

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, held at 222 Pitt St. Sydney  
on Monday, 16 March, 1992.

OPENING. The meeting opened at 10.30a.m. with the President, Mrs. Major Joan Tong, in the Chair.

WELCOME. Three visitors were welcomed to the meeting. They were Mrs Jenny Johnston, the Guest Speaker, Mrs Avery Limmer, President of World Day of Prayer of Great Britain and Val Hunt of the Riverina, NSW.

THOSE PRESENT are recorded in the Attendance Sheets and were 46.

APOLOGIES numbered 14 and included Mrs Helen Danko of the Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhood, which denomination has just been accepted and welcomed as an Affiliated Organisation of ACW of NSW.

DEVOTIONS. The President read Psalm 95 a good song for a Monday morning. 'Come, let us praise the Lord! Come, let us bow down and worship him; He is our God; we are the people he cares for.' Prayer completed the time of devotions.

GUEST SPEAKER. Secretary Mrs Edith Ridge was pleased to welcome and introduce Jenny Johnston who works as a Field Worker for the Refugee and Resettlement Scheme of the Australian Council of Churches. Jenny convened the first meetings in 1985 of the NSW Committee of the U.N. Decade for Churches Solidarity With Women. At that time she was the Secretary to Dr. Ray Williamson, Exec. Secretary of NSW Ecumenical Council. A Rector's wife, Jenny is committed to the Ecumenical Movement and interested in the work of the women of the churches. Jenny reminded us of our roots, we in ACW are 'daughters' with the Ecumenical Council of the Australian Council of Churches.

She reminded us that the Holy Family was a refugee family when Mary & Joseph escaped with the baby Jesus to Egypt. 2000 years later there are still rulers like Herod, afraid of people opposing them. The educated people of Cambodia posed a threat to Pol Pot and he saw that they were removed by killing them.

Of the 17-18 million people who are refugees in the world today, over 80% of them are women and children, the helpless ones of society.

Jenny's address is reported in full and attached to these minutes.

Leaflets were distributed and information about a Workshop to be held at ACC. on 19 March was given.

Although this is a global problem, we can help those who come to our State. Goods, including clothing and household goods can be picked up if ACW members contact Jenny at A.C.C. Phone number 299-2215 or by writing to her at 42 Homebush Rd. Strathfield, phone 746-6349

Another way we can help is by learning the background to the cultures of refugee people we meet and by attempting to learn their language.

There are many ways we can show friendship to refugee people in our communities. Just a smile and a friendly greeting can help.

A vote of thanks to the speaker was moved by Mina Whybourne who reminded us of our privilege in living in a free and peaceful country. We should try to emphasise with these women and go home to our church groups to encourage others to help also. A gift was given to Jenny.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17 MEETING.

The Minutes had been distributed and were confirmed as a correct record.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

1. Meeting days. Members were advised that Meeting Programmes were available today for those who were away last month. Executive members were recommended to alter the dates given them for the April & June meetings, from the Tuesdays to the Mondays.

Bus. arising from the Feb. Minutes.

2. M.A.P.A. Conference. The Media Awareness Project Aust. Training Day and Conference were two wonderful days. We will hear more about MAPA and how we can be involved in the coming days. Then we should move into our local church communities and tell them about media awareness. Photos of the conference were circulated and Margaret Jessup was thanked for her contribution in taking these photos as a record of the exercise. Our delegates to MAPA were commended on the quality and amount of the work done for the Conference.

3. City Branch reported a good day for their Annual Picnic.

4. Peg Cameron attended the YWCA Garden Party and reported a great time.

5. Denominational Task Groups will meet for their first meetings at the close of today's Council meeting.

6. World Day of Prayer leaflets were distributed, members were asked to take invitations to the Installation Service and Branch Reports were tabled.

#### REPORTS.

1. Treasurer. The Financial Statement as attached was received and adopted. The Treasurer explained that the amount of \$915-94 being a Transfer to Administration was the amount allowed as expenses (30%) from the collections of FLC and World Community Day collections. It was reported that our income from the sale of Souvenirs items (pens, tea towels etc.) already exceeds the outlay to acquire this stock. Any future sales will be credit to our account. 'History of ACW in NSW'. It was resolved to keep the cost of these books at \$1 per copy.

2. Fellowship of the Least Coin. The Convenor read to us from a letter received from Shirin Samuel. New boxes for FLC collections are now available. Groups needing these boxes are recommended to order them. We are still waiting for copies of Circle of Prayer number 12. The FLC box was circulated and the convenor read from Circle of Prayer, 12, the Voice of India. 'Faith and Action are Partners'. She told the story of Ida Scudder who put her faith into action when she trained as a doctor and returned to India to work as a doctor for Indian women. We are reminded that James told us 'Faith without works is dead'. (James 2 v.17) The poem from 'In Search of the Least Coin' was read and prayer brought the meditation to a conclusion.

3. WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP. The Convenor told the meeting that the 1992 Scholar, Ana Manu Taumoepeau of Tonga has arrived and has begun her training in Launceston at the Uniting Church offices, where she is doing very well. A computer has been hired for her use and she is mastering all its intricacies and enjoying it. She is also having private lessons on the computer. She has been to Hobart and is fitting in well with everyone. It is hoped that Ana may come to Sydney for some of her training.

4. Promotions. We are awaiting Fellowship Day service 'Christ, Our Example' and when it has been printed, Packing Day will be held on Monday, 11 May, in Room 1A. (Part of the room we use for meetings.)

5. Publicity. The convenor has been very busy working for MAPA and with the FLC Convenor for its publicity. Publicity this month has focussed on general ACW work, and next month will concentrate on Installation Service on May 18.

6. Newsette. Contributions for the next issue were invited. The deadline is 6 April.

7. Membership Secretary. New lists of members are expected soon. The Membership Secretary has been busy with this and with 'taking stock' of members' badges. Please check that you don't take yours home!

CORRESPONDENCE. The Inwards and Outwards Correspondence as listed was received and dealt with.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhood. We welcome this group to our Council.
2. World Day of Prayer Committee. Packing days are announced as 19 & 20 October. People wanting to work on the 20th. Oct. are advised to check with Rose Hunter, the Secretary, as sometimes the packing is finished on the first day.
3. Festival of Flowers, St. Andrews Cathedral, September. Peg Blake will organise our display. Helpers are invited to speak to Peg. At the April meeting, the Flower Fund box will be available for donations towards the cost of the flowers for our entry.
4. National Minutes. Dates for the National Conference are announced as 13-17 September, at Camp Clayton, Ulverstobe. The Conference will be in 1993.  
World Community Day service is entitled 'Father Forgive Us, As We Forgive'. 1993 services will be written by South Australia and Queensland units.
5. Death of former President, Mrs Thelma Adam. The Secretary reported that a letter of sympathy has been sent to the family of Mrs. Thelma Adam, President of NSW Unit in 1965-66.  
Mrs Adam was remembered by Deaconess Mary Andrews as a quiet, gracious, loving lady. Never in a fluster, she came into office at a time when the Council was not as co-ordinated as it is now. She was able by her leadership to make the Council members feel they were part of a family.  
Mrs Yvonne Davis knew Mrs Adam since she visited Nimbin in 1962 as wife of the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church. At that time and since then, she proved to be a friend. Yvonne attended the service for Mrs Adam.

BUSINESS REPORTED FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEETING.

1. Executive recommended to Council that we enter the name of Mrs Kath Franklin, whose death was reported in February, to the National Memorial Bursary Book. Mrs Peg Blake and Mrs Mina Whybourne will supply the information needed and ask the family for a photograph to accompany the entry. It was proposed that \$25 be paid to the Memorial Bursary Fund. CARRIED.
2. Winfred Kiek Scholarship Review Report. Executive had worked on the report and asked Council to comment on the suggestions made. Council approved of most of the letter drafted on this matter, and asked that in two places alterations be made. A copy of the response to the Review Committee's Report is attached to these Minutes.
3. Delegates are reminded that all affiliation fees are due at the beginning of each year.
4. We are still receiving money sent on by people who are no longer FLC Convenors nor Treasurer of our Unit. Branch members are asked to check that their office bearers are aware that Dorothy Lumb is our Treasurer and Shirley Wells the FLC Convenor. When bringing FLC monies to either ACW meetings or to World Community Day services, members are asked to first change the coins into paper money or cheques, wherever possible.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

1. Announcements.  
Trading Table. Deaconess Andrews asked for members to remember to stop and buy at the Trading Table. She always welcomes things to sell. Yvonne Davis was asked to take greetings to the Western Australian Unit during her holiday in Perth.  
Marie McCann reported a very good Conference organised by the CWL.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

at Parramatta. Shirley Wells attended for ACW.

Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 March. Our members would be welcome to attend.

A.B.M. meeting on 25 March. Our apology as no-one is able to attend.

ABM Conference will be held 1-3 April.

All members are invited to attend the Salvation Army Women's Rally at Congress Hall, 9 May at 10.30 a.m.

2. Distribution of Nomination Forms took place. These forms to be in the hands of the Secretary before 6 April, please. Election of Officers will take place at the A.G.M. on 13 April.
3. Thanks were expressed to the Catholic ladies for Morning Tea & the Presbyterians for preparing the room.
4. Next meeting will be held on 13 April and there will also be held the A.G.M. on that day.

The Salvation Army members will serve morning Tea.

CLOSING. There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed by the President, who pronounced the BENEDICTION.

CONFIRMED.

13.4.92

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Fran Jones'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'F' and 'J'.

ADDRESS by Mrs. Jenny Johnston, Field Worker A.C.C. Refugee Resettlement Programme, to the Council meeting of ACW, 16.3.92

Jenny began her talk by reminding us that the Holy Family was a refugee family when Mary and Joseph escaped with the baby Jesus to Egypt. 2000 years later there are still rulers like Herod, afraid of people opposing them. The educated people of Cambodia posed a threat to Pol Pot and he saw that they were removed by killing them. Of the 17-18 million people who are refugees in the world today, over 80% of them are women and children, the helpless ones of society. Governments don't want women and children refugees to come to their countries. Only the Churches have responded to the needs of these women and children to be allowed to come here as refugees. Lately, however, our Government has responded positively to the requests on behalf of these people.

We are talking about REFUGEES, not MIGRANTS. Migrants can go back home if they don't want to stay. Refugees can't go back home, they cannot choose where they would like to live. They come with no resources, no travel documents, often with no possessions at all.

The United Nations Organisation takes responsibility for feeding and sheltering refugees.

Of course the best answer for refugees is for them to be repatriated when it is possible. This is what they would desire, too. But the reality is that they will have to wait many years before this is possible.

In times of great need Australia has been able to respond with some financial help. When three and a half million Afgans flooded into Pakistan as refugees from the war between USSR and Afghanistan, we sent money to Pakistan to help them feed and shelter such a large crowd.

Many refugees are unable to stay in the country where they first settle. Eleven thousand such refugees come each year to Australia. Jenny told us of the plight of 2 afghan girls. They had very little English, they needed to go to a friendly country, but where could they go, who could they trust. Often the guards in refugee camps are not trustworthy with defenceless women in their care. They applied to the Commonwealth Refugee Resettlement Scheme (Immigration Dept.) but the response was not enough to give them a lot of help. ACC has taken up their cause and workers are giving them moral support. (The Govt. meets the financial needs.)

What is lacking and desperately needed, is loving and caring for these people. Church groups can do this. Churches need to encourage people to spend time in giving to refugees friendship and support. Gifts of furnitur, linen, china, clothing, etc. are always able to be used. We can take these new people to Government departments, schools, shopping centres, hospitals, doctors, etc.

Jenny and one other worker are trainers of groups of people willing to help refugee people in these ways.

These groups of people find that there are many benefits to their communities, they receive as well as giving out. The benefits of church groups taking part in this scheme are unifying - community involvement brings the church together.

Members were asked to consider whether this is a possibility for us in our churches? Another benefit is that such activities break down racist barriers.

21-27 June is Refugee Week. This would be a good time to consider how we can help.

Jenny and Narelle Yeo are available day or night to speak to our church and community groups. They will also go to the country areas.

For those of us who have no other language than English, telephone interpreter services are available, so we can be confident in trying to assist. In fact, there are lots of things we can do. We can collect goods for distribution to newcomers. We can become home tutors in English.



There are classes available for such tutors.  
 The Workshop to be held on 19 March at ACC is titled 'Working with Survivors of Torture and Trauma.'  
 90% of women refugees have suffered both trauma and torture.  
 By assisting in any of these ways, we can share our understanding, showing the love we have received from God.  
 It is a Global problem, and may seem too big for us to handle, but we can start by helping those people who come to our state.

#### QUESTIONS.

Q. Where can we send goods?

A. Ring Jenny, she will arrange to have goods picked up.

Q. Would it be useful for us to try to learn the languages?

A. It would be useful for helpers to learn the background to the culture and certainly some language knowledge would be good.

Spanish lessons are available at the YWCA.

The Immigration Dept. provides English classes for the refugees, but there is a waiting list. The YWCA fills in the time while they're waiting.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (N.S.W. STATE UNIT)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1992

CR. BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1/2/1992 \$4,977.47

ADD FEBRUARY RECEIPTS

Affiliation Fees		150.00	
"Newsette" Subw.		225.00	
<u>Overseas Travel</u>			
Tea Money	7.50		
Trading Table	<u>24.50</u>	32.00	
Sales - Stock - 2 spoons	7.00		
Souvenirs	<u>34.00</u>	41.00	
A.C.W.C. Partners		19.00	
Transfer Fees F.L.C., W.C.D.		915.94	
A.C.W.C. Bulletin Subs.		15.00	
F.L.C.		264.60	
History Books		<u>2.00</u>	
			<u>1,664.54</u>
			6,642.01

DEDUCT - FEBRUARY PAYMENTS

M.A.P.A. Expenses		108.43	
Printing "Newsette" - January		28.75	
Stationery		4.50	
Treasurer's Report		30.00	
Bank Charge		.50	
<u>National Treasurer</u>			
F.L.C. (Bal. 29/2/1992)	1,752.09		
W.K.S. " "	78.45		
A.C.W.C. Partners	<u>92.00</u>	1,922.54	
"Newsette" Postage etc.		83.94	
<u>National Treasurer</u>			
A.C.W.C. Bulletin Subs.		97.50	
Transferred to Administration		<u>915.94</u>	
			<u>3,192.10</u>

CR. BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 29/2/1992 ... .. \$3,449.91  
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A/CS TO BE PASSED FOR PAYMENT (RATIFIED)

M.A.P.A. Expenses	108.43
Printing "Newsette" (January '92)	28.75
Stationery	4.50
Treasurer's Imprest	30.00
National Treasurer	1,922.94
" " "	97.50
"Newsette" Postage etc.	83.94
Bank charge	<u>.50</u>
	2,276.16
Internal transfer	<u>915.94</u>
	\$3,192.10
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