

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

*M. R. Ralph*

MINUTES

OF

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT DEACONESS HOUSE, NEWTOWN, SYDNEY,

8th - 11th FEBRUARY, 1972.

TUESDAY, 8th February

INTRODUCTORY  
SESSION:

In welcoming 57 ladies to the 1972 meeting, the President, Mrs. J. Dennis, asked that we share our experiences, enjoy the fellowship and participate to the fullest possible extent. She mentioned the sacrifices that many had made to attend and the great distances travelled by some delegates. The thing to remember was that in spite of these, we have no language barrier to contend with, so communication provided no problem. She summed up her remarks by urging members to "swish a little love around". This was followed by a roll-call of all present.

APOLOGIES:

Two apologies were received. - Brigadier M. Geddes and Mrs. Jean Sticpewich.

ADDITIONAL  
GREETINGS:

In addition to the greetings which had been duplicated for inclusion in Working Documents (From Mrs. ESTHER BAUTISTA, Chairman, ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE; Mrs. KATHLEEN DAVIES, Secretary, A.C.W.C., New Zealand; Mrs. CLARIE COLLINS HARVEY, President, CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, U.S.A.; Mrs. GLADYS NAYLOR, CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, U.S.A.; Miss NORMA GRAVES, Rarongo Theological College, T.P.N.G. & S.I.; Mrs. JEAN LAWS, Chairman, WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, NEW ZEALAND), others were received from Miss PAT. MYLREA, NEW GUINEA, and Mrs. FRAN BAILEY, ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, Planning Committee Member.

LUNCH

OPENING WORSHIP  
AND ADDRESS:

Opening Worship as set out on the prepared Order of Service was conducted in the chapel, the guest speaker who introduced the theme, "For Such a Time as This", being Miss Jean Skuse (Secretary for World Christian Action). Lt. Col. O. Carpenter expressed the thanks of the meeting to Miss Skuse.

BUSINESS SESSION:

AGENDA

The agenda as set out in the Working Documents was adopted.

ELECTION OF  
OFFICERS

The President drew attention to the nomination forms which had been supplied and asked that they be completed and returned by noon Wednesday. Mesdames Farr and Rhodes were appointed scrutineers.

APPOINTMENT  
OF REPORTERS

The action of the Working Committee in appointing the following ladies to prepare sectional reports of the meeting was ratified -  
From N.S.W.: Mesdames Wells, McKenzie, Lean and Novell.  
From Qld.: Mesdames Pope, Clarke and McChesney Clark.

REPORT TO  
CHURCH  
PAPERS

Volunteers were called for to accept responsibility for securing reports for publication in their own particular denominational papers. - Volunteers to hand their names to the secretary.

MINUTES OF  
1971 MEETING

These were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Summaries as requested by the 1971 meeting had been completed and included in Working Documents.
2. Statement of Policies was in process of preparation.
3. Re invitation to A.C.W.C. - Mrs. Badger reported that fares being prohibitive, it would not be possible to accept A.C.W.'s invitation. Taiwan, India and Korea were being considered as likely venues.  
It was expressed during discussion that it should be made clear that although we regret the decision, we hope that it may be possible for A.C.W.C. to come to Australia at a later date.  
Following further discussion it was resolved  
"that the 1974 National Committee of Australian Church Women be asked to give consideration to issuing an invitation for the 1978 A.C.W. Conference to be held in Australia - in the meantime delegates to test the feeling of their constituencies towards the idea of raising funds to make it possible for the invitation to be issued."
4. Material had been submitted to F.L.C. International relating to the Alice Springs project.
5. Cheque was received in due course for the New Guinea projects and disbursed as agreed upon. The President drew attention to photographs on display showing the presentation of the cheque by Mrs. Dingle to the Rarongo Theological College.

BUSINESS SESSION: (Contd.)

REPORTS:

WORKING COMMITTEE -

The report was taken as read, received and adopted.

COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION -

Following the reception of this report and comment by Mrs. Col. Saunders, there was discussion on the effectiveness of some of the work of this committee in particular areas. Mrs. Howie requested that the committee be asked to bring a more realistic, "grass roots" approach to the problems of "co-operation of men and women". Mrs. Macneil supported this request - so too did Mrs. Col. Saunders in reply.

After further discussion, it was resolved

"that whilst we appreciate the work done by the Committee on Co-operation of men and women in the academic field, we ask that some work be done at the 'grass roots' level of the local church in educating the decision-makers of the worth of women in the planning and programming of the local life of the church."

Members of the Committee on Co-operation were asked to convey this request to the Committee.

AFTERNOON TEA

BUSINESS SESSION: (Contd.)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT -

Following the adoption of the financial statement, the treasurer drew attention to her prepared report and commentary on it. (Received by members with other duplicated material in wallets).

Deaconess Andrews expressed appreciation of the fine work done by the treasurer.

Attention was drawn to the existence of a minute (N.C.M. 1969) re the payment of a levy.

After much discussion, Deaconess Andrews moved the following -

"that the resolution (N.C.M. 1969, p. 15) 'that State Units and Federal Denominational Groups be asked to pay administrative levy to A.C.W.' be rescinded." Carried.

The treasurer enquired re the percentage retained by State Units from offerings received on special days. Reference to the minutes of the 1966 N.C.M. was made re the percentages to be retained and after discussion, the President recommended that the motion (N.C.M. 1966, p.10) re allocation of monies by State Units be re-affirmed. The meeting endorsed this.

TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS - (as in Treasurer's report).

F.L.C. - allocation as recommended by treasurer (W.C.C. Geneva \$4000.00: Admin. & Gen. \$50.00).

FELLOWSHIP DAY - After much discussion re the amount to be invested in bonds, the treasurer's recommendation was carried. (Winifred Kiek Schlp. Fund \$850.00: (for bonds) \$300.00: Admin. & Gen. \$50.00)

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY - allocation as recommended by treasurer ( Asian Christian Service \$700.00: Admin. & Gen. \$50.00).

It was resolved

"that a letter of thanks and a small token of appreciation be sent to the auditor, Mr. J. Wallace."

N.C.M. VISIT - TERANI AISAKE - It was resolved

"that travelling expenses be met from the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund".

REPORTS:

STATE UNITS -

Reports were taken as read and the following ladies spoke to the respective reports -

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| A.C.T.            | Mrs. Gwyneth Rowe       |
| N.S.W.            | Mrs. Lt. Col. Carpenter |
| VICTORIA          | Mrs. Elsa Warner        |
| TASMANIA          | Mrs. Rachel Cocks       |
| SOUTH AUSTRALIA   | Mrs. Kath. Howie        |
| WESTERN AUSTRALIA | Rev. Dorothy Wacker     |
| QUEENSLAND        | Mrs. Gwyn. Clarke       |

All the above reports were received enthusiastically.

FEDERAL DENOMINATIONAL ORGANISATIONS -

These reports were also taken as read, comment on each being made as follows -

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| ANGLICAN WOMEN | Deaconess Andrews                              |
| C. OF CHRIST   | Mrs. Sheila Bloore                             |
| CONGREGATIONAL | Pastor Simpson                                 |
| METHODIST      | Mrs. Dorothy Pederick                          |
| PRESBYTERIAN   | Mrs. Groat                                     |
| SALVATION ARMY | Mrs. Lt. Col. O. Carpenter (Eastern Territory) |
|                | Mrs. Col. Flo. Saunders (Southern Territory)   |

Reports were all received with great interest.

EVENING MEAL

"OVERSEAS WITH DEACONESS ANDREWS" -

Deaconess Andrews spoke of the warm welcome she received at Wichita where she was an honoured guest in a private home. The Conference was a "Spiritual Experience", a great "time of sharing".

'The focus of the whole conference was to try to make us all realise a responsibility in creating a new design for living in every place - by realising that there was a Christian Fellowship that had to be experienced in thought, in word, and in deed.'

The whole theme of the Conference was "Break through" and this thought was realised fully when Clarie Harvey was elected President - the first Black woman and the first working woman to be elected to this position.

EVENING DEVOTIONS -

These were prepared and conducted by Pastor Sylvia Simpson (President, Congregational Women's Fellowship of Australia) around the theme of "Creation".

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WEDNESDAY, 9th FebruaryMORNING PRAYER and MEDITATION (in chapel).BIBLE STUDY:

The President welcomed and introduced Mrs. Barbara Thiering (lecturer in Hebrew and Biblical Studies at Sydney University), who gave the meeting much food for thought in the first of her prepared Bible Studies - "THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF WOMEN AND THE CHURCH'S VIEW". Mrs. Thiering entered into discussion following her address. So much interest was displayed that copies of her text were requested and will be forwarded at a later date. The President thanked Mrs. Thiering and members for their contribution.

BUSINESS SESSION:

It was agreed that the minutes of the previous day's proceedings be dealt with immediately after lunch.

REPORTS:UNITED CHURCHES -

The President paid tribute to Mrs. Muschamp's contribution as a Working Committee member during 1971. The Report was received.

The question was raised re possibility of representation from T.P.N.G. & S.I. to future A.C.W. National Committee Meetings. Discussion followed relating to the position of United Church groups. General opinion was that representation as suggested was not likely. Deaconess Andrews expressed appreciation of an opportunity to contact the United Church Group at Woomera and share with its members and friends some of her overseas experiences.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN -

This report was taken as read and received. Mrs. Haigh (Convenor) stressed the need to encourage sales of Vol. IV of "Circle of Prayer".

Re BROCHURE for F.L.C. - It was agreed that a new leaflet was needed and the suggested material was approved with slight changes, viz. different colour and lighter weight paper, and provision for State convenor's name to be added in due course by each State.

Re F.L.C. TAPE requested by Tasmania - Mrs. Badger offered to re-tape the same material as was requested.

A suggestion was made regarding the time of presentation of F.L.C. offerings as it was felt that there was some confusion with the project offering received on World Community Day.

Mrs. Dingle clarified - there are two special days for which A.C.W. is responsible (Fellowship Day and World Community Day), Women's World Day of Prayer we support.

MORNING TEAA.C.C. SESSION: "CONFLICT - Constructive and Destructive".

The Committee on Co-operation arranged this Session which was conducted by the Rev. Gordon Beatty on the subject, "Conflict - Constructive and Destructive".

The President asked Mrs. Colonel Flo. Saunders (C'tee on Co-op.) to introduce the speaker. Following some open discussion on the topic of industrial conflict, a vote of thanks was expressed by Mrs. Rachel Cocks on behalf of the National Committee Meeting.

BUSINESS SESSION:"WOMEN AT WORK" NEWSLETTER - COMMENT

Mrs. Dingle reminded State Units of the need to forward news items for inclusion in the newsletter. She suggested that a correspondent be appointed for each unit.

It was stated that donations to cover cost of extra copies required would be much appreciated.

LUNCHGREETINGS:

To open the afternoon session, the President read greetings from Mrs. Garnsey.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER -

Mrs. Doreen Strack (Liaison Officer) brought sincere greetings to A.C.W. and conveyed the appreciation of Women's World Day of Prayer Committee re the variety of presentation of the

'Day of Prayer' throughout Australia.

BUSINESS SESSION:

The Minutes of the previous day's proceedings were received and approved.

SUBMISSION OF A.C.W. POLICIES (FINANCE) -

Policies as submitted by Mrs. Margaret Ralph were received. (Duplicated copies were distributed).

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP REPORT -

The report as contained in the Working Documents was received. Comments on scholars for 1971 and 1972 were given by the Committee Convenor, Mrs. Pope. The matter of gifts by groups to scholars was discussed at length. The meeting felt that while donations should be handed on to the Scholarship Fund, and persons seeking suggestions re suitable gifts could be advised in this connection, personal gifts to individual scholars must be treated as such.

Re SELECTION OF WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS, it was resolved

"that as from 1972, the method of calling applications for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship be by defining geographical areas and inviting applications from these areas in rotation through the National Council of Churches in these areas."

It was further resolved

"that the W.K.S. Committee and the Working Committee review the policy of the W.K.S. ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE W.K.S. COMMITTEE."

In support of the motion it was pointed out that the W.K.S. is fairly widely known now, and that it would perhaps be best with the change in location of the Working Committee from Queensland that the composition of the scholarship committee revert to that originally laid down, viz. (1966, p.35) to include persons who have had experience with overseas students in both academic and institutional life who can readily understand the problems facing individuals coming from different cultural backgrounds and at least one person is co-opted from the same academic field as the scholar (to help with the programme of the scholar) and to act as guide, philosopher and friend.

The possibility of a visit to Western Australia by the 1972 Scholar was discussed and it was resolved

PUBLICITY FOR WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP - The opinion was expressed that it was beyond the financial ability of A.C.W. to produce the publicity material as suggested. It was felt that leaflets as at present being printed for issue with the Order of Service for Fellowship Day were adequate.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS -

At this point it was announced that the Working Committee as comprised during 1971 had been re-elected. It was subsequently found that there had been three nominations for the offices of Vice President, two only being required. It was therefore decided that ballot papers be prepared. This later proved to be unnecessary on the withdrawal of consent to stand by one of the nominees, Mrs. Miller. The result was that although the personnel of the Working Committee remained the same, the office of vice presidents would be filled by Mrs. Eileen Dingle and Mrs. Ruth Lane during 1972; other office bearers would be as for 1971..

(President, Mrs. J. Dennis; Vice Presidents, Mrs. E. Dingle & Mrs. C. Lane; Treasurer, Mrs. D. Eldershaw; Secretary, Mrs. C. Connell; Ctee members - Mrs. Scames, Mrs. D. D. G. Hain, C. Miller, R. Clarke and Brigadier Geddes).

permission was given to deal with the motion clause by clause.

CLAUSE IV as presented in the motion was accepted by the meeting.

The president called on Mrs. Dingle to present the motion as submitted by the Queensland Unit. As several clauses were affected by the proposed revision of the constitution, permission was given to deal with the motion clause by clause.

CLAUSE IV as presented in the motion was accepted by the meeting.

CLAUSE VI - An amendment relating to this clause had been submitted by N.S.W. It was pointed out verbally that only the phrase 'shall move biennially and' needed to be deleted from the motion as submitted by Queensland to meet the N.S.W. requirement. The amendment then became the motion which was carried on a show of hands.

AFTERNOON TEA

Following the tea break, the question was raised that the vote relating to Clause VI of the constitution had been an 'uninformed' one. After much discussion, the meeting finally agreed to allow the decision to stand.

BUSINESS SESSION (Contd.):

was withdrawn. The motion as submitted by Queensland was put and carried.

(See re-typed Constitution of A.C.W.).

The president requested that the remaining business of this session be dealt with at 7.00 p.m.

INTER-STATE INTERVIEWS:

During the first interview, Victorian representatives in reply to questions by Canberra Church Women outlined fully the composition of the Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria. New South Wales ladies interviewing members of the South Australian Inter-church Council focussed attention on the tremendous expansion of the hospital work. Comment was made on a planned dedication service for those closely involved in this work. Other facets of the work were mentioned.

GROUP DISCUSSION SESSION:

It was agreed that discussion should end at 5.45 p.m. (Groups had been pre-arranged and introductory material to the topic issued with Working Documents).

EVENING MEAL

BUSINESS SESSION was resumed at 7.00 p.m.

LOCATION OF WORKING COMMITTEE -

South Australian ladies expressed willingness to accept responsibility as the next location State for the Working Committee of A.C.W.

Subsequently it was resolved

"that South Australia become the location for the Working Committee of A.C.W. as from February, 1973."

VENUE OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING, 1973 -

It was resolved

"that A.C.W. consult with the Committee on Co-operation on the venue for the 1973 National Committee Meeting and that Canberra or Melbourne be considered as possible venues."

SPECIAL SUGGESTIONS -

Attention was drawn to the following special suggestions which had been handed to the Working Committee:

- (a) That consideration be given to the holding of the National Committee Meeting biennially, instead of annually.
- (b) That the possibility be considered of holding the National Committee Meeting during a week-end.
- (c) That State Units and member groups give consideration, during 1972, to the following suggestion which could be re-shaped as a Notice of Motion for the 1973 N.C.M. as a further amendment to the A.C.W. Constitution -  
That as from 1973, the National Committee of Australian Church Women be called together biennially to coincide with the movement of the location of the Working Committee to a new State and the election of a Working Committee from that State.

As such a change would have far-reaching effect, a great deal of thought would need to be given to its implications, but prompting for the suggestion can readily be seen in the increasing costs of mounting a National Committee Meeting - travelling expenses alone account for quite a sizeable amount. If administration and general A.C.W. business matters can be adequately dealt with from a basis of a biennial National Committee Meeting, then surely the suggestion merits serious consideration. The matter of wise stewardship of funds should be of great concern to A.C.W. in the face of so many areas of desperate need today.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE - PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORT -

Mrs. Badger brought greetings from the Working Committee Meeting of Asian Church Women's Conference held in Hong Kong, during January last.

Duplicated copies of the report of this meeting had been distributed among committee members. Decisions as listed on page 2 of this report were specially noted. (See Report).

In regard to the request for articles for Asian Focus, Mrs. Dingle indicated willingness to edit material from the States to be in her hands by 1st April.

The President welcomed DEACONESS RITCHIE and MRS. M. WYLLIE to the Evening Session of the National Committee Meeting. Both of these ladies had occupied the office of PRESIDENT OF A.C.W., MRS. WYLLIE HAVING BEEN ITS FIRST PRESIDENT. (It was noted also that Mrs. Verco also was present. She too, had been closely associated with A.C.W. in its initial stages.)

A.C.C. SESSION: "THE FUTURE OF MANKIND" -

The President introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. D'Arcy Wood (Secretary, Division of Studies and Communication, A.C.C.). Dr. Wood outlined the setting up, through A.C.C. and the Roman Catholic Church, of a series of study groups. Four main areas are being covered - conflict, environment, technology, and meaning. He concluded the session by explaining how Christian educators would put to use the findings of these groups.

EVENING PRAYERS: Mrs. Pederick (President, Australasian Federation of Methodist Women) used a portion of the leaflet which had been prepared by Methodist women of Victoria for the Australian Federation of Methodist Women. The devotional thoughts she presented were in keeping with the theme "for such a time as this" in the context of current negotiations concerning the "Uniting Church" and were based on 'the Unity of the Church'. Special reference was made to the moving experience at the John Flynn Memorial Church on the occasion of the handing over of the church to the United Church at Alice Springs.

A.C.W. PICTORIAL HISTORY: (After supper)

Mrs. Dingle presented the Pictorial History of A.C.W. compiled by Mrs. Coates. (slides and taped commentary).

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THURSDAY, 10th FebruaryMORNING PRAYER and MEDITATION (in chapel).

BIBLE STUDY: Mrs. Barbara Thiering refreshed memories with a brief resume of her introductory session, "The Theology of Woman". The second session was devoted to the study of three women from the Old Testament - Deborah, Huldah and the Virtuous Woman of Proverbs 31. Reference was made to New Testament teaching and the Pauline epistles in particular. Mention was made of the tension between "ideal and practice" and the constant need to look forward.

BUSINESS SESSION:

In response to the request made by Dr. D'Arcy Wood at the Wednesday Evening Session for a representative from A.C.W. to the A.C.C. Division of Studies and Communication, Mrs. MARGARET RALPH's consent was sought for nomination to this office. Appreciation was expressed of her willingness to act in this capacity and she was duly appointed.

SPECIAL DAYS, 1973 -

Attention was drawn to the suggestions which had been listed for National Committee's information and request made that the third suggestion listed be considered first, as it had bearing on both special days for which A.C.W. is responsible. Mention was made of time spent (perhaps unwisely) in preparing Orders of Service. Discussion followed on the gains or otherwise of using American material with broad adaptation. It was then resolved that A.C.W. ascertain themes set by Church Women United for their 1973 Fellowship Day and World Community Day: that if possible, A.C.W. acquire copies of orders of service for adaptation for use by A.C.W. or alternatively prepare Australian orders of service on these themes.

There were three dissenting voices - Mrs. Kath. Howie, Mrs. Jill Wilkins and Pastor Sylvia Simpson.

The New South Wales Unit kindly undertook preparation or adaptation as necessary in regard to the Order of Service for Fellowship Day, 1973.

After much comment and discussion re preparation of the service for World Community Day, Pastor Simpson graciously consented to accept the responsibility for preparation by the Australian Congregational Women's Fellowship.

MORNING TEAA.C.C. SESSION: (MISS JEAN SKUSE).

In her session, Miss Skuse encouraged members' participation. She spoke on the need for change in structures and systems, the challenge of the church to liberate people, the need to discover new possibilities of change within ourselves and called on members to react individually and organisationally.

A vote of thanks on behalf of the meeting was expressed by Rev. Dorothy Wacker.

In view of the fact that Miss TERANI AISAKE, WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR for 1972 would be the special guest at Friday's sessions, it was decided that a book be purchased for presentation at an opportune time during the day. Members agreed to make an immediate subscription to cover its cost.

BUSINESS SESSION:MEMORIAL TRIBUTE -

Two suggestions had been listed, the second of which was brought forward as a motion. It was requested that for the information of members, the motion be read, together with the supporting statements, as follows -

"That a MEMORIAL BURSARY be awarded each year to the successful applicant for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, to be applied by her to the purchase of study books."

(a) That the amount decided upon for such award by NOT IN ADDITION to payments already being made to cover clothing, books, pocket money, etc., but that a sum allocated from such payments be specifically so designated.

(This would avoid straining A.C.W.'s resources to cover the award).

(b) That, where possible, the award be made as an official presentation at the National Committee Meeting. (Application forms for the scholarship state that it is desirable that the successful applicant be present at the National Meeting.)

(c) That the presentation take the form of a cheque for an amount agreed upon by the National Committee together with a certificate setting out the reason and purpose of the award.

The motion was carried.

VALUE OF TRIBUTE -

It was resolved

"that the amount of the Memorial Bursary to be awarded annually be \$50.00."

MEMORIAL BURSARY TRUST FUND -

A motion from the New South Wales Unit was carried,

"that a Trust Fund for the contributions received in tribute to former A.C.W. members be established."

LUNCHRe BIBLE STUDIES (Mrs. Barbara Thiering)

It was resolved

"that copies of the Bible Study material as presented by Mrs. Thiering be supplied as requested by Committee members in the meeting and that a charge of 50 cents be made to cover costs involved."

(Request was made that Mrs. Thiering's expressed intention eventually to publish this material be respected.)

MINUTES:

Previous day's proceedings.

It was pointed out by a committee member that an item had been recorded out of its proper sequence. Following explanation to the effect that this had been done in order to record relevant matters together, the minutes as presented were approved.

SPECIAL GREETING AND REPORT -

The President invited Mrs. Marygold Marsden-Smedley to bring a greeting from the Society of Friends, and tell the meeting something of their activities.

SPECIAL MOTION -

It was decided to deal immediately with the following motion which had been presented. Following discussion it was resolved

"that consideration be given to the representation on A.C.W. of the present Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Federal Women's groups in view of the possibility of the Uniting Church coming into being".

SUGGESTED PROJECTS FOR A.C.W. SUPPORT -

Reference was made to the listed suggestions (on display) of projects which might be considered for A.C.W. support.

Comment was made on areas of need in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

An information pamphlet on "International Social Service" had been added to the list and was also considered.

The merits of all suggestions were discussed and it was finally resolved

"that the Christian University in Central Java, 'Satya Watjana', be accepted as the project for World Community Day offerings received in 1972."

(Reference was made to information circulated with Working Committee Minutes, July, 1971, concerning the need for sponsors for scholarships for Christian students: approx. \$165 p.a.)

Further detailed information would be sought for use in later publicity. (Leaflet to accompany Order of Service, World Community Day).

While the matter of projects for support was fresh in members' minds, the President requested that the matter of the project to be submitted for assistance from F.L.C. Funds be also finalised at this time instead of at the time set out in the Agenda on Friday morning.

DECISION RE PROJECT FOR SUBMISSION TO F.L.C. FOR MONETARY ASSISTANCE -

After consideration of the Project Information, two suggestions were chosen. It was resolved  
"that the Aboriginal Maternal and Child Welfare be submitted and also the International Social Service."

REPORT AND COMMENT -SALE OF PENS

Mrs. Miller commented on the sale of pens. Sales were proceeding quite satisfactorily.

SALE OF NOTELETS

For members' information a blackboard record clearly defining the state of affairs in regard to Notelets had been prepared. Mrs. Farr (S.A.) raised questions re the following -

- monies owing,
- difficulties in selling,
- possibilities of overcoming the problem.

Discussion followed and suggestions were offered.

It was resolved

"that the account for \$300.00 still owing for Notelets be paid."

AFTERNOON TEANOTELETS (Contd.)

State Units were asked to accept responsibility for the sale of the 5 boxes of notelets (each containing 100 packets) brought to the National Meeting from South Australia.

Units complied as follows -

- Canberra Church Women - 1 box: Tasmania - 1 box:
- Queensland - 2 boxes: New South Wales agreed to hold the remaining box in store with the two they were already holding.

TREASURER'S REPORT RE TRAVEL FUND -

The treasurer reported that there was barely sufficient funds in the Travel Account to cover the travelling expenses as recommended in the 1971 National Committee Minutes.

She therefore moved that the following be paid:-

1. One first class fare each President, Secretary and Treasurer of A.C.W.
2. One return fare for each State Unit.
3. One half return fare for each denominational Federal president.
4. One half return fare for each other member of the Working Committee.

(All fares to be first class rail fares except in the cases of Western Australia and Tasmania, when the fare is agreed by mutual arrangement.)

REPORT ON MEDIA -

It was stated that a reporter from the Sydney Telegraph had been at the Opening Session and it was expected that there would be an article in the Telegraph, 10/2/72.

Interest had been shown in the Thursday evening session (Women's Liberation - Pamela Gruber) and it was thought that some coverage would be given to this. The Australian and the A.B.C. had shown similar interest. It was hoped that a press photographer would be on hand to record Terani's visit on Friday.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS (N.C.M., 1971) - Summaries

The president made reference to the summaries compiled by Mrs. Elizabeth Ashton on F.L.C., W.K.S., and A.C.W.C. which were included in Working Documents. These were received.

Compilation of A.C.W. Policies

Mrs. Ralph gave a progress report and it was noted that duplicated copies of the section on Finance had been distributed. It was resolved

"that the Progress Report presented by Mrs. Ralph be received and that the thanks of the National Committee to Mrs. Ralph be recorded."

PERMANENT REPOSITORY FOR EARLY A.C.W. RECORDS -

Secretary requested decision to be made to allow action to be taken. Discussion followed and value of early records explained. N.S.W. State Unit kindly offered to accommodate and transport documents from Queensland, the offer to transport the early records to Sydney being a personal one from Colonel Carpenter. The secretary advised that she had spoken to Mrs. Verco concerning the sorting and evaluation of the present accumulation of A.C.W. papers. The secretary was authorised to write to Mrs. Verco requesting her to undertake responsibility for the sorting of these records, and that Mrs. Wylie and Deaconess Andrews may be consulted as necessary.

INTER-STATE INTERVIEWS:

Tasmanian representatives were interviewed by Victorian ladies. Information was given on the study course for training in hospital visitation.

New South Wales ladies were interviewed by Western Australia who questioned them re the

Branches Day, publicity kits, denominational segments in council meetings and the celebration of special days.

In reply to questions from South Australian ladies, Canberra ladies commented that although the population of the National Capital had greatly increased in recent years, it was difficult to commence new groups. A joint congregation (Anglican - Presbyterian) was functioning in the new area of Curtin. A number of questions were asked on other areas of interest and activity.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

This session was continuation of the previous one.

EVENING MEAL

A.C.C. SESSION:

MISS PAMELA GRUBER - "WOMEN'S LIBERATION"

Miss Gruber said that "Women's Lib." was the "phenomenon of our time". It meets with antagonism from both men and women of our time. Reaction of men has been cheap and nasty: press treatment has been unsympathetic: woman's image has been distorted by advertising. Rarely in Church or State are they found in decision-making.

Groups discussed these topics:

- Differences in goals set for boys and girls,
- The stages at which these goals are set and the justice or otherwise of the differences.

Thanks to Miss Gruber were expressed by Mrs. Jill Wilkins.

EVENING PRAYERS:

This session was prepared and conducted by Mrs. Groat, Secretary of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia.

SUPPER

During supper, Miss Gruber announced that she had received a letter from Rev. Frank Engel, Gen. Secretary, A.C.C., conveying greetings to the National Meeting.

After supper selected slides were shown - Mrs. Dingle in New Guinea, Mrs. Dennis in Queensland and Violet Sampa in Australia.

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FRIDAY, 11th February

MORNING PRAYER AND MEDITATION (in chapel)

Before handing over to Mrs. Thiering, the president called on Mrs. Pope to introduce the 1972 WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR, MISS TERANI AISAKE, to the National Committee.

The A.C.W. Memorial Bursary was presented to Terani by the President. This was the initial award of the MEMORIAL BURSARY valued at \$50.00. An award certificate as a permanent record was handed to Terani.

Mrs. Pope then presented, on behalf of the National Committee of A.C.W., an Australian book as a memento of Terani's day at N.C.W. Terani suitably responded to the presentation, following which she was introduced to Mrs. Thiering, lecturer for the Bible study sessions.

BIBLE STUDY:

Mrs. Thiering commenced by recapitulating on former sessions' study.

She completed the formal part of the lecture and invited comment and discussion on questions listed on blackboards.

Participation was most spirited.

VOTE OF THANKS - Mrs. Ralph's sincere expression of thanks was not only on behalf of the N.C.W. but also a personal one. She presented a small token of appreciation to Mrs. Thiering.

BUSINESS SESSION:

The president asked that each State Unit take and distribute a small bundle of diaries which were available as the gift of an anonymous donor.

POST MEETING REMARKS -

P.M.R. forms were issued for immediate completion and return.

THEME, NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING, 1973 -

Suggestions made included

1. "New Morality".
2. "The Secular and its Contribution to Christian Experience".
3. "Churchianity or Christianity - an Honest Self Review".
4. "God Gives His People Hope".
5. "God Calls us to Celebrate"

These prompted further suggestions and discussion took place on their merits and de-merits. The meeting agreed that the Working Committee be given the suggestions and allowed to select a theme.

## MORNING TEA

PUBLICITY:

The President thanked Mrs. Curtin for her help with 'the media' and invited her to *give a greeting* comment on her impressions of the National Committee Meeting. Mrs. Curtin's response was much appreciated. *from the Catholic women.*

INTER-STATE INTERVIEWS:

Two interviews occupied this final session. Queensland ladies gave quite a wide coverage of activities in response to questions asked by Tasmania concerning Fund-raising, publicity, "Warana" Thanksgiving Service and general promotion. Rev. Dorothy Wacker, interviewed by Queensland, told of fresh interest created in Western Australia through the visit of the 1971 W.K. Scholar, Violet Sampa. A fine panel of speakers for the World Community Day service had resulted in a most successful Service. Rev. Dorothy Wacker is the newly-elected president of A.C.W. - Western Australian Unit.

At this point the president requested permission to deal with all matters of business remaining on the agenda, before moving into group discussion.

NATIONAL MEETING REPORT:

The secretary requested sectional reporters to forward their impressions and observations her as soon as possible to that a comprehensive coverage could be compiled, duplicated and despatched.

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS:

The meeting ratified the appointment of the following ladies as representatives from A.C.W. to the A.C.C. General Meeting, 14th - 18th February, at Wesley College, Sydney University: Mrs. J. Dennis (Pres. A.C.W.), Mrs. Lt. Col. O. Carpenter (Pres. N.S.W. W.I.C.C.).

REPRESENTATIVES - COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION:

Two nominations had been received and the following ladies were appointed to represent A.C.W. on the Committee on Co-operation: Mrs. Margaret MacNeil and Mrs. Dorothy Pederick.

APPRECIATION: It was resolved

"that there be recorded an expression of appreciation of the contribution made by Mrs. Joan Coates."

It was announced that Mrs. Coates was no longer the convenor of the Committee on Co-operation.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous day's proceedings were received.

MOTION RE GIRLS' BRIGADE:

It was resolved

"that the Girls' Brigade be invited to become affiliated at national level with A.C.W."

SPECIAL GREETING:

At the invitation of the president, Mrs. Gilbert (Secretary of the Baptist Women's Organisation) brought greetings and explained the reason for the limited participation of Baptist women in A.C.W. activities.

GENERAL BUSINESS:SUGGESTION RE WINIFRED KIEK SCRAP BOOKS -

Deaconess Andrews presented a very practical suggestion to State Units for keeping a most effective and inexpensive scrap book on Winifred Kiek Scholars. All it required was a manilla folder and a number of plastic bags which could be filed in a number of ways within it.

BOOK MARKS:

Thanks of the meeting were expressed to Mrs. Win. Dougherty for her kind offer to have book marks printed for free distribution.

PROBLEM TIME:

An extract had been compiled of problems as set out in State Unit reports. In response to the president's invitation to offer practical, helpful comments, several members spoke and worthwhile suggestions were made.

RECOMMENDATION:

The following recommendations, contained in the New South Wales State Unit Report were received -

1. That it is desirable to include an aboriginal woman in the delegation from Australia to future meetings of the Asian Church Women's Conference.
2. That efforts to find such a person begin immediately, so that when names of delegates to the 1974 meeting are called for, the Working Committee will be prepared and able to act accordingly.

LUNCH

**APPRECIATION:** Mrs. Stephens expressed appreciation of the work and harmonious relationships of the Working Committee.

It was requested that this expression be recorded.  
The president acknowledged the expressions of thanks.

On behalf of the meeting, Mrs. Howie thanked Deaconess Andrews for the innumerable kindnesses and consideration shown to members throughout the time of the National Committee Meeting.

Deaconess Andrews said in reply that it gave her much pleasure to share in this particular way in the National Committee Meeting of Australian Church Women.

The President expressed gratitude to all who had in any way contributed to the 1972 National Committee Meeting, especially mentioning the three women who had prepared and conducted the Evening Prayers - Pastor Simpson, Mrs. Pederick and Mrs. Groat.

**GROUP DISCUSSION:**

A final period for group discussion was used to summarise any conclusions which had been reached concerning the questions raised.

**CONCLUSION:**

A brief session for Closing Prayer in the chapel concluded the 1972 National Committee Meeting within the scheduled time.

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CONFIRMED

DATE