

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. STATE UNIT

MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney on Monday March 17, 1997 at 10.30 a.m.

OPENING: Due to President Peg Blake's indisposition, Past President Lucelle King welcomed members and led devotions and opened the meeting with prayer.

PRESENT: 50 as per Attendance Sheets.

APOLOGIES: 6 including President.

Lucelle King informed the meeting of the death of Dr. Juliet Backhouse on March 9 - she was an Anglican member of Australian Church Women. Juliet had served with the Church Missionary Society in Tanzania for 24 years, a very gifted and dedicated doctor. A Thanksgiving Service for her life was held on March 12 at St. James Anglican Church, Turramurra, which Margaret Jessup and Mina Whybourne attended.

Rachel McManus, one of the Winifred Kiek Scholars for 1997, was then introduced and Rachel told of her position at the Cross Roads Centre at Redfern for aboriginal people, of her involvement with the young people with drug and alcohol problems, how she takes groups away for weekends as far away as Burren Junction to help them overcome their addictions and to tell them of Jesus Christ. She read the story of Daniel and the lions' den and how he was protected by God - and she believes God has put her in this position in Redfern and will protect her. She found that she has aboriginal ancestry and so has inherited a much larger family and she is finding this very exciting. She is studying for a Diploma of Theology at Robert Menzies College and the WKS Scholarship pays the fees and her books. She was sponsored by the Mothers' Union and Rev. John Macintyre from St. Saviours Redfern helps with advice, etc.

Rachel answered many questions and asked for prayer from members - for strength from God to be Christ-like in all that she undertakes and to have spiritual discernment.

Lucelle thanked Rachel for her very moving account of her position as a Youth Worker in a difficult area and assured her of our prayers and presented her with a rose bouquet and a gift.

The Minutes of Meeting of Monday February 17 1997 were read and confirmed on motion of Elaine Giddey and Vi Minty. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Annual General Meeting: April 21: Nomination forms available - all positions declared vacant with the exception of the President.
2. Annual Service of Dedication May 12: Arrangements in hand. List circulated for members to indicate sandwiches, slices, etc. willing to bring for luncheon: invitations available also poster for Church bulletin boards.
3. Ecumenical Luncheon - July 7 - 11 a.m. Shelley Reys as speaker. Salvation Army Function Centre.
4. ICFLC - Motion to be presented at National Conference in September "that Australia become a member of ICFLC".
5. ACWC - Iluminada Domingo wishes to establish an Endowment Fund of \$US1,000,000 We need ideas for fund raising - cake stalls, "bring and buy" stalls by individual Churches - calendars at Christmas time - Lucelle King happy to contribute 20% of her card money. We would take a collection again later in the year for ACWC partners (at a Council meeting).

6. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - Marie McCann had attended a meeting re Olympic Games volunteers - the manager of the programme said 50,000 would be required - 40,000 for main Olympics and 10,000 for Para-Olympics. Forms will be available in due course - suggestion of a special uniform - possibly required 8 hours a day for 5/6 days. We will be kept informed. There will be places for a "Quiet Time".

FROM EXECUTIVE:

Heather Reid (Social Issues Convener) had written to Liberal Party and to Dr Marlene Goldsmith commending them for their stand on several issues. Had written regarding a book set for HSC students using obscene language and regarding the exploitation of the young lass in "Dolly" magazine. She had also written to the Prime Minister congratulating him on receipt of a Rotary Award because of his gun law legislation.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED:

President had attended Ryde Presbyterian Church on 16 February, World Day of Prayer, Caringbah Anglican Church, 7 March and WCTU Reception - being the speaker at each function. She had also attended the Anglican Home Mission Society Annual Service at St. Philips, Church Hill on 9 March.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. WCTU President's reception March 9 - President attended.
2. E. Shanley - Terrigal Branch.
3. National Executive - update ACW Guidelines, master copy constitution.
4. NSW Govt. Department for Women - Women's Information and Referral Service
5. Awakening News: Resurrection Day March.
6. Burwood/Concord Annual Report.
Reports for printing in Annual Report from all Conveners and Branches required by April.
7. Jessie Street 9th Annual Luncheon - Friday April 11, 12.00 Parliament House.
8. Women's Reconciliation Network - Function 10 April 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Dougherty Community Centre, 7 Victor Street Chatswood -
Maree Majoor will attend - application forms available for interested members.
9. Olive Dooley, Penshurst - acknowledging Dedication date change from 19 to 12 May.
10. NSW Ecumenical Council - week of Prayer - 11-18 May.
11. Taize meetings in May.
12. South India Bulletin.
13. The Library Society, Friends of the State Library of NSW and National Council of Women, NSW. Inc. "What have they been doing for the past 100 years?" Seminar. Saturday 24 May, 1997. State Library. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$25.
Application forms available for interested members.
14. Helen Stutchbury - the Upper Blue Mountains Inter-Church Fellowship has been disbanded after 16 years. (Helen to be invited to become Associate Member).
15. National Executive - draft programme for National Conference. 22-26 September.
16. Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Record.
18. NSW Churches of Christ - invitation to Annual Conference - 16 May.

Ethel Wladysiuk had met Hazel McIvor in Canberra recently - Hazel had sent greetings and was looking forward to our attendance at Conference.

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REPORTS: TREASURER'S: Marie Majoor said that our finances were in a healthy condition - had been audited - several accounts were ratified for payment. Financial report attached.

Marie referred to a project mentioned by Iluminada Domingo from ACWC regarding funds required for a University for women in Mexico and said that any member who wished to contribute \$1 on her own behalf, her daughter's or mother's - would have their names recorded in a special book. Several members responded to this suggestion.

FELLOWSHIP OF LEAST COIN: Shirley Wells read Psalm 126 from the Circle of Prayer and prayed.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Beth Finlay had written to several of past scholars with greetings.

SPECIAL DAYS: Edith Ridge had received master copy of Fellowship Day Service Order forms would be sent out this month. Packing Day in June.

FUNCTIONS: Ecumenical Day July 7 - arrangements in hand.

PUBLICITY: Colleen O'Sullivan had prepared posters for Dedication Day for display in Churches.

NEWSETTE: Next Newsette deadline - April 14.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

New set of posters and leaflets for Girls Brigade - "Flame" available.

Lucelle King thanked the Catholic ladies for their "Irish" morning tea - and the Presbyterian ladies for arranging the chairs.

Next meeting: Morning Tea - Uniting Church. Chairs: Catholic.
April 21:

The meeting was closed with the Benediction at 12.30.

Confirmed



April 21, 1997

Apologies for 21/4:

Jan Harrison.