

**Australian Church Women Inc National Executive 2011-2013**  
**Minutes of Meeting held Friday 27 January 2012**  
**4/242 Lawrence Street Bedford**

1. **Welcome** The meeting was opened at 10am by National President Major Laurel Pearce who welcomed everyone, especially Donna Bryan, in WA visiting her family.
2. **Devotions (Donna Bryan)** Donna offered a reflection on Matthew 22: 34-46. She reminded us of how fortunate we are to live in Australia and how much of a contrast this is to the situation of many of our Christian sisters in Asia. As we reflect on our theme "Our Choice is Love" the challenge is to consider what we can do for our sisters to give them a better way of life. She ended with prayers for our work.
3. **Attendance** Laurel Pearce, Lee Edwards, Marie Majoor Leeola Loughnan, Margaret Ker, Donna Bryan, Olive Dell, Meryon Goode, Peg Sanders (observer, WA Unit).
4. **Apologies** None
5. **Minutes of Previous meeting (12 December 2011)** Confirmation as a true and accurate record moved Leeola Loughnan, seconded Marie Majoor.
6. **Business Arising**
  - **National Archives** Laurel had written to Edith. Margaret had emailed the National Library of Australia but had not yet received a reply.
  - **Submission re people trafficking and slavery like offences:** copy tabled.
  - **Letters of introduction:** not yet sent.
  - **Constitution Review** see General Business
7. **Correspondence** List circulated/ attached.
  - Item 14 Inward: Margaret to request more information
8. **Reports** *Written reports will be kept in the Secretary's File.*
  - **President (Laurel Pearce)**
    - Laurel had written to Edith Ridge re archives and to Dorothy Wright with our prayerful support in her illness.
    - Newsletter from ACT Unit and FLC Project Grant Report form received.
  - **Vice Presidents (Lee Edwards and Marie Majoor)** No report
  - **Secretary (Margaret Ker)**
    - Margaret reported that distribution of Minutes is still being refined but Units appeared to value communication. Communication with national denominational bodies also needs to be addressed. The Guidelines need updating according to the decisions of the 2011 National Conference, and also need a comprehensive overhaul.
  - **Treasurer (Leeola Loughnan)**
    - Leeola reported that she could not yet furnish a current statement of accounts as she had not received the books from Christine Barber. Christine herself will not be able to finalise the Conference account until the Conference Minutes have been printed and despatched. Correspondence from Christine was tabled, together with her report to 31 December 2011.
    - Leeola also expressed thanks to Unit Treasurers for their prompt responses to the Assessment Forms and to FLC Convenors and Treasurers for payment for Circle of Prayer books collected at Conference.
    - The issue of Public Liability Insurance (see also Correspondence [conversation with Pamela Freeman]) was discussed briefly. Leeola will contact Pamela with information received from Luke from Butler and Butler.

- Some discussion with Donna re ACWC newsletters. Donna advised that some subscribers place direct orders. Donna and Leeola to liaise.
- **Accounts for payment** Margaret Ker \$ 65.69 (secretarial expenses ) moved Leeola seconded Meryon.
- **Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor (Meryon Goode and Leeola Loughnan)**
  - Meryon reported that she had sent Christmas letters to past Scholars. Contact with Christine (2009) is a continuing challenge but news of her via Maureen Clark is good.
  - Meryon thanked Leeola for arranging composition, printing and packing of brochures. Copies were circulated and all agreed it is excellent and that it would be good to despatch it as soon as possible.
  - Meryon has been in contact with the 2012 Scholars to welcome them.
  - News received from Doreen Lie, Mary Au, Leinamau Manrogoana Seru, Tonu Fakraufon, and Ruth Marsipal.
  - Leeola presented a series of suggestions for adjusting the Guidelines relating to production of the brochures.
- **Fellowship of the Least Coin Convenor (Olive Dell)**
  - A request for an ICFLC Grant was referred to Corazon Tabing-Reyes for advice re eligibility (inquiry is from Victoria , proposed project is in Malawi), Cora has advised that there is scope for such an application. Olive will write to Jenifer Mackenzie recommending her to approach the Victorian Unit with a view to their sponsoring/submitting a grant application.
  - Jan Abrahamfy (ACT) requested 100 money boxes.
- **Special Days Convenor (Olive Dell)**
  - The Fellowship Day Service with the theme, "Love Stands the Test" needs to be sent in the first week of February. Marie will print master copies and forward to Olive for distribution.
  - The Tasmanian Unit has been officially asked to prepare World Community Day Service with the theme "Love in Action". We have asked that it be completed for presentation to our March meeting.
  - At this stage only one application for the Special Project, from New South Wales. The project is Bear Cottage, a Hospice for Children in Manly. Olive circulated copies of the application. Since the deadline for applications has now passed and Olive will be unable to attend the February NE meeting it was moved Olive Dell seconded Lee Edwards unanimously approved:  
*That the Bear Cottage Project proposal received from the NSW Unit be presented to Units as the recommended Special Project for 2012.*
  - Themes for the Special Days 2013 need to be considered. Olive tabled 3 suggestions. Decision to be made at February NE meeting.
- **Social Justice**
  - **Submission re Exposure Draft Slavery, Slavery Like Conditions and People Trafficking**  
A brief submission was made after notification through Australian Women's Coalition that these were being invited. Proposed legislation would strengthen Australia's response to these issues. Copies of submission available on request.
- **Publications** It was agreed that it would be good to produce a newsletter, perhaps twice a year. But there was concern over the costs of production and distribution. Lee to investigate some possibilities of assistance.

- **Publicity and Website (Margaret Ker)**

- Margaret reported that updates requested by the NSW and WA Units had been sent to Ewan Arnolda, together with a report on the National Conference written by Isabel Hewitt for the NSW Newsette.

- **ACWC (Donna Bryan)**

- Donna brought news of the Young Women's Forum to be held in May. *Update: Full details have now been received from Rev. Lee Moon -Sook.*
- NE input invited to Donna's President's report to be presented to May meeting of the General Committee.
- Contributions to next Circle of Prayer invited.

- **Australian Women's Coalition (Laurel Pearce)**

- Emails received re ministerial changes and mental health. Information on mental health initiatives to be included in Circular.

## 7. General Business

- **Follow up to National Conference 2011** The Vice Presidents were asked to peruse the Conference Working Papers to identify any issues still to be followed up, and to report to February meeting.
- **Constitution Review**
  - Margaret circulated a brief report summarising responses from Units and work done over January. After some discussion it was decided to hold a special meeting at the end of the February NE meeting (Lee to check availability of room until 2.30pm). State Unit members to be invited to participate. Main aim to identify issues with the 4 models. As some Units have already spent some time considering the four models, it was thought that they might like to look at the first drafts Margaret has prepared for each model. Margaret was authorised to advertise in the early February Circular that drafts are available on request.
- **Ongoing revision of Guidelines** A book will be kept to note any suggestions. It was noted that normally Guidelines are only updated at National Conference.
- **Planning for National Conference 2013** The Vice Presidents were asked to give some thought to drawing up a draft programme and identifying issues such as venue/format for formal dinner and ecumenical service. Gill Muir has produced beautiful embroidered motifs for conference bags.
- **Planning for 2012 AGM** It was noted that a decision on both format and timing depends partly on progress with the Constitution Review.
- **Closure of Meeting** The meeting closed at 1.15pm and was followed by lunch and fellowship. Thanks to Laurel for her hospitality.
- **Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at 97 William Street Perth on Monday 13 February commencing at 10am. **Devotions:** Marie Majoor.

Minutes confirmed

Date

National President

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