



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 17 November 2008, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Jennifer Peffer welcomed everyone to the meeting, and especially Pat Sutton who has been unable to attend recently for health reasons. Opening prayer gave thanks for the life and witness of Joan Curtin who died recently, for our coming together, for those restored to health and for those still undergoing treatment.

PRESENT: 42 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 7 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Council Meeting on 18 August 2008 were confirmed on the motion of Lyn Middleton and Carmel Keys.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. The 70th Anniversary of the Unit celebrated 15 September 2008 at Scots Church, Margaret Street was remembered as an inspiring occasion. Jennifer Peffer thanked all who had attended in whatever capacity. Lyn Middleton's closing devotions for the day issued a challenge that will need to be followed up in the New Year. The value of the fellowship enjoyed was recognised, and again thanks given to Isabel Hewitt for the booklet prepared.

A special vote of thanks was expressed to Jennifer Peffer for her wonderful organisation of the day.

2. Asian Church Women's Conference Celebration: Lyn Middleton was thanked for the well balanced, well attended concert. The venue, The Salvation Army at Parramatta, had proved to be an excellent choice both for the facilities and for the support given to make the event so successful.

3. Social Issues Convener has been taken on by Carmel Keys. It was agreed on the motion of Jan Harrison and Norma Dumbrell that Council ratify Carmel's taking on this role.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the end of October was \$7058.29, with money coming in for FLC and offerings from World Community Day services. Moved Helen Richardson, seconded Helen Hill that the report be received and accounts ratified/passed for payment. Carried. Moved Helen Richardson, Seconded Joan Bird that \$6000 be moved from the investment fund in preparation for the annual payment to National Executive for FLC, WKS and other commitments. Carried. It was noted that payment for ACWC Bulletins was due.

The Treasurer pointed out that the expenditure over income for *Newsette* means that there is need for consideration of the price charged. After some discussion it was agreed, on the motion of Beryl Kirkwood and Lyn Middleton, that the matter be discussed by Executive and a proposal brought to Council.

PASTORAL CARE: Carmel Keys reported that Thora Thomas would be seeing her oncologist and had sent thanks for prayers. Olive Edmondstone said that Peg Blake has had a cataract removed and was to have another done. The husband of Anne Burton from Strathfield Branch died recently. Julie Bryant and Judith Cayzer would appreciate prayers. Olive expressed thanks from her daughter-in-law, Naline, who has had a bone marrow transplant, and reported that her husband John was getting on well following his stroke. Carmel Keys led prayers for those needing support.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang thanked Helen Richardson for her work with FLC during Janet's absence overseas. Over \$4000 had been received following World Community Day services. Janet read a poem on FLC before leading in the FLC prayer.

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SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported that the World Community Day returns from 13 of the 24 Branches showed that 650 had attended these. Some of those who had sent returns suggested that it would be helpful to have pictures of some of the projects supported by funds. Pamela again stressed the need to make better known both FLC and ACW, and encouraged Council members to use imagination in services. She suggested that people consider asking a particular church to host rather than asking them to attend.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer referred people to her report in *Newsette*. Imelda Acquino is in the last phase of her course and will soon go to Jordan. The Scholars for 2009 are Inese Foiawkau at Westmead and Christine Ferguson in Melbourne. Christmas cards will be sent in the next few days to those past scholars who keep in contact. A photo of the mats from Nighat Gulzar and used at the 70th Celebration has been sent to Nighat.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton expressed thanks to her Committee for their help in making the concert happen and in organising the afternoon tea. The date for 2009 is 18 October and Lyn's ACWC committee were to meet to confer on the venue.

Lyn reported briefly on her recent visit to Korea where she was part of celebrations for 100 years of the Salvation Army in that country. Lyn had tried unsuccessfully to make contact with ACWC while there.

The next Assembly for ACWC is set for 7-12 October 2010 in Indonesia – *Asian Women Moving Forward*. ACWC now has a website: www.acwc.blogspot.com Council members were asked to remember the needs of those suffering persecution at present in India, Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin was pleased to have included the photos from the ACWC concert, and noted that the deadline for copy for the next issue is 19 January 2009. Email address for copy is newsette@aanet.com.au Brenda Dickinson expressed admiration for Beryl's work in editing *Newsette*.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys invited members to respond to the proposed cuts to ABC programs such as the Religion Report. She also drew attention to the situation with 457 Visas and the proposal to extend them to a wider category of migrants, while still protecting the needs of Australian workers.

Reports were received on the motion of Jean Porteous and Norma Dumbrell.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 11/7/08, 8/8/08, 12/9/08, 10/10/08; Survey

National President – acceptance for 70th

ACW Victoria – congratulations, Jonathan Inkpin NSW Ec Cncl – congratulations on 70th, appreciation of day

Peg Blake, Mina Whybourne, Joan Tong, Helen Hill, Peg Cameron, Lucelle King,

Dorothy Woodhouse, Pat Andersen, Jean Ashton, Judith Goodwin

PWA NSW – re President Elect

Edith Ridge – PPSEAWA report

July Bryant, Bible Society mini showcases

Donna Bryan – ACWC 10/2008 Report

Pamela Freeman – Special Days information for survey, Special Day Project 2009

Maureen Clark – re WKS Scholars

ACW National News /2008; ACW ACT NEWSLETTER; Prison Fellowship Unbound; ACW VIC Unit News;

Span 9/2008; Domestic & Family Violence papers

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

Survey response to ACW National

Salvation Army Women's Ministries

Dorothy Woodhouse

Maureen Clark – re WKS Scholars

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

Jennifer Peffer: PPSEAWA Luncheon, CWLA Conference, WCD Caringbah

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OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells reported that the Annual Meeting in September had appointed a new President, Mrs Doreen Todd.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge tabled her report which will appear in the next issue of *Newsette*, noting that Jennifer Burn who spoke on modern day slavery had been especially interesting.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Hostess Day will be 10.00 am Monday 24 November 2008 at Salvation Army Headquarters. Newcastle will be 10.00 am Wednesday 26 November, and Wollongong 10.00 am Friday 28 November.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant thanked those who had invited her to speak at their churches. Information is available on *Jesus - all about life* program in September 2009.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Nancy McLaren reported and showed some photos on her trip to Africa via New York and London. She had attended a Child Sponsorship Conference in Kenya and saw some of the slum areas where fighting has taken place. She visited an orphanage in South Africa, and had seen some of the people and places in Zambia where sponsorship money is used to make a profound difference to the lives of villagers. In Uganda Nancy had met a girl sponsored over many years who has now graduated from university. Nancy had found the experience life-changing, was thankful for it, but is unsure as to where it will lead.

Janet Lang gave an outline of the time spent this year in the Shetland Islands where her husband was minister. The islands attract archaeological digs each summer, and it is known there were Christian monks there when Vikings came, some in peace, others noted for their savagery. Churches are built on former pagan sacred sites. The islands are treeless, there is a lot of peat, there are lochs, and the scenery displays great beauty. The land supports sheep crofters, there are salmon farms, ponies and times of year when there is 24 hour sunlight, but often a great deal of wind. Janet and Tony were welcomed instantly and enjoyed the very warm hospitality of the Shetland people.

Isabel Hewitt read her poem tracing the time spent in Ireland - Republic and North, Scotland including the island of Iona, northern England and Norfolk. Much of the trip was focused on major Celtic saints.

Normal Dumbrell spoke of her coming visit to a Myanmar conference under auspices of Mothers Union.

Beryl Kirkwood is to attend in February the Jubilee of a church she had helped establish in India.

Lyn Middleton led in prayer upholding Myanmar, India, those suffering in Asian countries because of their faith, and giving thanks for our own safety. Pamela Freeman prayed for ACW, with thanks for 2008 and for the promise of 2009.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Jennifer Peffer closed the meeting with a short devotional. Matthew tells the Christmas story of the magi following the light of the star. Many look for the light at the end of the tunnel, light to guide, and sometimes we may be that light. In prayer she gave thanks that we can celebrate Christmas, and reminded that we should hold the Christ light to those around us.

NEXT MEETING: 16 February 2009

CHAIRS: Uniting
MORNING TEA: Baptist

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____