

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

Minutes of the Council Meeting, held at 222 Pitt St. Sydney
on Monday, 18 June, 1990.

The meeting opened at 11 a.m. with the new President, Mrs. Major Joan Tong in the Chair.

'Getting started' was the theme of her words to the meeting on this first occasion. It was appropriate for both the President and the members for us to consider the words 'in the beginning — God'. We are at the beginning of a new term, it is a new experience for us all. The reading from John's gospel, chapter 1, verses 1-9 reminded us that 'in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God'. From the Genesis passage we learn about God, the Lord of the wonders of creation, from John's gospel, we learn about Jesus, the Lord of our souls. This 'good beginning' was completed in the prayer the President prayed.

A warm welcome on a cold winter's day was extended to all. There were no visitors nor new delegates.

Those present are recorded in the Attendance Book and numbered 47. Apologies were also recorded and numbered 13.

The President paid a warm tribute to her predecessor, Mrs Marjory Baker. Marjory's skills in gracious leadership were mentioned with appreciation. The Secretary & Treasurer were also thanked for their contributions to A.C.W. and they were honoured by the gifts of posies of lovely orchids.

Mrs Marie McCann, the National President of A.C.W. was introduced to the meeting by the President. Her subject was 'Introducing the A.C.W. National Conference, 1991.' National Committee serves for a term of two years and the appointment rotates around the State Units. The National Executive is a working body for A.C.W. in Australia.

What happens at a National Conference? Each State unit is entitled to send 2 voting delegates and 2 observers (non-voting). Usually the delegates are the State President & Secretary. They are glad of the support of their observers as advisers. Also members of a national conference are heads of National Women's organisations who represent denominations affiliated with A.C.W. or sister groups, such as W.Y.C.A. Visitors are welcome to attend these conferences, but they are not able to vote. Attendance at conference is in the area of 80-100 people but it is anticipated that more could come to the conference in N.S.W. as we are such a large state. Ten years ago overseas visitors came to A.C.W. Conference from New Zealand and from Church Women United, our American counter-parts. The Conference in Adelaide was honoured by the participation of Executive members of A.C.W.C. We were happy to welcome to the conference in Perth four visiting Indonesian women.

The Conference in Sydney will be held from September 9 -13, 1991. Brochures were distributed on the venue of the Conference, the Salvation Army Conference Centre at Collaroy. The facilities at this centre auger well for a successful conference. They include a 400 person hall, space for meeting rooms, a chapel, smaller conference rooms, room for activities like a trading centre, a permanent office, dining hall, cabin or en suite accommodation. The costs will include meals and there will be provision for visitors to share meals on a casual basis.

The theme of the Conference is announced as 'We being many, are one in Christ Jesus'. There will be daily devotions & bible studies on the theme and a seminar day when the theme will be 'In Christ, freedom, growth, hope.' The seminar will be from 10a.m. to 4p.m. on the Wednesday and it is expected that there will be three speakers. The Branch members will be invited to share in this seminar day.

As well as the busy times of official business, there will be times of fun & relaxation. Plans are under way for use of the film room at the centre and a concert is planned to use the talents of the members of conference, each unit being asked to provide an item. It is hoped that some activity like banner making during the conference will culminate in a meaningful closing service, when the new National Executive (from Tasmania) will be installed.

Plans are in hand to take the members to Sydney for a civic reception in the Sydney Town Hall, when it is also planned to show our visitors some of the buildings of our city, e.g. the Queen Victoria Building.

There are many ways in which the members of our Council can be involved in this conference. People will be needed to transport the interstate people to Collaroy from bus stations and the airport.

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There will be need for offers of home hospitality both before and at the close of the conference.

Secretarial help is sought, typing, photocopying, work in general areas in the office, the loan of a typewriter is sought.

Mrs Joan Tong will be in charge of the music at the conference. She will be looking for singers, mainly in groups, two stage hands will be needed for the concert, instrumentalists will be welcome. Our unit will need help with ideas for the concert item.

A trading room is planned, where literature and gifts may be bought. Organisations like Community Aid Abroad, World Vision may be asked to participate. Goods on consignment will make good items for sale to our visitors.

Dining room orderlies will be required at each meal.

People will be asked to bring and/or to arrange flowers for the meeting rooms.

Friends with cars may be needed to transport people to the Civic reception and back. Or we may hire a bus or two, or go by public transport.

Help will be needed on the seminar day in a variety of ways.

We are asked to make suggestions about speakers for the seminar day.

Any other ideas that members have for the conference are warmly sought.

Marie showed some small items like bookmarks, tea towels, aprons, etc. that would make acceptable gifts for sale at the trading room.

Our unit will need to think of a suitable small gift to leave in the bedroom of each participant at the Conference. There will be other ways of showing our hospitality at this time.

In thanking the speaker for her time of sharing about the Conference, the Secretary, Mrs Ridge presented Mrs McCann with a posy of flowers. We all felt excited at the thought of the conference and we look forward to it and to the ways in which we can be of assistance.

The Minutes of the meeting of 23 April, 1990 were read and confirmed. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, also 23 April, were read and initialled by the President. There was no business arising from the Annual Meeting.

Business arising from the meeting.

1. A.C.W. News. Copies of the current edition were distributed. The Executive's recommendation that copies be posted to city branches not present at council meetings and to all the country centres was endorsed.
2. Members were invited to take copies of the Partners with A.C.W.C. leaflets for their friends & branch members.
3. X-rated videos. It was reported that the vote was taken on 24.4.90 by the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly to ban the production of & distribution by that territory of these pornographic films and was lost by one vote. Further action to be taken was dealt with under correspondence.
4. Annual Newsletter. Members were asked to take extra copies of the newsletter for use in their branch meetings.

It was announced that any reports which missed the deadline for the printing of the Newsletter will be welcomed for publication in Newsette. The deadline for copy for Newsette is the first week in July.

5. Flowers Display in St. Andrew's Cathedral. Mrs Baker reported that she attended this display, as did Mrs Lumb and Mrs Blake. It was a very successful day, filled with beauty.

6. The Annual Dedication Service & Installation of the President. Congratulations were expressed to all who had a part in the highly successful and inspirational day held on 21 May. The President thanked everyone who had assisted and especially thanked those people who have promised support and prayer for the coming days. People with photos of the day invited members to look at them after the meeting. Special mention has been made about the prayers at the service, the greeting from the National President and the address by Mrs Tong.

Correspondence. The correspondence as listed was read, dealt with as read and received.

Business arising from the Correspondence.

1. From the Promotions Convenor. Members were asked to indicate to the Publicity convenor as soon as possible or by phone to Mrs Blake, the details she requires regarding Fellowship Day services.

Mrs Blake has chosen for A.C.W.'s flower display at the Festival in St. Andrew's Cathedral in September, the verses of Psalm 146 which will be appropriate for the theme 'Praise for Creation'. They are parts of verses 1 and 6.

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Greetings from Mina Whybourne were relayed in Peg's letter. She is enjoying her overseas holiday.

3. Ecumenical & Interfaith Jottings. Members were encouraged to attend the historic service to be held on Thursday 21 June in St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, when the preacher will be Rev. Dr. Philip Potter, former President of the World Council of Churches.

4. National Minutes. It was noted that our National President will attend the Annual General meetings of Australian Council of Churches as an observer representing A.C.W. and that the National Secretary will also attend as a visitor.

Members were invited to consider attending the A.C.W.C. meetings in Djakarta in November as visitors. Such visitors would be responsible for their own expenses and details of these costs were available. The Tasmanian Unit is looking forward to its term as National Committee and is already making plans for the conference in 1993!

Reports. Treasurer. The treasurer reported that the books have now been audited. She presented a three-months financial statement (as attached). It was received and adopted on the motion of Mrs Lumb and Mrs Majoor. Accounts presented for payment were ratified on the same motion. It was suggested by the Executive meeting that Council should endorse the recommendation of the Treasurer that in the light of our general financial situation, the balance of \$256-28, being what remains of the Annual Service offering after the expenses of that day were deducted, should remain in the General Funds of A.C.W. Carried.

Membership Secretary. Brigadier Ward requested that members should notify her as soon as possible if they perceive any errors in the current membership lists. Any new delegates or other alterations are also needed by the convenor.

P.L.C. The convenor is away, but the Fellowship of the Least Coin collection was taken.

W.K.S. In the absence of the state convenor, Mrs Yvonne Davis gave a report based on information received by the National Executive. 1990 scholar, Doreen Tie leaves London on June 20. She will arrive in Sydney about a month later, after a holiday with her family. She will be accommodated at the Baptist Hostel in Petersham and her course of studies at Lidcombe is arranged.

1980 Scholar, Dien Sumiyatiningsih was married in 1988 and her married name is Nuhamara. She is working as a University Chaplain.

Daw Lillian Kha Nau of the Myanma Theological College in Burma has asked for information about W.K.S. She is hopeful that there could be a scholar out of Burma yet.

Fai'lautusi Tebati has moved from her former job in the Women's Centre to be the Head teacher in the Home Economics department of the Junior Secondary School of the Kirabati Protestant Church, on the island of Abaiang. The typewriter which she was given for the work of the women's centre in Kirabati is being put to good use in that office & is much appreciated by the women.

Prayers are asked for all our former scholars and for the Secretary of A.C.W.C. Eunice Kim as she prepares for the conference in November. We rejoice in the news that she seems to be recovered from the injuries she received in an accident early in the year.

The W.K.S. Trust members are at present considering the names of possible candidates for the scholarship in 1991. It is hoped that an announcement will be available soon.

General Business. Fellowship Day. The President wished everyone a good Fellowship Day. Mrs Majoor encouraged people taking services to take spoons and badges to sell at the gatherings.

The Editor asked for contributions for Newslette to reach her by the first week in July.

Mrs Glad Bent was congratulated by her friends on her recent Golden Wedding celebration.

Deaconess Mary Andrews reported on the Ecumenical service held at St. Patrick's church, Parramatta, when the Catholic Diocese was welcomed as a member with the Ecumenical Council. She hopes to have available the recorded address on that occasion.

Announcements of coming events. 1. On Saturday, 11 August at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta, a conference for women. More details in the mail.

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2. Brochures for the Flower Festival in St. Andrew's Cathedral on Sept.7,8,9 &10 will be available at the August meeting.

3. The Christian Volunteering Committee's Conference at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Burwood on September 5, is open to any who would care to register. Mrs McLaughlin who will represent A.C.W. will provide any further information to interested people.

The Uniting Church delegates were thanked for their hospitality.

The Churches of Christ ladies will provide morning tea at the August meeting, this is a swap with the Anglican ladies for this year only.

Next meeting. The speaker at the meeting on August 20 will be the F.L.C. Convenor, Mrs Patricia Burke who will speak to the meeting about F.L.C.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the President saying the Benediction.

Confirmed.

20.8.90