



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

---

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 19 March 2012, 10.30 a.m.

**WELCOME:** The President welcomed everyone, with a special welcome to Major Laurel Pearce President of National Executive, visiting from Western Australia.

**DEVOTIONS:** Nola told us that in The New Living Translation of Luke Chapter 2 verse 49, it reads "But why did you have to search?" He (Jesus) asked. "You should have known I would be in my Father's house." But they didn't understand what He meant. Nola related the story of Mary, from the visit of the angel telling her she was to give birth to a son, a special son, the Son of God. We heard the progress of Jesus' life through the eyes of a mother. She didn't understand His life either, not till He had died on the cross and was raised did all He had spoken to her during His life suddenly make sense, the privilege of knowing Him, for nearly 33 years. Then she gave thanks and praised God for His goodness, for the peace she had at last from knowledge, for sin forgiven and the promise of everlasting life.

**PRAYER,** thank you Father for the gift of life, for the forgiveness of our sins, for the promise of eternal life with You, now and forever. May we never forget the cost to You and Your Son for our salvation. May we continue to work in harmony with each other and for the good of the gospel. May we bring glory to Your name. We pray these things in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord our Saviour. AMEN.

**PRESENT:** 30 as recorded.

1 visitor

**APOLOGIES:** 16 as recorded.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 February 2012 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Lillian Hodges

**NOLA INVITED LAUREL TO SPEAK :** Laurel spoke about the 3 young women nominated to attend the Young Women's Forum in Bangkok in May this year and the criteria requested. Elaine Ledgerwood (WA), Leanne Smith (WA) and Sonya Pell (NSW), all very worthy fine young women, making the voting process difficult. However after a secret ballot, Sonya was selected. Laurel told us the National Committee had decided to invite all three girls to attend the Conference in Western Australia in 2013 to speak to and meet the delegates.

Laurel told us about their National Committee, how they are progressing, only 7 ladies which is a challenge. Great to hear prayers to and from member countries. Donna Bryan had sent message to Japan remembering first anniversary of tsunami. The Theme they decided upon for their term is "Our choice is Love," which they try to live out. Constitution is ongoing, hopefully this will be completed. They are working on the conference, the venue has good accommodation – but will need to use another venue as well, buses will transport ladies to and from these places. They hope to keep costs to that of Adelaide in 2011, date 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2013. Still waiting for 2011 conference minutes.

### BUSINESS ARISING:

1. AGM 16 April 2012 - Nominations forms available, council members were asked to keep the need for filling positions in mind. A reminder was given of the need for Annual Reports.
2. Service of Dedication is to be held at 11am 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012 in Uniting Church Carrington Ave Strathfield with lunch to follow. Leaflets and invitations were available.

### REPORTS

**TREASURER:** Carmel Keys presented the report in the absence of Helen Richardson. Balance at bank stands at \$7,357.85.

On the motion of Carmel Keys and Pamela Freeman, the financial report was received and payment of accounts passed. Carried

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Lillian Hodges reported that the new Circle of Prayer booklets are available. Lillian read a devotion by Juanita Miller from John Ch. 20 v 18. (Circle of Prayer) then prayed, thanking our Lord for His Word and example, to guide us in using our ears and eyes and ability for the extension of His kingdom. In the name of Jesus Amen.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton had sent report with messages received from Singapore, Mongolia, Nepal, Malaysia and Japan. Also from Rev. Lee Moon Sook prayers for the people of Australia suffering from floods.

Reminder the Multi Cultural concert is on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 2-30 in St Mary's Catholic Church in Manly. Happy to receive more suggestion for items.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman had attended PPSEAWA Service at UCA Turramurra, very interesting speaker, (Bronwyn Fraser) whose topic was "Gender equality in education and in general in the Tongan society." There is a need to give women a voice and change the gender bias against them.

**Pamela stressed the need for someone to take on the role of Convener of Special Days, pointing out if no one comes forward there will be no special days organised in the coming year.**

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith has received 2012 pamphlets, distributed at meeting. Has sent encouragement cards to 3 new scholars. From National Convener Meryon : Sarah Dingle is lecturing in Medieval and Australian history; prayer that she can balance her study with part time work, gives thanks for scholarship; Kyounghee Cho looking forward to Conference in Malaysia, Soc. Of Asian Biblical Studies; she has to present a proposal for thesis at post grad. seminar in June, Topic is "Mary, Mother of Jesus." She seeks balance with studies and family life. Judith has been in touch with Alan Walker College expressing gratitude for their friendship to she and her husband when they visited scholars there in the past. Due to restructuring, residential courses are no longer available at the college.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys raised these points: Same Sex Marriage; reasonable rent for low income families; women in Poverty; Palliative for the ill not euthanasia; education for children with disabilities; Need for hospitals, nursing homes, doctors and staff to support and care for the sick and aged; need a global authority on finance; constitution report has been presented, we need to know more about it before voting; be aware what is happening in local community.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone had sent Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse a card for her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. She is to be asked if she would like to be nominated to attend the Jean Arnot Luncheon.

NEWSETTE: Jennifer Peffer thanked members who have renewed their subscriptions and paid, still a few to come. Reports to be in by 7<sup>th</sup> April for next issue. Laurel told Jennifer that Newsette is greatly appreciated by the committee in WA.

PUBLICITY: Leaflets and invitations for the Dedication Service were available.

The reports were received on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Merle Menzies.

#### CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

- a) National Minutes
- b) Invitation from National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW Division to attend Harmony Day
- c) Invitation to attend MU annual service on 30<sup>th</sup> March
- d) Email from Major Laurel Pearce re billet and visit
- e) " " " Kay Clarke-Pearce re ACW branch in Armidale
- f) " " " Pamela Freeman re advice for order of service booklets
- g) " via National, message from ACWC Vice President Devika Ukwatte, prayers for our flood victims.
- h) " from Margaret Flint re delay with 2011 conference minutes
- i) Questionnaire from National re Constitution

#### CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

Acknowledging and answering emails

Correspondence accepted on motion of Helen Hill and Jan Jeffrey

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nola asked Jennifer to present the decisions made by Executive in response to questions by National on the upgrading process of the Constitution. This was done and with no objections, Jennifer moved to ratify the answers with Jan Jeffrey seconding.

Jennifer asked Laurel to take back to her Executive our appreciation in NSW at being included in the update.

**PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:** Nola will attend MU Service at St Andrews Cathedral and Jewish Women's Harmony Day.

**OTHER ORGANISATIONS:**

**PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION:** Edith Ridge reported on meetings in 2011, Kate Morioka, a youth ambassador, who has worked in many places encouraging young women to join PPSEAWA, she has been working in PNG helping young people develop skills that might help them become employed. Mrs Marcelle Tanner OAM is also known as Bubbles the Clown! She told the meeting of the origin of clowns all the while adding the accoutrements of a clown, so that when she finished speaking she was dressed as a clown. March was AGM. PPSEAWA NSW will financially support 2 Marie Bashir Peace Awards through NCW, each worth \$250; \$500 given to flood relief through CWA and to PPSEAWA International Youth Fund; \$300 to Benevolent Society. Luncheons will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> October.

**GIRLS BRIGADE:** No report

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** No report

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN:** No report

**GIRL'S BRIGADE:** No report

**CHURCHES TOGETHER:** No report

**HONOURING CHURCH WOMEN:** Jennifer read Isabel's report on five women from the book, namely Flora Hunt - Churches of Christ member, Monica Rowlands - Presbyterian, Winifred Wyper - Congregational - Jessie Dennis - Presbyterian then Uniting, Bernadette Foster.

**The Book is always brought to meetings for anyone to read about the women Isabel picks to speak about.**

Reports moved on a motion by Nola Dickson and Judith Baker

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Sonya Pell our successful nominee to attend the Young Women's Forum will speak to us at the next meeting.

Thanks to the Catholic ladies for morning tea, and to the Salvation Army ladies for setting up the room.

**CLOSING PRAYER** was given by Laurel, thanking God for fellowship, prayer and sponsoring understanding amongst us all.

**NEXT MEETING:** 16th April 2012 - AGM, followed by Council Meeting.

**MORNING TEA:** Salvation Army

**CHAIRS:** Church of Christ

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

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