



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 20 June 2005, 10.30a.m.

PRESENT: 42 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 14 as recorded.

Major Lyn Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Bernice Baker from The Entrance Branch.

Lyn led a devotional based on the 'three cheers' in the Gospels: Matthew 9:2 – God's pardon. Spiritually we all face the death sentence, but we have received the good cheer of God's pardon. Mark 6:50 – God's presence. Jesus walked on water, and he goes to extraordinary lengths to comfort us with his presence in troubled times. John 16:33 – God's power. God has overcome the world and in Christ we too can be 'overcomers'.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Annual General Meeting 18 April 2005 were initialled on the motion of Carmel Keys and Norma Dumbrell.

The minutes of the Council Meeting 18 April, 2005 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Shirley Tapp with the correction of the balance in the Treasurer's report to read \$1954.86. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Service of Dedication Monday 16 May 2005 at The Salvation Army, Chatswood. Lyn Middleton thanked all who had helped on the day, with special thanks to ACW National President, Major Nancy McLaren who had been the speaker. Council members thought the FLC presentation was excellent, and the signing for hearing impaired a worthy addition. The suggestion was made that a similar presentation on Winifred Kiek Scholarship could be helpful.
2. Spiritual Enrichment Day 18 July 2005 – St James Hall, Level 1, 169-171 Phillip Street, Sydney from 10.00 am to 12.45 pm, with lunch to follow until 1.30 pm. Lyn Middleton gave a brief outline of the planned activities on the theme of *We have this treasure...* (2 Corinthians 4:7). Cost of at least \$2 has been set to defray expenses, including a donation for use of the hall. Morning tea supplied by Executive, bring your own lunch.
3. National Conference Collaroy 9-14/10/2005: Council members are encouraged to attend to help celebrate 50 years FLC, 40 years ACW, 40 years WKS, 20th National Conference. Registration forms were available for those considering attending.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the beginning of April was \$1954.86, receipts amounted to \$2044.50, expenditure \$649.74, leaving a bank balance at the end of May of \$3429.62. Moved Helen, seconded Judith Baker that the report be received, and payments of accounts approved. Carried.

MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery brought greetings from Padma Ebenezer who is in Australia at present. Bev Elliott was at the meeting and feeling much better. Congratulations had been sent to Marie McCann on a 'special' birthday. Thora Thomas has gone overseas. Mina Whybourne is recovering slowly, and Peg Blake has been very tired. Gladys Wladysiuk was unable to attend the meeting as she had a medical appointment.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: In Judith Cayzer's absence Edith Ridge presented her report. A letter has been sent to Mereani and a précis of her report was included in the bundles sent to branches for Fellowship Day. Celestial, the 2001 Scholar, is to be married 9 July 2005 and Judith will send her a card. Judith also asked members to continue praying for the 2005 scholars in their areas of service. Mina Whybourne's news from Rachael McManus is that she is to be married in November.

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FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang encouraged Council members to share in the FLC Golden Jubilee. Thirty special projects have been selected worldwide to benefit from FLC funds this year. Full details are not yet available, but Australia will receive funds for Journey to Wholeness, Kwinana, WA, and Grace in Restoring Life program at Hope Street, Woolloomooloo.

Janet led a devotional by Beryl Kirkwood from Circle of Prayer 17, *To soar like an eagle*.

SOCIAL ISSUES: In Sr Joan Bird's absence Lyn Middleton reported that Executive has received a list of questions to consider so that the Social Issues Convener and Committee can have a better idea of, for example, the level at which ACW is going to work, which social issues are we concerned with enough to follow up, and how will we follow them up. Executive will look at the questions before bringing a proposal for consideration at Council.

It was pointed out that a Bill on Religious Vilification is to be presented to State Parliament. Council members were encouraged to inform themselves of the detail and intent of the matter and then write letters if they so wish.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Winsome Penn gave a brief report on Pat Walker's attendance at a recent Executive meeting in Cambodia to plan for the Quadrennial Assembly to be held in October next year, a seminar on micro finance and gender justice.

The ACWC Pleasant Sunday Afternoon is to be held on 25 September 2005 at Northside Baptist Church Crows Nest. Afternoon tea at 2.45 pm will precede the presentation which is timed to finish at 4.30 pm.

SPECIAL DAYS: Packing day for World Community Day orders of service is set down for 22 August 2005 from 9.30-12.00 on the 9th floor 222 Pitt Street and packers are welcome.

NEWSETTE: Deadline for copy for the next issue is 18 July 2005. There is still a need for a Newsette manager. Cela Cooper has offered to do the work if there is not someone from the Sydney area able to take it on. Nola Dickson agreed to continue until after National Conference.

Moved Shirley Wells, seconded Irene Roberts that the reports be received.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

ACW National – Minutes 18/4/2005, 9/5/2005; Circular letter 3/2005; *ACW News* May 2005

NCW - Foundation Day Luncheon 4/8/2005, *News*

PWA - Annual Conference 4/7/2005

Judith Cayzer – Apology and Report

Baptist Women of NSW & ACT – nomination of Ramona Cowle ACWC delegate

Edith Ridge – UCAF NSW Synod *Newsletter*

UCA Day Mission support Group Service 8 August 2005

Laurel Pearce WA – thanks for letter of condolence on death of Vera Wilson

PWA *Span* 6/2005

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Our NSW State Unit Inc Constitution allows for 8 Life Members. Executive proposed that Beryl McLaughlin be given this honour, and Council added its endorsement.

2. Under National ACW Constitution we may have 2 Life Members from NSW at any one time, and following Executive's recommendation, Shirley Wells was nominated.

Hearty congratulations were offered!

3. NCW Award – nominations are sought and members of Council were asked to think of anyone who might be nominated from ACW.

4. Ramona Cowle's profile has been forwarded to National as a potential delegate from Australia to the ACWC Quadrennial Assembly to be held in Malaysia in October 2006.

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OTHER ORGANISATIONS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Judith Baker reported that the feedback from the service from the women of Poland had been very positive. Preliminary work has begun on the service for 2006 from South Africa.

ACW is entitled to another representative on World Day of Prayer Committee, and Jan Harrison indicated her willingness to serve in this capacity.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells reported that NCWA has received a \$10,000 grant to translate the asthma awareness leaflet into Italian and Greek. It has also received \$5,000 to research women's use of mobile phones.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Carmel Keys reported that at the recent Annual Meeting encouragement was given to the goals of ecumenism. As part of the National Council of Churches in Australia the sharing of programs among churches would be a positive step. Work towards a common baptismal certificate is continuing. Force Ten is to become 'Partners for Peace' at the end of 2005.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: In her report Edith Ridge told of the speakers who have addressed PPSEAWA this year. To honour the International Year of Microcredit Sara Gaunt told of Oxfam's efforts following the tsunami: initially providing water, sanitation, food and shelter; mid-term extending into primary health care; and long term rehabilitating community facilities such as schools, roads, and bridges.

Jennifer O'Hanlon from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission of the National Council of Churches spoke about Reconciliation, its history, needs and future paths. NATSIECs three main projects are: Theology – from the perspective of Aboriginal people; Women – developing resources for Aboriginal women to help their communities; Youth- encouraging the interchange of ideas and developing future leaders.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION: The WCTU has been working to have mandatory health warnings on alcohol labels and is encouraged that the AMA is now looking at the possibility. Postcards on foetal alcohol syndrome are available for those who would like to send them.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant told of a project of the Women's Ministry to produce a gospel for women which would include testimonies.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Requests from National Executive by 15/8/2005:

- motions for discussion at Conference required
- names of members who have received awards
- names of members who have died
- biennial Unit Report
- 2 voting delegates and 2 observers

NEXT MEETING: 15 August 2005

Chairs: Anglican

Morning Tea: Uniting Church

CLOSE & BENEDICTION:

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____