



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

*Minutes of Council Meeting Monday 19 November 2018,
10.00 am, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney*

OPENING: President Peg McEntee welcomed all to the meeting and commented that we have had many blessings during this year.

DEVOTIONS: Peg shared the Editor's letter from the CWL Scripture Diary, which tied in with the talks we have had about love, during the year. 'Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'. (Romans 15:13) 'For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39).

PRESENT: There were 30 members present.

APOLOGIES: Sr. Elizabeth Delaney, Olive Edmondson, Margaret Gregory, Jo De Groot, Jennifer Pepper, Ineke Nieuwland, Janice Willis.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th August 2018 were confirmed on the motion of Yvonne Coorey, Seconded by Beatrice Kay.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. **ACWC Concert and State Conference:** Everyone agreed the concert was very successful – positive comments were made about the enjoyable program and the afternoon tea. The amount of \$1300 was raised for ACWC. Peg thanked Pamela for the work she did organising this event.

Peg commented that the **State Conference** was a good day, but disappointing that more did not attend. Positive comments were made about the speakers, Lt. Colonel Pamela Hodge, who presented the bible study and Rev. Cameron Eccleston from Baptist World Aid. Peg thanked Isabel for the work put into the display of memorabilia and to Martha who made the beautiful 80th Anniversary Cake, decorated with the ACW NSW Unit logo. Thanks were also expressed to the ladies of Concord Baptist Church for their hospitality. National President, Mrs Fran Moss, shared the day with us and presented a Certificate in recognition of our 80 years.

2. **Formation of the Illawarra Branch:** Pat Cory, Peg McEntee and Tricia Graham attended a meeting on Friday 16th November. People were to come prepared to form a committee. Two ladies who are keen are going through ill health at the moment. Peg will stay in the Chair as President for the time being. She is certain someone will step forward. Jo Clark will be the Secretary and Pat Cory is the treasurer for the time being. Jennifer Pepper sent protocol sheets regarding setting up a branch. The World Day of Prayer service will be a good opportunity to speak about ACW. Peg will be speaking at the Gerringong WDP service in March. The new branch can use the meeting room at Wollongong cathedral free of charge.

3. **Essay Competition:** Elizabeth and Martha drove to Bathurst on 8th November to attend the Scots School Assembly. A certificate and a cheque for \$50 was presented to Year 9 student Simi Alluri, who came second in the ACW Essay Competition. Simi's essay was about Mother Theresa. Elizabeth read Simi's essay to the meeting, which all agreed was of a high standard.

4. **Calendar 2019** – The ACW NSW Unit Calendar was distributed at the meeting.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments covering the period 1st August to 31st October 2018. The total income for this period was \$9148.25. Total Payments August-October were \$1205.68, giving a Credit Balance at bank of \$13040.68. Pat reminded that the Newsette subscriptions were due.

Accounts to be paid were: Reimbursements to P. Freeman (State Conf.) \$30, E. McEwen (Concert expenses) \$121.04; E. McEwen (State Conf. \$42.99); J. O'Hara (State Conf.) \$21.00; I. Hewitt, (Newsette Exp.) \$133.68; E. McEwen, (petrol to Bathurst, \$52.48). Pat thanked the Uniting Church ladies for looking after the Trading Table during 2018.

Pat moved that the Financial Report be accepted and that the accounts be paid; Seconded by Tricia Graham. Carried.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Judy O'Hara spoke about Human Dignity – an individual's or group's sense of self-respect and self-worth. Each and every person has value and is worthy of respect. It is the most important human right. Humanity's unique dignity flows from our being created in God's image (Gen. 1:27). The little you do individually or as a group to 'stand-up' for human dignity will go around like the least coin and bear much fruit, for God's glory. *Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.*

Special Days: Lyn Middleton thanked everyone who organised World Community Day in their branch. Reports have been coming in on WCD. Numbers were down a bit, but there have been very good attendances. Lyn was encouraged by Tamworth where some new groups have joined up and they had an attendance of 46. Reports of the WCD services held by their branches were given by Newcastle, Epping, Burwood/Concord/Strathfield and Bathurst representatives. Brenda reported that Sutherland Branch is having a break, but one of the churches rang to say they collected money for WCD.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Detailed news is in Newsette. **Leinamau** (Vanuatu 2007) her Master's Degree studies continue at Fiji Theological College. She is busy with studies but thanking God for his faithfulness always. **Esline** (Vanuatu 2016) is appreciative of our prayers and our remembrance of her. Please pray for Elizabeth Neale, our Girls' Brigade Representative, for promoting WKS for possible future applications from PNG.

Yane (Aust. 2015) asks for prayer for opportunities to continue to use her gifting for God and His Kingdom. Yane spoke at a Ladies' Breakfast recently. She has written a booklet on Forgiveness.

Please continue praying for our 2018 Scholars – Lauren England with her studies in the US and Elise Ruthenbeck Stilson (SA) that her plans progress for her research studies in the US, and for her husband's employment and their finances.

Social Issues: Rae Goth presented three issues with sample letters to send:

- 1) To the Prime Minister expressing support to establish a working relationship between Federal and State Governments on policies concerning immigration levels and population growth.
- 2) To Federal Treasurer expressing concern regarding the decrease in support to food banks.
- 3) To Minister for Women regarding the disparity of pay between men and women in our society.

Glenda McSorley commented that with elections coming up it's worth while writing to our politicians.

Membership: Martha reminded that the Circle of Prayer booklets are available for \$3 each and suggested that the book 'Winifred' makes a good Christmas gift.

Pastoral Care: Helen Hill thanked members for their prayers and support with the passing of her husband David. Helen asked for prayer for Jan Harrison who is soon undergoing surgery. She commented on the work of Jennifer Peffer and attributed the success of WCD of the Epping Branch to her. Helen wished everyone a happy and holy Christmas.

Newsette: Copy for the next Newsette is requested by mid-January. Isabel referred to the article in the November Newsette about finding information on State Life Members. There are seven for whom she is looking for photos. She has found two. Presbyterian organisations are checking on a couple of them: Elizabeth Pearson and Rita McDermott, who died in 1960. She was from Bexley Presbyterian Church. Isabel has spoken to Heather Reid and she will see what she can do about two Baptist Ladies. The other one she is looking for is Joan Curtin – She had two children, her son might be a medical man in Sydney. Peg spoke to Helen Cook, they are looking.

ACWC: Tricia Graham referred to the success of the ACWC Concert of Praise and said that it was a very delightful afternoon with items from many representatives from our Asian neighbours. No prayer requests have been received from our National ACWC Representative, which means there has been no national disasters in that area.

Publicity: Nothing to Report

Peg McEntee moved that the Reports be received; Seconded by Tricia Graham. Carried.

Correspondence – Inwards

PPSEAWA re book launch 2/9
Lakemba Uniting Church re donation FLC PPSEAWA
Spring Luncheon invitation
Brigade Affect Newsletter 30/8
NE - prayer request for Japan
Croydon Park Baptist re FLC
D. McKenzie – request ACW program 2019
Lynette Green – Essay Comp. results
CSL Wentworthville re FLC
NE Notice of AGM
Helen Lloyd – thank you
PWA – Span 9/18
ACWC Newsletter
L. Pearce – thank you
NE – Minutes of AGM Teleconference

Correspondence – Outwards

Lakemba Uniting church re FLC
WDP Secretary – ACW representatives
Croydon Park Baptist re FLC
Re-sent Email to Uniting Church re room bookings
D. McKenzie re ACW 2019 program
CWL Wentworthville re FLC DONATION
Card to Laurel Pearce
Lynette Green – presentation of Essay certificate
Alyson Madsen re voting delegate AGM
Card to Jan Harrison
Joy Arnold, Women to Women re President Elect

Tex Quirk moved that the correspondence be received, Seconded by Judy O'Hara. Carried.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/ TO ATTEND:

President Peg attended the ABM Mission Morning Tea on 26 September and The World Community Day Service at St Gerard Majella church at Carlingford

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

Bible Society: - No report

Girls Brigade: Elizabeth Neale reported on the activities of GB including Leadership Training which included a community service project 'Share the Dignity, where girls buy bags and fill them with personal essentials for women who are in refuges and left their homes with nothing. Elizabeth has visited PNG and the Girls' Brigade in Port Moresby. She attended a Church Parade at the Lutheran Church and received handmade bags and skirts as gifts. She asked for prayer for the

leaders and the girls in PNG. She has also attended a National Conference in Tasmania for four day which looked at the past, present and future. Elizabeth thanked ACW for support and prayers and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

National Council of Women: Tricia Graham reported that in September NCW again celebrated the Dame Marie Bashir Peace Awards, with six young women awarded a Certificate and a cheque for their work in promoting peace and harmony in their community.

Later in the month ten members from NSW attended the NCW Triennial Conference in Canberra, over three days. Speakers included the Hon. Kelly O'Dwyer, Senator Jenny McAllister, Senator, the Hon. Michaelia Cash and Sharon Claydon, MP for Newcastle. Together with many from the business community there were 17 Speakers in all. They were all very interesting and covered a variety of subjects. The main themes of the Conference were violence against women, homelessness for older women and economic security for women.

Tricia reminded us to look around the members of our organisations to nominate the members who will celebrate their 90th birthday in 2019, or who have already reached that milestone, so they can be honoured at the Jean Arnot Lunch in April next year.

NSW Ecumenical Council: Isabel attended Choral Evensong at St Paul's Burwood, where Dr Ray Williamson, who has just become the new President, was the preacher. The Christmas Bowl for 2018 was launched.

Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA) – No Report

World Day of Prayer: The material for WDP 2019, prepared by the people of Slovenia, was shown at the November meeting. The offertories from the day will go towards programs for Trauma Healing for Slovenian Women. The material has now been dispatched by the Bible Society to those who are organising the WDP service next year. If you would like to run a Service and need the material, please contact the World Day of Prayer Co-ordinator through their website. The next meeting will be on Monday, February 25th, 2019. Tricia wished everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ACW NSW Unit President Elect: It is the turn of the Baptist church to provide the next President Elect. The Baptist ACW representatives will meet before the February Council meeting and provide a progress report.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 18th February, 2019

Morning Tea: Uniting

Chairs: Catholic

Trading Table: Anglican

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 12.25 pm. Peg thanked everyone for a wonderful 2018.