



# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

## NSW STATE UNIT INC.

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MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10<sup>th</sup> floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 19 February 2007, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Carmel Keys welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Shirley Mitchell as a Uniting Church delegate.

Carmel read from Hebrews 6: 16-20. When hopes are high, communication is easy, but when there is a lack of trust it is difficult to understand. We find it difficult to trust if answer to prayer is not what we expect. God is not a heavenly policeman, we can be tempted by evil and trust can die. Jesus assured us that he is ever with us, will never abandon us, and is wholly trustworthy. In prayer thanks were expressed for Christ's death on the cross and his unconditional love.

PRESENT: 51 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 6 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting on 20 November 2006 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Denise Secomb.

### BUSINESS ARISING:

1. ACW Website: Brenda Dickinson reported that she had prepared material for the NSW page and Executive had approved its use. Brenda explained how the process of setting up was taking place. The address is [www.acwnational.org.au](http://www.acwnational.org.au)

2. World Community Day Service 2007: Pamela Freeman reported that the committee appointed by Council to undertake this task had submitted copy to National Executive and awaits a reply. A cover illustration is needed on the theme *Enough for Each Day*, and Council members were invited to make suggestions if they had ideas of what might be appropriate.

3. 'Profiles' of Presidents NSW Inter Church Council/ACW NSW Unit: Council members were asked to make every effort to help find information/photos as needed. Thanks to those who have supplied or are working on entries.

4. A request for consideration of a World Community Day Special Project has been submitted to National Executive for *Youth Off the Street*, on the initiative of Pat Sutton.

### REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the books had been audited at the end of the year. Receipts for January amounted to \$390 and the balance at the end of January was \$3465.45. Moved Helen, seconded Judith Baker that the report be received. Moved Helen and seconded Nancy McLaren that accounts be paid. Moved Helen and seconded Lyn Middleton that \$2,000 be moved into an investment account. Carried.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone reported that Beatrice Kay's husband Noel had died during the last week and the funeral was taking place. A thanksgiving service was to be held later in the day.

Jean Porteous reported on Rosalyn Bemrose who is remaining cheery while undergoing treatment for cancer in the spine. Rosalyn requires a blood transfusion each month.

Prayers were requested for Beatrice and her family, and for Rosalyn and her husband, Phillip.

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FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang was absent but had sent a report indicating that receipts for World Community Day amounted to \$6,586.61, and donations subsequent to November amount to \$4,080.35. A reminder was given for applications for FLC grants which are due by the end of April, but forms need to be acquired and filled in prior to that date. The FLC meditation was *The Least Coin* poem written by Margaret Knauerhase, followed by the FLC prayer.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Beryl Kirkwood told of preparations for the ACWC celebration on the south side of Sydney, at Hurstville Salvation Army, 21 October 2007. Preliminary arrangements are in place but Council members, especially from the St George/Sutherland area were asked to advise Beryl of any groups/artists who might be invited to take part.

Beryl reminded members of the need for prayer for Mongolia and East Timor, and for Hong Kong, while not forgetting that South Korea is the new ACWC prayer partner for Australia.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported that as well as sending the proposed order of service for World Community Day to National Executive, letters had been sent to local branches outlining the themes for 2007 which are:  
Fellowship Day: *Heaven's Bread* – Exodus 16: 13-18  
World Community Day: *Enough for Each Day* – Matthew 6:11

Pamela again spoke of the need for new contacts in country areas, asking for names of people who might become new coordinators.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer had cards and letters available if people wished to read them. She read a letter from Mary Au who now has her 94 year old mother living with her; a lift has been installed in her church to enable older people access; Mary has become director of the cemetery department with responsibility for two huge graveyards.

New WKS pamphlets are being prepared.

Leinamau Seru from Vanuatu, one of the new WKS Scholars, will attend Alan Walker College at North Parramatta during the period 19 March 2007 to 15 December 2007. Judith gave details of the request from Una Birtchnell, the National WKS Convener, for involvement of ACW NSW in assisting Leinamau during her stay. The other Scholar for 2007 is Cathy Paraka from Papua New Guinea. Judith requested prayers for both scholars.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird read a reply received from the office of the Prime Minister regarding government action to deal with young people with disabilities in nursing homes. While some funds are available and a long term plan from 2006-2016 were mentioned there is a long way to go before this matter can be resolved. One suggestion made is for families to set up trust funds for the care of family members when parents/carers die. The responsibility of States was also given an airing.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin gave the deadline for copy for the next issue 16 April 2007.

The reports were received on the motion of Helen Hill and Julie Bryant.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 13/11/2006, Financial Statement 5/10/2006-8/11/06; Circular Letter 5/2007

Order of Service at Margaret Watson's funeral; Anne Murray re AWC, UNIFEM White Ribbons

Jillian Skinner MP – Young People in Nursing Homes

Dept. Ageing, Disability & Home Care – Young People in Aged Care

NSW Health – disability not health matter Young People in Aged Care

UCAF – Dedication Service 14/2/2007 1.00 pm Wesley Centre

Office of Prime Minister – Young People in Aged Care

Margaret Ralph – re Certificate of Appreciation

Prison Fellowship Australia – thanks from Ian Minnis for support of child to Camp WerX, receipt, leaflets

Rev H John Taylor – re President Elect

PPSEAWA – Membership Renewal

Norma Dumbrell – re Myanmar

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Correspondence (inward) continued:

Donna Bryan – ACWC February Report

*NSW Women 8/2006, 1/2007; Span 12/2006 The Record Summer 2006; The Branch 12/2006*

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

Letters to politicians re Young People with Disabilities in Nursing Homes

Ian Minnis Prison Fellowship - \$250 for camp sponsorship

David Jones Ltd – Christmas display

Margaret Ralph – re profiles

Correspondence was received on the motion of Thora Thomas and Mina Whybourne.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:**

The letter from the Rev H John Taylor commended Mrs Jennifer Peffer as the Baptist nomination as President Elect. Jennifer was welcomed by Council into her new role.

Carmel Keys read a letter from Norma Dumbrell outlining her activities in Myanmar, teaching women in the Anglican Church through the Mothers' Union four day conference.

Julie Bryant noted that the letter of commendation about the inclusion of the Nativity Scene in David Jones was an encouragement to the window dresser.

Ian Minnis will be asked for prayer points regarding the child being sponsored to Camp WerX before next Council meeting as the camp is to take place 10-13 April 2007.

**PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:**

The Service of Dedication is to be held at St Brigids Church Millers Point at 10.30 on 21 May 2007. The church is on the corner of Kent and Argyle Streets and dates from 1847. Buses 431 and 433 along George Street, and 399 and 343 along Elizabeth Street provide access for those who are unable to walk from Circular Quay or Wynyard stations. Major Elaine Johnson, National President is to be the speaker. Lunch will follow the service and a board will be sent around closer to the event.

**FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:**

NCW Australia Day Luncheon

UCAF Dedication Service

**OTHER ORGANISATIONS:**

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN, GIRLS BRIGADE have not met as yet for 2007. Beverley Pavey the President of NCW has undergone surgery for cancer and begins chemotherapy.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Lily Hanlon reported that most services will take place on 2 March 2007 using the order of service produced in Paraguay. Next year's service will be from Guiana.

**BIBLE SOCIETY:** Julie Bryant was happy to report that the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs book designed as an outreach gospel is due and should sell for under \$10. Upcoming events related to Bible Society activities including the launch of the Cambodian project were mentioned.

**WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION:** With the ageing of the membership consideration is being given to setting up a foundation.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Annual General Meeting is 16 April 2007. All positions except those for president are open for nomination, and signed forms need to be in by Council meeting 19 March 2007.

Shirley Wells reported that Helen Stutchbury had been presented with her Certificate of Appreciation.

Thora Thomas read a letter from her doctor wishing her well on her overseas trip, acknowledging that Thora's quick recovery from recent treatment could not be explained medically.

A photo was circulated showing Merle Menzies' handiwork in producing a beautiful cloth and lectern hanging for the chapel at Pittwood Home at Ashfield. The photo showed Merle with the pieces, holding a certificate in appreciation of her work.

Jean Porteous asked that National Executive be asked about progress regarding incorporation, and that the question of insurance for National Conference be noted.

Sandra Wise commented on the good experience she had with Year 11 girls from Brigidine College St Ives who did work experience with her in an aged care facility.

Camp WerX contributions amounted to \$252, and as the cost for a child to attend is \$250 it was agreed that \$250 be sent to Ian Minnis at Prison Fellowship, asking for some feedback regarding the child who will benefit from attendance.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Carmel Keys asked for prayers for Catholic Women's League Chaplain, Father Terry O'Brien who is suffering with cancer of the liver.

Thanking members for attendance, Carmel prayed that we might work for justice and share the bounty of the earth.

NEXT MEETING: 19 March 2007

CHAIRS: Salvation Army  
MORNING TEA: Presbyterian

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_