

Minutes of Meeting of N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council
held in the Board Room, Bible House on 26th Nov. 1965 at 2.30pm

Opening Mrs. Adam presided and opened the meeting with a devotional reading "The Star Still Shines" and prayer.

There were 27 members present.

Welcome was extended to Mrs. Bragg, a new Church of England representative.

Apologies were received from Deaconess Andrews, Brigadier Osborne & Mesdames Down, Smith, Lukes, Bruce Knight, Hall, Beveridge, Gindelach, Moran, Goodsell, Lishburn & Allen.

Mrs. Ruby McCallum's death was reported and it was agreed that a letter be sent to her daughter, Mrs. Ashton-Martin expressing our sympathy & appreciation of the wonderful way in which Mrs. McCallum served this Council. Mrs. Miller will prepare a memorial minute.

Presidential Statement To mark the 27th Anniversary of the Council which was formed on 18th November 1938, Mrs. Adam prepared a statement which is attached.

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 1965 were read & confirmed.

26th November 1965 (cont.)

Business Church & Life Movement.

Raising: a. Mrs. Briggs asked the Executive to find another representative to take her place on the C.L.M. Executive & Promotion Committee. It was moved, seconded & agreed that ~~to~~ our appreciation be expressed to Mrs. Briggs for being our representative on this Committee. Mrs. Ralph was appointed to fill this vacancy.

Correspondence b. Mrs. Ralph presented a brief report on the C.L.M. ^{and the President's action in arranging for a speaker on C.L.M. 11.30 to noon at March meeting was confirmed.}
The following correspondence was received & dealt with as read:

1. From Australian Church Women re our Report to the National Committee and opinion on division of offerings from ^{Special Days}
 - a. The draft report of the Executive was approved with the addition of "The N.S.W. W.I.C.C. strongly recommends that a Winifred Kiera Scholarship be awarded each year if possible."
 - b. It was agreed to adopt the Executive's recommendation "to approve the Working Committee's recommendation that the collections from Special Days be divided 40% to the State Unit and 60% to A.C.W."
2. From A.C.W. seeking nominations for the Australian representative to the 3rd Asian Church Women's

26th November 1965 (cont.)

Conference in Tokyo in July 1966. It was the wish of the meeting that Mrs. Badger consider allowing her name to go forward to the National Committee.

3. From Y.W.C.A. advising that Mrs. T.R. Mason will replace Mrs. Moore as one of their representatives

4. From Congregational Women's Fellowship re our Calendar for 1966. It was agreed that our February Council Meeting be held at Wybalena on Friday 18th, a week earlier than usual, to avoid clashing with the Women's World Day of Prayer.

5. From Baptist Women's Federation seeking to delay their turn for nominating our President-elect for a year because of the Baptist Church's Centenary Celebrations. It was agreed that this request be granted. The Methodist Women's Federation have been asked to provide the next President-elect in their place.

Reports

1. Finance. The Treasurer's Statements, showing credit balances of £17-6-11 in the general account £18-3-7, for the Fellowship of the Least Coin and £63-17-1 in the Project A/c, were received.

The following recommendations of the Executive were adopted: "that donations of £33.0 to the British"

26th November 1965.

Foreign Bible Society & F-1-0 to the Central Methodist Mission, he made in appreciation of our use of meeting^{rooms} and "that travelling expenses (1st class rail fare & sleeper if required) be paid for our representatives to the National Committee Meeting in Melbourne".

2. Extension Report - Mrs. Adam. received

3. Promotions Officer - Mrs. Vence - rec'd.

4. Nybalena - Mrs. Millar - rec'd.

5. W.C.T.U. - Mrs. Clappett - rec'd.

6. W.W.D.P. - Mrs. Stolz (verbal) - rec'd.

7. Inter-Church Aid - Mrs. Richards - rec'd.

8. N.S.W. C.C.F. & T.V. - Mrs. Palmer - rec'd.

General
Business

5 members of the Council were invited to attend an afternoon tea to farewell Miss Connie San. Mesdames Millar, Palmer, Stolz, & Brig. Coleman accepted & Mrs. Montgomerie who had to leave early would be asked.

Close

Mrs. Adam closed the meeting with the Benediction.
Mr. Ralph - Hon. Sec.

Confirmed: J. M. Adam

Date: 18.2.66

New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

(State Unit of Australian Church Women)

Statement presented at the November 1965 Meeting
by the President, Mrs. A. A. Adam
to mark the 27th Anniversary of the Council

It was 27 years ago on the 18th November that women of different denominations gathered together in St. Stephen's Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney to form the first Women's Inter-Church Council. This was the "first practical move towards Christian unity" and the President's Bible which has been passed on from year to year to each new President carries this inspiring message. The aim of the early Council was "to promote friendship and co-operation between the various branches of the Christian church and to provide an avenue whereby they may unitedly serve the Kingdom of God" and those words still express the core of our work to-day.

The coming of the 2nd World War in 1939 no doubt affected the growth of the early Council. The total war effort involved so many families that normal life was impossible. But with the easing of the strain in 1951 the Inter-Church Council secured a valuable property, "Wybalena" in Burwood. It is now free of debt, is being renovated and made more comfortable for the twenty or so young women it accommodates. It is a worthy community service project - a monument of "faith and good works" of a small band of Representatives.

The Council continued to have regular monthly meetings. The Annual Rally and World Community Day conducted in the city each year still hold memories for many of our senior representatives.

New concepts and thoughts of Christianity have developed in the last 10-15 years. Long range planning conferences with ministers and laity, discussion groups, study groups and special days for women to meet are all leading to one exciting goal - Christian unity. The same vision of "oneness in Jesus Christ", the Lord and Master of us all which brought those women together 27 years ago can be our inspiration today, if our hearts and minds are receptive to its call.

It may be helpful to new members to know something of the formation of Australian Church Women and its relationship to the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council. In 1962 a small group of prominent church women were gathered together by the Australian Council of Churches, for the purpose of discussing ways and means of expanding the work of unity between the various Churches at local, state and national levels. After many months of conferences and much discussion, the National Committee now known as the Australian Church Women was launched.

In 1963 the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council accepted the invitation to be the State Unit of Australian Church Women. This national committee is to form a link between church women of the various states of the Commonwealth. It has a sound and well balanced constitution, and we trust and pray it will accomplish its high purpose. The State Council

**PROJECTS INCLUDE - 'WYBALENA' GIRLS HOSTEL, FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN,
WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP**

has the right to nominate and elect two representatives each year to the National Conference where they meet with other representatives from all over Australia.

The 1st National Conference was held in Sydney in February 1965 and the Working Committee, which carries on the affairs of the National Committee in between conferences, has been meeting in Sydney each month. In 1966 the National Conference will be held in January in Melbourne and it is possible that the Working Committee could meet there also next year. However, this matter will be decided by the Conference.

As the National Committee draws its strength from the State Inter-Church Councils represented on it, so it is only as we have a strong active Inter-Church Council in each State will we have a strong active National Committee. We must therefore concentrate and expand the work of the Inter-Church Council and spread its message of Christian unity, bringing more and more women together in a bond of friendship and understanding.

If it was worthwhile starting 27 years ago, it is even more worthwhile for us to keep this spirit of fellowship and co-operation alive and growing today.

NEW SOUTH WALES WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL
(State Unit of Australian Church Women)

INFORMATION FOR THE FORMATION OF INTER-CHURCH GROUPS

Local Inter-Church groups can be of inestimable value to all local Churches as they encourage women to take a more effective part in the life and mission of the Christian Church. They can help develop mutual trust, a common concern and participation in God's work in that area.

No "blue print" can be supplied for the needs of a local Inter-Church group as each area has differing resources and opportunities. Members of various congregations combine a diversity of gifts and talents which can be called into action for God's work in each place.

At present in some places there are instances of informal co-operation between the Churches, e.g. visiting local hospitals, Senior Citizens' Centres, Meals on Wheels; but the Women's World Day of Prayer is the only day when they have the opportunity of gathering together in Worship.

The Women's Inter-Church Council hopes to encourage all Church women to join together for Worship and Study in the month of July each year for FELLOWSHIP DAY - when the Winifred Kiek Scholarship will be supported by the offering; and WORLD COMMUNITY DAY in October - when the Fellowship of the Least Coin will be collected. These two special days are sponsored by Australian Church Women - the National body of the Inter-Church Councils, and are supported throughout the World and thus give to us a very worthwhile and specific purpose of world wide interest.

It would seem necessary for each local group to meet two to three times each year; in February to prepare for the World Day of Prayer held in February/March; in June to prepare for Fellowship Day usually held toward the end of July; and in September to prepare for World Community Day held at the end of October.

The Women's Inter-Church Council does not desire to intrude into the organisation of any particular group, but prefers that the organisation on the local level be worked out according to local needs. However, the Council would be glad to help in the initial stages if needed and would supply material and studies for the Special Days.

When the local Inter-Church group is formed it would be helpful to have one member of the Group willing to act as a representative of the Group to the Council and to be a channel for information to the Group from the Council. The Council would be very happy to hear of any progress made, of any new ideas or suggestions and to have a brief report after each special day.

No matter to what Denomination of the Christian Church we claim membership, we are all followers of Jesus Christ seeking to do His Will, showing love and fellowship to others. Tolerance, understanding, sympathy tempered with justice and goodwill must be the basis on which we meet together.

These groups should give to the Churches a closer understanding and a bond of co-operation, sharing in study and worship and other community interests or service.

The Inter-Church Council is still in the initial stages of working out its new organisation. FELLOWSHIP DAY was held for the first time in N.S.W. in 1964. The AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN met as a National Body for the first time in 1965. There are bound to be problems in these early stages - but by sharing and discussion together, by Prayer and Worship together, we hope to develop and grow more worthy.

"Grant unto us in our day and generation that true
Unity of Spirit which will make us one."

Thelma Adam (Mrs. A.A.)
Extension Officer

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NEW SOUTH WALES WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

REPORT TO

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF A.C.W. - JANUARY 1966

At the Annual Meeting in May, Lt. Col. H. Cross retired as President and the Presbyterian nominee, Mrs. A. A. Adam, was installed into office. For health reasons, Mrs. H. J. Lilley did not seek re-election and Mrs. A. G. Ralph was appointed to this position.

The Council continues to maintain the Wybalena Hostel for approximately twenty students and business girls and the Wybalena Committee has worked to raise funds and create interest in the Hostel. Social functions have been held and Christmas cards sold.

Much progress has been made during the year in the formation of local Branches and groups which we hope will soon decide to become Branches. These Branches simplify the task of arranging for Special Days.

SPECIAL DAYS

Suitability of Day of the Week.

Many think that Friday is not the best day. Certainly women could not be expected to attend a gathering to last more than half a day on Friday. Ordinary monthly meetings of women's groups are usually held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. If any of these days are chosen, the same groups will miss out each time, unless they are prepared to forgo their meetings or alter their dates.

The Executive of this Council recommends that the fourth Fridays of July and October be retained for 1966 at least, as these dates are becoming known and accepted.

The suggestion has been made that World Community Day might be held on Sunday afternoon or evening, so that men might participate.

Some districts feel that three combined services are too many. They have the Women's World Day of Prayer and think that either Fellowship Day or World Community Day would be enough in a particular centre.

Centres and Attendance Figures

	<u>No. of Centres</u>		<u>Numbers Attending</u>	
	<u>City</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Country</u>
Fellowship Day	8	3	340	170
World Community Day	15	4	672	200 approx.

More Sydney women might have attended World Community Day but in October the Anglican Synod, the Methodist Conference and the ^{Episcopal} ~~Baptist~~ Assembly met, the Church of Christ women had a big meeting the day before and many hundreds of Presbyterians worked at their Market on the Wednesday.

Discussion Groups

More and more interest is being shown in discussion groups. Some show a real desire for these to continue, although in some cases, women stay away when they know there will be discussion groups. Questions should always be direct and simple. Preparation or training of leaders is most desirable, and leaders have expressed that the meeting together before the Day is a most profitable experience. When summing up is done, it must be skilfully handled and concise.

The larger gatherings have divided into groups of 6 to 12, but when only 20 are present, they might discuss the questions as one group.

When a basket lunch follows the meeting, it is usual for the discussion to continue and the women enjoy the fellowship of members of other churches. Some areas have yet to try discussion groups.

Orders of Service

On the whole comments are most favourable. The only criticism is that there are too many hymns or that the hymns are too long. The inclusion of suggested hymn tunes is very helpful.

Great appreciation was expressed on the form of the World Community Day service, which would be suitable for a service on Sunday or in a school.

Offerings and Expenses

	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Fellowship Day	£100 approx.	£10 approx.
World Community Day	£75 approx.	£10 approx.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Response is difficult to estimate and can really only be gauged on the amount of Least Coins collected sometimes a year after the women have been introduced to it. Interest is gradually growing. We have continued to recommend the use of "Circle of Prayer" for devotionals at monthly meetings and suggest that the collection of least coins be taken at this time. Many city groups are doing this. To date £ has been received in N.S.W.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Local response to meeting Miss Connie Tan was excellent. She was the first Bridge to Asia for many women's groups. Another time more of these local visits might be arranged. A letter from Connie as she leaves Australia, and a report on her stay here, might sustain interest in the Scholarship in these groups, and might be profitably used to introduce the idea to other groups.

The N.S.W. W.I.C.C. strongly recommends that a Winifred Kiek Scholarship be awarded each year if possible.

Margaret Ralph
Hon. Sec. N.S.W. W.I.C.C.
22nd November, 1965

to gbalena Report. Nov. 1965

Enrolments Full quota for 1966 & many on waiting list. One troublesome girl refused permission to return. 15 last yrs girls returning & new ones from N. Guinea & Liberia.

Staff Mr & Mrs Randall go on Holid^{ays} for month from 24 Dec^r. & Cook Mrs Chersate is staying in Hostel. - She offered to do this. Seems very capable as well as being good cook - Mr Symington is doing cleaning at present - which seems to be satisfactory. We also have good gardener.

Social Aft on 8th Oct. to which we invited representatives of neighbouring churches. 3 churches sent representatives - 6 people. 50 invitations sent. Mrs Graham & Mrs Moore provided v. nice musical programme. Marion & Cook made scones & sandwiches for aft. T. & C. Lee brought cake.

X Xmas Cards have been sold out. To date rec^d £52-13-5. Some money outstanding.

Appeal Letter & copy of Ann. Report of Z.C.C. sent to about 100

churches - To date £99 rec^d which includes £50 from Miss Gillespie. Only 29 churches responded.

Finances - v. good at moment. Average of 19 girls in Hostel for year.

Bathroom. Still have not made any headway with this. But Mr Willis Plumber has intends to give us a quote. He has done most of our plumbing at Hostel & we can rely on him.

M. Miller
Vice-Pres^t.