

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

Minutes of the Council Meeting, held at 22 Pitt St. Sydney,  
on Monday, 19 November, 1990.

CHAIRING The meeting opened at 10.30 a.m., following a delightful time of fellowship over morning tea. Members of Executive were especially pleased to be able to join with the Council members in the morning tea which they had shared in providing.

The President was pleased to welcome some visitors to the meeting. They were Mrs Rhoda Gates, President of the Uniting Church Synod Fellowship Committee, who is a new Delegate, Mrs Anid Utber, President of the Strathfield-Homebush Branch, no stranger to the Council, as she was at one time a Baptist Delegate and Mrs Janet Flower, representing the Lane Cove-Longueville Branch.

Those present as recorded in the Attendance Book were 50 and Apologies as recorded were 10. Special mention was made of the apologies from Dorothy Lumb, ill with the shingles, Linda Mybourn, attending a Mothers' Union Conference, Marie Rajoor, busy with a family wedding this week and Mollie Lundy, whose knee has been operated on.

President's Remarks. The President expressed her disappointment that the year was closing with some unfinished business still on her books. However, in listing these concerns for the Council, she was able to assure us that they were matters in hand, and that they would be finalised in the new year.

1. There will be an up-dating of the Convenors' and office bearers' Guidelines during 1991.
2. Work is progressing on two information kits. There will be a kit for Council members and a new kit of information about A.C.W. for people wishing to start a branch or just get to know us.
3. Several matters raised at the meeting of the Executive with people from the member denominations on October 15 are being followed up.
4. Tasks for denominational members. These are being looked at. Included in this, is the request for all members to assist the Publicity Convenor in her work. Photos, notices of services, etc. are useful to the Convenor for her scrap book. Jeanne would also like to know about things being planned by the branches.

DEVOTIONS. The President welcomed Marjory Baker & invited her to lead us in devotions. Marjory introduced her theme as the 'Colours of Christmas'. She lit three candles, standing above a lovely arrangement of seasonal greenery. Red reminds us that God gave us a gift in His Son. It was the ultimate Gift. Red also reminds us of Christ's love for us in giving His life for our sins. GOLD is the colour of eternal life. It reminds us that we are God's children.

GOLD reminds us of the gifts of the Wise Men. It is the colour that speaks to us of Christ's eternal glory and his kingship. In a series of readings and carols, we celebrated the Christmas Story. After singing hymns like 'Joy to the World', 'Angels from the Realms of Glory', 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' 'Silent Night' etc., it was fitting that we should also hear the lovely poem 'The Inn-keeper' written by Margaret Knauerhase. This lovely time was rounded off for us by the prayer offered by the President.

Thanks were expressed to Marjory and to Brigadier Ruth Smith on the piano.

The Minutes of the September meeting were read and confirmed.

Business arising from the minutes.

1. Report of the A.C.W. contribution to the St. Mary's Cathedral Flower Festival. Thanks were expressed to Marjory Baker, Marie McCann, Beth Finlay, Yvonne Davis and Lucelle King, for the beautiful arrangement admired by many at the Festival. Dame Monica Gallagher thanked A.C.W. for its involvement in this event.
2. A.C.W. delegate to the Children's Films & Television Committee. Mrs Mollie Craig offered to fill this vacancy. Thanks to Mollie.
3. Meeting of the Executive with Denominational delegates. The President has sent letters to all who participated. It was a very helpful meeting, the results of which are matters referred to in her opening

remarks by the President.

Mrs Davis brought greetings from the South Australian Unit. She was able to be present at the planning day for Adelaide's World Community Day service. It was pleasing to learn that there were men present at this service. Yvonne spent a very happy day with Margaret & Oscar Knauerhase and we were able to share in this by looking at photos taken on that day.

Deaconess Andrews brought greetings from women in South Africa.

She asked that we would pray for the women that they might be successful in their effort to form an African Church Women group. They already have wonderful World Day of Prayer groups and their links with the Council of Churches is strong.

Marie Lajoor expressed the delight of members at the C.W.B. State Conference at the attendance of our President, Joan Tong.

In her report of this attendance, Joan said she felt a great affinity with the women there. She was aware that in their move towards ecumenism they are fulfilling part of their Chapter as Catholic Women.

She felt special at this conference, everyone was so pleased to see her there. The highlight of the conference for Joan was Katherine Greiner's address. She found it very uplifting & inspiring.

Correspondence. The Outwards & Inwards Correspondence as listed was received & dealt with.

Business arising from the Correspondence.

1. Members were invited to attend the C.W.B. Conference on Friday, 23 November. Speakers at this meeting are from Nungalinga College, N.T.
2. Executive has recommended that we support the suggestion that the special appeal on World Community Day, 1991 be for the Nungalinga College. This suggestion is being considered with two other claims.
3. In a letter of thanks from the Flower Festival, Dame Monica has indicated that the next festival will be in 1993.

REPORT. The President, Mrs Tong indicated that in presenting her report on the A.C.W.C. Conference, she would be assisted by the National President, Marie McCann.

Marie prefaced her report by again appealing for the whole-hearted participation of A.C.W.C. members in the 1991 A.C.W.C. Conference.

As well as helpers at the time of the conference, we need people to be enthusiastic publicity people before the conference. Those thinking of attending the conference were told that the minimum cost of attending as a live-in member, would be \$130. Accommodation ranges from \$26- \$42 per day.

Australians have been invited to attend the Church Women United Assembly next November 8-11 (1991) to be held in St. Louis, Missouri. This is the Jubilee Assembly and further information is available from Marie.

A.C.W.C. Conference. Marie was privileged to attend this Assembly in Jakarta. It is held every four years and there are 16 countries represented at the Conference. It is now 31 years old, and still seeks to demonstrate God's love through Christ through its relationships as Christian women working together through interaction, ecumenism, growing in faith. The Conference has concentrated during these years on leadership training for women. Emphasis is put on social issues, bearing in mind the changing role of women in society. There are now a number of theologically trained women in the countries represented at the Conference. A.C.W.C. tries to seek a balance between women & men, they do not see their role as a competitive one. 140 women attended the Conference, situated in a conference centre about 20 miles from Jakarta, in the hills district. It was a very beautiful place, comfortable, with breezeways for the cooling of the building.

The Australian delegation took part in the Cultural Night and the item was a dramatisation of Waltzing Matilda. (Photographs circulated around our meeting proved to be most informative & interesting.) Marie told us of the crafts of the people in the host country. The women excel in embroidery & clothing making. Marie's suit was a fine example of the work the women have been trained to do. They are able to earn a decent living from these crafts.

In the Ecumenism Workshop the theme was 'Christ's freedom, growth & hope'. Through respect for our environment, we learn respect for life. They were encouraged to promote ecumenical prayer as a movement. Ecumenical workshops to be held regularly. In these workshops the participants are careful not to proselytise.

The bottom line of the Conference was the spiritual side of it. In Corinthians we read 'God has chosen the Weak'. Like Mary Magdalen, we should run ahead, -- to act.

In her report, Joan thanked those people who had helped her as she went to the Conference. She had small gifts for those who had given her things to take to the conference as gifts for people she met. We were invited to look at the souvenirs she had brought home, many of them small gifts from delegates.

We learnt that the new President of A.C.S.C. is Monica Mannan and Virvani Peters is the Vice-President.

Joan found great fellowship in Christ with the delegates to the conference. She feels it a great privilege to have been elected to the committee of A.C.S.C. We rejoice that Margaret Napier was elected Australia's Representative on A.C.S.C.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report as attached was received & adopted by the meeting. Accounts to be ratified were passed by the vote of the meeting.

Council approved the Executive's initiative in having A.C.S.C. pens produced as a money-raising effort. The pens will sell for \$1 each.

N.R.S. Report. In the absence of the Convenor, Peg Blake reported that N.R.S. Scholar, Doreen Wic had attended a meeting of Mothers' Union people in the Sutherland Shire, where she was warmly received.

National Convenor, Lucille King reported that Doreen has been very busy. She is at present in Brisbane, but returns this week to Lidcombe for final lectures. Then she will visit state units in Melbourne, Launceston, Adelaide and Perth, flying out of Perth for home on Dec. 10. She has had a wonderful time in Australia, and is very grateful for all that we have done for her. *observance*

1991 Scholar, Rachel Dobana has been offered a practical course in nurse administration. The University courses are of a two year duration, the scholarship is only for one year. She is happy about the arrangements being made for her. From the end of February, she will spend 8 weeks in N.R.S., then will move on to other states, where she will do about 6 weeks in practical courses, in hospitals.

Publicity report. The Convenor reported that our publicity for World Community Day was through radio stations. There has been good feedback from this publicity. We paid for an advertisement on 2GBA/P.R. Reports from the branches where services were held are slowly coming in. Publicity Convenor is working closely with Promotions Convenor.

Promotions. An Information Kit was sent to Greenacre. Order forms for Fellowship Day are M.O. The up-dated list of speakers available for our Special Days, will be ready in the new year for giving to Council members & Branches.

The Convenor was pleased to report that 130 people attended the World Community Day service in her area (she is President of Sutherland Branch). The service was held in the Baptist Church at Caringbah, in itself, a great break-through.

F.L.C. The Convenor introduced a recommendation from the Executive that the motion passed in February, 1990 be rescinded. This motion (see minutes 19 Feb. 1990) read 'That because of rising costs of postage etc. receipts for F.L.C. monies be sent only when requested and that those so requesting be asked to enclose a self-addressed env. clogc.'

The motion to rescind this motion was carried, with the addendum that this matter should be reviewed in twelve months.

The Convenor will send out 50 letters at this time, along with free copies of Newsette and receipts. With subsequent receipts, copies of 'Small Beginnings' will be posted.

Patricia read to us the poem 'A Candle is just a simple thing' from A.C.S.C. News, August, 1989. The Prayer used was from the Circle of Prayer, American Canon's page. In wishing all the Council the blessings of the Christmas Season, Patricia asked us at this time to pray for peace and for all the people that F.L.C. touches.

Representatives from Branches were invited to give reports at this time.



Strathfield. 70-80 people attended an excellent meeting at the Baptist Church, when Lucelle King was the speaker. The offering was very good. Chatswood. In March there will be an election to find a new President. There have been good services this year. The Branch holds an annual street stall. Mrs Woodhouse reported that she has now received copies of photos of all the banners used at the Jubilee Service in 1988.

Seven Hills-Toongabbie. The new President of this Branch, Doris Haberfield is now the delegate from that branch. She reported a good World Community Day, when Rev. Laureen Cripps was the speaker. Good attendance matched the fine offering and collection for F.L.C. The Branch members meet for a Christmas luncheon and concert. Gifts are brought for the Smith Family.

Killara-Lindfield. This Branch is very enthusiastic. There is never any trouble getting a member church to hold the services. They all count it a privilege to be asked. Nine churches in the area participate.

Turrumurra-Wahroonga. At the Annual meeting of this branch, affiliated churches bring reports of their activities. Bible studies are growing in the area. Groups for hospital visiting are very active. 'Care' groups have been formed. They organise teams to help with driving people who need this service, also arrange for food to be sent to people in need. One group supported a mother at the birth of a child by sending someone to be there with her. In fact, this happened twice. This Branch like many others organises the World Day of Prayer service. The President Secretary change each year, as they are drawn from the host churches for the two services they arrange.

Leura. Mrs Stutchbury chose to tell us about a wonderful experience had by her & her husband on their recent overseas trip.

They were in Lucerne on the day that the people celebrated a day in honour of St. Leo de Garde, the Patron Saint of Lucerne.

Everything in the town was closed, all the bells were ringing. So they went into the church and participated in a wonderful Choral

Eucharist. This was a wonderful worship experience, with magnificent music, all sung in German.

Ecumenical Council. Our Fraternal delegate, Mrs Colonel Peterson, read from her written report of the year's work of the Council.

We will publish this report in our Annual Newsletter, but some points that she made are recorded here. We rejoice in the joining of Parramatta Catholic Diocese with the Ecumenical Council, and pray that other Bishops will lead their people into a similar membership.

Mr. Edmund Walker, husband of 'our' Elizabeth Walker (formerly N.E.U. Unit Treasurer & present National Treasurer) is the President of Ecumenical Council.

Sarah Lonica in telling us that today is Cardinal Freeman's birthday, reminded us that it was after submissions to Cardinal Freeman that the Catholic women became members of N.E.U.

Our attention was drawn to the Trading table, to the pens for sale and to the sale of posters.

The President thanked the hostesses for the day, ladies of the Salvation Army, and the Anglican ladies for preparing the room.

The Council will meet again on Monday, 18 February, 1991 at 10.30a.m. after morning tea served by the Presbyterian Delegates.

Members were wished a happy Christmas and the meeting closed with the Benediction.

Confirmed.

18.2.91