

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

- Minutes of the Council Meeting, held at 222 Pitt St. Sydney, on Monday, 18 February, 1991.

Opening. The meeting opened at 10.30 a.m. following morning tea provided by the Presbyterian delegates. The meeting was held in Room F as our usual venue was being used as a place of city hospitality for visitors to the World Council of Churches' Assembly. In spite of the smaller room, we were able to hold a successful meeting under slightly more cramped conditions.

Welcomes. The President welcomed all members to the first meeting for 1991 and especially welcomed two new delegates, Mrs. Major Jean Skinner, Salvation Army and Mrs Dorothy McEwan, Uniting Church. Mrs McEwan is the Treasurer for the N.S.W. World Day of Prayer Committee. Val Renn who has been a delegate for the Baptist Church on another occasion, was welcomed back as a delegate. Mrs Patricia Burke introduced to the Council, Parramatta Branch President and Council member. Miss Phyllis McKinnirey whose appointment as President-Elect of A.C.W. NSW Unit has just been announced. The President-Elect was warmly welcomed by both Council and Executive members. She will join the Executive as President-Elect.

Devotions. The President used as the basis for her thoughts the second study in the W.C.C. Assembly Bible Study Book, 'Holy Spirit, Come, Renew the Whole Creation'. The Prayer 'Come as the wind and cleanse us' was followed by the reference to Mary's Song, the Magnificat. The comment by the Rev. David Gill in this passage asserted that the God in Mary's song is an active God, He stirs us up to do His will. Using thoughts from the sixth study, the reading from Mark, chapter 1 the story of John the Baptist, linked our thoughts with those of the commentator, Marjanne Hicks. 'the Holy Spirit shakes us up'. Prayer concluded the devotions.

Those present are recorded in the Attendance Book, as are the apologies. There were 10 apologies and 42 present.

Special prayers were asked for Glad West, whose husband was very ill at that time. (Mr Jack West died during the afternoon of 18 Feb.)

Minutes of the meeting, 19 November were read and confirmed.

Business arising from the Minutes.

1. The President reported that Information Kits have been prepared by her for distribution to all new members and such delegates as would like to have them. The kits contain a letter of welcome, job descriptions for delegates and a reprint of the A.C.W. leaflet.
2. Conference Spot. A folio of jobs to be done both prior to and during the A.C.W. Conference in September, was circulated. Mrs Marjory Baker spoke about the Craft Room she will organise at the Conference. Members are invited to contribute items for sale through this room, either as a gift to A.C.W. or on a commission basis. All profits will go to A.C.W. National funds.
3. A.C.W.C. Bulletin. Copies of this paper were available to those members who subscribe and a few extra copies were for sale to any who would like to subscribe. \$7.50 per annum.
4. Members were reminded to take their copies of the 1991 Programmes and the 1991 Membership Lists.

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

Business arising from the Correspondence.

1. N.C.W. Information Kit, 'Women Can Get AIDS' was tabled. Members were invited to take the kits if they thought they could use them in their work in the community. More kits are available from N.C.W.
2. Petition forms regarding 0055 phone numbers were tabled. Members were invited to sign the petitions at the close of the meeting.
3. Congratulations have been sent to the new President of C.W.L. in N.S.W. Mrs Peggy McEntee.
4. Invitations to the Uniting Church Mission Get-Together on April 29, to the W.C.T.U. President's Meeting on 18 March, 'A Parade of Fashions' at Government House on 14 April and the City Service of World Day of Prayer, at the Salvation Army Congress Hall on March 1

were all advertised.

5. National Committee Minutes. Special Project for World Community Day 1991 Offering will be for support of Women's Studies at Nungalinya College, Darwin.
6. From the National Secretary. Information leaflets on F.L.C. will be produced and made available for inclusion with the World Community Day Services. Our request that the Lord's Prayer should be a part of all our Special Days services was received with approval and this instruction will be included in the proposed Guidelines for such services in preparation.
7. Visit of W.K.S. Fellowship holder, Rachel Mathew from India. The Fellowship has been offered to three women visitors to the W.C.C. Assembly for their travel to State Units of A.C.W. at the conclusion of the Assembly. N.S.W. Unit will be pleased to host Rachel from Saturday evening, 23 Feb. till her departure to Brisbane on Tuesday, 26 February. Lucelle King will meet her on Saturday and have her as house guest until Sunday afternoon, when Joan Tong will arrange an afternoon's sight-seeing for her and any A.C.W. members who would like to join in. All members are invited to meet Rachel at a Lunch Meeting on Monday, 25 Feb. at the Salvation Army 140 Elizabeth St. in the 4th. floor rooms. The lunch will cost \$5 per head. After lunch it is proposed to take Rachel on a tour of the city. Phyll. McKinnirey will arrange this outing. Monday night accommodation and transport to Sydney Airport. The President and Beth Finlay will organise these matters.

Reports. 1. **Treasurer.** The Financial Report as attached was received and adopted on the vote of the meeting.

2. **W.K.S.** The Convenor reported that a letter received from ^{Green Lee} 1990 Scholar contained her heart-felt appreciation for all that was done for in Australia. She had a great time visiting the State Units. Arriving home on December 11, she was back at work in her school the next day. On 14 December at a school meeting she was able to talk about the new ideas she has for her work as a result of the training received in Australia. The National Convenor gave us news of the 1991 Scholar, Rachel Sobana, who comes to us from India on Tuesday, 26 February. She works at the Catherine Booth Hospital. While her itinerary has not yet been finalised, broad details of the time of observation she will have in hospitals in Australia were of interest to the meeting. She will visit country areas in N.S.W., Cooma and the A.C.T. and will spend time in the other States as well. Her year will conclude on December 9 when she flies from Perth back home. Members are invited to liaise with the Convenor for week-end hospitality while Rachel is in Sydney.
3. **F.L.C.** The Convenor Patricia Burke urged members to become more involved with A.C.W. at home, by joining or forming a branch and by supporting it and being active in promoting W.K.S. & F.L.C. We learned with regret that Patricia will not be a delegate after our Annual Meeting in April. Patricia told us of a visitor to her home who told her stories from Ethiopia of war, famine and refugees. Because of the war in neighbouring Rwanda, Ethiopia is host to 6,000 people in the border camps. 80% of these people are children, young children, 6 and 7 year olds, orphaned most of them. Most of them have seen their parents killed. Patricia told us a moving story of the re-union in one of the camps of a five year-old with his brother. We were assured that the aid sent by the churches and other agencies does reach the people in Ethiopia. Using Circle of Prayer, number 11, at present on sale, Patricia led us in a prayer from Zambia. The F.L.C. money box was sent around the meeting.

The President commented that F.L.C. and W.C.C. are trying to deal with such issues around the world. W.C.C. grapples with poverty and with the results of war. A Mercy Sister from U.S.A. declared 'W.C.C. is asking questions the world needs to ask, but only W.C.C. deals with the questions at a global level and with a faith perspective.'

Promotions. The Convenor shared that in her home branch, Sutherland, A.C.W. has joined with Prayer on Wheels in a project to go into

nursing homes in the area.

Order forms for Fellowship Day are still slow.

W.K.S. leaflets will be available for inclusion in the packets of services for F.Day. It is hoped to have packing day after the April Council meeting. An up-dated list of recommended speakers for the Special Days will also be sent to the branches. Concern is felt at the quality of some speakers being used.

There has been some small response from groups requesting kits. Others will be followed up.

Newsette. The Manager Marie Majoor read a letter of thanks for the quality of Newsette from former Council member Evelyn Blackwell. It was suggested that such notes of appreciation could be printed in Newsette. The question of whether country women 'belong' to A.C.W. if they take part in and prepare the special days was discussed. It is suggested that some groups need to affiliate with us.

Stock Secretary. Mrs Majoor reminded members who have quantities of Histories, spoons and badges that she needs to have up-dated reports on this for the Auditor. She was able to check on some of these matters in her annual 'stock-take'!

Membership Secretary. In distributing the 1991 lists, the Convenor reminded the members that they can only be as good as the information she receives. Members were asked to check for any mistakes and to let the Secretary or the Membership Secretary have the corrections in writing.

Helen Richardson was thanked for producing the lists.

General Business.

1. Pens. The President reported that all the red and white pens are sold. There will be a re-print of this pen before the National Conference.
A blue pen with gold print has been produced for Fellowship Day. Orders for these pens are being sought inter-state and in N.S.W. Branches in N.S.W. are urged to order through the Secretary and to send monies to the Treasurer when the pens are sold. The pens celebrate the theme of N.S.W. Fellowship Day service 'Praise the Lord with Gladness'. Any faulty pens are to be returned and they will be replaced free of charge.
2. Toll-free number for complaints about a T.V. programme. 008-337417
Written complaints to Advertising Standards Council 182/186
Blues Point Rd. North Sydney. 2060
3. City Branch invites all members to a picnic in the Sydney Botanical Gardens on March 9 at 11a.m. Near the Pond. Bring lunch, husbands, friends.
4. March meeting, 18 March. In the rooms A & B. The W.K.S. scholar Rachel Sobana will be present to meet us.
5. Copies of the W.C.C. Study 'Come, Holy Spirit, Re-new the Whole Creation' were for sale at \$7.95 each.
One copy of Margaret Knauerhase's book 'Faith of a Life-time' was also for sale.
6. Annual Meeting & Election of Officers, April meeting. Council members were reminded that Nomination forms will be distributed at the March meeting. They should reach the Secretary before April 8. All positions except President, Past President and President-Elect are eligible for nomination. Members were urged to give serious consideration to all positions, not just the one that we know will be vacant. (F.L.C. Convenor.)

7. Catholic delegates. A new system of appointing these delegates has been introduced. We expect to know in March who will be the appointees. We know that we will say farewell to Patricia Burke, Pat Morrissey and Dame Monica Gallagher, after the April meeting. Discussion took place about the possibility of introducing Associate members to the Council. These non-voting members would receive copies of any hand-outs (year's programmes etc.) four copies of Newsette for a small annual subscription. The Secretary moved, seconded Beth Finlay, 'that the Executive explore this matter of Associate Members as a matter of urgency.' Carried.
8. Members were urged to write letters to the Premier of N.S.W. expressing disappointment at the broken promise concerning

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- No Casinos for N.S.W. Individual letters are to be written.
9. Mardi Gras Parade. The Executive is to discuss ways of expressing the views of A.C.W. regarding this festival.
10. Report of the business of the recent A.C.W.C. conference. It was regretted that pressure of business and lack of time had meant that the President was unable to make this report at the February meeting. Joan offered to produce a written report for distribution at the March meeting.
11. Congratulations were extended to the President on being a first-time Grandma.

Close of meeting. The meeting closed with the Benediction.

March meeting, 18 March, the morning teas will be prepared by the Catholic delegates, the Presbyterians will arrange the room. Devotions, Dorothy Lamb.

Confirmed.
18.3.91