



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

Minutes – Council Meeting – Monday 18th June 2012

WELCOME: President Isabel Hewitt welcomed all to the meeting and introduced new members (a) Colleen Johnston [Uniting Church], (b) Joy Inglis [The Salvation Army], (c) Rhyllis Davey [Bible Society] and included Edith Ridge after her recent illness.

DEVOTIONS: Isabel encouraged all to acknowledge those who have gone before us. In her recent travelling to Myall Creek she had witnessed the miracle of reconciliation between descendants of victims of atrocities against aboriginal people and those whose forefathers had been the perpetrators of such violence. Such moments aided in releasing the burden of guilt from that family.

In Poland a wafer is shared at Christmas signifying forgiveness, unity, love and best wishes. In Ephesians we are reminded to bear with one another in love – one body, one spirit – to live a life of love as Christ lived for us.

The prayer was that we be helped to be mindful of our aim to unite Christian women and to give thanks for those who have gone before and that we be made worthy inheritors of their legacy to us.

Isabel gave greetings from Peg Blake now in Newcastle and Major Nancy McLaren now resident in Armidale.

PRESENT: 38

APOLOGIES: 11

MINUTES from AGM Monday 16th April were confirmed by Helen Hill and Carmel Keys and initialled by President Isabel Hewitt.

CONFIRMATION of MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 16th April were confirmed on the motion of Lyn Middleton and Judith Baker

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Dedication Day – Isabel thanked everyone for the contributions and support that made this day memorable.
2. Banner – Isabel Hewitt presented the need for a new banner. Jennifer Pepper invited people to be creative. A page noting the criteria for such a banner was distributed. Ideas to be sent to Isabel. Carmel Keys supported the concept of the banner and making cards to advertise ACW. Tricia Graham suggested that the name(s) of the author(s) and the year be placed on the back of the banner. Marie Craddock had details regarding the previous National Banner [NSW]
3. Vacancies for conveners on Executive NSW State Unit – Rae Goth appointed by NSW State Executive to be convener for Social Issues. No convener for Special Days or for Publicity

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported the Cash Book Balance as \$8617.45 at end of May 2012. This report was passed on the motion of Helen Richardson and Jennifer Pepper. Confirmed

FELLOWSHIP of the LEAST COIN: [FLC] Lillian Hodges has visited Lithgow Uniting Church and Isabel spoke at Bexley Uniting Church. From this contact it is hoped that World Community Day will be held at Bexley. Lillian is going to Penrith Presbyterian Church to speak at the end of June. Lillian shared from the 'Circle of Prayer' from the writings of Asinate F Samate, the Pacific Representative to ICFLC. "In the creation story of Genesis, God gave human beings power and authority to 'rule over' and have 'dominion over...every living thing'. It is what we do with that power and authority that counts. If we care, protect and conserve these we are using the power and authority entrusted to us in a wise and responsible way. Let us be makers of peace, promoters of justice, practitioners of reconciliation and wise, responsible stewards of God's creation and the environment by praying and acting for change".

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: [ACWC] Lyn Middleton tabled the report from Sonya Pell following the successful Young Women's Conference in Bangkok in May. ACWC General Committee met and World President Donna Bryan, as ACW representative, presented a report on the work of ACW for the past year. [Report tabled] Donna presented report as President. [Report tabled]. There have been requests for prayer from Executive Secretary Rev Lee, Moon-sook, following natural disasters in Nepal and Japan. Further information was shared about Mongolia, our prayer partner. Preparations for the Concert are well in hand - on Sunday 21st October at 2.30 pm – Manly Catholic Church – cnr Raglan & Whistler Sts – Lyn prayed for Mongolia in the light of updates shared.

SPECIAL DAYS: In the absence of a convener, Pamela Freeman reported that the Fellowship Day materials have been posted out. The World Community Day order of service is being prepared for printing and should be out in August, with the theme *Love in Action* based on the account of Mary washing the feet of Jesus in Luke ch7 as prepared by the Tasmanian Unit. [Noted Page4 AHB song 421 should be 451]

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS: [WKS] Judith Cayzer gave the reminder that the Winifred Kiek Scholarship is supported by funds accrued through the offerings given at Fellowship Day in July. The book *Winifred* was published again. Report given on scholars.

- **Christy Ferguson [2009]** Middle East Mission. Has been away for 1 year. Regular newsletter. Later in the year will move to a village area where there is no health worker. Prayer request for forward planning, accommodation, language and friendships.
- **Kyoung Hee [2012]** Sydney. Thesis sent in. June 11 Conference in Sabah/ Malaysia to deliver a presentation. International Conference in Amsterdam July 22-27. Is feeling the pressure, helping her minister husband and with 3 young children. Prayer request for courage and enthusiasm to keep going to complete the studies.
- **Denise Champion [2012]** South Australia- studies done in QLD. One block in August/ one block in November. Is chairperson for SA-Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress [UAICC]. Meetings in Alice Springs July 7-13. National UCA July 15-20 in Adelaide. Prayer request for balanced life
- **Rachel Otto [nee Mcmanus 1997]** Married to Craig- 3 young children – youngest child has health problems. Prayer request for guidance regarding going back to work or studying.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Rae Goth spoke regarding action to be taken on the following issues.

1. Gay Marriage Debate – Statistics study shows best way for child's welfare is in a home with biological parents. Universal desire to know hereditary. (cf Family Voice on Google)
2. Ongoing erosion of funds to TAFE colleges which affects the number of courses offered and intake of students. Our society needs technically trained people as well as university graduates.
3. The difficulty for rent based persons to access low care and high care accommodation when required. Often placed in area away from current support network. Not easily able to be visited.

PASTORAL CARE: Helen Hill mentioned Norma Dumbrell, Dorothy Kenning, Jan Jeffrey's daughter, & Peg Blake. It was great to have Edith Ridge at the meeting. Jan Harrison's son and his family leave for overseas mission this week. Pray for these people.

NEWSETTE: Jennifer requested that copy for the next issue be to her by 6th July.

PUBLICITY: No report .

The reports were received on the motion of Tricia Graham and Shirley Mitchell.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

1. Minutes from National Executive for April with Circular and listing of correspondence
2. Minutes from National executive for May with Listing of correspondence and Treasurer's report.
3. Prayer request from National regarding Life member Leila Wilson
4. Prayer request for National Special Days Convener Major Olive Dell – passing of her father
5. Prayer request from National regarding National Life Member Dorothy Wright
6. Email - SHOUT program details sent out to the states from National Executive
7. Email - From Nat Exec ACW [via AWC] re: free Red Cross training sessions- recognizing signs of trafficking
8. Archival materials from WKS Trustees.
9. Proposal from National Executive about National AGM in November
10. Annual report from ACWC from Donna Bryan – sent from National Executive
11. Letter of Resignation from Sandra Wise [Anglican Church representative]
12. Notification of appointment of Mavis Coleman as Anglican representative
13. Email - Room confirmation for June Council Meeting
14. Materials for World Community Day 2012 from National Executive
15. Thank you note from Past President Nola Dickson to Executive for support during her presidency
16. June Minutes from National Executive
17. June 2012 National Executive Circular
18. Notification of death of National Life Member Leila Wilson
19. Invitation to Free Patient Seminar on Osteoporosis Sunday 12th August.
20. Invitation to Sydney Day Mission Support Group Monday 13th August

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

1. Email - Prayer request for Edith Ridge to National Executive
2. Copies of Annual report of NSW State Unit Inc sent to other State Units and heads of denominations/ organizations affiliated with NSW State Unit.
3. Notified Ros Amor of Mosman / Neutral Bay branch of acceptance of *Bear Cottage* application for Special Project.

Correspondence was accepted on the motion of Pamela Freeman and Edith Ridge

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Denise Secomb to attend Sydney Day Mission Support Group Thank Offering Service representing NSW State Unit Inc and to give report to Council meeting 20th August.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: Attended PPSEAWA

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Pan Pacific and South East Asian Women's Association - [PPSEAWA] At the May meeting the guest speaker was Adrienne Hirst who spoke on her travels in Namibia.

Girls' Brigade: Ruth Dickenson reported that there was an encouraging number of younger leaders at the recent state conference. People at the conference were amazed as they were reminded of the many opportunities that come to them for developing and discipling the 4-14 yr age group. GB has been in this work for 119 years and looks to the future, continuing to bring the love of Jesus and the message of salvation to this generation. During April, workshops were held with delegates from 7 countries in the Pacific Cultural dancing and craft were shared. Tourist spots and other churches visited around Sydney. Website [Facebook] available.

World Day of Prayer: No report

National Council of Women: [NCW] Tricia Graham reminded the council that the Members and Friends of NCW Morning Tea is held in the Wesley Brasserie, Wesley Centre, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney on the third Wednesday of the month 10.15-11.30. NCW NSW Council meetings are on the last Thursday of the month 6.00-8.00pm at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. ACW is affiliated with NCW and is entitled to have a representative attend on its behalf.

Churches Together: Isabel Hewitt reported that at the AGM Rev David Gill reflected on the ever changing nature of ecumenism. Currently the emphasis is on what we are learning from one another, 'Receptive Ecumenism'. The NSW Dioceses of the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Dioceses of Armidale and Newcastle have withdrawn from membership. Churches Together is to be facilitator rather than organizer. Isabel took the opportunity to talk with the head of the Lutheran church regarding renewing the participation of Lutheran women in ACW - also the Quakers.

HONOURING CHURCH WOMEN Isabel highlighted Esther Elkins and Joyce Pope [Qld] Doreen Strack [Vic] and Deirdre Hunter and Jean Austen [Tas]

BIBLE SOCIETY: Rhyllis Davey reported that there has been an amalgamation of the state bible societies into one national body making it the 2nd largest bible society in the world. 53 projects supported. Winter appeal for Rwandan reconciliation. Syria – bible to be sent out on smart phones. Children's bible being developed. Bible Society website for resources encouraging the reading of the bible. Chair of Lebanese Bible Society also International Chairperson. Speakers are available for local churches. Looking for local church members to be Bible Society representatives in local areas. Hymn fests arranged with proceeds to Bible Society

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Monday 17th September – Day Conference – Epping Uniting Church
Theme: The Kingdom of God is Justice and Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit.
2. National Executive for 2013-2015 coming from NSW– need to start thinking about how Executive selected
3. 75th Anniversary for NSW State Unit in 2013. ACW Council members to consider travelling out of the city to join in celebrations at other branches.
4. Contact details for Council members to be updated.

NEXT MEETING: 20th August 2012

MORNING TEA: Presbyterians

CHAIRS: Baptist

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Isabel closed in prayer