



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.

ABN 68 539 329 715



Minutes of the ACW National Executive Meeting Monday 27th October 2014

Welcome: The meeting held at Eastwood Baptist Church commenced at 10.00 am, with a welcome from Vice-President Denise Secomb.

Devotions: Shirley led the devotions, sharing from John 4: Jesus at Jacob's well. The emphasis of this passage is usually given to the unnamed Samaritan woman whom Jesus meets at the well, but what can we learn about Jesus in this instance? Jesus knew and acknowledged his need for rest, and took time to sit by the well. Jesus understood his body's needs – he sent the disciples to buy food. He could delegate and trust someone else to do a job, and had an appreciation for time out – time to be alone and be quiet. Nor was he too proud to ask for help. Jesus asked for a drink of water and started a conversation which transformed lives. Shirley closed the Devotions with prayer.

Present: Denise Secomb (Chair), Brenda Dickinson, Pamela Freeman, Tricia Graham, Isabel Hewitt, Joy Inglis, Elizabeth McEwen, Shirley Mitchell, Jennifer Pepper,

Apologies: Lyn Middleton, Lillian Hodges, Nancy McLaren

Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting of 8th September 2014 were accepted and signed as correct. Moved by Tricia and Seconded by Pamela.

Business Arising:

1 AGM 2014: Documents to be circulated to Units and representatives: Motion from NE Treasurer; Minutes of AGM 2013; invitation and protocol regarding Teleconference. Tricia advised that the time starts from when the Conference Leader starts to speak. The meeting will be held at NCCA Offices, 7th floor, 379 Kent Street, Sydney, at 3.00 pm. Tricia will be the moderator to help start and finish. Denise thanked Tricia for the organization of the teleconference.

2 Winifred Kiek Fellowship – invitation to the 2015 Conference. Pamela reported that she had met the ladies Donna Bryan had suggested and the invitation is to be followed up as soon as possible.

REPORTS

President's Report (presented by Denise on Lyn's behalf)

Lyn sent apologies as she was visiting the WA Unit. She thanked Denise for presiding in her place. Isabel was welcomed back from her overseas holiday and Elizabeth thanked for stepping up during Isabel's absence. Welcome back also to Pamela from the ACWC Quadrennial Assembly and per medium of these minutes welcome back to our other delegates and visitors, Helen Raymond, Fran Moss, Donna Bryan, Nita West and Alyson Madsen. Thank you for representing ACW at this Assembly. We look forward to your feedback. Welcome too (per medium of these minutes) to the new ACWC National Representative, Helen Raymond.

Since the last meeting Lyn's time has been spent in preparation for her Perth visit and the AGM. While in Perth she will speak at the Mandurah and Perth WCD services and address NCW.

An apology was sent to the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship for the National Prayer Breakfast. Marion Rowe, Secretary Vic, has had to take 6 weeks sick leave due to surgery. Lyn promised that NE would remember her in prayer and Juanita Miller, President/Secretary Tasmania, who has had a fall and broken her foot. Please also remember in prayer Denise's (vice-president 1) husband Allan who is experiencing more ill health.

Correspondence Inwards:

- Details for Members' Register: NT, WA, QLD, VIC, NSW, ACT, SA
- AGM information/documents: NT (apology), VIC, SA, ACT, TAS
- Laurel Pearce: President visit to WA, WA September minutes
- Helen Raymond PO: re papers for AGM; Natalie McLeod and reply; re ACWC Nat Rep role
- Barbara Grear re WKS motion to reappoint auditor, WKS audited financial statements, revision of WKS guidelines, Fellowship Awardee/Audit report
- Lois Denholm WKS Minutes 30.06.14
- Lynette Green Forward group discussion notes
- Rita Steller NT re forwarding of WKS offering
- Marion Rowe VIC re contacts during sick leave; unit address list; WDoP leaflets; AGM participant
- ACWC/Donna Bryan re prayer request for Japan, Quadrennial Assembly, WKS Fellowship invitee
- Eileen Holley ACT re ACW information brochure
- Margaret Florence QLD re President visit to their AGM Feb 2015
- Aileen Eldridge SA Unit re NT query; AGM; teleconference participant
- Jean Thomson ACT re National Prayer Breakfast
- Australian Parliamentary Christian Fellowship – acknowledgment of apology

Correspondence Outwards:

- Jean Thomson ACT re National Prayer Breakfast
- All Units re Members' Register
- Aileen Eldridge SA re NT query; AGM documents
- Margaret Florence QLD re visit to AGM Feb 2015
- Eileen Holley ACT re Information Brochure
- Donna Bryan re WKS Fellowship invitee to conference 2015
- Barbara Grear WKS review of guidelines
- Marion Rowe VIC re Members' Register; sick leave
- Kaye Seeber WA bio for advert
- Australian Parliamentary Christian Fellowship re National Prayer Breakfast
- WKS Trustees re WKS Fellowship Invitee
- All Units re WDoP leaflet
- ACWC Japan/All Units re prayer request
- Helen Raymond PO re papers for AGM; Natalie McLeod
- Delegates to ACWC Assembly – best wishes
- Barbara Grear WKS re audit reports; WKS/ACW relationship review
- WKS Trustees ratifying 2015 scholars

Vice-President 1 – Denise Secomb

So far 15 expressions of interest have been received for the 2015 Conference. To spend time specifically on Conference arrangements it was agreed that a meeting should be held in January. Registration Forms should be sent out in February. It was agreed that we explore the possibility of meeting at Woy Woy, half way between Sydney and Newcastle on Monday 12th January. A general NE meeting will also be held in January at Eastwood on 19th January.

Vice President 2 – Joy Inglis

Joy tabled the Life Members List and asked if the information about each Member should be updated or kept as it was when they were nominated. It was agreed that the information should be kept as it stands, with the date of the proposal clearly stated.

Secretary – Isabel Hewitt

Isabel has been working on the ACWC Convener's Guidelines

Treasurer – Jennifer Pepper

The Annual Financial Statements were circulated. These have also been forwarded to all State Units. Jennifer commented that the Auditor has been most helpful, having given advice on many things.

As the auditor refused remuneration for his work, after discussion it was agreed that a donation of \$250 be made to the Bible Society (the project of his choice) and a \$50 gift voucher to Mr Malcolm North. Approval for payment of the fee for the teleconference AGM to Hot Air Conferencing was given, and for a cheque to Elizabeth for \$56 for postage.

Minute Secretary – Elizabeth McEwen

Formal Notice of Annual General Meeting, Agenda, President's Report, Treasurer's Report, Notice of Motion, and Members' Register have been forwarded to all State Units. The Minutes of the 2013 AGM, Treasurer's Motion to appoint auditor, and Invitation and Protocol for teleconference will be forwarded this week.

FLC Convener – Lillian Hodges

The ICFLC Secretary Cora Tabing-Reyes has arranged for the early printing of the new Circle of Prayer booklets, Volume 22, so ladies who attended the ACWC Assembly could take their ordered copies back to their country instead of Cora having to arrange for the sending of the booklets. Pamela brought some of the Australian order. Lillian has made it known to other states that these are the books we would normally receive at National Conference. Lillian will be keeping the NSW booklets until next year at Conference time.

2015 Conference: Lillian has made initial enquiries about the hiring of buses for National Conference.

WKS Convener – Nancy McLaren

Nancy will be attending the meeting in November and will report then.

Special Days Convener – Pamela Freeman

After the last meeting of National Executive Pamela received the draft Order of Service for Fellowship day 2015, prepared by the Tasmanian Unit. The theme is: *Building in Line with God's Design*, and was forwarded to National Executive NSW for comment. The compilation of the scanned cover picture and the rest of the document have been completed, the order of service has been edited and prepared to be sent out to the Units after being ratified by the National Executive. Queensland Unit is working on the preparation of the order of service for World Community Day 2015 for which the theme is *Building for Peace and Reconciliation*.

The Victorian unit has agreed to prepare the Fellowship Day order of service for 2016.

Special Project for 2015: No applications for consideration for the Special Project for 2015 have been received. Any applications need to be to National Executive, already endorsed by the Unit nominating the project, for consideration at the February meeting of National Executive. A reminder has been sent to units.

Social Justice Convener – Shirley Mitchell

All State Conveners have been contacted and a list of possible projects for our concern and action presented. Many of these continue to be current and can be raised at the gathering in 2015. As items come to hand they will be circulated – how to handle any social justice issues will no doubt be on the Agenda for the National Conference.

Website Manager – Brenda Dickinson

Further to the National Executive Minutes dated September 8, 2014 a request went out to the State Units on September 13, for information regarding their ABN (if they had one) so that this could be displayed on their website page. Website update requests were sent to our Website Administrator and were carried out.

National Facebook Page: In response to a request from the ACW Forward Discussion Group, Brenda has made enquiries of Ewan. She will make further enquiries about the possibility of a Facebook Page and whether any cost is involved.

ACWC Report

Helen Raymond submitted a short report on the 15th ACWC Quadrennial Conference in the Philippines: *United in Christ*. Ninety-two voting delegates and observers from nineteen member countries attended, together with members of the IFLC, who held their meeting at the end of the Conference. There were two bible studies – one on the theme of Peace and the other on Ecology. The Australian presentation for the Culture night was a recital of ‘My Country’ by Dorothea McKellar. Recorded didgeridoo music was played in the background. Helen commented that it was a joy to see so many young women at the conference.

Australian Women’s Coalition - Tricia Graham

On Saturday, October 14th, 2014, Tricia attended the AGM of the Australian Women’s Coalition and the General Meeting which followed, chaired by the President, Major Jenny Begent (Salvation Army). There were delegates from twelve of the eighteen member organisations. The Mission of the Organisation is to work collaboratively to advance the status of women.

During the last year AWC re-considered their priorities and during the robust and engaging General meeting in 2013, decided on the following Priorities for the Future, including Advocacy, Women’s Health, Equal Opportunity and Remuneration, Family and Domestic Violence, Asylum Seekers, Rural Women, and Social Media.

AWC have an excellent working relationship with many like-minded organisations. They acknowledge they must continue to change and grow in order to meet the needs of their members and to be a positive influence in our community.

It was moved by Jennifer and Seconded by Isabel that the Reports be received. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1 Forward Group The group met on 22nd October by Skype. Topics discussed were mentoring of Women; Facebook page (as discussed with Brenda); Coffee and Chat Bible Studies. The Essay Writing Competition is being judged by Marj Dredge and 5 others, and they will come up with a first place and runner-up. The prize money (\$200) has been sent to the WA Unit bank account. The winner will receive \$150 and the runner up \$50.

2 Letter to Helen Raymond – It was agreed that the letter Lyn had prepared be sent.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.45 pm. The next meeting will be on 17th November, 2014. Jennifer will lead the Devotions.

President Date