



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING, 2nd floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 15 November, 2010, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: The President, Nola Dickson welcomed everyone

DEVOTIONS: Based on Hearing from Mark's Gospel. Jesus took a boat out from shore to preach from so his voice would carry to all the people gathered to hear his words on the 'Sower.' So often we hear but do not understand, we must really listen. When Jesus told the Disciples about His death to come, they didn't understand the full implication of His words, so their reaction showed their ignorance. Jesus didn't come to us full of worldliness, He had to listen and learn just as we do. Nola then prayed expressing our gratefulness for all that Jesus' coming has meant to the world

PRESENT: 39 as recorded. **APOLOGIES:** Edith Ridge, Martha Noel, Lily Hanlon, Jennifer Peffer, Heather Badgery, Bonnie Lyons, Beryl Duncan, Shirley Wells, Beryl Kirkwood, Isabel Hewitt and Shirley Mitchell.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 16th August 2010 having been circulated were approved after corrections on a motion by Judith Baker and seconded by Norma Dumbrell.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Conference on 20th September was discussed, a successful day was general opinion. Nola suggested a shorter program for next July, by serving a morning tea beforehand, then completing the day at 1pm.
2. Jennifer Peffer had reported that the paper work for Life Membership and Honouring Church Women would be completed very soon.
3. Welcome extended to Envoy Pat Cory and Mrs Lorraine Hughes, new representatives from Salvation Army. Welcome also to Ineke Nieuwland, a proposed member representing the Catholics.
4. Nola will fill the NCW vacancy
5. ACW – NSW Constitution Amendments discussion deferred till February

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that Credit Balance at Bank at 1st August \$6528.87 and Cash at bank at 31st October \$7329.40. WCD collections so far received \$1891.15. The report was approved, as were payments and accounts to be ratified by Helen Richardson and Bev. Elliott. Helen asked that changes to signatories be approved and that \$7,000 be put into the Uniting Financial Services, moved Jean Porteous and seconded by Denise Secombe.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN : Lillian had spoken at Ettalong Catholic Church at Community Day Service. Received 2 invitations to speak from that meeting. On 24th Nov Lillian will be speaking at Our Lady of the Rosary church The Entrance, spoken at St David's Dee Why for Community Day Service, two speaking engagements from that service in new year. Spoke at Trefoil Guild Ladies Miranda, one of the ladies had heard Lillian speak elsewhere, took the message back to her group. They have embraced the movement and happy to continue their support, they had collected \$34.45 to give to her. She will be speaking at St Phillips Caringbah in March and is happy that so many people are embracing FLC. Lillian read some Short Thoughts from Circle of Prayer taken from Jeremiah 29, then prayed.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton was delighted with the concert at Campsie, thanked those attending, numbers boosted by the Campsie congregation. Donna Bryant is to be ACWC President for next 4 years. Noted item in Asian Women's Newspaper that ACWC had sent \$500 to Pakistan to be given in kind for relief of flood victims to be distributed through the Army.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported on Community Day, still receiving Fellowship Day reports. No further information on Themes for 2011

WKS Judith Cayzer reported that Tonu was so pleased to be at concert at Campsie and to meet many ACW ladies. She has completed all her assignments, her father came to her graduation. The College and fellow students consider she has been a blessing to everyone. She has more commitments before returning

to Fiji on 18th December. We should pray for Steve the Student Enrolment Manager who is ill. We remember Ruth the student from PNG, who is awaiting her baby. Leinamau enjoyed Lausanne conference, has attended Solomon Island conference too, will be in Sydney for a week in January for a conference, send love and prayers.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys told us that Euthanasia debate is set down for to day. Reminded us of importance of writing to local and Federal members, short letters are very effective. Campaign for Care of Older Australians which is composed of all faith – based providers, wants Government to prioritise aged care reforms. Older Australians need to be given a choice in the type of services they can access. Disadvantaged and vulnerable people need to be given preference in assistance so they don't miss out on care they need. Aged care providers need to be put on a sustainable footing because about 50% are in financial vulnerability. Government funded Ethics classes are to held at same time as SRE classes which are run by volunteers, compassion and understanding for all asylum seekers, Church Mission Groups foster understanding between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people, rate of Aboriginals in jail due mainly to poverty. Pray for those suffering violence in Middle East, for those in Indonesia suffering effects of Tsunami, earthquake disasters and those in Haiti hit by another typhoon.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive asked for prayers for Beryl Kirkwood and Shirley Wells who is struggling with the speed of the progression of her disease. Sandra Wise's granddaughter has completed the course of Chemo. and has tolerated it quite well. Olive prayed for all those who are ill and gave thanks for those who are recovering.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin advised that the deadline for the next issue is 17th January 2011. Jennifer Pepper has volunteered to produce the next issue. Nola presented Beryl with a Certificate of Appreciation for many years of producing Newsette, and Carmel gave Beryl a beautiful bunch of flowers.

PUBLICITY: No report

CORRESPONDENCE (Inward)

Invitation to Interfaith International Day of Peace Service

National Minutes, Treasurers Report, Auditors Report, Presidents Report

Act Unit newsletter

Victoria Unit newsletter

Letters from Col. Jan Condon regarding new Salvation Army Representatives

Occasional newsletter from National

NSW Ecumenical Council Report from Isabel Hewitt

Confirmation of Presbyterian Representatives on ACW committee from PWA

Invitation to attend launch of AWC initiative of Happy Healthy Women

Invitation to attend PPSEAWA lunch on 27th October

National Minutes

PUBLICATIONS: Span, Prison Fellowship, Bibles at Work

CORRESPONDENCE (Outward)

Victoria Unit notifying change to secretary address

ACT Unit notifying change to secretary address

Acceptance to attend Interfaith Church Service

Invitations to other organisations for Conference on 20th September

Acknowledging Col. Jan Condon's letters re new Salvation Army Representatives

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

GIRLS BRIGADE: Ruth Dickinson reported that the reunion for past leaders – a high tea had been most successful. More brigades closing but still some opening. There are uniform changes being tried out.

W.D.P. Olive Edmondstone reported that 330 parcels of materials had been sent out for services in March, service prepared by the Women of Chile. Encouraged to check website.

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL INC.: Isabel Hewitt reported on meeting of 23rd October 2010, Coptic Orthodox Church at Guildford. Meeting was directed to the process of Review and Transition. The morning session was given over to hearing two reports of innovative approaches to the Mission of the Church. Next Sydney Alliance, which is a broad based citizens coalition incorporating religious, community and trade union organisations looking to build a cohesive society. These approaches were presented to the members attending the Ecumenical Council meeting as ways for the renewal of churches

wishing to focus on mission and community building. Rev. Paul Swadling, as Acting General Secretary, told how he is meeting the heads of member churches on a one to one basis in an effort to find out what is expected of the Council. The final proposal presented to the meeting of the Council was the suggestion that a new title "Churches Together NSW ACT" is to be used in communication with the 17 member churches and in all contact with the wider community.

Reports moved by Jan Harrison, seconded by Bev. Elliott

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND: PPSEAWA Luncheon, Concord West Uniting Church Community Day Service, AWC Launch of Healthy Happy Women, Interfaith Service for Peace.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: Nola reported on the functions she attended.

Nola invited Winsome, Lyn and Lillian to give the committee brief accounts of their recent travels.

Winsome and her husband left in May, the main object of their trip was to attend the Passion Play in Oberammergau. On to Hong Kong, Niagara Falls, Boston, London where they visited Spurgeon's Tabernacle. Next a coach tour taking in Belgium, Germany, (for the play), Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Nice, Spain, Gibraltar, San Francisco and Yosemite Park.

Next Lyn told us that she and Ken flew to Canada to begin their travels, Rocky Mountains, Alaskan Cruise, Skag way, tour on railway to White Pass Summit, built in 1880's, over to London, then onto Oberammergau for play, Dresden, saw Lutheran Cathedral fully restored, last stop was Berlin, Lyn told us about the cross that catches the sun and shines out over what was a divided city, despite many efforts to stop the cross reflecting, no one has succeeded.

Lillian and her husband were part of a group being honoured for 35 years of service with a trip to 'where Paul walked.' This was Lillian's first trip overseas. Saw great poverty, with many beggars. They saw Gallipoli and Anzac Cove, sang New Zealand anthem then ours as they joined with other visitors. They found visiting the cemetery a very moving experience. Saw the Acropolis in Athens, visited Turkey, Napoli, found the Blue Grotto inspiring, Venice, Switzerland, Paris, London, never thought to see the White Cliffs of Dover and the blue birds that Vera Lyn sang about but she did! Her husband became very ill but with God's Grace all things worked for the good and he received wonderful care and so did she.

Norma Dumbrell was reminded of Myanmar when Lyn spoke of the Cross on the TV tower. She expressed joy at the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. Norma is returning to Myanmar in the New Year, she asked for our prayers for the safety and health of their group.

CLOSING PRAYER was led by Nola with a benediction who then wished everyone a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

MEETING CLOSED: 12-30 pm

NEXT MEETING: 21st February, 2nd floor Piccadilly Court, 222 Pitt Street at 10-30 am

CHAIRS: Salvation Army

MORNING TEA: Catholic

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____