



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10<sup>th</sup> floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 19 June 2006, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Major Lyn Middleton read from Ephesians 3 as a blessing for Mrs Carmel Keys as she takes up her duties as President, before leading in prayer.

Carmel then welcomed everyone to the meeting, and led devotions. Christ speaks to us, and we need to listen and to hear him. The gospels tell the story of Jesus, and Luke 8: 1-3 tells of the support of women who followed him. Mark 15: 40-41 tells of women watching from a distance. What did it mean for Mary? Jesus broke through taboos. What does it mean for us? We are called to be like him, and he was a man of love. Like the women in the gospels, we are today's disciples with the call to pass on love as the example we have from Jesus. Carmel's prayer included a petition that we have courage and conviction.

PRESENT: 46 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 13 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 10 April, 2006 were initialled on the motion of Jean Porteous and Beryl McLaughlin. Carried.

The minutes of the Council Meeting on 10 April 2006 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Bev Elliott.

### BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Service of Dedication and Installation at Mary Immaculate and St Athanasius Church at Manly was described as a wonderful day. The service itself and the music were good. There was high praise for the work of the ladies at Manly who did such a great job with the catering.
2. Nominations for certificates of appreciation. Lyn Middleton reported that 12 names have been confirmed to date. It is hoped that the certificates will be presented at the September Day Conference.
3. Day Conference – 18 September 2006, Salvation Army Headquarters, 140 Elizabeth Street. Morning Tea 10.00 am, Sr Patricia Stevenson 10.30. Cost \$25 includes MT, lunch. Mr Ian Minnis from Prison Fellowship will speak in the afternoon about Camp Breakaway, and it is hoped that one of the current Winifred Kiek Scholars, Vivian Cheung, might also share in the day.
4. 'Profiles' of Presidents NSW Inter Church Council/ACW NSW Unit: Isabel Hewitt reported on progress to date, encouraging Council members to supply even small amounts of information to help round out the entries.

### REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported a cash book balance of \$2836.51, the last bank statement had cheques outstanding. Among the accounts for payment were reimbursements to Lyn Middleton and Carmel Keys, and \$625 to National in payment of the balance for the book *Winifred*. Moved Helen, seconded Judith Baker that the report be received, and payments of accounts approved. Carried.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang reported that in the grants for 2006 only one was for Australia, a sewing group in South Australia. Janet led a short devotional which told of the mid life crisis faced by some eagles noted for their longevity. Isaiah 40: 31

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Beryl Kirkwood acknowledged the help she has received from Winsome Penn. Leaflets were available for the ACWC celebration 2.30 pm Sunday 24 September 2006 at Eastwood Baptist Church. Prayers were asked for the women in Pakistan and Nepal, those suffering as a result of disasters, and the women in Hong Kong who need a women's shelter. Two women from Timor are to be sponsored to attend the ACWC Assembly in Kuala Lumpur.

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**SPECIAL DAYS:** Packing day for Fellowship Day orders of service on 22 May 2006 despatched parcels to Branches. Council members requested that small posters - as had been available previously - be included in future mailings. It was also asked that Branches be reminded to send a copy of the order of service to the speakers they line up.



**WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:** Judith Cayzer reported that there had not been replies to date from the letters sent by National WKS Convener. Addresses have been promised and it is hoped to have Vivian Cheung at Conference Day. Judith asked for prayers for the WKS Trust as they consider applications and select the scholar for 2007.

**SOCIAL ISSUES:** Sr Joan Bird read the reply received from the Shadow Minister for Mental Health, the only reply received so far from State Ministers/Shadow Ministers for Health. The NSW State Budget allocated funds for mental health, but we need to keep check on how this is administered. A further situation requiring follow up is the matter of young people in nursing homes for which there was a Budget allocation, but the funding is seen to be insufficient. There is a National Alliance of Young People in Nursing Homes and their efforts may be a place where support could be directed.

Pam Freeman brought to the attention of Council the situation of people in financial distress. There is an anomaly in that bankruptcy waives debts, but fines for traffic and transport offences remain. It was agreed that steps be taken to see if there is a way for us to become more informed and take any action to have this situation remedied.

**PASTORAL CARE:** Olive Edmondstone reported that Rosalyn Bemrose has found she has tumours on her spine which are secondaries. Prayers were asked for Rosalyn at this difficult time. Beatrice Kay's husband is very ill. Winsome Penn is unwell. Good to have Ruth Dickenson back. Shirley Wells is making good progress following her hip operation.

**NEWSETTE:** The deadline for copy for the next issue is 17 July 2006.

**PUBLICITY:** Nancy McLaren had prepared a poster for September Day Conference and indicated her willingness to supply small posters for World Community Day and Fellowship Day as needed.

The reports were received on the motion of Lyn Middleton and Irene Roberts.

**CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)**

National Executive: Minutes 10/4/2006, 8/5/2006, Circular Letter 2/2006, Info Brochure, re Joseph's Corner, new pages for National Constitution, request for NSW to prepare WCD service 2007

ACWC - May Report, June Report

Gladys Bent - President Profile, Irene Carder - re President Profiles

Gladys Berejiklian MP - re Mental Health

CWLA NSW - re Installation Service

Bible Society - re 'Christian' Christmas

Pamela Freeman - report, apology

PPSEAWA - President's Luncheon 24/5/2006 11.00 am 222 Pitt Street

NCW - Foundation Day Lunch 27/6/2006 12.30 Parliament House

PWA NSW - Invitation 3/7/2006 Croydon

CWLA - notice of Forum 8/7/2006 on *The Heart of the Family in Crisis*

ACW ACT - Newsletter 4-6/2006, ACW VIC News 4-5/2006, The Branch CWLA Parramatta 6/2006, PWA Span 6/06

**CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)**

National Executive: 2006 Minutes and Annual Report; Barbara Lacy - phone/email

State MP's with Health/Mental Health portfolios

Joy Arnold - re Baptist President Elect

Bible Society - re Christian Christmas project

Cela Cooper & Jan Harrison - re National Constitution

R. Thomas, N. Barnes, J. Wilcox, J. Pitman, P. Blake, P. Biffin, K. McNamara - re President Profiles

Joan Maher, National Executive - re Information Brochure

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

ACW Website: Brenda Dickinson spoke to the meeting, outlining what is proposed, explaining the cost and the range of information, and the nature of the NSW home page. Nancy McLaren and Lyn Middleton agreed to work with Brenda in gathering the information for NSW home page, and have authority to co-opt people if needed.

World Community Day 2007: We have been asked to prepare the order of service with the theme "Enough for Each Day" based on Matthew 6: 11. Volunteers were called for, but were not forthcoming at the meeting. Council members were asked to give it some thought.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Lily Hanlon reported the next WDP service has been prepared by Paraguay and packing day is set down for 16 October 2006.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Helen Richardson said a speaker from the NSW Health Commission who is planning for the next twenty years had addressed them, and was asking for ideas of issues that should be addressed.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Carmel Keys had attended the Annual Meeting at Parramatta. It was an interesting meeting. One of the issues raised was the problem of refugees who do not have authority to work, are given no assistance and who need to pay for medical and dental services. Mental health is also an issue. The theme *Make Indigenous Poverty History* was a theme running through the day.

PAN PACIFIC AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge gave an insight into the speakers who had addressed PPSEAWA meetings in the last few months. In March reports had been given on the corporate members and she had spoken of ACW. At the April meeting, Hind Karouche, a Muslim woman who came from Lebanon as a child spoke, and the Muslim Women's National Network of Australia has since become a member of PPSEAWA. In May the Assistant Principal from Stewart House School, Robyn Riley, told of the work of Stewart House. June meeting's focus is Mental Health.

Edith also reported that the June issue of UCA Frontier Services magazine had an article on one of the past National Presidents of ACW, Dorothy Haensel.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Ruth Dickenson thanked Council members for their support and concern at the death of her son. Girls Brigade numbers are still fluctuating. The annual weekend at Geroa/Jamberoo had once again been a great success, as had a day at Taronga. A donation of \$5000 was made from Girls Brigade to the Children's Hospital for a blood pressure monitor.

WOMANS CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION: Beryl McLaughlin spoke of a youth outreach program at Epping, *The Shack*, where Melissa Baker has been doing some work.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Email addresses: Pamela Freeman suggested that as references increased to the use of internet and emails it would be a good idea to have a list of email addresses for Council members. A list was made available for those attending to write their addresses on a list for distribution.

Trading Table: An amount of \$49 had been taken, with more items available at end of meeting. Next table will be at November meeting.

Thora Thomas had phoned from Ireland to send a greeting. Thora was nominated for a National Council of Women honour and Carmel Keys has a certificate for Thora.

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World Cup: Attention was drawn to the use of prostitutes during this event which was currently being staged in Germany. It was felt that it was too late to take any action, but we should be aware next time the World Cup comes around.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Carmel Keys closed the meeting with the words of the John Bell and Graham Maule hymn 'Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love and peace ... Thus the world shall yet believe, when shown Christ's vibrant unity' as a prayer.

NEXT MEETING: 21 August 2006

CHAIRS: Uniting Church

MORNING TEA: Baptist

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_