

Australian Church Women Inc National Executive 2011-2013
Minutes of Meeting held Monday 11 February 2013
97 William Street Perth WA 6000

1. **Welcome** The meeting was opened at 9.50 am by National President Major Laurel Pearce.
2. **Attendance** Laurel Pearce, Lee Edwards, Marie Majoor, Leeola Loughnan, Margaret Ker, Olive Dell, Meryon Goode.
3. **Apologies** Donna Bryan
4. **Devotions (Marie Majoor)** Planting a new garden for New Year, reading from Hebrews 13, and prayer.
5. **Minutes of Previous meeting (21 January 2013)** Confirmation as a true and accurate record moved Marie Majoor, seconded Meryon Goode.
6. **Business Arising** Public Liability Insurance: Laurel reported that she had raised the issue in discussion with Lyn Middleton, who heads the Nomination Committee for Incoming National Executive. Lyn had suggested contacting Isobel Hewitt or Pamela Freeman in due course. It was agreed to defer further discussion until a later date.
7. **Correspondence** *List circulated/ attached.*
8. **Reports** *Written reports in the Secretary's File.*
 - **President (Laurel Pearce)**
 - Correspondence with Lyn Middleton NSW re Australian Women's Coalition representation.
It was agreed that the AWC representative should be chosen as per Rules (2009) 12 (6) (b) **National Delegates to Conferences, Representatives to other organisations and such other appointments as shall from time to time be considered desirable by the National Conference shall be elected by ballot from nominations received by the National Secretary eight weeks prior to the National Conference. Any member in good standing in a State or Territory Unit of Australian Church Women may be nominated for any such position.**
However it was agreed that in calling for nominations for the position of AWC representative it would be helpful to advise Units that there were strong reasons for the position to be filled by a member from NSW as there is no longer funding available for travel to Sydney for meetings.
 - ACWC Request for prayer for conflict in North of Myanmar. Response promising prayer support sent. Request forwarded via National Secretary to Units, National Executive members and Sonya Pell. (Seng Ja from Myanmar, who asked ACWC for prayer, was at the Young Women's Forum with Sonya). Thanks for prayers received from Seng Ja. Response received from Sonya .
 - Completed Hire Contract forms for ACWC Executive Committee function sent to Australian/Asian Association.
 - Correspondence with WKS Trustees re Scholars.
 - Proposed itinerary for visit of Esther Kilaghbian sent to Units by Margaret.
 - Correspondence with Margaret Florence, Queensland Unit re visit to Queensland.
 - ACWC Information required for ACWC Executive Committee visit to Perth.
 - ACWC Application forms for WKS Scholars for 2014 sent to all ACWC member countries.
 - Correspondence with National Executive members on a range of ACW matters.
 - **Vice Presidents (Lee Edwards/Marie Majoor)**
 - Issue 2 of National News had been printed and distributed. Thanks to both Lee and Marie for all their work in preparation and to Lee for singlehandedly dealing with the mail out.
 - **Secretary (Margaret Ker)**
 - A letter has been sent to Tasmanian Unit President Marie Byrne (email copy to Unit Secretary Juanita Miller) inviting the Unit to form the 2015-2017 National Executive. Juanita has advised this will be considered on 25 February.
 - Constitution review consultation document has gone out to all Units. No feedback yet.
 - Guidelines revision: we need to decide how much attention we can give to this.
 - Conference tasks:
 - *Expressions of Interest* These went out with the National News as agreed, with a quoted cost of \$650 exclusive of Sunday night.6 received so far.

- *Registration forms* need to be printed and circulated before Easter, either with the March mailout, or to everyone who sent in an EOI, with spares to Units and organisations in the April mailout. In 2011 it was circulated with a letter of invitation from the National President. First draft was circulated and format and costs discussed.
 - *Recipe book* Draft circulated
 - *Banner* Details of commercially produced banners circulated for information
 - *Bible Studies* Angela McCarthy still on leave. *Angela has now confirmed availability.*
 - *Accommodation* Booking of the 12 rooms at Penola confirmed.. The 3 additional units we looked at are unlikely to be available because our Conference falls during the school holidays . There are several local bed and breakfast or holiday home options if we have more than 63 residential participants.
- *Esther Kilagblian's visit* The pre Conference section of Esther's itinerary has been accepted by the Units involved but at this stage the post Conference section is still in doubt as Tasmania has advised that they probably cannot host on the suggested dates.
- **Treasurer (Leeola Loughnan) Circulated/attached.** Acceptance of report and ratification of cheques moved Leeola Loughnan seconded Marie Majoor.
- **Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor (Meryon Goode)**
 - As requested Meryon wrote to the Trustees after the January meeting and has now confirmed that Lou Momoru has formally accepted the scholarship. All four Scholars have now commenced their studies.
 - Photos of all Scholars are now to hand enabling Meryon to finalise the brochure and organise printing and posting. It was noted that a large number of covers were still in stock, and the basic format for the insert was approved.
 - Meryon will now send all Units news of our 2013 Scholars.
 - It was noted that electronic copies of photos of Scholars are available should anyone wish to use these on Fellowship Day.
 - Following the tsunami in the Solomon Islands Meryon emailed Cynthia Gifford to ask if there is any news about Christina [Taviti] in Vanuatu.
 - There was some discussion of the shared responsibility for the "Honouring Australian Church Women" book. Guidelines provisions may need attention.
- **Fellowship of the Least Coin Convenor (Olive Dell)**
 - Olive reported that she had received the new edition of Circle of Prayer. There was some discussion of how best to circulate this. It was agreed that Laurel would take copies to Queensland and that other Units' orders could be posted if they wished. Otherwise they can be collected at Conference.
- **Special Days Convenor (Olive Dell)**
 - Fellowship Day 2013 order of service is ready to go out to Units both in electronic copy and hard copy.
 - A suggestion for Special Project 2013 has been received from ACT: The Salvation Army's Safe House for Trafficked Women in Sydney. ACT has been sent an application form to be completed as soon as possible.
 - Draft of World Community Day service received from Victorian Unit. This was discussed and commended. Olive to ask for hymn numbers to be quoted from AHB or TIS if possible.
- **Social Justice (Laurel Pearce)**
 - A national day of prayer and fasting was held on Sunday, 10 February with Christian leaders and churches of all denominations across Australia taking part. The overarching theme this year is Revival and Transformation. We are called to pray for an outpouring of God's life to turn back the tide of death in our nation: suicide, drugs and alcohol addiction, decaying relationships, sex trafficking, pornography and child abuse. More details at www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au The national day of prayer and fasting is followed by 40

days of prayer and fasting over the period of Lent from 13 February to 24 March 2013 For more details see www.40daysofprayer.com.au

- A study by the University of Queensland, commissioned by the Federal Government, and reported on in the Seniors W.A. December issue, states that 20% of homeless Australians are over 65 and many more older Australians are at risk of homelessness. Older people find it extremely difficult to access the services they need when faced with homelessness. There is no systematic approach to addressing the relative neglect of older homeless people. Older homeless people include

1. those who have experienced long term homelessness, often associated with alcohol and drug abuse and mental health issues.
2. those who have limited financial resources.

Further research will be undertaken to explore possible policy and programme responses. The problem is getting worse, particularly for older people becoming homeless for the first time, because of the decline in availability of public housing for seniors and the increasing number of older Australians retiring without owning a home. Copies of this article available.

- **ACWC (Donna Bryan)** No report
- **Australian Women's Coalition**
 - An update received from AWC on the latest developments of the Shout programme. Improvements have been made in the conditions governing the young Women's Project. Updates were sent to Jean Thomson (alternate AWC delegate) for her comments, and Laurel sent support for the project to AWC.

9. General Business

- **ACWC Executive Committee Meeting (June 2013)**
 - Hire of hall contract forms have been completed and sent to Australian/Asian Association. Their rooms can be viewed from Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. any week. Laurel will circulate suggested dates for any NE member interested.
 - The Salvation Army, Perth Fortress Corps Officer has agreed to our use of their 20 seater bus for transporting delegates, both for the ACWC Executive Committee visit and for the National Conference. There will be no hire fees. They just ask for replacement of petrol used. We will need to advise them of the dates we need the bus. The officer is also happy for the Executive Committee members who attend the Fortress for the Sunday Church parade to be acknowledged and have the opportunity to speak. Meryon has also spoken to the Minister at the Anglican church who will be delighted to welcome committee members.
 - Further discussion re catering –to be finalised when we have the full programme.
 - Letters to be sent to ACWC and to Executive Committee members re their visit to Perth. An update on progress will also be sent to Moon Sook and Donna.
- **Visit of Esther Kilaghbian to Australia**
 - The proposed itinerary for Esther's visit has been sent to Units. Queensland, ACT and South Australia have confirmed that the proposed dates suit them. Tasmania has indicated some difficulties with members attending the UCAF event.
 - Laurel to contact Barbara Gear to discuss booking international flights.
- **Guidelines Review** It was agreed that Margaret would collate all suggestions and produce a document for further discussion as soon as possible. We will need to decide whether to present a single document to Conference or a series of suggested amendments.
- **Closure of Meeting** Meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on **Monday 11 March** at 10am. **Devotions:** Meryon Goode
Minutes confirmed **Date**

National President