



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

Minutes Council Meeting – Monday 17th February 2014 - held at 222 Pitt St Sydney

WELCOMES: President Isabel Hewitt welcomed all to the first Council Meeting for 2014.

DEVOTIONS: Isabel spoke of the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples, as set out in the Gospel of John, Chapter 13. Jesus challenged the disciples to follow His pattern and wash each other's feet. Those present were asked how they 'wash the feet' of others. Do we take as examples people who have gone before us? Who are the people who inspire us? Isabel shared fragments from the lives of three women who have inspired her. **A)** Thecla, a fan of the apostle Paul, travelled with him to Antioch in Syria, became an apostle herself, working in this capacity for 72 years. She survived an attempt to burn her at the stake and has been made a Saint by the Antiochian Orthodox Church. **B)** Julian of Norwich was a mystic, living around the time of Chaucer, when plague was rife. She is remembered for her acts of kindness and her message of hope, inspiring the community to support one another amid the despair. Her assertion was that with God, *All will be well again, one day.* **C)** Mary Robinson, former President of the Irish Republic and UN Human Rights Commissioner, is a woman of our time who has worked hard for justice, especially with trying to ensure that migrant workers were paid a fair wage for their work. Isabel's challenge was that we should each endeavour to reflect the Christian virtues that we hold dearly, leading others to share in the gifts of God.

PRESENT: 36 **APOLOGIES:** 10

CONFIRMATION of MINUTES: The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 18th November 2013 were confirmed on the motion of Carmel Keys, seconded by Major Beatrice Kay. Passed.

BUSINESS ARISING from the MINUTES:

National Executive from NSW 2013-2015: Lyn Middleton spoke of NE Meeting on 20th January at the home of Howard and Tricia Graham. It was announced that due to illness Jan Jeffrey is not able to continue in the role of National Convener for Social Justice and a person is required to take her place.

Application for Special Days Project 2014. An application has been received from Newcastle *Mums' Cottage*. This was presented by Lyn Middleton as Special Days Convener for New South Wales State Unit Inc. Shirley Mitchell spoke for the motion to support this application. Passed unanimously.

Representative from New South Wales State Unit Inc for committee on future of ACW. Major Beatrice Kay has offered to take on this role. This was ratified unanimously by those present.

Vacancies for 2014 State Executive. All positions will be vacated at the AGM. It is known that people presently holding the following positions are not seeking re-election; Treasurer, Publicity, Manager/ sub-editor *Newsette* [Brenda willing to continue in position of State Manager Website]. Nomination forms are available for AGM. These must be completed by the next Council Meeting.

Vacancy for State Life Member: Consideration to be given and suggestions made.

ACWC Function Proposal: Pamela announced that Sunday 24th August 2014 is proposed date for this event, 2pm – 4pm followed by afternoon tea. Place: Epping Baptist Church. This proposal was accepted. A list of tasks to be oversights for the smooth running of this event was shown. Materials were available to give to prospective persons/ groups that may be interested in participating. This material explains the aims of ACWC

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Helen Richardson told of the need for a new auditor since the death of Mr Frank Fryirs in December. To complete the auditing requirements for 2013, Peter Richardson [not related] agreed to audit the financial statements for NSW State Unit Inc, giving a modified certificate. At end of January, monies for 2013 having been sent, balance of \$4547.96. The auditor requested that the honorarium be given to the FLC fund. Helen moved reception of the report and that accounts be paid. Seconded by Shirley Mitchell. Passed

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Lillian Hodges used a message from Tonga as a focus for our thoughts.

Special Days: Lyn Middleton said that most of her report appeared in *Newsette*. Fellowship Day Service [*Building up the Body of Christ*] is being prepared to be sent to the branches. Council members will be able to collect these parcels at the next council Meeting in March. [Fifteen minute forced break due to evacuation call – false alarm]

Winifred Kiek Scholars: Judith referred to the last *Newsette*. Christmas greetings received from, **Christy Ferguson** [2009]; **Nighat Gulzar** [Pakistan 1994 now USA]; **Mary Au** [1980 Hong Kong]; **Rachel(McManus) Otto** [1997]. Winifred Kiek Scholars pamphlet for 2014 being prepared. 2014 Scholars are **Rev Wasama Fernando** [Sri Lanka] to study in England and **Seng Ja** [Myanmar] to study in Singapore. Thanks for the continuing prayer support.

Social Issues: In Rae Goth's absence, Pamela presented the report of 3 issues noted by Rae. a) Need for second Sydney airport; b) Increased availability of prescribed opioid painkillers has led to their unlawful acquisition by dealers and addicts. c) Measurement of the pollution in the atmosphere in the Newcastle and Hunter River Valley areas caused by uncovered coal trains has been misleading in recent years. Rae supplied papers with details of the relevant person/s to contact re these matters.

Pastoral Care: Helen Hill still recovering from surgery.

Newsette: Jennifer Peffer stated that the February issue of *Newsette* was sent out by 1st February. Favourable comments on recent issues. All conveners are requested to submit article for each issue of *Newsette*. Articles for May issue to Jennifer by 6th April

CORRESPONDENCE: [Inwards]

Invitation to UCAF NSW/ACT Annual Dedication Service Wed 12th February 2014.

Advent Greetings from ACWC Executive

Beryl McLaughlin on death of her son.

SPAN

Newsletter ACT Unit

Invitation from Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association of Australia to International Women's Day Lunch Thursday 13th March

Invitation from Uniting Church Sydney Day Mission Support Group – Mission Get-together – Monday 31st March 2014.

Certificate of currency / Insurance for Australian Church Women Inc.

CORRESPONDENCE: [Outwards]

Advent Greetings from ACWC forwarded to Council members

Letter to Beryl McLaughlin.

Letter to Dorothy Kenning re her resignation from State Council

Letter to Commissioner Jan Condon re: *Newsette*

Correspondence and reports were accepted on the motion of Pamela Freeman and Tricia Graham.

Pamela mentioned that the lists for those to whom invitations are to go for the Installation of incoming President and the list for those who receive a copy of the Annual Report needs to be updated by next Council Meeting 17th March. Reports for inclusion on the Annual Report [NSW] need to be received by Friday 21st March.

BUSINESS ARISING from the CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that a copy of the certificate of currency is to be sent to branches.

Note with changes of address and contact details of council members is available.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: Isabel has scanned National Minutes as directed at National Conference; to start on scanning of New South Wales State Unit minutes. Room available at Eastwood Baptist Church \$50 per month for 6 months. Cost to be divided between National and NSW State Unit. Moved by Denise Secomb, seconded by Carmel Keys. Passed. Jennifer Peffer suggested that individual external hard drive be purchased each for 1. National and 2. the NSW State Unit.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED to ATTEND: Isabel attended funeral of Frank Fryirs [auditor]; NCW Australia Day Luncheon; Catholic Women's League National Mass; UCAF Dedication Service. To go to PPSEAWA luncheon.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bible Society: Rhyllis Davey reported about exciting new projects being supported e.g. Pakistan for illiterate women, and Nicaragua partnering at a children's hospital where families deal with the ramifications of a family member with cancer. In Syria, 1.8 million people have fled the country. One third of the Syrian Christian community has left. 1 million Christians have left for Iraq, leaving many support networks in Syria bereft of trained personnel. Stories of the great men and women who have endured persecution are being shared with the Syrian Christians as a means of encouragement. Syria is now 3rd on the rankings of persecuted nations. In the United Arab Emirates Bible Society gives materials to give the Christians hope. All Sydney staff are booked for the celebration of World Day of Prayer.

Girls' Brigade: Elizabeth Neale. The first council meeting for the year focused on Promotions and Fundraising. In February Girls' Brigade had a stall promoting the work and mission at Kidsreach Conference. In 2014 there will be regional events such as camps and fun days instead of State events. Deniliquin to start group soon. Training weekends, Newsletter – The Brigade Affect- and website, continue to publicise the organization. In July, International Conference of Girls' Brigade to be held in Perth, Australia.

NSW Ecumenical Council: Saturday 22nd February report to be given from the WCC Assembly in Korea 2013.

National Council of Women [NCW]: Someone to represent Tricia in her absence. **Jean Arnot** Luncheon Friday 9th May 2014. Nominations of women in 90th year or older are to be put to March Council meeting.

Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association [PPSEAWA] In the absence of Edith Ridge there was no report.

World Day of Prayer: All were encouraged to attend the World Day of Prayer as arranged in local area.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Thanks to the Baptist ladies for morning tea and the Anglican ladies for chair duties.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 17th March 2014.

Morning Tea - Anglican ladies : Chair Duties - Uniting Church ladies

Trading Table in 2014 is arranged by Presbyterian ladies.

Isabel closed in prayer: As we have begun a New Year for Australian Church Women,
may we go with the love of God,
the creator of new beginnings,
with Jesus Christ as our friend,
and the Holy Spirit as our companion
now and in the days to come. AMEN

Meeting closed at 12.20 pm.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
1 JANUARY - 31 JANUARY 2014**

CREDIT BALANCE AT BANK 1 January 2014 3563.18

INCOME January 2014

Newsette	120.00	
FLC	578.75	
World Community Day	270.00	
Fees	40.00	
Bank Interest	<u>0.03</u>	1008.78
		4571.96

PAYMENTS January 2014

Outstanding cheque presented	
	<u>24.00</u>
	4547.96

Cash at Bank 4547.96

ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

<i>J. Hewitt - to attend Australia Day Lunch</i>	<i>80.00</i>
<i>PPSEAWA - affiliation fee</i>	<i>40.00</i>
<i>Annual donation to UCA for use of Meeting room</i>	<i>300.00</i>
<i>Donation to Auditor (FAC)</i>	<i>80.00</i>
<i>International Women's Day lunch</i>	<i>35.00</i>
<i>Martha Mail</i>	<i>17.25</i>