reviewing the past 12 months, office expansion from 15 - 40 hours paid staff, together with a number of voluntary helpers, but a lack of facilities, i.e. photocopier, data bank etc. Concern at emphasis on Beijing seen to be taking preference over some important national issues .. lack of communication between the "heads" and "grass roots" of organisations. Unanimous agreement that Submissions FAX service was valuable. Clarification of issues such as Role and Process was achieved, and several decisions made in regard to future activities of CAPOW.

MISSION STATEMENT

CAPOW is a network of national women's organisations. Its purpose is to give Australian women access to information, skills, and provide support which will enable them to work together to achieve an equitable sustainable and peaceful society. The network aims to empower women by giving them the means to share knowledge and resources in working to build a society which is equally informed by women.

ROLE

1. Linking women's organisations on issues of common interest by strong communication network.
2. Enable non-government organisations to lobby in decision making process, and to collaborate with other groups in this area.
3. Share knowledge and resources through data bank, FAX etc.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

PROCESS

1. Steering committee to work on issues with direction from Teleconference discussion and suggestions.
2. Office group to handle administration and structure.
3. Regional Forums across Australia on specific issues. These to be initiated by CAPOW (possibly 3 a year) with interest groups to organise, with help from CAPOW to prepare papers. The first three topics to be covered in this way are -
  - \*\* Women in decision making.
  - \*\* Women's economic independence.
  - \*\* Development of safeguards for national accountability controls and Federal trade off with State governments.

OTHER DECISIONS

It was agreed that CAPOW write to Government Ministers, Company Directors/Boards, commenting on ratio of women on commissions, boards, committees in line with government policy of equal representation, also press release.

A submission will be made for a sponsor company to provide data bank. Application will be made for a grant to set up training programme for women in the area of facilitators and lobbyists.

RECOMMENDATION -

After considerable thought and discussion, I would recommend that **AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN** become an Informed Organisation, and subscribe to the "Bulletin" and Informations Service for a 12 month period. Also that we continue to pass on relevant information to the State Units, suggesting that if they want more direct information, they too could become Associate members and receive "Bulletin" and other services as required, moved E. Reidy, 2nded J. Cooper, carried.

I would like to acknowledge my thanks and appreciation to Lucelle King and Joan Tong, President and Secretary of the NSW Unit, for their willing assistance with local travel and hospitality whilst I was in Sydney for the CAPOW meeting.

I also had an extra bonus in being able to share with them in attending the Ecumenical Service of Celebration of the Inauguration of the National Council of churches in Australia, held in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on the Sunday evening. This had been arranged by the N S W Ecumenical Council, and a number of ACW members were in attendance.

I would also like to bring to notice a meeting being held on 3/9/94 from 2-5 p.m. at 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, in the Australian Conservation Foundation room - "Imagine the Future". The series of reconciliation will be discussed, with excerpts from the series "Beyond the Sun" included. Contact is Diane Alley, UNNA Status of Women Committee, phone 827 2362. During August, discussion meetings on Beijing agendas are being held in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Canberra, also some regional centres.

REPORTS :

Special Days : (M. Dodds for H. Boatman) The Tasmanian Unit has accepted responsibility for the preparation of the 1995 Fellowship Day order of service.

Finance : Report attached. It was moved J. Stott, 2nded M. Wall, that the Statement be accepted and accounts passed for payment, carried.

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REPORTS :

Finance (continued) i. A.C.W.C. Conference Fund - \$5,000 to be invested at Treasurer's discretion (to be available by mid-October).  
ii. Disaster Fund now stands at \$2,900. to be re-invested for 3 mths  
iii. Overseas Conference Travel - Registrations delegates \$US850., Registration for Observer (S. Brooks) \$US200., E. Kim's retiring gift (donation) \$A30., totals \$A1,450., reserve \$A550 for contingencies total \$2,000. Residue to be re-invested, moved J. Stott, 2nded E. Johnson, carried.

Winifred Kiek Scholar : Incoming correspondence -

28.6.94 E. Ridge - advice on storage of archives

7.7.94 Nighat Gulzar - Formal letter of thanks to Australian Church Women for offering her the W.K. Scholarship. Her address House No. 22, street No. 27, Canal Park Gulberg II Lahore, Pakistan.

11.7.94 F. McCormack (Tas. Unit) advising W.K.S. Convenor for Tas. is Mrs. S. Brooks, 20 Riseley St., Kings Meadows, 7250.

Fellowship of The Least Coin : 6,000 copies of 'Flyer' printed, NSW and W.A. Units forwarded, remainder next week. 20 spoons sent to W.A. Applications for Grants sent to I.C.F.L.C. Executive Sec. Letter received from S. Samuel via NSW Unit re publication "A Search for Reconciliation". Report received from Kuri Ngai Partners and copy sent to S. Samuel. Guidelines need to be altered regarding submission of Grants.

Newsletter : Due to technical failures at the printers, issue will now be posted next week.

GENERAL BUSINESS :

1. National Conference : Theme "Jesus, Women and the World".  
Lynette Leach - has accepted invitation as Guest Speaker; Rev. Jill Manton has accepted invitation to be Bible Study Leader. Sub-themes being considered. Use of the Mantle from the inaugural Service of the National Council of Churches in Australia is being sought. Registration forms to be prepared and circulated as soon as possible.
2. Disaster Fund : The disaster in Rwanda being of such vast proportion with far reaching effects caused the National Executive to make a contribution of \$A1,500. from the Disaster Fund, believing this to be such a situation for which the Fund was set up. It is anticipated that a review of the fund needs to be done at the National Conference  
i. whether it should be ongoing; ii. a definite policy for the future.

CORRESPONDENCE : moved on the motion of M. Dodds, 2nded J. Cooper, carried.

Inwards -

1. ACW Queensland Unit Minutes 27.6.94
2. ACW ACT Unit
3. ACW ACT Unit - E. Sullivan to receive mail etc. until 3/10/94.
4. ACW Tas. Unit - Office Bearers.
5. ACW NSW Unit
6. ACW NSW Unit Minutes 20.6.94
7. ACW NSW Unit re alteration of address for Bulletins, noted.
8. WKScholar: Nighat Gulzar
9. WKS Trust - letter to be sent in reply regarding a joint consultation between Trustees and National Committee.
10. Lynette Leach
11. Rev. Jill Manton

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

12. Australian Council for women
13. Australian Council for Women - copy consultations on Beijing Conf.being held Australia-wide to be sent to State Units.
14. CAPOW Bulletin July 1994
15. YWCA - information re travel to Beijing.
16. Cycle Against Poverty Japan - Di O'Rourke
17. Nungalinga News No. 4 July 1994
18. CCA News May/June 1994
19. Law Reform Commission: Equality before the Law Report No. 69- to State Units.
20. Newsletter for Women with Disabilities August 1994
21. Focus No. 21 July 1994
22. ANESBWA Update July 1994 (Assocn Non-English Speaking Background Women of Australia)
23. NTB Network July 1994 (Nat. Training Board.)
24. Melbourne Tourism Authority Directory.
25. The Quorum July/Aug 1994

Outwards -

1. E. Ridge
2. ACW NSW Unit (J. Tong)
3. Mrs. Isobel Burch W WCTU

CLOSE : The August meeting closed at 2.10 p.m. with prayer led by Mrs. Reidy.

NEXT MEETING : FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1994, (9.45am for 10 am start)  
AT V.C.C. OFFICE

DEVOTIONS : J. Stott

HOSTESS : J. Cooper

APOLOGIES : M.Dodds