



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

***Minutes of Council Meeting Monday 18th March 2019,
At 10.00 am, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney***

OPENING: President Peg welcomed all to the meeting, which began with The Lord's Prayer and thoughts for those effected by the New Zealand tragedy.

DEVOTIONS: Peg shared a Devotion based on the Wollongong Diocesan Lenten Program and a reflection given by Sr. Magdalen Mather osb. (Jeremiah 1:4-9; Psalm 116, 117; Acts 13:46-49; Luke 10:1-12; 17-20.) **'Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to protect you': Jeremiah 1-8.** These readings give care and instruction about how we are to step out into our life each day. The first reading gives us the Lord's reassurance that we are known and loved. The Lord is always with us, and we are not assigned tasks in our life that are beyond us. When we are in connection with the Lord, we are empowered to walk confidently and speak with assurance because 'I, (the Lord) am putting words in your mouth' (Jeremiah 1:9). The Gospel continues this theme. We do not have to make unnecessary preparations for our journey in life – what we need will be provided. When we set out on the road in front of us, and are not distracted from the journey ahead, our primary attitude is one of peace. Peace within, and peace given to all those we meet. However, if we meet situations that are not welcoming or are perhaps dangerous, the message clearly is to move on from this unhealthy place. Shaking the dust from our feet, we leave where it belongs and do not take the distress, toxicity or resentment with us. Peg closed with prayer *'Lord, help me to walk this day in conscious contact with you, knowing your presence is with me each step. May I take only what is necessary with me this day, trusting that you will provide for all my needs. May I let your words of peace and love flow from my heart to all I meet. Amen'*

PRESENT and APOLOGIES: There were 27 members present. Apologies were received from Jan Harrison, Colleen Fuller, Olive Edmondstone, Jo de Groot, Ineke Nieuwland, Brenda Dickinson, Judy Hicks, and Janice Willis. Peg welcomed Central Coast Branch Representative, Marilyn Derbyshire.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th February 2019 were confirmed on the Motion of Yvonne Coorey and Tex Quirk.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Dedication Day 20th May: The pamphlets created by Jennifer Peffer were distributed. Moya Potts gave an overview of the history and layout of Marian Court at Strathfield.
2. ACW NSW Unit President Elect: This is a work in progress.
3. AGM – Nominations for Convener and representative positions (Special Days, FLC, Deputy Membership Convener) Nominations have been received for all positions. Although Lyn has offered to do the Special Days work for another year, members were encouraged to consider taking on this position. Martha would like someone who can learn the Membership role to stand in for her if she cannot attend.
4. ACW Conference 9-12 Sept. Brisbane – Registration and deposit by 31 March. Peg and Elizabeth will be Delegates at the Conference. Members were encouraged to register.
5. Honouring Australian Church Women: Elizabeth explained about the 'Honouring Australian Church Women' book and members were asked to think about nominations. A donation to WKS is made with each person nominated.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1st January to 28th February 2019. Total Income for this period was \$735.80; Total payments were \$120.00 giving a Credit Balance at Bank at 28th February 2019 of \$4205.84.

Accounts to be paid: Donation to Bible Society (Auditor) \$100, Donation to Uniting Church (Use of rooms) \$350.00; Conference Deposit – President & Secretary \$100 + \$50 P. Freeman; PSSEAWA Corporate Membership \$45, Reimburse P. Freeman IWD Lunch \$40.00.

Pat moved that the Treasurer's Report be received and that the accounts be paid. Seconded by Margaret Gregory.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Judy O'Hara commented that since she resigned as FLC Convener she has been busy with FLC, having received a number of phone calls. Judy shared a reading from Exodus 1: 15-22.

Special Days: Lyn Middleton confirmed that the Fellowship Day scripture reading will be John 4:13-42 'Woman at the well: Conversing open-heartedly with Jesus'. The Fellowship Day services have been printed and will be sent out when the WKS leaflets are received. Lyn asked that as our branch ladies are planning and preparing Fellowship Day, that we support them with prayer that people will have a responsive heart and great gatherings of Christian women will come together. The New Illawarra Branch is hoping to conduct their first service: pray for a good response and for the core group of ladies who are responsible for this.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: The 2019 WKS Scholar is Rev. Geraldine Williame from Fiji. Judith is hoping to receive the new pamphlets and news about Geraldine. An email has been received from Yane (Humpty Doo, NT, 2015). She and her family now feel settled in NSW. She participated in the Aust. Indigenous Ministry Summer Conference. Her father and nephew visited recently from Indonesia. This is the nephew for whom we prayed when he had a brain tumour. Yane's ministry opportunities and studies continue. Applications for the 2020 Scholar are due by 31 May to the Trustees. Applications will come from member countries of ACWC.

Social Issues: Rae drew attention to three issues, with sample letters available for each: 1) A letter to Mr Greg Hunt, Minister for Health regarding anti-meningococcal vaccine given to babies which does not protect them from the B strain of this illness. Vaccination against this particular strain is not subsidised and there has been a surge of cases with this illness. 2) To Mr Bill Shorten, Leader of the Opposition regarding The Fair Work Commission's determination of a living wage and suggesting that the determination of wages is best left to an independent tribunal. 3) to Andrew Wilkie MP regarding the investigation into poker machine players in pubs owned by Woolworths being given free drinks; asking for an update of this enquiry and thanking him for his diligence.

Membership: Martha reiterated that she would like someone who could take over from her if she is not able to attend meetings. Martha welcomed Marilyn Derbyshire, the new Central Coast branch representative. Marilyn gave an update on former representative Bernice Baker, who had a stroke and was not able to continue coming to meetings.

Pastoral Care: Helen asked for prayer for Marie Craddock, who is having hip surgery on 26th March, for Jan Harrison who is having pain from sciatic nerve problems, Carmel as she settles into her new accommodation and for Olive Edmondson as she cares for her husband.

Newsette: Isabel would like any reports or suggestions for the next issue of Newsette by the middle of April please.

ACWC: Tricia has received a prayer request for New Zealand.

Publicity: Peg thanked Jennifer for creating the leaflets for Dedication Day.

Tricia Graham moved that the Reports be received, Seconded by Lillian Hodges.

Correspondence – Inwards

NE re Passing of Meryon Goode
NE RE WKS Fellow Dr Liza Lamis
Judy O'Hara – Resignation as Anglican
Rep. and FLC Convener
PPSEAWA: Minutes and Renewal form
PWA – Span March 2019
ACWC Newsletter July-Dec. 2018
Brigade Affect Newsletter March 2018
WA Unit – Thanks re condolence message

Correspondence – Outwards

WA Unit re Condolences re Meryon Goode
NE re WKS Fellow visit
Judy O'Hara – response to resignation
Bible Society – ACW Calendar 2019

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Nil

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/ TO ATTEND: Pamela attended the PPSEAWA International Women's Day Lunch on 6th March. The Guest Speaker was Libby Bleakley who went to East Timor as a Federal Police Officer. She became aware that there were women and children who needed assistance, so she and another woman started working with women and children in their own time and set up a school. She eventually resigned from the Police and continues to work with the people of East Timor.

Peg attended a CWL and Catholic Women's Mentoring (CWM) event on 6th March held at the Polding Centre in Sydney. There were over 100 women present, many of them young. Peg was given 5 minutes to speak about WUCWO and the State President spoke about CWL. There was a panel discussion led by journalist and lawyer Monica Doumit, on the theme of 'Cultivating Feminine Genius'.

Peg was invited to the MU Festival Service on 12th April, but is unable to attend, but spoke about the importance of maintaining links with other people.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

Bible Society: No Report

Girls Brigade: Elizabeth Neale sent her apologies and referred to items in the Brigade Affect Newsletter. Girls' Brigade are now a registered Creative Kids Provider as well as an Active Kids Provider. This means that families can apply for vouchers of \$100 to help meet the cost for registration and participation in creative and sport and fitness programs for their children. The Girls' Brigade in Dubbo is celebrating 125 years by doing 125 random acts of kindness in the community. Some of these acts of kindness included baking goods for emergency services and taking flowers to the hospital.

National Council of Women: Tricia reminded everyone about the Jean Arnot Lunch in May. She will have the application forms at the next meeting.

NSW Ecumenical Council Nothing to report

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

World Day of Prayer: The World Day of Prayer on 1st March was enjoyed by all those who attended a service in their area. Reports were given by Yvonne Coorey for Strathfield/Concord where about 50 people enjoyed the service and lunch; Roslyn Abbey went to the Catholic Cathedral in Bathurst; Marilyn reported that the Central Coast held their service at the Uniting Church at Tumby Umbi with a speaker from the Bible Society. Elizabeth Delaney attended a Uniting Church in the city where the speaker was Rev. Andrew Sempell from St James, King Street, Glenda attended the service at Longueville Uniting Church and Rae Goth went to Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Elizabeth advised that WKS Fellow, Dr Liza Lamis, Executive Secretary of FLC International, will be visiting Australia to attend to ACW Conference in Brisbane in September. She will also be visiting some of the State Units. The NSW Unit has offered to host Dr Lamis on a visit to Sydney, the details are yet to be arranged. Dr Lamis is a member and leader of The Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches.
2. **Special Project** – Lyn advised that the NE Minutes state that the Special Project they have chosen is the Hope Street Women's Centre submitted by NSW. This still has to be ratified by the State Units. The meeting prayed for the National Executive and the President Fran Moss.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: AGM and Council Meeting 15th April 2019

Morning Tea: Baptist Church

Chairs: Churches of Christ

Trading Table: Anglican

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.00. Peg read from the Upper Room booklet 'Trust in God' Proverbs 3:5-8 and closed in prayer.