



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.**

***Minutes of Council Meeting, Monday 15th November 2021
10.30 am via Zoom***

OPENING: President Tricia Graham welcomed all to the meeting and was pleased so many could attend.

Acknowledgement of Country: I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the various lands on which we stand today and pay respect to Elders past and present and emerging and extend that respect to any Aboriginal people who may be joining us today.

Psalm 107 : 8 - 9

Let us give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

As we approach the closing of the ACW NSW State Unit, let us all remember all the good things that ACW has achieved in the last 83 years. Also remember all the friendships that have been formed and also remember the members who have died and how they have been part of the life of ACW.

Also, think back to how life has changed in the last 83 years. How different life was for women then. It's not perfect now, but it is certainly better than it was then. We hope and pray it will continue to improve for our daughters and granddaughters.

Lord, open our eyes to see the gifts you have given us and thank you for being such a faithful friend. Help us to walk closely with you today. In Jesus's name. Amen

PRESENT: Tricia Graham, Pat Cory, Elizabeth McEwen, Jan Harrison, Rae Goth, Martha Noel, Jernnifer Peffer, Judith Cayzer, Elizabeth Delaney, Peg McEntee, Sue Meehan, Pamela Freeman, Beatrice Kay, Lyn Middleton, Margaret Gregory, Isabel Hewitt, Judy Hicks, Yvonne Coorey

APOLOGIES: Roslyn Abbey, Heather Reid, Moya Potts, Lillian Hodges, Valerie Hazlewood

MINUTES: *The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 21st June 2021, were confirmed on the Motion of Judy Hicks and Seconded by Martha Noel. Carried.*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1) The Motion passed at Executive Meeting 9th August: to cancel registration, was Ratified by the Council Members with a unanimous vote by show of hands: **Pat Cory, Public Officer, moved that ACW NSW State Unit Inc. apply for voluntary cancellation of our Registration as an Association in light of the decision made at the April Council Meeting that ACW NSW State Unit Inc will cease its operations at the end of 2021. Seconded by Elizabeth McEwen, passed unanimously.**
- 2) **National Conference held 19 and 20th October via Zoom.** NSW was represented at the conference by Tricia Graham, Elizabeth McEwen (delegate), Peg McEntee, Lyn Middleton, Martha Noel, Isabel Hewitt, Pat Cory and Sue Meehan. It was well organised with excellent speakers, particularly the closing speaker, Rev. Sue Ellis. People who have died since the last conference were remembered and people recognised with Honouring Australian Church Women (for NSW Helen Richardson)

The business for the AGM was not concluded and the meeting adjourned. A further meeting will be held on 24th November. NSW can still vote until 31st December 2021.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented her report for 1st August to 31st October 2021 and commented that there was not much happening. The total income for this period was \$443.49, and total payments were \$175.61 (Reimburse E. McEwen for Teleconference \$120.61, and reimburse J. Peffer for Postage \$55.00). The credit balance as per bank statement is \$18,467.12, which includes money which had been invested. There was only one account to pay and that was \$38.05 for Petty Cash.

Pat moved that the report be accepted and the Petty Cash payment be approved. Seconded by Margaret Gregory. Carried.

Pat advised that the decision about which of the Special Projects to donate to will be made at the meeting on 21st February. Also money is to be put aside for the Thanksgiving Celebration Service and a donation to the Auditor.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Moya Potts has forwarded information from International FLC with a link to the projects approved for this year.

Special Days: Lyn Middleton advised that the information for World Community Day with a special notice about ACW intending closure. Two responses have been received so far for WCD, so she couldn't say how much participation there was amongst the branches. Lyn is waiting to hear what is happening with National ACW and she can then notify the branches if they wish to retain affiliation.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Judith Cayzer presented her report and gave news of 2021 Scholars Sandra Pawar and Kate Johnson who are concluding their scholarship year. The 2022 WKS Scholar is Miriam Moses from Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea. Miriam will begin a Masters Program through PNG United Church Theological College. Miriam's church previously supported her studies in Diploma and Bachelor of Divinity. She is an Assistant Pastor in her church of about 200 people. It is proposed that a WKS Trust will be set up for the future of the Scholarship. Judith will email past and present scholars who are still in contact, sending blessings for their future. Judith thanked the members for the years of our Units partnership in encouragement, prayer and financial support for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

Social Issues: Rae Goth didn't have any new issues for the meeting, but she is continuing to write letters on issues that are important to her. Tricia thanked Rae for her diligence over many years in bringing Social Issues to the attention of ACW members.

Membership: Martha advised that there were 19 members present.

Pastoral Care: Jennifer commented that everyone has been very encouraging and that the last message included something from one of the ladies in the branch, where she referred to her first ACW meeting as standing in a forest surrounded by old, but strong trees, women strong in faith, tried and true. Yvonne and Rae both expressed their thanks to Jennifer for keeping in touch and giving encouragement especially to those who aren't well. Jennifer will continue the Pastoral Care letters until May.

ACWC: Due to the virus and other disasters in many areas, not a lot of information has come from ACWC this year.

The Reports were received on the motion of Martha Noel and Seconded by Margaret Gregory. Carried

Tricia moved a Vote of Thanks for those who have worked as Conveners: Moya, Lyn, Judith, Rae, Martha, Isabel, Jennifer, and also Lillian, who was FLC Convener for many years.

Correspondence – Inwards

Correspondence – Outwards

15/8 NE Minutes 10/8	22/8 M. Dredge re Conference
19/8 Website Report	25/8 NSW Exec. Website report
23/8 M Dredge re Zoom conference	31/8 NSW Exec. NSW Special Projects
2/9 Cancellation of 'in person' conference	2/9 NSW Exec. NE minutes
2/9 NE Minutes 31/8	9/9 E. Neale, GB, information re ACW closure
13/9 Elizabeth Neale, GB, re ACW close	16/9 R. Pitman Return of Survey
17/9 R Pitman, NE Minutes 14/9	30/9 B. Gear – conf. registrations
30/9 B. Gear re Registrations	8/10 NSW Exec. WA Unit information
1/10 NE – Minutes 28/9	12/10 M. Dredge – concern for the change to voting procedures
7/10 WA Unit, Incoming Nat. Ex. And possible model ACW National	26/10 Response to NE prayer request
6/10 NE Working Papers	27/10 R. Pitman re conversation with WA
10/10 Additional inf. Working papers	
14/10 B. Gear Financial Report	
14/10 R. Pitman – States' Incorporation	
16/10 Public Officer – information from Registrar	
18/10 M. Ker WA Voluntary Cancellation or Wind up of Association	
27/10 Prayer request from NE	
28/10 L. Green – ACWC Liturgy	
Girls' Brigade NSW – a formal acknowledgement to ACW	
ACT Unit – letter of legal advice re voting at Conference	
R. Pitman – Response to ACT legal letter	

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Pat Cory sent emails to member organisations regarding ACW closure. Jonathan Harris responded that with comments on the work of ACW and that he would like to attend our Thanksgiving service in May.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Celebration Service and Lunch** – 16 May 2022 at St Stephens Church, Macquarie Street. The church has been booked, a guest speaker arranged, and contact has been made with caterers. The Executive will meet to sort out the service and other details.
- 2) **Extraordinary meeting 21st February 2022:** This meeting will be held in the usual Uniting Church meeting room in Pitt Street. The Financial Report and Auditor's Report for 2021 will be presented as this has to be sent to Department of Fair Trading.
- 3) **Donations from ACW NSW to like-minded organisations:** Elizabeth has had a good response from members choosing which of the past Special Projects we should donate to. The final decision will be made at the February meeting, as well as donations to affiliated organisations.

Tricia thanked all the Executive who have been with her over the last two years for their love and caring. Yvonne thanked everyone for their love, caring and support. Rae spoke about being encouraged by Olive Edmonstone to join ACW, which has been above and beyond anything she has experienced.

Isabel thanked Tricia for being President in this difficult time. Tricia wished members and their families a very happy Christmas and New Year.

CLOSE OF MEETING: The meeting closed at 11.30 am with prayer:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore, Amen