



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 2nd floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 20th June 2011, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: The President, Nola welcomed everyone to the meeting

DEVOTIONS: Nola based her devotion on John Ch.14 v1, In my Father's house there are many rooms. I go to prepare a room for you. She told of two books she had read recently of accounts of people who had apparently died, but were revived and remembered what had they had experienced. We don't know why. For that reason dying is an unknown to us and causes fear. We need to have faith in our God, in the promises given to us in the Bible, that we will meet Him face to face, not to be fearful of what lies ahead when we enter into the next life but to believe the words and promises of God.

Nola prayed: As we meet together as Your children, we ask that You be with each one of us, helping us along this earthly road, trusting in You implicitly, trusting in Your promises and not having fear of what lies ahead of us in the future. Be with our meeting together to day as we pray for Your guidance and wisdom. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

PRESENT: 36 as recorded. **APOLOGIES:** Norma Dumbrell, Janet Harrison, Sandra Wise, Beryl Kirkwood, Jennifer Pepper, Bernice Baker, Sr. Joan Bird, Mary Melville, Major Lillian Hodges and Janice Willis.

CONFIRMATION OF AGM MINUTES : The minutes of the AGM held on 18th April, 2011 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon & Lyn Middleton, initialled by the President & will be signed at the AGM in 2012. Carried

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th April 2011 having been circulated were confirmed on the motion of Carmel Keys & Judith Baker. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING:

- 1) Nola reported on the Service of Dedication on 16th May at Epping Presbyterian Church, she had enjoyed the day, Mrs Christine Jensen's address and the time of fellowship afterwards. The committee agreed. Nola has written to the PWA to thank them for providing the lunch.
- 2) Isabel Hewitt spoke on the upgrades to the Constitution, which will come into effect in twelve months time, if accepted. She put forward a motion that the Constitution, as it has been prepared be accepted, seconded by Carmel Keys.
- 3) There are no other awards than those of Carmel Keys and Helen Hill to inform National about.
- 4) Letter to be sent to Margaret Flint re transport from Adelaide Airport for Conference travellers.
- 5) Spiritual Enrichment Day program coming together, Luke Armstrong to speak on the body and genes. For those attending \$5 donation.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported \$2951.84 bank balance at the end of April and \$8166.02 at end of May. Helen suggested the remaining funds after conference expenses are taken out should be put in the Uniting Church Investment Services.

On the motion of Helen Richardson & Shirley Mitchell, the financial report was received and payment of accounts passed. Carried

FLC (Fellowship of the Least Coin) Lillian's report was read, since April meeting Lillian had spoken at Janalli U/C, St John's Anglican MU at Sutherland, Beecroft U/C and Northside Community Church of Christ. All groups received Lillian warmly and were interested in hearing about FLC.

Her devotion came from Isolene Rolle in the Bahamas, based on Jeremiah 29: 11-13. Hope is genuine faith in God – a strong confidence that is placed in God. An assured belief that God will do what He has

promised. According to the Christian meaning of hope, it cannot be separated from faith, we pray to God who gives us hope as we trust Him. The future is in Jesus Christ, the solid rock. PRAYER : Heavenly Father, thank You for Your word and the plan You have for our lives. Through the Holy Spirit Your promises stand sure; we are grateful for hope, faith and prayer. AMEN

ACWC (Asian Church Women's Conference): Lyn Middleton reported that Rev. Lee Moon Suk will be attending the conference giving people a chance to meet her. Lyn is pleased with the way the concert is coming together, to be held in Eastwood Baptist church on 11th September, she hopes a large congregation will be there. Requests for food will be made at August meeting.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman apologised for incorrect information in Newsette re the Entrance Branch. Report sent to National for inclusion in working papers for National Conference. Pamela emphasised the importance of good committees – to be involved with local branches as much as possible.

WKS: (Winifred Kiek Scholarship) Judith Cayzer had received a late Easter card from Nighat Gulzar, Imelda Aquino 2008 – time approaching for her mid-east mission. Finances continue to be a problem – Christy Ferguson 2009 – left for mission post 31 May. Tonu 2110, back in Fiji- needs prayers to settle & accept God's will for her ministry. Ruth Marsipal 2110 – Family settling with new baby, Ruth back at work. Rachael Otto 1997 – Letter received, thanks for faithfulness & prayer, has new baby, settled in Robina, she is not working at present, health not good. Sisaret 2011, arrived at college, been welcomed with visit & flowers etc, Nat.Exec & Trustees very supportive. She needs to return to Cambodia early for important meetings for her work there, she will return in early September, then continue with three courses, next year she will do two online courses with the college which is possible now. Trustees need our prayers indeed.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys drew our attention to these concerns:- sexualisation of young girls, protection of asylum seekers do not send them to Malaysia, write to Federal members, invitation to MS awareness week dealing with work support, too late to attend, calls for govt. to restore funding for palliative care services, congratulate the Hon. Kate Ellis on her media release, Nat. Pres. Madge Fahy requests we consider and participate in equality rights alliance survey, human dignity lectures were most interesting, euthanasia addressed also, homelessness and mental illness with 3 MPs giving their views on these subjects. Nat. Day of Prayer in Parliament House, Canberra on 24th July, suggest members join in a day of prayer and fasting. Heather Badgery pointed out concern for Female Magistrate brought before Parliament re mental illness, she had written to local member to object. Also transport for disabled people.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive told us that Sandra Wise's mother has passed away, her little grandchild is progressing, Isabel has a new grandson, Ryan. Olive prayed for Shirley Wells, Beryl Kirkwood and Jan Jeffrey's daughter who has had surgery for breast cancer. Prayers also for a child Judith knows who needs surgery to remove a lump on head and for Isabel's daughter's partner who has been diagnosed with bowel cancer. Olive also introduced Rev. Julie Brackenreg, a new Baptist representative.

NEWSETTE: Jennifer sent a report in which she told of driving Dorothy Woodhouse home on Dedication Day and the interesting conversation they had together. Dorothy was the first editor of Newsette, so many of Jennifer's ideas for the magazine coincided with hers. She was sorry that circulation had fallen away to such a degree, but as the printer sent many more copies of Newsette than ordered Jennifer will send copies to branches holding Fellowship Day services with an insert offering that if folk wanted to subscribe, they could have 6 copies for the price of 4, i.e. not renew till the end of 2012. Jennifer will accept articles (if space allows), even recipes for food suitable to take to meetings. Subscriptions should be sent to Helen Richardson, the Treasurer, Items to Jennifer Peffer. Reports should be sent in either in hard copy or email by 18th July. (Spiritual Enrichment Day)

PUBLICITY: Isabel has produced leaflets, which were distributed on Dedication Day and upgraded Associates Information.

HONOURING CHURCH WOMEN: Isabel chose Elsa Warner, Ina Collard, Kathleen Franklin, Gladys Locke and Iris Robertson to speak about this time.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PPSEAWA (Pan Pacific East Asian Women's Association) : Edith reported that the guest speaker at the April meeting was Robyn Hanstock, a PPSEAWA member. She spoke about "Coffee Break" a group formed in the St Mary's area, which brings together women of many backgrounds. The group began with 14 and has grown to over 30 now of lonely and isolated women who have benefitted greatly from the company it provides.

In May, another PPSEAWA member, Diane Sackalariou was guest speaker. In the 1960's Diane was employed by Freedom from Hunger, which became Community Aid Abroad. Now it is known as Oxfam Australia, (with links to Oxfam in UK). Projects are training men in India and Africa as farmers, giving assistance to people fleeing from violence in the Ivory Coast and upgrading drought areas in Mozambique.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Two weekends ago a leadership training course for girls was held with 75 present – a successful and fruitful time. State secretary is going on maternity leave and Sharon will once again fill in for her. Prayers are needed for the position of State Commissioner. The termite infestation seems to have been defeated, soon Prison Fellowship can soon resume their working space.

WDP. (World Day of Prayer): Helen Hill reported on the last meeting at which Barbara Arnold, the National Liaison Officer was present. Carol Price the president stayed only a short time because she had to catch a plane to the UK as her elderly Mother had had a fall needing surgery. Both Carol and the secretary gave notice that they would not be seeking re-election at the July AGM. Joy Cooper led us through the 2012 service, prepared by the Women of Malaysia entitled "Let Justice Prevail." We ask for prayers that all positions would be filled at the AGM.

CHURCHES TOGETHER NSW ACT: Isabel Hewitt. reported that the AGM held on 18th June at Syrian Orthodox Cathedral, Lidcombe heard that the heads/leaders of churches would be invited to a meeting hosted by the Patriarchal Vicar of the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Moderator of the Uniting Church and the Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. The purpose of the meeting would be to consider what should be done to facilitate ecumenical activities in the State. Receptive ecumenism, what is happening at grass roots, is one matter thought worthy of investigation. Major Paul Kinder continues as President and Mrs Kathy Moroney as Ad. Min. Officer.

Churches Housing Inc reported on it's achievements over 15 years to develop affordable rental housing, with projects completed in partnership at Iluka, Pt. Macquarie, Cabramatta, Waterloo, Balranald, Blayney, Ballina, Stanmore, Strathfield, Dubbo, Koori Services and Youth Accommodation in Sydney. Recent projects at Gosford, Fairfield West, Goulburn and Lismore are in process or have just been completed. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Churches Housing Inc. congratulating them on their achievements to date and wishing them well for the future. Churches Housing has as it's Exec. Officer, the Rev. Derek Yule, there is a website.

NCW (National Council of Women): Tricia Graham had attended the Mid – Term conference in Brisbane "Children Our Future." Great concern for the sexualisation of children in the present day with children as young as 6 being made up to look like adults and paraded. Need for as many people as possible to contact government representatives etc and voice our concerns. Reports passed on the motion of Nola Dickson and Shirley Mitchell

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

- 1) PPSEAWA invitation to Lunch
- 2) U/C Thank Offering Service & Lunch
- 3) Jean Porteous re resignation
- 4) National Minutes & treasurers report
- 5) SPAN
- 6) Heather Badgery
- 7) Grenfell U/C FLC donation

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

- a) Jean Porteous
- b) Heather Badgery

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Nil

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

UCA Mission support service & lunch

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

PPSEAWA Lunch on June 28th.

Thanks to the Presbyterian ladies for morning tea, and to the Baptist ladies for setting up the room.

CLOSING PRAYER : Nola concluded with a Prayer and Benediction

NEXT MEETING: 15th August, at 10-30am, 2nd floor Piccadilly Court

CHAIRS: Anglican

MORNING TEA: Baptist

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____