



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 2ND Floor, 222 Pitt Street, Monday 15th August, 2011

WELCOME: President Nola welcomed everyone to the meeting. Since we had last met, two of our members had died, Thora Thomas and Ethell Wladysiuk. Nola, Helen Richardson, and Carmel Keys had attended Thora's 'celebration of life', Judith Cayzer had attended Ethell's service.

Baptist ladies were thanked for morning tea and the Anglicans for setting up the room.

DEVOTIONS: Nola based her devotions on Matthew's account of the disciples asking Jesus why they had been unable to cast out a demon and were told that their faith was too small. We only need faith as big as a grain of mustard seed to work for God. Faith needs to be placed in God and his Son, Jesus Christ, who is the life, the truth and the way. Nola concluded with prayer.

APOLOGIES were received from Martha Noel, Carmel Keys, Shirley Mitchell, Lily Hanlon, Brenda Dickinson, Peg Blake, Jan Jeffries, Norma Dumbrell, Beryl Kirkwood, Mina Whybourne, Karen Ross, Beatrice Kay, Julie Brackenbery, Merle Menzies, Bonnie Lyons and Mary Melville.

MINUTES were confirmed by Judith Baker and seconded by Bev Elliott.

BUSINESS ARISING: The only business arising from the Minutes was the Spiritual Enrichment Day (morning) which had gone well.

At this time Pamela Freeman was asked to tell of her adventures overseas when she and her husband had visited Istanbul, and cruised from Budapest to Amsterdam. They were fortunate to be able to fly across to England in spite of a volcanic eruption in Iceland, which was interrupting air travel. They also visited Scotland, and Pamela had been able to have lunch with a High School friend at Grantham.

Pamela's talk was most interesting with details of places visited and delighted us with little anecdotes of happenings of Warren and herself.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: The Treasurer reported a balance of \$7890.79. Balance at 1st June was \$8166.02, receipts \$3905.07 and payments \$4180. Payments to be ratified were \$6469.74, including \$5902 to be placed in the Uniting Church Financial Services. Helen moved the motion to receive this report which was seconded by Bev Elliott.

Helen also showed her medal for completing in the City to Surf.. Congratulations, Helen.

FLC: One church in the city had closed as also had a group who had been supporting FLC. Lillian had spoken at Northside Community Church and the Uniting Church in Maitland. The devotion and prayer was read from the Circle of Prayer as written by Reem Fouad El Far from Jordan, based on Matt. 12:34-37 "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks...."

ACWC: Lyn Middleton: A report on the latest distribution of the ACWC Emergency Fund was in the latest Newsletter. Following the recent natural disasters the following funds have been distributed: Philippines US\$500, New Zealand US\$500, Thailand US\$500, Myanmar US\$500.

The successful applicant for the 2012 ACWC Assistance Fund is the *Centre for Teaching English* which was submitted by the Makewita Baptist Church of Sri Lanka.

Three scholarships have been awarded to scholars for 2012: Floras Munmun Bariragee – Bangladesh, Khin Thandar Win – Myanmar, Pradeepika Thushari Kumar – Sri Lanka.

Since 2006 ACWC Executive Committee has been compiling a Jubilee History Book.

A lot more information is needed to complete the record so the Secretariat is asking if anyone has historical information or anecdotal stories of the origins and journey of ACWC, could they put pen to paper and forward it to the Secretariat Office at acwc2011@gmail.com. This can also be done through Lyn.

Lyn also gave a reminder of the ACWC concert to be held at Eastwood Baptist Church on 11th September at 3 p.m.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported that she is waiting for reports from the Fellowship Day 2011. She had received 2 calls asking for extra copies of the Order of Service. She had attended the service at Blackheath as per report in the August 'Newsette' and is hopeful that World Community Day will be arranged there as well. Material for the World Community Day 2011 is ready to be packed and posted this week. She is also working in collaboration with those responsible for 'Newsette' to ensure that posting details are correct. Many contacts with branches are by email. Fellowship Day 2012 will be the responsibility of the Queensland State Unit whilst the World Community Day will be prepared by the Tasmanian State Unit.

Pamela reminded all that she will not be standing for nomination next year as Special Days Convener and had prepared printed information about the role in this task.

WKS: Judith Cayzer: refer to the August Newsette for further details on her report. The Biennial WKS Report had been sent to National WKS for the Conference in South Australia in October. There is no news of recent girls. Sisarot is back in Cambodia and she had sent a card to Arpona in Assam, India. She had received a newsletter from Christy (2009) who is on mission, and looking for accommodation. The people are friendly and the language studies are good. Judith had been asked if we need more "Winifred" books. We could order now and Conference attendees could bring them back. After discussion it was agreed to order 20 more of these to have on hand as there were only 15 in store.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys stressed the importance of filling in our religion on the census form as it was important for government to know what Christians expect from them.

We could take a leaf from the Moscow Demographic Summit in which was adopted a Declaration that Governments everywhere adopt the policy of the family and the future of mankind.

Prayer was requested for marriage and the family on Tuesday, 16th August, prayer also for the young people of the World at WYD.

Pray and support the appeals for the East African crisis during the prolonged drought and food shortages.

Will the new Asylum seekers Malaysian policy work?

Needs for our young include suitable care and accommodation, support for young carers and the need to keep remand children out of jail pending hearings.

Rights of the child: to know and be raised by a mother and father.

Carmel urged that we make our vote heard on marriage, and to remember that housing is out of reach for most people.

Refugee welfare is paramount. There was a High Court hearing on 8th August re unaccompanied children.

Needs of the elderly – their entitlement, choice, sustainability.

Carmel remarked that she liked the Bishop's new term for solidarity – Friendship, Spirituality is the answer to Reconciliation.

MEMBERSHIP: In the absence of Martha Noel, Heather Reid reported there were apologies and present.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive reported that Beryl Kirkwood had had further surgery which had not been as major as she had first feared and was doing well. Shirley Wells was not improving but was remarkably courageous. Olive prayed for those not well.

NEWSETTE: Jennifer Pepper reported that the printer had given many more copies than the requested number. Jennifer would like contributions to her by 24th October.

PUBLICITY: No report.

HONOURING CHURCH WOMEN: From this book Isabel gave a brief insight into four ladies: Florence Fishburn, Olwen Lean, Lieutenant Colonel Mrs Jean Todd, Margaret Carpenter and Mrs Colonel Florence Saunders.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive Minutes

National Executive, Draft Changes to Constitution

National Executive, Copy of ACW Guidelines

Catholic Women's League, Archdiocese of Sydney, invitation to Mass & Luncheon 15/8

“ “ “ invitation to Forum on 'Journeys to Justice'

Victorian ACW Unit Inc. Newsletter

UCA Fellowship Connexion Newsletter

ACT ACW Unit Newsletter

SPAN Presbyterian Newsletter

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

Emails to National Executive with information to be included in Conference White paper

Letter to Lillian Hodges

Sympathy card to Mrs Irene Roberts

Birthday card to Padma Ebenezer

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Nola and Carmel were unable to attend the Catholic Mass & Liturgy which had fallen on Council Day. Mary Melville had been asked to represent ACW. National Conference: A motion was put to the NSW State Unit Inc from NSW State Executive and agreed upon unanimously:

“That permission be given for decisions made at any extraordinary executive meeting necessary to be held either before or at National Conference determine the voting by NSW State Unit Inc.delegates at the 2011 National Conference to be held in Adelaide”.

Rationale: This measure has become necessary because working papers have not been received. Moved by Bev Elliott, seconded by Jennifer Pepper.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PPSEAWA: Edith Ridge reported on the Annual Winter Luncheon held in June when the speaker had been Sue Randall, a Girl Guide and teacher who spoke of her experiences as a volunteer teacher In Poona, India.

In July Joan Rodd, a volunteer guide of the Justice and Peace Museum was the speaker. The Museum is better known as the Philip Street Police Station which began its life in 1840 as the home of the Water Police, when convicts formed a vigilante group, rowing around the Harbour looking for wrong-doers. By 1886 there were two courts in the colony. Volunteers come in on rostered days to talk to visitors or to take them on tours. The Museum is open every day and on Australia Day there is no entry charge.

Joan also spoke about the role of women in the police force. Originally known as Special Constables, they were called police women in 1965. When they attended social activities such as the Queen's visit, they wore appropriate finery, but had a gun concealed in their glove!

A letter from National Council of Women was discussed concerning the possible phasing out of cheques. This could affect some elderly people. PPSEAWA Australia had written a letter to the appropriate department and it was suggested that PPSEAWA members could also write giving their views. Speaker in August will be Alan Byrnes, a volunteer Chaplain at the International Airport, Sydney.

The Corporate Spot in September is ACW when Edith will report on the year's work.

In October the Annual Spring Luncheon will be held.

NCW: Trish Graham reported the NCW had celebrated their 115th Anniversary with a Foundation Day Luncheon at the Strangers Dining Room at Parliament House. The guest speaker was Helen Brownlee, OAM, a Member of the Executive of the Australian Olympic Committee. At the luncheon there was the presentation of the National Council of Women NSW Award for 2011. The award is for a woman who fulfills the criteria of outstanding community service with emphasis on advancing the status of women, and who has not previously received public recognition for her endeavours. This year's award was given to Dr Evelyn Ann Eyland, President of The Women's Club. NCW will also host a special meeting in the Parliament House Theatre on Friday, November 4th, 2011 from 10 am to 12 noon. At the meeting the Hon Shane L Stone, AC, QC, National President of The Order of Australia Association, will speak on how to apply for recognition of the many worthy women in our society to be honoured by the Australian Awards system. All are invited to attend.

Trish also brought along the pamphlet compiled by NCW on Support Services Networks and Helplines. All members received a copy.

CHURCHES TOGETHER: No report

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: No report

GIRLS' BRIGADE: Ruth Dickinson reported that they had a successful AGM, the new President is Mrs Elizabeth Clarke. They now have a Commissioner and a Deputy Commissioner for which they were extremely thankful.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: President Nola had requested Sue Randall, the speaker at the luncheon for PPSEAWA in June, be invited to speak to us at the February meeting.

NEXT MEETING will be on Monday 21st November, 2011

Morning Tea: Anglican, Chairs: Uniting, Trading Table: Uniting

The Baptist ladies were thanked for morning tea for today's meeting and the Anglicans for setting up the room.

BENEDICTION: Nola closed the meeting at 12.15 with a Benediction.