



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 17 August 2009, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: President Jennifer Peffer opened the meeting, welcoming especially Peg Cameron.

DEVOTIONS: Words come into fashion – empowering, marginalised, awesome, guys – and the words they replace somehow lose currency. Some words change dramatically with the addition of one letter – grow/growl, dive/drive, pay/pray. Meanings change. John 1 tells us *In the beginning was the Word . . .*, the word that is constant. Jennifer then led in prayer.

PRESENT: 42 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 8 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 June 2009 were confirmed on the motion of Carmel Keys and Helen Hill.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Spiritual Enrichment Day was held in St James Church Hall, Phillip Street on 20 July 2009. Members agreed that it had been a great day. The venue was convenient and central. Speakers were challenging, and it was good to hear of what other denominations are doing to meet needs in the community.

2. National Conference: Canberra 21-25 September. NSW Unit has submitted four items for discussion:

1. *Whether Orders of Service for Special Days can be varied to suit the needs, age and culture of the community where they are being used.*
2. *Whether an ideas page should be submitted with each Order of Service for Special Days prepared, giving suggestions for alternate worship styles to which the service may lend itself.*
3. *Consideration be given to the venues, costs and types of accommodation for future National Conferences. What are the expectations of those likely to attend?*
4. *Public Liability Insurance for Australian Church Women. Can there be cover on a National basis with States contributing?*

We believe that the proposals should be given the widest possible chance for people to voice their opinions, with the formulation of a motion or motions to come before Conference as a result.

3. Asian Church Women's Conference celebration 2.00 pm Sunday 18 October 2009 at the Churches of Christ Northside Community Church, corner of Oxley Street & Pole Lane, Crows Nest. Lyn Middleton reported that items are coming together well and include Chinese and Korean choirs, individual artists, and a cameo on the growth of the church in Korea. Posters and leaflets were available for publicity and a board sent round for catering contributions.

4. Associate Members: Executive is continuing work to bring a proposal for consideration at Council in November. It is hoped that people with a genuine interest in Australian Church Women and its work, not just former Council members, will become Associate Members. Resolution of the public liability insurance cover is essential in relation to associate membership. Nancy McLaren is working on a leaflet which will give information and have a tear off slip for application purposes.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson brought greetings from Elizabeth Walker, a Past President of ACW NSW.

Helen reported \$4878.54 Bank Balance which included unrepresented cheques for \$310.00, and the financial report was received on the motion of Helen Richardson and Julie Bryant.

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It was moved Helen Richardson, seconded Peg Cameron that \$3000 be transferred to the Investment Fund until it is required for payment to National in November.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Lillian Hodges reported that US\$136,500 had been distributed by the International Fellowship of the Least Coin Committee in the last year. Collections at Council meetings had amounted to \$329.95. Lillian led a devotional from Lebanon based on Isaiah 40, to trust in the Lord who will give freedom and strength.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: The latest Newsletter has now arrived.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported that orders of service for World Community Day were to be packed and sent following the meeting. One of the current Winifred Kiek Scholars, Inese Foiakau, attended the Fellowship Day service for Strathfield/Burwood/Homebush.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer reported that Imelda Aquino is in Jerusalem. National WKS Convener, Constance Aronsen has been catching up with past scholars who have expressed their love and thanks.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys reported that copies of the Bill of Rights Report have been hard to come by, and it was worth asking local members if they can help out. Missing Persons/Homeless/Alzheimer's had been brought to attention early August – although separate issues they are sometimes connected. The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission's recommendations on Aged Care call for more information, funds and action. Suicide prevention week calls for prayers for victims and their families. Carmel reported that Kota Stone paving is made by child labour in India and should be boycotted.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone reported that Carmel Keys and Jennifer Pepper had attended the funeral for Winsome Penn's father on behalf of ACW. Olive welcomed Peg Cameron back. Sandra Wise and her daughters would appreciate prayers as they negotiate a difficult time, and Olive led in a time of prayer for them.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin advised that the deadline for copy for the next issue is 18 October 2009.

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren had flyers and posters for the ACWC celebration in October. She is working on a leaflet for Associate Membership, as well as brochures that will be helpful for new members. It was agreed that a list of acronyms would be a helpful addition.

The reports were received on the motion of Lyn Middleton and Brenda Dickinson.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive – Working papers deadlines/correction;

Jean Thomson - thanks

ACW Vic – 2009 Annual Report

ACW SA Unit – re Incorporation/Amendment to Constitution

NSW Ecumenical Council – re ACW involvement

Janel Lang – greetings from Lybster, Caithness, Scotland

MU Annual Report

Presbyterian Church – re insurance

World Day of Prayer – Constitution change – 3 reps

ACW National News, PWA Span, UCAF Newsletter, ACW ACT Newsletter, Prison Fellowship Prayer Calendar, NCW Newsletter

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

National President – re award of OAM

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

- World Day of Prayer updated Constitution allows for three representatives from ACW NSW Unit.
- NSW Ecumenical Council has invited ACW Involvement in one or more of its Commissions.
- ACW South Australian Unit concerned about National incorporation – see it as unconstitutional.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

Insurance still needs to be resolved, preferably at National level with States contributing pro rata.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

Presbyterian Women's Association Conference
NCW Luncheon where Fiona Higgins was the speaker.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Sr Joan Bird reported on Robyn Hanstock who has studied how women gain knowledge and understanding through being members of women's groups. The sharing of information and ideas develop confidence. Involvement in the Girl Guides/Scouts has been the means by which June Cameron has been enabled to live out her faith in situations she would not otherwise have encountered.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Jan Harrison reminded members that WDP service sheets for March 2010 will be available late 2009. Functions for hosts will be held and the date for Newcastle is 24 November 2009. The country of focus is Cameroon.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Helen Richardson reported that Ann Hannema from Zonta had addressed the April meeting telling of that organisation's efforts internationally to improve the status of women. In May the speaker reported on the Anti-slavery Project with the Human Rights Commission, and in June Schizophrenia Research was reported on.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant reported the media campaign Jesus, All about Life is almost ready. Julie is to travel to Papua New Guinea where there is a Bible Society project in gaols. She had brochures for Bible Society activities for people wishing to take them.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Attention was drawn to National News and it was agreed that as a Unit we write to Eileen Holley, thanking her for her work on this publication over the last two years. Jean Porteous reminded members of the book, *My Journey into Alzheimer's*, which she had reviewed.

CLOSING PRAYER included thanks for the time of fellowship.

NEXT MEETING: 16 November 2009

CHAIRS: Churches of Christ
MORNING TEA: Catholic

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____