

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNION

Minutes of the Council Meeting, held at 222 Pitt St. Sydney  
on Monday, 20 August, 1990.

Opening. The meeting opened at 11 a.m. with the President, Mrs. Major Joan Tong in the Chair.

Welcomes were extended to new members, Mrs Doris Haberfield delegate from the Seven Hills-Toongabbie Branch and to Mrs Colonel Win. Williams attending her first Council meeting as a delegate from the Salvation Army. The meeting was pleased to welcome back after her holiday, Mrs Nell Lewis.

Those present as recorded in the Attendance Book were 47 and there were 11 apologies recorded. A special greeting to the Council was received with her apology from Mrs. Col. Edna Baker, at present overseas.

Devotions were conducted by Baptist delegate Miss Shirley Wells. This was the first occasion when a member of the Executive having been asked by the President to lead devotions at a Council meeting had done so. Other members of Executive will also lead devotions in the months to come.

Miss Wells took for her subject, 'God's Great Gift of Quietness, Peace & Serenity.' The Bible reading was from Job 34, verse 24. We were reminded of the well-loved verse 'In quietness & confidence shall be your strength.' Prayer completed the devotions.

Speaker. F.L.C. Convenor Mrs Patricia Burke was introduced as the morning's special speaker. It was a pleasure to have Patricia back with us after her holiday overseas. In introducing herself to us, Patricia told us the story of her spiritual life as well as telling us about her family and her interests. We learnt that as she lives out her faith, our speaker finds that it brings her joy -- and lots of work! It was in studying the scriptures that she found the meaning and motivation for her involvement in God's work through the many spheres open to her.

Fellowship of the Least Coin was the subject for the morning's speaker. In using the well-loved story of the beginnings of F.L.C. Patricia reminded us that this movement for prayer and reconciliation is primarily that and the collection of the 'least coins', important as that is, always comes second to the dream that Shanti Solomon had so many years ago. The Fellowship of the Least Coin prayer completed the segment. Jeanne Sutherland thanked the speaker and gave her a gift of a flowering indoor plant.

W.K.C. The 1990 scholar, Miss Doreen Tie was introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Mrs Yvonne Davis told us that in a very short time since her arrival in Sydney, Doreen has endeared herself to all who have met her.

Doreen Tie comes from Kuching, Sarawak in Malaysia. She is the eldest daughter of her parents, who are a teacher (mother) and an accountant (father). Jacqueline, the sister next to her is studying at Perth University. Caroline is still at home and Alison is a primary school student.

Doreen is a member of the Trinity Methodist Church in Kuching, a church with 200 members, where amongst other activities she is a Sunday School teacher. At school she did well in commerce & economics and thought she would like to follow her father as an accountant. But God challenged her to be a teacher. Reluctantly she chose to follow this leading and has found in yielding to God's will that He has wanted for her all along the profession where she has found her life's calling. She works in a school not far from her home (Kuching, while the capital of Sarawak is a small city). There are 100 intellectually disabled children at this school. While a few

of them are disabled physically as well. It is a demanding job, teaching these children, but it is challenging and rewarding. Doreen shared her philosophy with us, that when life's problems come to us, it is well not to dwell on them as problems, because we only become bogged down.

Instead we should think of the problems as a challenge. This results in giving us more incentive to work, and we find it more exciting, more rewarding.

Doreen thanked A.C.W. for awarding the scholarship to her. She is enjoying the courses and finding them helpful to her for her teaching of disabled children. We have better facilities for teaching such children because we have our own finance.

It was a pleasure for us to meet this scholar who we feel sure will make the most of her opportunities here and will go home equipped to further her career in teaching. We are sure she is a good advertisement for the scholarship. We will send her to A.C.W. women in all the states and visits.

The Minutes of the July 18 meeting were read and confirmed.

Business arising from the minutes.

1. Two Flower Festivals. Members were reminded of the two flower festivals, to be held 7-10 September at St. Andrew's Cathedral and 21-24 September at St. Mary's Cathedral. A.C.W. will put flower displays in each of these festivals. Donations of money are asked to assist the work of arranging the displays. Helpers are also welcome at both these festivals and members were encouraged to attend.

2. Ecumenical service in St. Mary's Cathedral. There were a number of A.C.W. members at this service, which has been fully reported in 'Newspette'.

3. Women's Conference at Parramatta. Sister Pat Kent reported on this conference. Five papers were given and it is expected that copies of these papers will soon be available. 170 women attended overall. We would like early notice of any further conferences to enable A.C.W. to be represented at them.

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

Business arising from the correspondence.

1. Volunteer in conference. Brochures were distributed.

2. Dash Church Aid invitation, 3.8.90 members were invited to join the secretary in attending this function.

3. Uniting Church Memorial Service, 24.8.90 Mrs Joan Curtin offered to represent A.C.W. at this service.

4. Annual meeting of the Anglican Women's Institute. Members were given invitations to this meeting.

5. Letter re. X-rated videos from the office of the A.C.F. Attorney-General's Department. It was agreed that at present we have done all that we can do in this regard, but we will keep monitoring the situation.

6. Peace Patches. The National Secretary, Mrs Helen Richardson spoke to the meeting about the proposal of the National Executive that A.C.W. Units and individual members might care to make peace patches for the proposed mural to be assembled at the meetings of the World Council of Churches at Canberra in February, 1991. Mrs Dorothy Goodhouse displayed two excellent examples of these patches made by her. Members showed interest in the idea and several took instruction sheets. Helen invited members to attend a workshop at the Uniting Church, Dee Why on Saturday 25 August, where patches and a banner will be made. The patches will be joined by red ribbons to form a large mural. At the end of the World Assembly, each delegate will be given a patch to take home. They will find in a pocket at the back of the patch, a letter of greeting from the maker/s of the patches.

Reports. Treasurer. The Treasurer presented a financial statement, as attached. There were no accounts for payment. The statement as presented was received & adopted by the meeting. Offerings for Fellowship Day services (and reports) are slowly coming. A.C.W. In the absence of the State National Convenors, Mrs. Yvonne Davis gave the report. She told us that our scholar is happily settled in the Baptist Hostel at Lewisham. Her studies at Lido Hospital have commenced. She has spent time at the Spastic Centre, the Artistic Centre and the Fisher Road Public School, Dee Why, where she has observed

the various timetables and the general running of these special schools. She has been the guest of members, Marjory Baker and Marie McCann and has enjoyed a trip to the Blue Mountains, this trip by train. Members are invited to make arrangements through National Convenor, Mrs Lucelle King if they would like to offer hospitality to Doreen during her time here.

The scholar for 1991 has been announced. She is Rachel Sobana from India, a double-certificated nurse who will study hospital administration. She may study in either Sydney or Melbourne, as both cities have the appropriate courses.

Promotions. Good Fellowship Days were reported. Leura Branch representative reported that they held a service where there was a great atmosphere. This was attributed in part to the order of service. This branch considered it one of the best services we have had. The service 'flowed'. Mrs Stutchbury encouraged other branch representatives to persevere with weak branches. Their experience had been to ask the Parish Council of a group in their branch to pay its affiliation fee and to find a representative when the group had become too small to continue its involvement. The Parish Council was happy to do this and the church has continued its association with the branch.

Council members are encouraged to use speakers at their special days from our published list of Council members willing to be speakers. Many groups are using people who know little about A.C.W. and as a consequence, those people attending the services are ignorant about F.L.C., W.K.S. and our special appeals. Chatswood Branch was congratulated on its Fellowship Day. Doreen Tie was present at this service.

The Convenor distributed metropolitan parcels of World Community Day services. The country services are to be posted today.

Branches are to look at their boundary lines and are encouraged to invite women from areas near them where it is felt that they are not included in a branch. There appear to be no services held at Eastwood. The Epping ladies would be happy to go as far as Carlingford to include those women, as well as Eastwood.

Publicity. The Convenor reported that Sydney radio stations had been contacted with information about Fellowship Day services. Information to hand about World Community Day services (almost a complete list) has been sent to church papers & magazines. She requires input of information from all local areas. Please let Jeanne know what A.C.W. is doing in your area. We need to saturate local radio stations with our news, they are always happy to learn about things in their area. There are community FM stations in many areas of Sydney.

General Business. 1. The President spoke to the Council about the time span of meetings. She pointed out that we meet as a Council only seven times each year. (The May meeting though a service of worship is regarded as a meeting of the Council.) The meetings are held in February, March, April, June, August, September and November. Council meeting commences at 11 a.m. after morning tea at 10.30a.m. We aim to finish by 12.30a.m. but if the meeting does not finish until 1p.m., it is still only a two hour meeting in which we deal with business matters, receive reports and usually listen to a guest speaker. Members were encouraged to set aside this time for Council meetings, being assured that if it is necessary sometimes for people to leave the meeting before its close, we understand and hope that they will not feel embarrassed about leaving quietly. Several options for altering the time span of meetings are being considered by Executive & will be on the agenda for discussion at a special meeting to be held with representatives of the affiliated denominations and organisations, called by the President for October 15, 1990.

2. Deaconess Andrews asked for prayer for her as she travels to South Africa in September/October to take part in Anglican Women's Council meetings there. Deaconess asked members requiring copies

of Senator Michael Tate's address at the Ecumenical Council service in Parramatta to let her know.

3. The Secretary asked for prayers for World President of Methodist Women, Mrs Edith Ming, at present visiting Uniting Church Fellowships in Australia, as she goes to a meeting with President De Clerk in South Africa.

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General Business cont. 3. Mrs Ling is one of only 5 people to be involved with this meeting, and she is the only woman to be sent.

4. Death of N.S.W. former Governor, Sir David Martin. The members expressed regret at the death of this fine man. We are grateful for his leadership in the short time of his office., remembering that one of the things he initiated was a Prayer Breakfast to which leading citizens were invited. We have all been thankful for the greetings written by Lady Martin as Patron of World Day of Prayer, her words have reached everyone attending the N.S.W. of Prayer services. The Secretary was asked to write a letter of condolence to Lady Martin from A.C.W.

5. Some concern was expressed that there has been talk re-activated concerning the establishing of a Casino at Darling Harbour. Members were asked to keep a watchful eye on the media and to report any news they pick up about this matter.

Thanks were expressed to the delegates from the Churches of Christ for morning tea to the Uniting members for arranging the seating. Next meeting will be on Monday, September 1, when the Anglican delegates will be the hostesses.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting with the Benediction 'May the Lord Jesus Christ fill us with spiritual joy'.

Confirmed.

17.9.90