

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

Minutes of the Council Meeting, held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney
on Monday, 18 March, 1991.

OPENING. The meeting opened with the President, Mrs Major Joan Tong in the chair. Visitors and new delegates were warmly welcomed. State President of Catholic Women's League, Mrs Peggy McEntee was welcomed and invited to introduce the newly-appointed Catholic delegates. Six of the eight delegates were present and welcomed. Those who are new to the Council are Rae Aldridge, Patricia Clough, Carmel Emmett.

Helen Richardson introduced Mrs Margaret Gordon from New Zealand, on a visit to our State. Margaret, who is a member of Church Women United of New Zealand, is the South Pacific Area President of the World Federation of Methodist Women.

Beryl Twyman, representative from the Strathfield-Homebush Branch of A.C.W. was welcomed to her first Council meeting.

Hazel Peason, of the Upper Blue Mountains Branch was also welcomed. Shirley Fallon was introduced by Marie Majoor as her Proxy delegate during the meetings that Marie will be away. Shirley comes from The Entrance. Shirley will attend the April Council meeting. Rachel Sobana, 1991 W.K.S. Scholar was welcomed.

SYMPATHY. The President expressed the sympathy of the meeting to the Catholic delegates. Cardinal Sir James Freeman, who died on Saturday, 16 March was an outstanding Australian and Churchman. We join in the Pride of his people in the remembrance of a good man and share their sorrow at his passing. It was during Cardinal Freeman's time of active ministry that the Catholic Church gave permission for its women to become part of A.C.W. in N.S.W., for which we are all grateful. Dame Monica Gallagher asked for prayers at this time, and during the services on Friday, 22 March.

DEVOTIONS. Mrs Dorothy Lumb brought us a Lenten message. We were reminded that Lent is a time of penance and fasting. In other days repentance for sin was expressed in coverings of sackcloth and ashes. Sin is an offence against God. But God took the initiative and provided for the forgiveness of sin. Because He loves us He forgives us our sin. In His good time God sent Christ to redeem us. What is different about our time and God's Time? How do we use our time? It can be a pure pleasure if we spend it for God. Time spent in Christian work should never be a tyrant. Prayer for us to become like Christ completed the Devotions.

THOSE PRESENT and APOLOGIES are recorded on the attendance sheets. Members were asked to sign these sheets and to record any apologies there also. There were 54 present and 8 apologies. We were sorry to hear that Glad West is far from well. A letter has been sent to Glad following the death of her husband on 18 February. Prayers were asked for her comforting and for her return to health.

CONFERENCE SPOT. Mrs Marie McCann brought news of former W.K.S. scholar, Melini Weerasinghi. Melini was imprisoned in her country, Sri Lanka, for her social work with Tamil people. This happened before her visit to U.K. It is reported that she is all right now. Copies of Margaret Knauerhase's book 'Faith of a Lifetime' were offered for sale.

Marie spoke of the coming National Conference with enthusiasm. An excellent programme has been arranged. There will be a Seminar Day on the Wednesday of the Conference week. Lists were distributed and members asked to indicate whether they would be interested in being full-time members at the Conference or day visitors. It is hoped that many of the Sydney women will live-in and that N.S.W. women will all feel they are welcome to attend.

Minutes of the meeting, 18.2.91 were read and confirmed.

Business arising from the Minutes.

1. Report of visit of Rachel Mathew to Sydney. This W.K.S. Fellowship holder spoke at our gathering on Monday, 25 February. It was a delightful day of learning and fellowship, when Rachel told us about her church the Ma Thoma, of India, so named after St. Thomas the disciple, who was the first Christian missionary to India, and about the women's work of her church. A full report of the visit is attached to these minutes. Thanks to all who helped on that day and to the people who hosted Rachel during her stay in Sydney were expressed.
2. Fellowship Day pens. Orders are coming in. The pens are available and members were invited to take a sample for publicity in their branches.
3. City Branch picnic. day. Twenty people enjoyed the picnic in the Gardens.
4. W.C.C. Study books. 18 of 20 books were sold.
5. Mardi Gras. Still with the Executive.
6. Associate Members. The recommendation regarding Associate Members brought by the Executive was discussed. It was unanimously resolved that 'There should be added to the Constitution or the by-laws of the constitution of the N.S.W. State Unit of A.C.W. provision for the appointment of Associate Members. Such Associate Members would be non-voting members of Council, and be ineligible for office on the Executive. Such membership would be open to any interested persons who would be willing to pay the annual fee of \$10.00, for which amount they would receive copies of 'Newsette', the Annual Programme, invitations to all special functions of A.C.W., any other literature available to Council members, and their membership. It is envisioned that the people most likely to avail themselves of such membership would be people who, having completed their term as delegates to the Council, would wish to retain an active interest in the State Unit, by attending meetings (or not, as they choose) and by feeling they are still members of the organisation they have served.' The Executive was asked to determine whether the addition be to the By-laws or to the Constitution. Members spoke in favour of the concept and made the request that recent delegates be contacted to tell them about the idea of Associate Members. To be printed in "Newsette" also.
7. Special collection for World Community Day, 1991. Information regarding the Nungalinga College, Darwin was sought. Several members were able to supply this information, having either been there personally, or having relatives working there, etc. Mrs Beryl McLaughlin was asked to collate such items of information that are available in written form, to publish in an information sheet for members to take to their Branches well in advance of World Community Day.

CORRESPONDENCE The Outwards & Inwards Correspondence was tabled, read and dealt with as read. All Correspondence was received.

Business arising from the Correspondence.

1. Invitations were read to several functions. a. W.C.T.U. meeting, 18.3.91
b. Aust. Board of Missions Aux., 27.3.91 c. Parade of Fashions, 11.4.91
U.C.A. Mission Get Together, 29.4.91
2. Interesting items from the National Minutes, 4 February, were read.

REPORTS. Treasurer. The Treasurer's Statement as attached was adopted and received. Accounts to be passed for payment were ratified.

Annual Audit. The Auditor regrets that she will be unable to audit the books in time for the Annual General Meeting in April. The Meeting resolved that the Treasurer be permitted to present the unaudited statement to the A.G.M. and that the statement be printed in the Annual Newsletter whether it is audited or not.

W.K.S. The National Convenor introduced Miss Rachel Sobana, the 1991 scholar, who arrived in Sydney last Thursday to take up her Scholarship. Because of a mix-up with visas, Rachel's arrival was delayed by two weeks. This time will unfortunately shorten the time she has to spend observing hospital procedures in N.S.W. Operating under a student visa, she will be permitted to visit centres of occupational training and observe, also to be a voluntary

occupational worker. The time to be condensed in N.S.W. means Rachel will have less free time, but there are a few blank spots where members would be able to host her, say for a week-end. It is hoped that she will return to N.S.W. after her stay in Victoria, travelling with the delegates to the National Conference, thus being able to be at the Conference. Rachel spoke to the meeting, telling us of her home life. Her father is a retired engineer, her mother a teacher. She has two brothers. Her degree in nursing was obtained at the Vellore Hospital, India. She now works at the Cathering Booth Hospital, where she has tutored and specialised in pediatric nursing. She nearly refused the Scholarship, because she has never before been outside India. However, she believes that it was God's will for her to have been chosen, and feels very fortunate in this experience. She was assured that her request for our prayers during her time here, would be gladly granted.

The President gave her a small gift of useful items, air-letters, note-paper and pen, paper tissues, etc. as a welcome from the Council.

The National Convenor, Lucelle King read from the latest letter from Doreer Tie, 1990 scholar. She is requesting music suitable for Sunday School work, especially for Christmas, Easter, parents' days and S.S. Anniversary work. Some members are able to assist.

State Convenor Mina Whybourne reported that she and three other members of Council met Rachel when she arrived by plane from India.

F.L.C. The Convenor, Patricia Burke reported that receipts for F.L.C. monies have been sent with 80 copies of "Newsette", then subsequent letters have accompanied the receipts, giving F.L.C. information in the leaflet 'Small Beginnings,' an up-to-date summary of the story of F.L.C. Any Branches may have copies of this leaflet by asking for them. Members of Executive are willing to go to Branches and services to talk about F.L.C., but this should not be necessary, as the delegates have the information available to do their own educating.

Patricia has been asked to address three centres in the coming months.

She was the guest speaker at the World Day of Prayer service in St.

Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane, with a congregation of c500 people.

During her time as F.L.C. Convenor, Patricia has many times spoken to us about the importance of water. Again, at this meeting, she urged us to consider God's gift of water. While on a bush walking trip recently, she was reminded how blessed we are to have easy access to clean water, when one of the company realised he had forgotten his water bag. Others in the party shared with him, but they weren't ever very far from plentiful supplies of water. This reminded Patricia that in Kenya the women walk many hundreds of miles sometimes for dirty water, all that is available to them. When we run a tap in our homes, we should remember women like that and say a simple prayer for all those who do not have clean water. F.L.C. money frequently goes to provide water for people like this.

A prayer for peace-- the Prayer of St. Francis Assisi was offered.

F.L.C. Grants are available. Members were asked to consider whether they could suggest projects for F.L.C. Grants. Closing date 31 May.

Promotions. Order forms for Fellowship Day are still required for 7 city and 10 country centres. Speakers lists will go into each parcel. Packing Day will be from 1.p.m. on Monday 8 April, after the Executive meeting, in Room F, 2nd. floor. Helpers will be welcome.

A Promotions Kit has been requested from the Lower Blue Mountains.

Publicity. In the absence of the Convenor, Mrs Blake read the report that will appear in the next copy of "Newsette".

Membership Secretary. We need an up-to-date list of those people who represent Branches at Council, otherwise we will use the Contact List for mailing orders of services as our Branch records list.

Newsette. Deadline for the next issue, the first week in April.

GENERAL BUSINESS. Annual Dedication Service, 20 May at the City Congress Hall.

Arrangements are well in hand for this service. Members were asked to take copies of the invitations for the service. Numbers intending to stay for

- lunch must be recorded with the Secretary or President by 10 May.
2. Spiritual Enrichment Day. Although there is still no firm date for this activity, it will be in October, at the City Congress Hall. Arrangements are well in hand. The cost of the day will be \$7 and include lunch.
 3. Annual General Meeting. Nominations were called for all positions except President, Past President and President-elect. Nomination forms were tabled, to be returned to the Secretary by 8 April. The election of officers will be held on 15 April, and nominations from the floor will be taken for committees and delegates to other organisations.
 4. Annual Newsletter. To be distributed at the Annual Service. Reports are invited from all convenors, branches, delegates to other groups. To be in the Secretary's hands as soon as possible.
 5. Report of the W.C.C. Assembly, February, 1991. The Secretary in presenting her report, thanked the Council for the privilege of being a member of this Assembly gathering. It was an experience she will never forget. A full report accompanies these minutes.
 6. Other business. Deaconess Mary Andrews brought greetings from Eunice Kim, who was present at the W.C.C. Assembly and has returned home safely to Korea. She sent her love to the Council.
On 29 April, the former President of World Day of Prayer International Committee will visit Sydney. It is hoped that some of the Council members might be able to meet her on this occasion. Details from Mary Andrews. Yvonne Davis brought greetings from the Western Australian Unit, where she was able to attend their Council meeting last month.

The hostesses for the day were thanked and members reminded that the next meeting will be on Monday, 15 April. The Catholic ladies will prepare the room, the Salvation Army will look after morning tea and Jeanne Sutherland, for the Y.W.C.A. will conduct the devotions. In the absence of the Secretary, Mrs Blake will be the acting secretary.

CLOSING. The meeting closed with the Benediction.

Confirmed.

Mary J. Baker

15.4.91

