



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 8th floor at 222 Pitt Street on Monday 21 February, 2005 at 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Lyn Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting, with apologies for the confusion which arose when the room allocated was found to be too small.

Heather Badgery then introduced the new President Elect, Mrs Carmel Keys, who comes as a representative of the Catholic Church, and Mrs Irene Roberts who is one of the new representatives from the Uniting Church.

DEVOTIONS: Lyn Middleton read the 'lost chapter', Luke 15, with its references to the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son/forgiving father. Lyn reflected on the searching heart of God – the diligent search until the lost is found – as seen in God's search for humanity. We have often neglected to see that God is seeking us – as He did with Israel in Hosea's time – a tireless search for estranged mankind. The first question in the Bible in Genesis 3: 9 is 'Where are you?' and it continues as God searches for humankind. We are specially designed for partnership with God. Where are you in your relationship to God? Don't sleep too close to where your walk with God began – keep moving.

PRESENT: 45 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 11 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of 15 November, 2004 were confirmed on the motion of Thora Thomas and Helen Hill. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. **President Elect.** Carmel Keys introduced herself to Council by telling something of her story. Her early life in Sydney where she was educated and became a pharmacist was followed by time in Melbourne. In a new suburb Carmel was on the committee for development, and churches in the area shared facilities. She taught catechetics, migrant English, and joined the Catholic Women's League. On her return to Manly in Sydney Carmel became familiar with Australian Church Women, and her continuing participation in Catholic Women's League led to her becoming State President.

2. **Service of Dedication** to be held at Chatswood Salvation Army on Monday 16 May 2005 at 10.30 am. The speaker is to be ACW National President, Major Nancy McLaren. The venue is within easy walking distance of Chatswood railway station, but details of travel by bus to be available closer to the time – construction work at Chatswood has meant changes to bus stop locations. Publicity leaflets will be available at March Council meeting, and Janet Lang will have a board for catering.

3. **Bible Society NSW Auxiliary** expression of interest in affiliating with Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. led to the exchange of Constitutions as required. Council endorsed the recommendation of Executive that the Bible Society NSW Auxiliary be accepted as an affiliated body and be notified accordingly.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the books have been audited for 2004. Balance at the end of January was \$3252.10. Moved Helen, seconded Nancy McLaren that the report be received and payments approved. Carried.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC-COUNCIL MEETING 21/2/2005-2
MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery welcomed Beryl Kirkwood who has not been well, and expressed condolences to Pam Freeman whose mother-in-law had died recently.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer's written report referred members to the latest *Newsette*. She also drew attention to the call for applications for a scholar in 2006 from multi-cultural Australia.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang was very late because of train problems, and Lyn Middleton read a report Janet had prepared. When Janet arrived she was able to tell of the two grants made to Australian projects: \$US 3,500 for *Journey to Wholeness* in Kwinana, WA; \$US4,000 to *Hope Street Women's Space* in Sydney.

NEWSETTE: Copy for next issue is required by 18 April. Nola Dickson has indicated that she will retire as *Newsette* Manager at the AGM. Someone is needed to take on this job which Nola has done so well.

ASIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Ramona recommended the ACWC *Newsletter* as worthy of subscription as a means of keeping informed of what is happening in the region. She read Pat Walker's report and told of a Christian group in Aceh, Indonesia, who were spared the tsunami because they had gone from their village to celebrate Christmas. Reference was made to Shu-Wen's mother who has suffered a stroke, and prayers were offered on her behalf.

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren had prepared posters for the Annual Service of Dedication and for the July Spiritual Enrichment Day. Flyers will be available at March meeting.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird reported that the abortion issue was again being raised in Parliament. She stressed the need to look at the total issue: Why is abortion happening? What is being done to help women? Individual letters carry more weight than a petition.

Force Ten has produced a kit on trafficking – *I am not for sale* – and this will be the focus for Simply Sharing Week, 15-22 May. For copies of kit contact Force Ten, Locked Bag 199 QVB Post Office, 1230 Joan is to attend a seminar on justice issues.

Moved Helen Hill, seconded Cela Cooper that the reports be received.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

ACW National: Minutes 11/10/2004; 15/11/2004; Christmas greetings

Pat Walker – ACWC November report

Bible Society – re Affiliation; Constitution/Rules

CWLA NSW Inc – Confirmation of Carmel Keys as ACW NSW President Elect

Mina Whybourne – re badge

Edith Ridge – re UCAF Newsletter, UCAF representatives

YWCA – Health & Wellbeing Seminar Lunch 25/2/2005

Glebe Trust – statements

UC Adult Fellowship NSW Synod Committee – Service 9/2/2005 at 2.00pm Wesley Chapel

MU Executive – Christmas greetings

Judith Cayzer – apology, report

PPSEAWA – membership renewal form

Force Ten – *I am not for sale* kit – deals with trafficking

PWA *Span* 12/2004; UCAF *Newsletter* 11/2004; *The Branch* CWLA Parramatta 12/2004; *NCW NSW News* 11/2004, 2/2005; *Womenspace* 11/2004; *ACW Vic News*; *ACW News*

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

Ramona Cowle; Elsie Cox; Mina Whybourne; Helen Richardson; Sr Joan Bird

Bible Society – re affiliation

ACW National – Minutes 15/11/2004

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC-COUNCIL MEETING 21/2/2005-3

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND: WCTU, St Stephens Macquarie Street - Christmas Luncheons
NCW Australia Day Luncheon
Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Service 9/2/2005; MU Service 18/3/2005

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE: At National Conference which will be held at Collaroy 9-14 October NSW will be hosts. On behalf of the National Executive Jan Harrison encouraged Council members to come and celebrate 50 years of FLC, 40 years of WKS and the 20th National Conference. Jan asked for people to volunteer to help with such needs as billeting, transport, gifts for speakers or to be generally available to help as needed. The prayers of members in support of the conference were asked for.

ACW WEBSITE: Lyn Middleton outlined the moves National had made regarding the desirability of an ACW Website, including the costs that might be associated with such a venture. Members were in agreement with the steps taken and were in support of having a website.

HONOURING AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN: Isabel Hewitt told of the National Executive project to provide a copy of this book for each State/Territory. It was pointed out that the last entry from NSW was for Dorothy Woodhouse, and at Executive there was the thought that there were many whose names ought to be considered for inclusion. Some names were of women who have already died, while others it would be good to honour in their lifetime. It was agreed that Executive should choose names for inclusion in *Honouring Australian Church Women* and submit them in consultation with the Treasurer as a contribution of \$50 per entry was considered an appropriate donation.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY: Advance notice for 18 July 2005 when the theme will be God's Treasure – the treasure received, the treasure within and treasure shared.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER COMMITTEE: Judith Baker reminded people of the date for this year, 4 March 2005. There had been a mail out of 354 packages to churches.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: First meeting for the year will be held soon.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported that there had been a good meeting in November. They are looking forward to hearing about micro-credit at their next meeting. Luncheons with speakers set down for the year include one 11/3/05 at North Turrumurra in conjunction with UNIFEM, and 27/4/05 and 28/9/05. There had been a Christmas card from PPSEAWA. Edith also reported that ACW National Life Member Marjory Verco had sent greetings.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Ruth Dickinson reported on a coming weekend activity with 200 young people camping at Geroa, with 400-500 spending the day at Jamberoo. Ruth asked for prayers for the success of this activity.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION: Annual Convention is to be held 12 April 2005 at the Salvation Army Headquarters.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Members were reminded of the need for nominations for Executive positions, and reports were requested from Conveners, representatives to/from other organizations.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC-COUNCIL MEETING 21/2/2005-4

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A number of ACW friends attended the retirement of David and Joan Tong on 16 January 2005 at Dulwich Hill Salvation Army. Joan expressed her appreciation.

Pat Sutton told of the experience of her son and daughter-in-law who were in Phuket at the time of the tsunami which struck on 26 December 2004. They were fortunate in that they had decided to go away from the beach for the day and returned to see the devastation the wave caused. Pat was understandably very thankful for their safety.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Lyn Middleton closed the meeting with prayer

NEXT MEETING: 21 March 2005

CHAIRS: Churches of Christ

MORNING TEA: Catholic

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____