

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE



**Minutes of Meeting held on June 21, 2004 at Piccadilly Court
222 Pitt Street, Sydney, at 1.15 p.m.**

Chair:	Major Nancy McLaren	President
Present:	Mrs Cella Cooper	First Vice President
	Mrs Janet Harrison	Second Vice President
	Mrs Isabel Hewitt	Secretary
	Mrs Nola Dickson	Treasurer
	Mrs Brenda Dickinson	Minutes Secretary
	Sister Marie Craddock	Publicity Convenor
	Mrs Edith Ridge	Publications Editor
	Major Eileen Holley	Special Days Convenor
	Miss Shirley Wells	Fellowship of the Least Coin Convenor
	Mrs Jean Porteous	Social Issues Convenor
	Major Lyn Middleton	President, NSW State Unit
Apologies:	Major Joan Tong	Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor

Devotions: Nancy read Psalm 16:11 and brought to our attention some of the benefits that flow from an increased awareness of God's presence in our lives, making us stronger in faith, hope and love and opened the meeting with prayer.

Welcome: Nancy welcomed Lyn Middleton to the National Executive. Lyn will act as a liaison with the NSW State Unit.

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the Meeting held on May 10, 2004 were confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

2. BUSINESS ARISING:

2.1 **Possible Australian Church Women Website:** Responses have so far been received from Jean Hambley (ACT Unit), Lee Edwards (WA Unit) (attached) and Maureen Clark (SA Unit). Maureen attached (electronically) three documents created by her daughter when she made an attempt to design an ACW website some years ago. All responses were positive and encouraged Executive to pursue further enquiries.

After discussion, the suggestion was made that if setting up our website is not a feasible proposition, perhaps we could be a link on the National Council of Churches Website or even our own denomination's website.

Action: Brenda offered to ask The Salvation Army's web designer for his advice on setting up a website with links to each State Unit, the costs involved, the volume of material required, etc.

As previously reported, it would appear that we do not qualify for a grant under the Australian Government's Women's Funding Grants; however, Nola is following through this enquiry with a family member.

Isabel will find out which States & Territories are online.

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2. Business Arising (continued)

2.2 National Conference 9-14 October, 2005

- 2.2.1 **Ecumenical Service:** Suggested venue, the Chapel at The Collaroy Centre.
- 2.2.2 **Civic Function:** Invite the Governor of New South Wales, Marie Bashir, to speak on either Tuesday or Wednesday morning, prior to a Luncheon That day to be an **Open Day** ((Lunch with the Governor) with the same afternoon free for sightseeing.
- Action:** Isabel to contact the Governor of New South Wales, Marie Bashir, inviting her to be our guest speaker on either Tuesday 11th or Wednesday 12th October 2005.
- 2.2.3 **Agape Supper** on Thursday evening, including changeover of National Executive.
- 2.2.4 **Venue:** Nancy to contact The Collaroy Centre to see if we can hold our July National Executive meeting there and so obtain a better idea of facilities etc. for organising the program and publicity for the 2005 event.
- 2.2.5 **Budget:** A budget for the Conference to be worked out after the end of year accounts have been finalised.
- 2.2.6 **Bible Study Guidelines:** The sub-committee consisting of Nancy, Marie and Brenda tabled its suggested guidelines. Marie was asked to summarise them and, after faxing to Nancy for her approval, forward them to Peg Blake, Robyn Collins and Colleen O'Sullivan, asking them to liaise with each other as to which day is most suitable for them. Special thanks to Marie for providing devotional material that was considered.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Inward Correspondence June 2004:

1. ACW SA Unit – Minutes 16/4/2004; 14/5/2004
2. ACW VIC Unit – Minutes 23/4/2004; News Apr/May
3. ACW TAS Unit – Minutes 26/4/2004; AGM 24/5/2004; addresses
4. ACW QLD Unit – Minutes dated 19/3/2004 but should be 19/4/2004?
5. ACW NSW Unit – Minutes 19/4/2004
6. ACW WA Unit – Minutes 16/4/2004; 21/5/2004
7. Minister FACS – National Survey for data on Violence against Women
8. ALP Policy Document – Plan to Combat Violence against Women; Women's Budget
9. Maureen Clark – Greetings from WKS Trustees; Website
10. Mollie Jean Hunt – re: WKS pamphlet, Urban Seed, Ian Marketing
11. Juanita Miller – new officers Tasmania
12. AWC Grandparenting registration form (Jean Hambley to attend)
13. PWA – invitation to 50th Anniversary Federal Conference
14. Jessie Street National Women's Library – seeking membership
15. Office of PM Canberra – re 'detention of unauthorized arrivals'
16. Directory of Australian Associations – re ACW entry
17. Jean Hambley – response to Circular 3; Website; AWC June report
18. ACWC *Newsletter* Jan-Mar 2004
19. CCA *News* March 2004
20. AWC *Newsletter* May/June 2004

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Correspondence (continued)**Outward Correspondence**

1. State/Territory Units – Circular 3/2004; replies from MPs; NSW, ACT addresses
2. Jean Hambley – re Grandparenting; address lists
3. Pat Walker – response
4. Lyn Middleton
5. Coralie Wright – re NCCA Forum
6. Mollie Jean Hunt – reply as above
7. Directory of Australian Associations – ACW
8. Maureen Clark – acknowledgement and thanks
9. Juanita Miller – Tasmanian addresses
10. Senator Trish Crossin – change of address
11. Jessie Street National Women's Library – change of address
12. Parliament of the World's Religions – change of address

4. REPORTS**President (Nancy McLaren)**

Invitations received to attend the following:

- Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia Conference, 50th Anniversary, 13 September 2004.

First Vice-President (Cela Cooper)

- A copy of the National Life Membership Roll has been made and will be kept on file.
- Email re Website, from Maureen Clark with documents attached was forwarded to Cela by Isabel Hewitt for further discussion. (see Item 2.1 above).

Second Vice-President (Jan Harrison) No report.

Secretary (Isabel Hewitt)

- Circular letter with NSW and ACT addresses, summaries of letters to MPs sent and some replies/responses have been received.
- Constitution and Guidelines ready for distribution to State/Territory Units.
- Website response from SA forwarded for consideration.

Treasurer's Report (Nola Dickson) Report attached.

Moved Nola Dickson, seconded Jan Harrison, that the Treasurer's report be received.

Special Days (Eileen Holley)**1. Correspondence:**

Inward:

- Coralie Wright SA Unit – Sent completed WCD Order of Service
- Captain Kaye Viney – Alice Springs Branch – New committee formed. Kaye is Secretary. Branch happy to prepare Order of Service for Fellowship Day 2005.

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Special Days Convenor's Report (continued)

Correspondence

Outward:

- Order of service Master Copies forwarded to all States 10.6.04
- Captain Kaye Viney (Secretary, Alice Springs) – information sent 10.6.04 re Guidelines for preparing Fellowship Day Order of Service 2005.

2. **World Community Day 2005 Theme:** National Executive was asked to bring their thoughts on a Theme to the next Executive meeting in July.

Fellowship of the Least Coin (Shirley Wells)

- Grant application from Victoria was received and all five applications forwarded to ACWC Executive Secretary.
- Supplies of offering boxes, prayer cards, book marks and Moves & Touches have been received and are available as required.
- F.L.C. Reflections received from Lee Edwards, WA and Dorothy Woodhouse.
- Copies of "Messages and Reports 2004" received and have been forwarded to all FLC State Convenors.
- Sister Josephine Mitchell contacted and is willing to be involved in the FLC 50th Anniversary Celebrations. Sister Josephine advised that the grant for Health Education in East Timor in 2002 has contributed greatly to the upgrading of the Health Services in clinics and villages. The four nurses trained in Australia now hold responsible positions and are training other East Timorese.
- An up-to-date list of all grants given for Australian Projects since 1963 is almost completed.

Correspondence, etc. inward

13/5/04 Grant Application from Victoria.
 17/5/04 Letter from Lee Edwards WA enclosing FLC Reflections
 18/5/04 Supplies of offering boxes, etc. from ICFLC Secretary, Esther Byu
 24/5/04 Letter and information from Dorothy Woodhouse
 26/5/04 Letter from Nancy McLaren, NSW re receipt of "Moves & Touches"
 14/6/04 Annual FLC Reports from TCFLC Secretary, Esther Byu.

Correspondence, etc. outward

20/5/04 Letter & five Grant Applications to ACWC Exec. Secretary, Shu-Wen Chiang
 20/5/04 Letter to ICFLC Secretary, Esther Byu ack. receipt of offering boxes, etc.
 20/5/04 Note to Anne Kennedy ack. receipt of grant Application
 26/5/04 Letter of thanks to Dorothy Woodhouse
 17/6/04 Letter to ICFLC Secretary, Esther Byu, ack. receipt of Annual Reports "Messages & Reports 2004".
 17/6/04 Letter to all FLC State Convenors enclosing Annual Report
 17/6/04 Phoned Sister Josephine Mitchell re FLC 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

Publicity Convenor (Sr Marie Craddock) No report.

Publications Editor (Edith Ridge) - No report.

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4. Reports (continued)

Winifred Keik Scholarship Convenor (Joan Tong)

Correspondence outward

- Letter to all State Convenors giving an update on Mereani Dinacika Raqeu and enclosing a copy of Gay Inall's letter dated 15 April. Maureen Clarke is renegotiating for Mereani to do her course at Project Respect in Melbourne because the arrangements with the Philippines have fallen through.
- Letter dated 14 May 2004 to former scholars enclosing 2004 WKS leaflet dated.

Social Issues Convenor (Jean Porteous) - No report.

- Suggested issues on which individuals could write letters to politicians were:
 - Mental Health, trafficking in women; people being held in detention centres; unacceptable language used in radio and television programs, etc.
- Regarding ACW National Executive becoming an incorporated body, Jean Porteous is looking into this.
- **Young Carers** – For information: There is a Young Carers' Conference (National Young Carers Summit) to be held 23-24 August 2004 at the Novotel, Homebush Bay, Sydney (by invitation only).

Action: It was agreed that ACW National Executive become a member of Carers NSW Inc. so that we can receive their publication and be kept informed of issues.

AWC Report (Jean Hambley)

- National Council of Jewish Women and The Salvation Army now member organisations of AWC.
- AWC producing an Annual Report, suggest for ACW entry:
 - a. Who we are – ecumenical – expand on that aspect
 - b. National in NSW – move every 2 years around States/Territories, Nancy as Nat. President etc.
 - c. WKS and FLC – expand on this
 - d. ACWC
 - e. ANY OTHER IDEAS?
- Report needed by August and Jean happy to do it – to be ratified by National before sending.
- Face to Face 20 June
- Grandparenting forum 21 June
- AWC supporting White Ribbon Day (combat violence against women)
- hope to support Project Respect in bid for funding for research on trafficking.

ACWC Report (Pat Walker)

Report on Myanmar visit and meetings (**see attached**).

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

National Conference 9-14 October, 2005: Further discussion adjourned until July meeting.

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6. NEXT MEETING: Please note: July 19, 2004 at 10.00 a.m., Level 8, Piccadilly Court, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney. (The Collaroy Centre was unavailable on this date).

Devotions: Sister Marie Craddock.

Meeting closed at 3.45 p.m. with Prayer.

Minutes confirmed:

Date:

National President

21.06.04

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 15TH JUNE, 2004

Balance 4/5/04 \$31,453.48

Receipts

Fund Raising 117.50

117.50

Expenditure

Printing 228.80
PSEAWA Lunch
(N.McLaren) 30.00
Stationery 14.13
Postage 122.90
Phone calls 5.74

401.57

Balance in hand \$31,169.41

ATTACHMENT TO ACW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MINUTES JUNE 21, 2004

ITEM 2.1 Letter from Lee Edwards (WA Unit) re ACW Website.

"We believe having a website is a good idea for information-sharing, and as a publicity tool for raising interest and hopefully getting new members. But it all depends on the cost.

A simple page should not cost a lot – with basic information. We thought it could well compare with the cost of brochures we already provide.

The decision needs to be considered in light of the over-all cost of publicity at National and Units level.

The information would actually not be for internal communication, unless it were a very sophisticated and updated version, which of course is expensive.

The site would be National not State-run.

We suggest the National Executive get back to Wendy Kiley and ask for the basic level she would suggest would be appropriate. We felt her contribution was very worthwhile."

**REPORT ON THE GENCO MEETING
HELD IN MYANMAR FROM 10TH TO 13TH JUNE 2004.**

The opening Service of the Genco Meeting was held in the Panda Hotel function room,

Moo Paw welcomed us and the welcome speech was given by the Rev. James Ngun Hlei (Associate General Secretary, Myanmar Council of Churches).

A candle was lit to dispel the darkness and fill us with love. The hymns "Spirit of the Living God" and " Joyful, Joyful we Adore Thee" set the tone for this happy service. Students from the Kayin Baptist Theological Seminary performed a Liturgical Drama about the women, who approached Moses for the right to inherit from their father. Moses asked God and God agreed and set the precedent.

The solo artist, was Angel Khine Zar Lwin, who sang "Hero". This little blind girl's voice filled the room with beauty and strength.

Reports were given from each National Representative. In many countries women still strive for equality both in society and in the church. Mostly Christians are a minority but they work to raise the status of women, to prevent family violence and to improve education opportunities for the underprivileged. Many also work towards peace and to support those displaced by war.

Yasuko explained our financial situation and let us know that the 2006 General Assembly has a budget of US\$150,000. This seems enormous, but some will come back in Registrations. However the bulk will be for airfares. Consider the cost of about 90 airfares to Malaysia from around Asia. Any fundraising will be welcomed. If we can afford it, we might think of some ways to raise money in our own countries for ACWC.

Yasuko Nakayama and Ester Byu took charge of a workshop concerning the joint celebration of the ACWC General Assembly and the ICFLC 50th Anniversary. We broke into groups to discuss **Fundraising, Programming and Bible Studies**. ACWC and ICFLC have a special connection as mother and daughter, so we need to celebrate together. Our worksheets will be considered and ideas taken to the planning meeting of ICFLC later this year.

We had a half day tour of the Zoe Women Development Centre, the markets and Shwee Dagon Pagoda.

In the Women's Centre, girls are given Nurse-Aid Training; Domestic Worker Training; Sewing and Embroidery; English Proficiency; School Teachers Training and given other courses. Some of their goods were on sale at very good prices.

The markets in Yangon are so full of bargains that we had trouble getting our National Representatives back to the bus but finally were able to visit the Pagoda. This is very splendid and very large, so that we could have spent much more time there if it had been available.

2/. We were made so welcome in Myanmar. Ester pointed out that no Women's Ecumenical Group had ever been able to visit Myanmar. The Christian people felt so honoured by our presence. We also felt honoured by the warmth of the Myanmar people.

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REPORT ON THE GENCO MEETING HELD IN MYANMAR FROM 10TH TO 13TH JUNE 2004 (Ctd.).

Projects will be open again for 2005. They will be decided subject to money being available and countries will be able to support any project that they wish.

One Scholarship was granted to Myanmar and another for India is waiting for an educational budget to be provided.

Later this year, Shu-Wen will do a self evaluation to allow her to tell us of her vision as ACWC Executive Secretary. ACWC will allow up to US\$1,000 for Leadership Training for Shu-Wen for English Classes or Speech Therapy as required. Her contract will come up for renewal by the next General Assembly.

Another workshop was held on the issue of ACWC Day. Since the ICFLC Theme for their 50th Anniversary is "Celebrating the Legacy, Visioning the Future, Living the Jubilee" we will use parts of this theme for the themes for ACWC Days in the next three years. The Liturgy will be prepared by :-

India	in 2005	"Celebrating the Legacy"
Philippines	in 2006	"Visioning the Future"
Japan	in 2007	"Living the Jubilee".

Korea will prepare the Liturgy in 2008.

On the Sunday we were divided up into groups to worship and give greetings in ten local churches. I was able to visit the U Naw Burmese Baptist Church, named for U Naw the first Christian convert in Burma. Rev. Toe Toe Latt made me most welcome and I met Daw Mya Kyi again. The singing was beautiful and I was asked to stay for the afternoon service, which was "Parents' Day". This was very enjoyable with many young people singing and playing music for their parents. The guest speaker was the Methodist Bishop, who talked about his experiences living in Rangoon during World War 2. "Aunty" Mya Kyi interpreted some of what he was saying for me.

Many dignitaries came to our final Dinner and service: -

The President of Myanmar Council of Churches – Rev. Mar Gay Gyi

General Secretary – Rev. Smith N.Z Thaug

Assistant General Secretary – Rev. James Ngun Hlei

and veteran members of ACWC including –

Daw Mya Kyi 90 years old

Daw Easter Galstin 89 years old

Daw Luella San Gyaw 90 years old.

Let us bless Myanmar every day and bless each other. At the beginning of this visit we were praying for Bela and Atola, who had visa trouble and hadn't been able to be present. But both arrived in answer to our prayers. Every country was represented. Thanks be to God.

**REPORT ON THE ACWC EXCO MEETING HELD IN MYANMAR FROM 8TH TO
10TH JUNE, 2004.**

Moo Paw and her ladies met us at the airport and made us very welcome. We were installed in the Panda Hotel and celebrated as each member arrived. It was lovely to meet up with Ester Byu, Executive Secretary of ICFLC and also a member of our Executive Committee.

Annam told us about her meetings with the Council of Churches in Malaysia and her attendance at many conferences both in Malaysia and overseas to represent ACWC.

Yasuko brought us up to date with our finances and spoke of the US\$150,000 budget for the 2006 General Assembly, which we will hold together with the ICFLC 50th Anniversary. Some of this money will come back in registrations but a lot of it will be needed for airfares.

Shu-Wen has been in contact with women in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and it was decided that the 2005 Exco meeting will be held in Cambodia if we can combine it with a meeting with the women of the three countries.

Mongolia also wants to learn about ACWC and to set up an Ecumenical women's association so a visit will be made to them in early 2005 by Annam and either Usha or Yasuko.

It was decided to trust in God and plan for projects again in 2005. They will be subject to money being available and we will encourage countries to be involved with funding them.

One scholarship was approved for Naw Thwe Sah of Myanmar for US\$400 per year for 2004 and 2005 subject to an educational budget being provided. An application from India for Miss Implisongla was held until a budget can be provided.

The Executive Committee was hosted for dinner by Daw Mya Kyi, former member of ACWC, who had a banner from the 1962 Assembly in Thailand. She spent six months planning this special dinner with all of her favourite foods. The dinner was beautiful but we enjoyed the company of this very special lady much more.