

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

MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING held at 222 PITT STREET SYDNEY on 15th SEPTEMBER 1997.

OPENING: President Peg Blake welcomed members and read from Genesis 9:12-17, of the appearing of the rainbow following the flood, the sign of God's wonderful promises. The rainbow, whenever we see it - remember God's wonderful mercy and grace - his everlasting covenant with his creation and with us. Peg spoke of the beauty of the recent flower festival at St Andrew's Cathedral - another symbol of our great creator, and reminder of his steadfast love. Like the dove and the rainbow, God can use us also, as signs of his promises and his grace for us all.

Peg then prayed for us all to be kept in that grace and be used for his purposes through ACW - praying especially for Beth Finlay, very seriously ill, as she is facing surgery, and for Mina Whybourne, with her badly-broken ankle and leg in plaster. She gave thanks also for the lives of Princess Diana and Mother Theresa, and prayed for Helen Stutchbery's husband who is ill and for Helen in her concern.

A welcome was extended to new member, representing the Presbyterian Church, Mrs Merle Menzies of Bateau Bay, and a welcome back to Avis Stretton after absence through illness, and to Joan Tong and Mollie Craig returned from overseas.

PRESENT: 39 Members as per attendance records.

APOLOGIES: Beth Finlay, Mina Whybourne and 13 others recorded.

MINUTES: The Minutes of meeting on 18th August 1997 as circulated were confirmed on motion of Lily Hanlon seconded Ruth Moore.

BUSINESS ARISING/BUSINESS FROM EXECUTIVE:

1. ACWC SERVICE at 10.30 a.m. at Lakemba Uniting Church on Monday November 17th. Rev Myong Hwa Park unable to accept invitation to speak as is on maternity leave. President has invited Rev John Ting, minister of the Chinese Presbyterian Church, and past moderator of Presbyterian Church, and he has accepted. It was agreed to ask the ladies of his church, Crown Street, to sing during the Service. Anglican members plus Executive to provide light lunch.  
Bus No 450 - Strathfield Station to Hurstville Station via Beverley Hills Station and Roselands - stops at door of church, which is right opposite Lakenba Station in Haldon Street.  
The Service and Lunch will be followed by November Council Meeting, the final Council meeting for the year.
2. CALENDARS: Joan Tong displayed the Calendars to be sold towards our commitment to ACWC Endowment Fund - 50 assorted Calendars were allocated to each denominational group - all payments to be brought in at November Meeting (at Lakemba).
3. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE: Secretary Jan Harrison tabled the tribute, with photo, she has prepared and sent to National, with required cheque, for Memorial Bursary Book, in memory of the late Dr. Juliet Backhouse *(as enag minutes)*
4. NATIONAL CONFERENCE: Pray for those who are going - for good fellowship, safe travelling, and right decisions. It was noted that Aileen Mortensen, President-Elect of new National Executive in Queensland, is in Brisbane Hospital undergoing major surgery. Also Anne Green has had to withdraw from that Executive, owing to ill health.
5. FLOWER FESTIVAL: Thanks have been conveyed to Cec Warry for the wonderful ACW display, of which some photos were circulated during meeting; to Joan Tong for co-ordinating and assisting with transport of flowers, and to Val Renn and Helen Hill for assisting Mr Warry.

6. NCW AWARDS: President Peg tabled the booklet with profiles of the six women nominated for this award, including Joan Tong whom we nominated - all women of great achievement and service. The winner was Joan Heather Johnson AO, career in nursing, public health, industrial law and industrial relations - member and past President of Quota Club - Probus Club - Council on the Ageing - to name just a few of her activities. The excellent guest speaker was Dr Dian Horvath AO, Chief Executive Officer of Central Sydney Health Service.
7. STATE CONFERENCE: Functions Convener Margaret Collier advised arrangements well in hand for May 1-15 at Salvation Army Training Centre at Stanmore, which was such a popular venue for last year's conference. Ruth Myers and Kath Donovan have agreed to lead all three sessions on Thursday May 14, 11 am, 2 pm and 3.30. PRAY for Kath Donovan who is at present seriously ill with pneumonia.

On Thursday May 15, in accordance to plan to have program with aboriginal focus, Rev Rick and Mrs Lyndell Manton, who minister at Rooty Hill, have been invited to speak at 11 a.m. session - to be confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE (Inward):

1. National Executive - 3 letters, 31st August, 1st & 2nd September. Request for Unit Banners to be taken to Canberra for Conference.
2. Indian Christian Mission Centre - re visit to Sydney of Director in November. (It was agreed to invite this visitor to attend ACWC Service at Lakemba).
3. Women's Calendar.
4. Anglicare Volunteers Division - Diana Stein apology for absence from recent ACW functions, owing to ill health.
5. Dorothy Woodhouse re new ACW branch opening at Kincumber.
6. Phyl McKinnirey - declining nomination to NCW Executive as unable to attend owing to re-routing of buses in her area. We need to seek to fill this vacancy - NCW Executive meets at 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm on 3rd Thursday in month in Mitchell Room, 4th Floor, Imperial Arcade.
7. Y.W.C.A. - Invitation to Annual Luncheon - 17th September - Linelle Smith will attend.
8. Anglican Board of Mission Sydney Auxiliary - Invitation to Reception at 10.30 am on 24th September in Bible House. Mollie Craig will attend.

CORRESPONDENCE (Outward):

1. Dorothy Woodhouse re new ACW branch opening at Kincumber.
2. Olive Edmonstone re Baptist Women Annual Meeting 22nd Sept. that Elsie Cox will be attending.
3. Margaret Jessup, expressing our concern for her health. (The meeting was advised that her eyesight is improving.
4. National Executive Secretary Jean Thomson (2 letters)
5. Cec Warry - thanks for Flower Festival arrangement.
6. Queensland State Unit - special card made by Lucelle King for their 50th Anniversary. Letter to Aileen Mortenson, concern for her in health problem.
7. Joan Heather Johnson - congratulations for NCW Woman of the Year Award 1997.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Marie Majoor presented very comprehensive report - Fellowship Day offertories not quite up to last year but still more to come in. The financial statement was adopted moved Marie Majoor seconded Pat Clough.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Convener Shirley Wells reminded us of her 'September Special' - copies of No 13 Circle of Prayer for half-price at \$1.00 - she suggested that members may feel able to take 5 copies to sell in their branches. She read the 'Voice from U.S.A.' concluding with prayer.

REPORTS (continued):

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Convener Beth Finlay very ill as above. No recent news from any scholars. 1997 scholars Rachel McManus and Joanne Harries will be present and introduced at National Conference.

SPECIAL DAYS: Reported on Convener's behalf that 39 packages of World Community Day Services were sent out and that packing day was a happy time with plenty of helpers.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Convener Heather Reid encouraged members to write to their local members re Clover Moore's support for single-sex marriages, reduction of age of consent etc.

Mollie Craig reported on attendance at Children's Film & Television Council - change of name in South Australia to Media Youth but NSW Council to retain original name.

NEWSETTE: Editor advised that deadline for next issue is October Executive (13th).

PUBLICITY: Convener Colleen O'Sullivan not present but publicity for Fellowship Day was tabled - double-page spread with photos in PWA 'SPAN' and Brig. Mabel Ward's report in Salvation Army 'Veteran' magazine.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Joan Tong reported on her recent attendance at ACWC Executive meeting in Singapore which occupied 5 days. Executive Secretary Rev Illuminada Domingo is seeking that ACWC moves out more into the community - had idea of offering scholarships similar to our WKS - the first 2 scholarships have already been awarded - both women from Myanmar (Burma), from extremely poor circumstances. The Executive considered their Budget - planned for Quadrennial Conference in November 1998 at which ACW Australia will have 4 representatives - Joan Tong, Lynette Green (National Australian representative) and 2 others who will be elected at National Conference next week. This Conference will be in Changmai in Myanmar. It will cost \$200 for registration, accommodation, plus paying one's own fare - everyone will be classified as delegates and observers, with voting power - no one will be classed just as visitors.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- JRN. Alison yonal*
1. P.W.M.U. Rally attended - contacted Rev Cliff ~~Letcher~~ of Aust. Inland Mission - has invited him to speak to us at March Council.
  2. NCW Founders Day Luncheon (reported in business arising). Dr Diana Horvath AO was excellent speaker and we were proud to see our Joan take her place as one of the nominees for Woman of the Year Award.
  3. Inter-Church Group at Woonona - spoke to Fellowship Day - they have used our Special days services for many years but are unlikely to affiliate with ACW.
  4. Sydney Prayer Breakfast, convened by Parliament Christian Fellowship on October 8th from 7 a.m. - Peg unable to attend - Beryl McLaughlin will go in her place.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Deaconess Thora Thomas spoke of the lovely Retirement Village Unit into which she has moved at Dee Why - address 7/74 Oaks Avenue Dee Why 2099 - phone 9971.6697 - as she is writing a book, was delighted with her son's gift of a Computer & Printer.

NEXT MEETING: 17th November 1997 at Lakemba Uniting Church following ACWC Service.

President Peg thanked the Catholic ladies for provision of morning tea and the Baptist ladies for preparation of meeting room.

The Meeting was closed with prayer and the benediction at 12.30 p.m.

Confirmed

Date

JULIET BACKHOUSE MB BS(Syd) Dip TM&H Dip Ger FRACGP 1924-1997.

Juliet Nancy Backhouse was born in Armidale and educated in Sydney. After graduating from Sydney University in 1947 she sailed in 1952 for Tanzania (Tanganyika) as a young doctor of 27 years.

Dr. Juliet Backhouse began to practice a very high standard of medicine with limited resources, managing many difficult problems for which she had received no specific training. She worked as physician and surgeon, gynaecologist and obstetrician in isolated bush hospitals where she was absolutely committed to her patients' welfare. It was said she could diagnose a condition from the doorway!

Juliet worked in the Church Missionary Society hospitals of Kilimatinde, Berega and Mvumbi from 1952 to 1966, in Moshi at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre from 1972 to 1974 and at the Professional Unit in Dodoma from 1974 to 1976. During the earlier years she was the only medically qualified person within a vast area and had to deal with every medical and surgical emergency at all hours of the day and night. As well, she had to manage staffing, administration, equipment, maintenance and building supervision. She often gave the anaesthetic prior to performing the operation. She had a special love for children and couldn't bear to see them suffer.

Her compassion for the people of Africa was motivated by a desire to share the love of God and Jesus' message of reconciliation which she had experienced in her own life. She went as a warm human being to those who were suffering. She showed this love, not so much with words but with actions. She was, however, not lacking in words - she was a gifted linguist who spent time teaching Swahili to many young workers new to the field. She was also involved in editorial work in the field of African Christian Literature. She went to Africa in response to Jesus' command to heal the sick. Juliet neither counted the cost nor sought reward.

Back in Australia she became full-time Medical Officer in several hospitals in Victoria involved in Geriatric and Rehabilitation work. This continued in country NSW and in 1984 became Staff Geriatrician at the Hornsby-Kuring-gai Geriatric and Rehabilitation Service. Juliet did several locums, even going back to Tanzania for three months in 1987. Now retired, she taught English to migrant groups. In her final illness her great intelligence, her independence and her dignity were stripped from her one by one and she was hospitalised in a unit which she had done much to establish in her geriatric work.



It was in the latter years of her life that the late Deaconess Mary Andrews brought Juliet along to be part of the Anglican representation on Australian Church Women (NSW State Unit). Although she did not hold office, this same caring, compassionate lady gave herself humbly and quietly to the Unit. She would be there at 'packing days' and found alongside people helping and encouraging them.

Juliet Backhouse is one of those who enriched the NSW Unit and will be remembered for her deep abiding love of the Lord Jesus Christ whom she served faithfully.

# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (NSW STATE UNIT)

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS for one month ended 31.08.97

CR BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1.08.97			10382.55
ADD RECEIPTS FOR ONE MONTH			
Associated Members		50.00	
ACWC Endowment Fund - C'mssion L King for sale of craft		8.50	
Sale of promotional items		42.00	
Newsette		25.00	
O/seas Travel Fund - Morning Tea	8.35		
Trading Table	<u>3.90</u>	12.25	
F.L.C.		169.30	
ACWC Partners		65.60	
Donation		1.00	
Fellowship Day Service		<u>2377.05</u>	<u>2760.70</u>
			13123.25
DEDUCT - PAYMENTS FOR ONE MONTH			
ACW Nat. Exec. - J Backhouse Memorial Bursary		25.00	
Board of Property & Finance - Printing - Newsette	56.40		
Mailing - F'ship Day	<u>104.20</u>	160.60	
Bush Church Aid - Donation		5.00	
Treasurer - Printing/Stationery	16.10		
Postage	<u>32.35</u>	48.45	
Secretary - Printing/Stationery	37.10		
Postage	<u>25.20</u>	62.30	
Ces Warry - Advance for flowers for festival		150.00	
Treasurer - Postage	27.00		
FLC Convener - "	<u>18.00</u>	45.00	
Newsette		71.22	
Special Days Convener Reimbursement expenses		53.23	
Bartel - Calendars		146.34	
Government Charges		<u>5.84</u>	<u>2087.00</u>
			11036.25
CHEQUES FOR RATIFICATION/PAYMENT			
Bartel - Calendars			
"			
ACW Nat. Exec. FLC Spoons	1460.34		
Board Finance & Property - Postage Wld Comm. Day	625.10		
Peg Blair - President's expenses stationery (Mae)	40.00		
Jan Hamlin - Anniversary Fund to Nat. Conf.	173.90		
Board Finance & Property - Bartel - Wld 360.00	155.63		
FLC helper	56.00		
	<u>90.00</u>		
		450.00	