



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

***Minutes of the Council Meeting Monday 19th March, 2018
10.30 am, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney***

WELCOME: President Pamela Freeman welcomed all to the meeting and commented that it was good to be back at ACW again. A special welcome was given to Bible Society representative, Mitch Hammond.

DEVOTIONS: Pamela shared aspects of the Easter story: *A person's attitude about the resurrection is important any time of the year, not simply at Easter. If we are going to accept or reject a scriptural truth, we should understand how that principle impacts not only our faith but also our witness. The greatest implication of claiming Jesus remained in the grave is that we are left with no hope of salvation. This, in turn, makes telling others about the Lord pointless. Jesus is the One who brings life-giving force to the Gospel message. Further, we would be lying about God when we witnessed according to Scripture, saying He raised Jesus when He actually had not. If the Father didn't resurrect the Son, then He must also be dishonest about the eternal nature of believers. How could we ever hope to be 'absent from the body and ...at home with the Lord' upon death if the blameless Son Himself did not receive such treatment? (2 Corinthians 5:8). Without Christ's resurrection we have no saving Lord, no powerful Word, no hope of eternity, and a dead faith. A wise believer studies Scripture and, therefore, recognises how God's salvation plan fits together from Genesis to Revelation. The only legitimate basis for eternal hope is receiving Jesus Christ's sacrifice for our transgressions and believing He conquered sin and death to rise again. Pamela closed the Devotions with prayer, thanking God for providing Jesus as our Saviour and raising Him from the dead as evidence that we too will rise from the dead.*

Pamela thanked the many ACW ladies who gave their prayerful support during her recent health challenge.

PRESENT: There were 28 members present, and one visitor, Mr Mitch Hammond.

APOLOGIES: Eight apologies were received.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Council meeting of 19th February 2018, are to be confirmed on the Motion of Jo de Groot and Seconded by Lyn Middleton

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1 ACWC Concert – Program planning:** The concert will be held on Sunday 26th August at Epping Baptist Church. The concert will begin at 2.00 and end at 3.30 pm, followed by afternoon tea. Pamela has been in touch with people who usually come and has had five responses so far. ACW NSW supports the Asian Church Women's Conference with donations received at the concert, which is held every second year. ACW is part of ACWC.
- 2 Jean Arnot Memorial Lunch, 21st May: attendance:** Bookings need to be made for the lunch by 23rd April. ACW pay for our nominee, Edith Ridge, but for others wishing to attend payment of \$115 will need to be made at our next meeting on 16th April.
- 3 Annual General Meeting – Nominations for vacant positions**
Nomination forms were available for anyone wishing to nominate for a position on the Executive. Representatives are needed to ACWC, PPSEAWA, and World Day of Prayer. Pamela encouraged everyone to think about these positions.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented the Financial Report for January and February 2018. The total income for the two months was \$550.75; the total payments were \$627.20, giving a Credit Balance at Bank on 28th February of \$2935.23. Accounts presented for payment were: PPSEAWA Corporate Membership \$45, J. O'Hara, postage for FLC \$10, E. McEwen – photocopying \$26.40.

Pat moved that the Financial Report for January/February 2018 be accepted, and the accounts be paid. Seconded by Tricia Graham. Carried

Social Issues: Rae Goth presented 3 issues, with form letters available. 1) to the Attorney General, Christian Porter, regarding the need for affordable ways to resolve family law disputes; 2) to the Prime Minister encouraging support for International Women's Day, commenting that the biggest cause of death and injury for Australian women aged 14-45 is remains violence by partners or ex-partners; and 3) to the Minister for Transport, Andrew Constance regarding the cuts of 94 services per week by Sydney Rail.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Judy O'Hara commented that she is learning a lot about FLC and is ordering new Circle of Prayer books, which are \$3 each. It was agreed that the older issues could be sold for \$2. Judy shared a Devotion based on 2 Kings 5: 1-4, 14; the story of Naaman and the slave girl.

Special Days: This year's Fellowship Day Service, prepared by NSW, has been accepted by National Executive. It has been sent out in preparation for Fellowship Day in July. The theme is 'Women of Encouragement'. There are three scripture readings: Thessalonians 5: 8-19; 1 Peter 4:9-11; Acts 11:19-26. At the next Council Meeting the Orders of Service will be available for branch representatives to take.

Lyn has received an email from NE advising that there are no applications for a Special Project for 2018, and encouraged Council Members to think about possible projects or programs in their church or church they may be aware of that could be boosted with a bit of funding, see Lyn for an application. The general offering at World Community Day goes half to ACWC and half to the Special Project. The amount given is usually between \$2000 - \$3000.

This is the last year that Lyn can be Special Days Convener – the Constitution states that the maximum time served in a position is 5 years + 2. Lyn encouraged those present to consider taking on this role and perhaps assisting her in 2018 and taking on the position next year.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Judith distributed this year's Winifred Kiek Scholarship leaflet giving information about the 2018 Scholarship recipients Lauren England and Elise Ruthenbeck. Lauren is a Youth Pastor in Toowoomba and is responsible for leadership and co-ordination of youth and refugee programs, pastoral care and volunteers. Studies for her Master's Degree continue and scholarship includes time at Fuller Seminary in California. Elise is Senior Consultant for CRIT Editing and Writing Consultancy. Her PhD studies will include one month in London at George Eliot Archives (female writer and translator) researching Eliot's work and effect on her theology and awareness of personal/spiritual life.

- 2017 Scholar updates: The timing for Hina Burq from Pakistan was delayed due to her grandfather's death. She will now participate in the Toronto World Leadership Forum on Women in Canada in April 2018.
- Women's Concerns Ministry ran a second Certificate Course on Gender Justice for Church Leaders in February and a third and final Course will be held later in the year.
- Applications are being accepted for 2019 Scholarships which will focus on women of the Pacific Islands, to be received by WKS Trustees by 31 May 2018. Easter Greetings will be sent to those in touch.

The book 'Winifred' is for sale and could be helpful for Fellowship Day Service planning.

Membership: This will be Martha's last Council Meeting for three months. Judy O'Hara will be acting in her place as Membership Convener. Pamela wished Martha well as she faces her surgery.

Pastoral Care: Helen Hill has been writing letters to those who have been unwell. The same people mentioned at the last meeting still need our prayers. Helen and Nola Dickson went to the PPSEAWA Women's Day Luncheon at Turramurra. The Guest Speaker was Mahboba Rawi OAM, Founder and President of Mahboba's Promise.

Newsette: Items for the May issue of Newsette need to be emailed to Isabel by mid April. Pamela thanked Isabel for her work on Newsette.

ACWC: No report

Publicity: Peg McEntee distributed invitations for Dedication Day on 21st May.

Peg McEntee moved that the Reports be received. Seconded by Helen Hill. Carried.

Bible Society: Mitch Hammond from the Bible Society outlined his background in youth ministry and as a school chaplain. He attributes his turning to Christ at age 15, to the prayers of two girls at his school who prayed for him each day for 3 months and commented that the prayers of women are powerful. He has been with the Bible Society for 3 months. He is honoured to be part of the oldest organisation in Australia. Many of the projects that the Bible Society undertakes are in the area of literacy; not only giving bibles but giving education as well. Mitch outlined one of the major projects of the Bible Society in Nicaragua supporting the only hospital in the country that treats children with cancer, supplying scripture to the families, children and hospital staff, helping train volunteers, pastors and chaplains to work in the hospital. They also help financially with medical bills and funerals if needed. Their Autumn Appeal is literacy program for African Women. In the next 3 years they will reach 20,000 African women. This is a collaborative effort working with Bible Societies in Africa to provide

literacy classes and using the bible to do that. This program targets young mothers. He stressed that sub-Sahara Africa is the poorest area but also the most Christian area – by the year 2060 forty percent of Christians will be in this region. Mitch left flyers for everyone to take. Pamela thanked Mitch for attending the meeting and speaking to us.

Correspondence – Inwards

NE – WKS application letter and forms
GB, Elizabeth Neale, hospital visit and leave
Lynne Barly, Cootamundra re FLC and withdrawal from ACW
NE – updated address list
Lynette Green – Essay Competition
WA Unit addresses
NE – Death of Marion Rowe, Vic. Secretary
Thank you from Elizabeth Neale
PWA – March SPAN

Correspondence – Outwards

NE – updated address list
Colleen Fuller – welcome to ACW
Judy Hicks – welcome to ACW
Lyn Barly, Cootamundra, re FLC
Margaret Gregory – welcome to ACW
Jan Jeffrey – resignation from Council
Colleen Johnston – resignation from Council

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A sympathy card will be sent to the ACW Vic. Unit regarding Marion Rowe
2. The Essay Competition was discussed, and members asked to consider schools that could be approached.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Girls' Brigade: Elizabeth Neale sent apologies and thanked everyone for their prayers and card. GB had their first Leader Training day at Brigade House on 10th March, everyone who attended had a wonderful day. Preparations are being made for the State Conference on 5th May. They continue 'Together We Can' fundraiser. Pioneer Leadership Training is coming in the next couple of months. This year new training will be used, and they are hoping this will be enjoyed by the girls.

NSW Ecumenical Council: No report

National Council of Women (NCW) Tricia Graham attended the NCW Executive meeting in February. The main items on the Agenda were the details of the Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon, the Brochure, which includes the Booking Form and the Nomination Form. Tricia is not able to attend the Jean Arnot Lunch as she and her husband will be in London for the Presentation of their daughter Suzanne's Australia Day Award.

Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA): No report

World Day of Prayer: Tricia Graham attended the WDP Service at Austinmer on 2nd March. There were approximately 50 people in attendance, and the Service was very well received. Many of the people taking part in the Service dressed in costumes similar to those pictured in the Service Book. There was also a Suriname Flag displayed in the Church. Services were also enjoyed at the Uniting Church in Croydon and St Luke's at Miranda.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Dedication Day at St Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.** Peg McEntee gave out invitations and encouraged everyone to come to this important day. RSVP by 24th May. Travel arrangements are on the invitation. A light lunch will be served following the service.

Pamela thanked the Salvation Army ladies for morning tea and Churches of Christ for chairs.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 16th April 2018 (AGM)

Morning tea: Churches of Christ **Chairs:** Baptist **Trading Table:** Uniting

Close of Meeting: The meeting closed with prayer at 11.55 am.