



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

***Minutes of Council Meeting, Monday 17 February 2020
10.30 am, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney***

OPENING: Tricia Graham chaired the meeting in the absence of President Peg McEntee. Tricia welcomed all to the meeting and introduced 3 visitors and welcomed Jonathan Harris from the Bible Society.

DEVOTIONS: Tricia shared a Devotion based on Psalm 139. 'God is always guiding us. Our problem is that we do not attend to the presence of God. We do not ask for God's help and listen to God's response. Is this true in your life? When and how do you attend to God? Do you listen to God say, 'I will be here for You?' We pray, we lift our minds and hearts to God, who is already with us. We do not have to search the wings of dawn or the limits of the sea. We simply have to look into our own hearts and quietly listen. Why is it so hard for us to do this? Why is it difficult to sit still, to be quiet, and to attend to God? Is it that we really don't have the time or are we afraid of what God may ask? Let us resolve now, and all the year through, to begin anew and listen to God. Let us allow God to lead us, to speak to us and to change us. Let us introduce to those that surround us, this God who dwells within them. May our hearts and minds be opened, and our faith strengthened so that we might experience the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. May he enable us to share this faith with others.' Tricia closed the Devotion with prayer.

PRESENT: There were 24 members present and 3 visitors (Anjali Abbott, ACW WA, Tess, ACL WA, and Kyounghee Cho (Winifred Kiek Scholar 2012).

APOLOGIES: 12 apologies were received.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 18th November 2019, were confirmed on the motion of Pamela Freeman, Seconded by Helen Richardson. Carried

BIBLE SOCIETY: Jonathan Harris, National Manager of Church & Community Relations for the Bible Society, addressed the meeting. Jonathan handed out copies of 'Sower' from the Bible Society and commented that a lot has happened in the last two years. He referred to II Timothy 1:5 and the faith Timothy received from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice; and II Timothy 3:14-15: Like Timothy, Jonathan's faith was influenced by his mother and his grandmother. Jonathan's grandmother, Nell Harris spent 36 years as a CMS missionary in the Northern Territory. In 1926 she began translating the bible into the local languages. Records of the translation were found in a shed on the family farm in 3 suitcases and a travel chest – hundreds of letters and original exercise books written in the native language phonetically. The publication of the bibles has been the culmination of decades of translation work by local Kunwinjku speakers with support of CMS missionaries and the Anglican Diocese of the Northern Territory. Little did Nell know that one day her work would become the Kunwinjku Shorter Bible, 'God Nuye Kumwoki' printed in China, shipped to Sydney and driven by her grandson to the community of the Kuwinjku people of west Arnhem Land. Jonathan mentioned the World Day of Prayer project last year, Trauma Counselling and Healing in Slovenia, fully funded by WDP. This year the project is for Zimbabwe 'Rise, Take your Mat and Walk', supporting children born disabled and cast out of the community. Tricia thanked Jonathan for his interesting and informative talk.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Constitution Review Committee: This is a work in progress. The purpose of the Committee is to look at options available when denominations are unable to provide a President.
2. NE Questionnaire: This was completed at the Executive meeting and returned to NE.
3. Ideas for meetings: Peg is thankful for the suggestions she has received from several members. This is also a 'work in progress'. Tricia commented that on 11th February, the ACW National Executive celebrated 55 years, and reminded everyone to visit the ACW website.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for 1st November to 31st December 2019. The books are currently with the auditor. The income for this period was \$5857.65;

The payments for this period were \$16,090.13, giving a Credit Balance at Bank 31st December of \$1851,86. The payments include the Annual Submission to National of \$15,763.82.

Accounts to be paid: Petty Cash \$49.80, Reimbursements: P Cory, account book \$28.98; I. Hewitt, Postage \$88; E. McEwen, Printing \$23.76.

Pat moved that the Report be accepted and the accounts be paid; Seconded by Yvonne Coorey. Carried.

Pat commented that in our Annual Submission to National there was a difference of around \$700 less because we didn't hold the Multi-Cultural Concert in 2019. We were able to give more money for projects with an increase by about \$600 for each one. WKS Fellowship Day Service was up this year by \$500; World Community Day and FLC were down slightly. Pat is always amazed by the cheques that come in for FLC. Churches throughout the state are right behind the projects.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Moya thanked everyone for prayers during her recent ill health. FLC has been on the backburner. Moya was received graciously by the ladies at Campsie Salvation Army and was given a donation for FLC. A family emergency prevented her visit to Dee Why, but she hopes to be able to go another time.

Special Days: Lyn didn't have any information yet about the Fellowship Day Service to be held in July. This service is being written by the WA Unit. The bulk of Lyn's report has been sent to members by email.

The NSW Unit has been asked to prepare the service for World Community Day. They want the Order of Service by June. At this service we celebrate the in-gathering of FLC and the Special Project. In preparing 'Moving Forward in Faith – Risk Taking', we are looking at the risk taking; moving out of our comfort zone to share the gospel. Lyn would like council members to contribute prayers of praise and thanksgiving, and prayers written for intercession. Lyn has prepared possible scriptures. A speaker may want to base their talk on one or all of these passages. Jan Harrison commented that we owe it to Lyn to help with this service, when she has given us so much to work on.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Judith Cayzer introduced the Winifred Kiek Scholar for 2012, Kyounghee to the meeting. She has been raising her children and helping her husband with his ministry. Her children are now at university and high school. Kyounghee will soon become a Uniting Church minister.

The National WKS Convener gave greetings from Christy Ferguson (2009), Elise (Ruthenbeck) Silson (2018) who is nearing completion of her Thesis and Lauren England (2018) who is praying for guidance for the future. Hetty Widowaty (2020, Bali) sent encouragement in time of fires. Kyounghee Cho (2012) was on the way to be a Minister for Uniting Church, but sadly had to stop her studies. Rachel (McManus) Otto (1997) Reported on her family: Ivy May now 19, Jayden now 11 years, Karhys, 8. Husband Craig now school Head of Mathematics. Rachel hasn't worked for 2 years due to injured knee and has cared for Craig's mum who is now in care.

2020 Scholar Hetty Widowaty (Bali) is 35 years old, married in 2014 and was ordained a Pastor in 2012. The WK Scholar for 2021 will be open for Multicultural Australian young women. The application form is available on the ACW website and will close 31 May 2020.

Social Issues: Rae gave apologies for this meeting but prepared letters to:

- 1) The Prime Minister, Mr Morrison asking for legislation to prevent convicted sex offenders from accessing Dating Apps.
- 2) The Premier, Gladys Berejiklien regarding unacceptably high levels of drink-driving;
- 3) Richard Colbeck, Aged Care Minister regarding long waiting times between assessment and entering aged care or receiving a home-care package.

Membership: Martha read the apologies.

Pastoral Care: Helen Hill has been unwell with emphysema but hoping to feel better soon. Isabel advised that Merle Menzies has died. Pamela, Elizabeth and Colleen Fuller attended Sister Joan Bird's funeral at Our Lady of Consolation Chapel, Rooty Hill on 4th February. Edith Ridge emailed

that she has finished radium treatment and recovered from shingles and is looking forward to enjoying life. She sent her best wishes to Council Members.

Newsette: Isabel advised that the February Newsette was her second-last edition. She will do the May Newsette but will not be standing again as Convener for Newsette. Isabel encouraged those present to think about taking on this role for 3 years.

ACWC: The ACWC Concert is scheduled for 18th October. Pamela is unable to organise the concert this year. There has been difficulty finding a suitable venue large enough for our needs, close to public transport, that is available on a Sunday afternoon, where we can give a donation or pay a modest fee. Lyn is enquiring about Congress Hall and Dulwich Hill Salvation Army. Once we have the venue, then we need someone to co-ordinate the event.

Publicity: Jennifer is getting the publicity ready for Dedication Day in May.

Reports received: Moved by Ros Abbey and Seconded by Heather Reid. Carried

Correspondence – Inwards

Span (Pres Women) December
UCAF, invitation to Dedication Day
L. Green, ACWC request for items ACWC website
PPSEAWA – Minutes Nov. meeting
Kyounghee Cho (WKS) to President
L. Green, message from ACWC re fires
NE – FLC Grant application
Jonathan Harris, Bible Society – acceptance of invitation to meeting
Anjali Abbott, WA, re meetings
PPSEAWA Invitation to IWD luncheon
Elizabeth Clark, WDP
ACT Newsletter

Correspondence – Outwards

Kyounghee Cho, invitation to meeting (from Peg)
L. Green, response re ACWC message
UCAF Committee – acceptance of invitation
J. Harris – invitation to meeting and calendar
Anjali Abbott – meeting dates
ACT Unit – response to newsletter
Elizabeth Clark, WDP

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Nil

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/ TO ATTEND: Elizabeth attended the UCAF Dedication Day on 12th February and Tricia will be going to the PPSEAWA International Women's Day Luncheon at Lindfield on 4th March.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

Girls Brigade: Elizabeth Neale sent apologies for the meeting and advised that as Girls' Brigade has just gone back for 2020, there is not much to report on. In January, Girls' Brigade Australia, had a joint camp with Boys' Brigade at Stanwell Tops NSW. Everyone had great time.

- Also in January, the NSW Executive Board, had a Board Meeting and we also had a meeting with Boys' Brigade NSW.
- Companies have started a new year with an exciting year of events
- This year Girls' Brigade NSW is celebrating 80 years.

National Council of Women: Tricia advised that NCW started 2020 with their 'Celebrate Being an Australian' Luncheon in Parliament House Strangers' Dining Room with 200 people present including the Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, AO QC, Governor of NSW. The Guest Speaker was Professor Gabrielle Gasper, Gynaecologist and Advocate for Women's Human Rights.

Australia Day Award Certificates and a cheque for \$1000 were presented by Her Excellency to 16 young women who are continuing their studies in the fields of Health, Science, Sustainable Futures, History, Women and Work, Medicine, Music and Education. These very talented young women were nominated by their University Faculty. The first Executive meeting of 2020 will be held on Wednesday 19th February. The Members and Friends Morning Tea will again be held on Wednesday at 10.15 in the Piccadilly Food Court, 1st Floor, Piccadilly Arcade, Pitt Street. The Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 27th April at 4.30 pm in the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, commencing at 4.30 pm with the Guest Speaker at 6.00 pm.

NSW Ecumenical Council: No Report

PPSEAWA: Helen Richardson advised that the February meeting will be held in these rooms on 26th February and the International Women's Day Lunch will be at Lindfield Uniting Church on 4th March.

World Day of Prayer: The 2020 World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 6th March. The Service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe – Empowering Mothers of Children with a Disability.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Annual Report:** Elizabeth reminded Conveners and Branch Representatives to submit their reports for inclusion in the Annual Report which is distributed at the April AGM.
2. **AGM** – election of officers at April meeting: all positions will be declared vacant (except the President) and nominations to fill any of the positions are welcome.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 16TH March, 2020

Chairs: Catholic

Morning Tea: Uniting

Trading Table: Presbyterian

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 11.45 am