

Minutes of Meeting of Women's Inter-Church Council Aug. 29th

The President, Mrs. Lew, opened the Meeting with a Scripture Reading from Ephesians, followed by Prayer given by Mrs. Hall.

Members present:- Mesdames Lew, McCallum, Snow, Deans, Amos, Hensman, Pearson, Tully, Morris, Gill, Hall, Clampett, Chapman, Misses Roseby, McDiarmid and Allen.

Apologies:- Mesdames Deane, Knight, Palmer, Millar, Scofield, Butler, Mueller, Walker, Miss Godson.

Minutes of Meeting held on July 25th, were read and confirmed. Business arising therefrom was deferred until after the Guest Speaker, Mrs. Moffitt had given her Address.

(Address on separate sheet)

Correspondence:- (Miss Roseby)

(a) re Women's representation with Australian Council of Churches. Miss Roseby has contacted Rev. Garrett on this matter. In reply, he writes, "...Women's Inter-Church Council and other groups are urged to join the "World Council Fellowship" and thus become intimately related to the World Council of Churches. (Presumably, representation with the Aus/n Council of Ch/es automatically functions through the World C/l of Ch/es.)

(b) Rev. Norman Cocks of the London Missionary Soc/y has notified Miss Roseby that a Production of Dicken's "Christmas Carols" will be held on Dec. 19th. He will be pleased to donate a proportion of the funds to 'Wybalena'. The I-C Council is asked to plan a Musical Interlude and to arrange floral decorations for the Stage.

(c) re Meeting at Chapter House on August II. Delegates from the World Convention of Churches of Christ returning Overseas from Melbourne were entertained and received at the ~~Chapter House~~ ^{Meeting}. Some members of the Council helped with the floral decorations and refreshments; a letter of thanks has been received.

Report -- Band of Hope... Mrs. Gill. (verbal)

-----A----- of the New Australian Cultural Society and of a Musicales given by Miss Arline Lower for the funds of above. (B).... of the Blue Ribbon Fete on Sept. 5th: A motion moved by Miss McDiarmid and seconded by Mrs. Pearson was agreed upon, to donate the Collection (23/6) given by Council members.

Report from Hostel Comm/e:- Due to the absence of Mrs. Knight,

-----Mrs. Chapman read the Minutes of the Hostel Comm/e Mtg. held at Burwood on Aug. IIth, when Mrs. W. Deane presided.

Report.. National C. of Women.. (Mrs. Snow)..

----- Mrs. Snow gave a resume of the Mtg. when Mrs. N. Brookes, President of the Aus/n N.C. of W. was the Speaker. She said that the work of the Victorian Branch of N.C.W. included

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..Work for Aged Peoples Home: Mental Hospitals' Aux/y
..International Club-- Work of Import Licensing Advisory
Committee.

Forthcoming Meetings:-

September...Discussion of matters arising from Mrs. Moffitt's
Address : Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons
and New Settlers League.

November...Epping Branch of I.C. Council to be invited to
a Social afternoon at 'Wybalena'.
Community Day..no definite plans decided upon

Further business was deferred as Mrs. Lew had kindly
arranged that Afternoon-tea tables ~~had~~ been reserved for
members at the C.M.S. rooms.

The Benediction brought the meeting to a close. *Annals Deans 26.9.52*

Address (Mrs. Moffitt). Senior Social Welfare worker for
-----N.S.W. within the Commonwealth Dept. of Immigration.

The speaker based her Address upon her work in connection
with Displaced Persons: her task is to investigate individu-
al cases of distress etc.,

She said that of all migrants to Australia, one third of them
were in New South Wales. Holding accommodation Camps
were situated at widely separated townships, (e.g. Grete,
Cowra, Chullora, Parkes, Bathurst, Regents Park and other
centres. Single women, men and married couples who were
fitted for domestic duties or for Hospitals were placed
where accommodation was provided. Some Camps or Hostels
were for men only, whilst others were for women only.
Unfortunately, this meant that often families were living
apart: the wide distances between Camps often prevented
even week end reunions. Consequently family anxieties
and suspicions arose, resulting in infidelity, delinquency
and even divorce.

At Chullora Railway Workshops migrants were encouraged to
join the various Mens social Organisations; through these
contacts, language difficulties and ways of living and under-
standing were mastered. Children attending Public
Schools very quickly became familiar with their new
language and mode of living. The mothers who remain out
of industry but in Camps, are often difficult to cope with.
They are slow in grasping the new language, and the lack
of foregathering with their new neighbours retard their
assimilation. The need of club work has been recognised
by both Governmental bodies and voluntary social workers.

*The New Settlers League has grown out of a Convention at
which representatives of Churches, public bodies + Government
bodies Dep'ts have co-ordinated to carry out this work on a
non-party non-sectarian level. Newspapers + Pamphlets
serve as aids to the understanding of our "New Neighbours."*

