



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.

ABN 68 539 329 715



Minutes of the National Executive Meeting Monday 17th February 2014

Welcome: The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm. President, Major Lyn Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Devotions: Pamela Freeman presented the Devotions on the theme of 'Building in Harmony – An Altar.'

Former altars have been made from natural objects. On the other hand, altars fashioned by man may be of stone, earth, natural rocks, wood, metal, and brick. An altar may stand alone or be part of a courtyard or shrine. In these days, our sacrifice is praise, thanksgiving, prayer.

An altar is a sacred place and that is why there is a need for us to be holy to build a holy place for God.

Nowadays, the altar may simply be an entry in a journal. The Church itself is an altar – serving as a unified place of worship for Christians or individuals coming together to pour out their hearts to God. An altar is a thing of the heart.

Pamela invited each person to take a small rock and contribute to building an altar. Rocks are symbolic of the broken things in our lives, fallout from those moments of lava eruptions, token reminders of the grindings of life.

We have options: a) take the hard things of life and arrange them before the Lord; b) drag the rocks around with us and be burdened by them. When frustrated at lugging them around, such rocks may be thrown angrily at another person.

God intends that something in us be “altered” when we come to the altar. [Jack Hayford]

Let us allow His Spirit to alter us as we assemble at the altar. Pamela finished her Devotions with prayer.

Present: Lyn Middleton (Chair), Brenda Dickinson, Pamela Freeman, Tricia Graham, Isabel Hewitt, Lillian Hodges, Joy Inglis, Elizabeth McEwen, Jennifer Pepper, Denise Secomb

Apologies: Nancy McLaren

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2014 were confirmed and signed as being accurate.

REPORTS:

President's Report

Lyn thanked everyone for their attendance on January 20th and thanked Tricia for her generous hospitality.

Lyn commented that not a lot has transpired since we last met. Lyn has attended one function - The Installation of the CWLA National Executive for 2014-2015. This was a Celebration Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Waitara and a lovely occasion followed by fellowship over a luncheon.

Correspondence:

- From ACWC prayer request for Northern Indonesia and Southern Philippines
- To ACWC in Indonesia and Philippines – assurance of prayer support
- From ACWC for continued prayer support for Philippines with ongoing natural disasters
- To ACWC with assurance of continued prayer for Philippines
- To Commissioner Jan Condon re teleconferencing
- From Commissioner Jan Condon re teleconferencing
- To Marion McCall re congratulations on winning International Dawn to Dusk competition
- From Marion McCall – details of winning flight.
- Card from Carmel Keys with best wishes for our term of office – responded
- Phone call from Jan Harrison with thoughts and prayers for us as we set about the task – responded.

Lyn thanked Denise and Isabel for seeing things through while she was away.

Vice President 1 – Denise Secomb

Denise commented on the need to start looking for speakers for the Conference in the near future. Everyone was asked to think about appropriate speakers and send recommendations to Denise.

Vice President 2 – Joy Inglis

In response to a query from Joy, she was advised that the deadline for the Life Members' Book was September 2015.

Secretary – Isabel Hewitt:

Isabel tabled a report from Donna Bryan which will be in the next ACWC Newsletter. Donna gave a resume of what she has been doing and reports that have gone out. She reported on her visit to South Korea for the ICFLC annual meeting and the Pre-Assembly and General Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

The ACWC General Assembly will be held in the Philippines in October, and Donna has asked for prayers for the Church Women United of the Philippines who will be hosting this Assembly.

Isabel has been working on the archives.

2014 Address Lists were received from WA and Queensland Units. PLI Certificate of Currency forwarded to Units.

Treasurer – Jennifer Peffer

The Financial Statement from 1st July 2013 to 1st February 2014 (circulated and attached to the Minutes) shows a current Bank Balance of \$93,144.34.

Accounts for payment were approved as listed, also approval to transfer balances held for Legend & Legacy (\$14) and Winifred books (\$75) into Administration.

After the transfer of funds to Fellowship of the Least Coin (Swiss Francs) and ACWC (US Dollars) and the electronic transfer costs involved there could be approximately \$50,000 in the Bank, comprised mainly of National Conference funds which would not be required for 12 months.

Jennifer recommended some be placed in a term deposit for 12 months in either Suncorp or ING both of which are Government guaranteed and attract no fees.

Moved by Isabel Hewitt and Seconded by Tricia Graham that:

The Treasurer be authorised to invest \$30,000 in Suncorp or ING following her investigations as to which is the best option.

FLC Convenor – Lillian Hodges

Lillian has made contact with the State Convenors and suggested that if any of them have any ideas that they would like to share with other convenors, to send them to her for sharing.

One of them made a comment at the National Conference that she has a concern that she can't get into many church groups to speak about FLC. Lillian sent one idea for this.

When reading the letters that are sent with cheques for FLC, some of the words give her an idea that they may not understand fully what FLC is all about. So Lillian makes contact to ask if they would like her to attend one of their meetings. She has not had anyone say no yet! So that is positive.

Lillian looks forward to future contacts with the State Convenors. She reminded them that now is the time to think about proposing a project to receive an FLC Grant.

WKS Convenor – Nancy McLaren

Nancy called at Isabel's place and collected the WKS material. The WKS leaflet is ready for printing.

Special Days Convenor – Pamela Freeman

Since the last meeting of NE, the order of service as prepared by the ACT unit has been received, and formatted for publication. State Units were contacted to enquire what format would be preferred for sending out the materials.

On 6th and 7th February the State Units were sent the order of service for Fellowship Day, together with a copy of the Theme Song [Building in Harmony] and a suggested poster for advertising in the format requested.

As this material was forwarded by email, there has been a record of the delivery of these items.

With regard to World Community Day 2014, the papers associated with this service are anticipated to arrive from Cootamundra before the next meeting of National Executive in March, with the theme being *Building with Godly Wisdom*.

Website Manager – Brenda Dickinson

Brenda was pleased to report that all the outstanding website update requests sent to our Website Administrator Ewan Arnolda on February 7, 2014 have been completed at a cost of \$70 (discounted rate) and a cheque has been posted to Ewan.

WKS page: The WKS 2014 pamphlet will soon be available for posting on the website.

“Downloads” page: The 2011 “downloads” can be removed and replaced with 2014 downloads.

“Old Prayer Request” to be removed. This will then update the “Download” page.

Prayer requests will now be seen on the National Home page.

WA Unit: Anjali Abbott, WA Website Manager would like to have a photo of the WA committee on their page. Also, photos from the National Conference held in Perth last October.

Brenda will follow up on any action required.

ACWC

Reports from Donna Bryan were tabled.

Australian Women's Coalition Representative

Tricia will be attending a meeting on Saturday 22nd February. While Tricia is away any communications will be sent to Isabel.

*Denise moved that all Reports be accepted. Seconded by Lillian.
Carried*

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Special Project 2014

There are two applications for consideration for 2014.

Each applicant has been requested for further information to clarify funding, etc., and each committee member received a copy of these responses.

i) Victoria – Travellers' Aid – Victoria.

A comprehensive application with documentation was received. [This application had been sent to WA in 2013.]

After the January meeting of National Executive the Victorian Unit was asked that further consideration be given to the components of the suggested project that would qualify for the grant as being 'non-government funded'.

Three areas have been submitted for consideration.

ii) Newcastle – NSW - Mums' Cottage

This is a new initiative in the suburb of Holmesville [Newcastle]. The aims are to be affirming dignity and supporting families through guidance and mentoring, and to assist participants to move towards a healthy and holistic lifestyle.

The merits of each of these applications were discussed with the help of the information prepared by Pamela.

As a decision didn't have to be made at this meeting Lyn asked the committee to give each application prayerful consideration

2 AGM 2014

We are pursuing the possibility of teleconferencing for our AGM.

3 Matters referred from National Conference: Archives

An offer has been received to partner with New South Wales State Unit to hire a room for \$50/month (NSW State Unit \$25, National \$25), for a period of six months. The National Archivist has been consulted and it has been agreed to go ahead and transfer the archives to this location for sorting and scanning.

4 World Day of Prayer – deferred to the next meeting

5 Best time/s for Nancy McLaren to meet with NE

Nancy will be invited to meet with us in March and June.

Any other business

- Best wishes were expressed to Tricia for her travels.
- A discussion on the format of *News* was foreshadowed for the March meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed in prayer, at 3.20 pm.

Next meeting: 17th March 2014 – devotions Joy Inglis

President Date