



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 21 November 2005, 10.30a.m.

PRESENT: 43 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 13 as recorded.

Major Lyn Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Judy Williamson from the Carers Association of NSW.

Lyn led a short devotional based on Luke 2: 8-20, the story of the shepherds and the first 'Christmas rush'. The shepherds hurried to the manger which was some distance from Bethlehem. They found the manger after searching for its location, talking to people along the way. They worshipped, witnessed to everyone and went back renewed and refreshed in Christ. Our busyness can distance us and we need to close the gap, to find time to search for the manger. We can then stop, and like Mary, ponder these things in our hearts, remembering as did the shepherds, to tell others the good news.

SPEAKER: Judy Williamson drew attention to the fact that there are 750,000 carers in NSW, about one in eight people caring for relatives or friends with disability, mental illness and the frail. The Carers Association (1800 242 636) helps people to become aware of the services, entitlements and resources available to meet the wide range of conditions and needs. Carers sometimes fail to look after themselves in what can be a physically and emotionally demanding situation. An emergency care kit for carers includes a relaxation tape. It is important for the community to understand what carers go through – 'talking it over' can be emotional support from counsellors, but sometimes a listening ear is helpful.

Judy suggested that we may be able to help carers we know informally but the way we offer the help is important. Suggesting something specific is more likely to be accepted than a general offer to assist.

The Young Carer Program tries to give children and young people who are the main carers for parents or grandparents the opportunity to have recreational time appropriate to their own age. Emotional and peer support comes at camps, chat groups or by computer contact and a journal.

Leaflets were available for Council members to take, or more could be requested by phone.

Jan Harrison thanked Judy for coming and for the wealth of information imparted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting 15 August 2005 were confirmed on the motion of Janet Lang and Carmel Keys.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Asian Church Women's Conference Celebration at Northside Baptist Church had been a wonderful success. Winsome Penn had organised a program of good music in conjunction with the Japanese congregation who joined us for afternoon tea prior to the concert.

Winsome has been unwell and was to see a specialist. Prayer was offered - thanks for Winsome's life and dedication, and request for healing.

2. National Conference Collaroy 9-14/10/2005 was a time of great blessing. Business was dealt with but the spiritual content refreshed and renewed. The members of NSW Unit who were on National Executive and who were present were thanked for their contribution, and those who were absent were named. The Secretary's report on Conference was tabled.

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NSW had nominated Ramona Cowle for consideration as ACWC delegate but this had not been successful. Captain Donna Bryan was elected as the new ACW delegate to ACWC, with Kaylea Fearn and Major Laurel Pearce to attend the Kuala Lumpur Assembly as ACW representatives. Lee Edwards from WA is hoping to organise a group from Australia to attend the Assembly and travel in Malaysia before and after. People were invited to contact Lee to express their interest in joining the group.

The NSW copy of *Honouring Australian Church Women* was available for members to look at. Thanks were expressed to Isabel Hewitt for her work in producing the book.

Heather Badgery had sent 'goodies' from Conference to some members who were unable to attend and they were delighted to receive them. Thanks to Heather for her thoughtfulness.

3. Following Conference our Unit had the opportunity of meeting with Rev Vala Palu, and this took the form of a picnic at Watsons Bay. About a dozen enjoyed the ferry trip, walk to the Gap and fish and chips lunch. Though the weather was uncertain only a short shower dampened a few minutes.

4. World Community Day Services. Reports were generally favourable, with some commenting that the service was rather short. Speakers were well received and thanks were expressed to those present who had fulfilled this role.

5. Trading Table: It was agreed that the denomination not supplying morning tea during the year will be responsible for staffing the trading table. The frequency of holding a trading table was left to those staffing it.

6. Following the decision taken at Council meeting 20 June 2005 Lyn Middleton presented a Life Member's badge, certificate of citation and bunch of flowers to Beryl McLaughlin:

This Life Membership has been conferred on Beryl McLaughlin in recognition of her faithful commitment to Australian Church Women for a period of some 20 years. An invitation to become President of the Strathfield/Homebush local branch was Beryl's inauguration to Australian Church Women. At the same time she became an Anglican delegate to New South Wales State Unit where she soon took on the responsibility of Editor for *Newsette*, at which she has served (and continues to serve) with distinction for the past 16 years. Throughout this period Beryl has also been a member of the Executive of the NSW State Unit.

Born 26th October 1920 Beryl attended Fort Street Girl's High and later, the Metropolitan Business College, developing skills and learning which she has brought to her life's experiences. Beryl's great passion has always been her Christian ministry which was shared with her late husband, Arthur. As a rector's wife and mother of six Beryl was very active in Mother's Union, being at times both branch and deanery President, as well as holding honorary positions with Church Missionary Society and Bush Church Aid Society. Beryl and her husband also spent many years with the Church Missionary Society in various ministries to indigenous Australians.

NSW State Unit acknowledges with appreciation Beryl's ongoing service to the Strathfield/Homebush local branch of ACW where she has been treasurer for the past 10 years. It recognizes with admiration her position as State Secretary of the Women's Christian Temperance Union NSW, an organization affiliated with ACW.

This Life Membership is bestowed with delight. Congratulations!

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the end of October was \$10,822.29.

Moved Helen, seconded Judith Baker that the report be received, past payments ratified, and payments of accounts approved. Carried.

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MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery welcomed Peg Blake and Mina Whybourne, and noted the return of St Joan Bird and Norma Dumbrell following overseas trips. Marie Craddock's cousin had died – Marie was absent, on retreat. Bev Elliott has a painful spur. Jean Porteous is to see another specialist. Lily Hanlon has had an infection and is still not well. Joyce Liddell is doing well. Marjory Baker is suffering from depression. Marjory Verco is becoming more frail and is in hostel care. Helen Stutchbury has suffered a stroke and is living with her daughter. Dorothy Woodhouse has sight and mobility problems. Robin Phillis is having chemotherapy which has side effects. Rosalyn Bemrose's daughter had a son who arrived very early, he is doing well and now weighs about 2kg.

Lyn Middleton commented that the report gives us an indication of Heather's work on our behalf offering support to members in need.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Lyn Middleton explained that the motion we had proposed to National Conference had been withdrawn on a technical point, but would be resubmitted at the next opportunity.

Sr Joan Bird said it was good to be back. She referred members to the Minutes of 15 August and the need to address areas of concern. Rosalyn Bemrose asked people to collect any information from the media which refers to the mentally ill as any advocacy on their behalf needs to be informed.

Heather Reid noted that the David Jones' nativity scene was worthy of commendation and suggested that a letter be sent.

Baptist Women are taking steps to commend the supply of petrol which cannot be used for sniffing purposes.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer reported that she had received a letter from Sue Nitrai (2000 Scholar) who is working in Canberra with the Anglicans and with the Baptist disability services. Rachel McManus is to be married and a card has been sent. Members were asked to remember the two scholars who are finishing and the two who will be starting next year.

Norma Dumbrell asked for prayer support for her work in Myanmar in January.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang thanked Shirley Wells for the Tuesday program at National Conference. Janet had information sheets available for those who were not at Conference. She led a short devotional segment using words of FLC Founder Mrs Shanti Solomon.

Copies of *Circle of Prayer 17* were available for purchase.

SPECIAL DAYS: National has called for applications to be submitted for Special Projects for 2006. These need to be returned in February in time for submissions to be made.

NEWSETTE: Deadline for copy for the next issue the week of 16 January 2006.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

ACW National – Minutes 15/8, 19/9/2005; Letter 8/11/05; Circular letter 6/2005; ACW News 5/05

Beryl McLaughlin - profile

Glebe Trust - statements

Winners Without Drugs re co-sponsoring NCW Award

Guidelines for Archivists in State Units

Older Women's Network – Sydney

YWCA NSW – Annual Report

ABM Invitation 28/9/2005

St Stephens Uniting Church – Christmas Luncheon 7/12/2005

National Council of Jewish Women Founders Day

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A Weekend with Anna – 24-26/2/2006 St Joseph's Baukham Hills \$200

WCTU - Christmas Luncheon 9/12/2005

NCW Annual Report

Nancy McLaren – thanks

ACW (*Vic News* 10/2005; *Span* 9/2005; *Clearinghouse* 10/2005; *NSW Women* 8/2005, *International Women's Day*

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

Roden Cutler Lodge

Family of the late Margaret Jessup

National Council of Women Award: Moved Joan Tong, seconded Heather Reid that following a request from Winners Without Drugs, ACW NSW Unit Inc co-sponsor an NCW Award to Rev Melissa Baker, the cost to ACW being \$500. Agreed

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

PPSEAWA Spring Luncheon 28/9/2005

Annual Baptist Assembly Women's Celebration 15/9/2005

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

Dates for 2006: A blue sheet with the relevant dates was distributed for members of Council.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The service for 2006 will be from South Africa and packing day went very well. A familiarisation session will be held next week.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells tabled Micah Challenge brochures. NCW celebrates 110 years next year.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge submitted a written report which referred to the sale of bags from India to help women break from the prostitution cycle. Recent speakers have informed members on Malta and Vanuatu, and the YWCA movement. Edith recommended PPSEAWA for its good, informative meetings, held at 11.00 am on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Edith Ridge reported on the deaths of Mavis Burtenshaw and Margaret Jessup, both of whom had been remembered in the segment at National Conference. Lyn Middleton told of the death of Lt Col Jean Todd, formerly from NSW but she had lived in Queensland for many years.

Marjory Verco had passed on her congratulations after hearing reports of National Conference.

NEXT MEETING: 20 February 2006

Chairs: Salvation Army

Morning Tea: Presbyterian

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Lyn Middleton led a short responsive devotional based on the hymn King of Glory as a lead in to the Christmas season.

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____