



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.**

***Minutes of Council Meeting Monday 18th February 2019,
At 10.00 am, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney***

OPENING: President Peg McEntee welcomed all to the first meeting for 2019 and thanked members for being present today.

DEVOTIONS: The theme of the Devotions was 'Trust in a year of drought'. Peg spoke about the hardship faced by families on the land and that those who put their hope and trust in God are fortunate. Happy also are the poor, the hungry and the sorrowful if they turn to God in their plight. Today's Scripture readings call for a heroic trust in God, a trust that will bring great rewards in heaven and surprising rewards on earth as well. What can we make of these statements: Here in this country with seven years of drought – now devastating floods and bushfires – where do the people experiencing this total devastation gain the strength to continue to have belief, hope and trust? Peg referred to Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 15:20 and a Gospel reading from Luke 6:17, 20-26. So much for us to study and to spend time in prayer. Peg shared a passage 'And Who are We?' from St Joseph's College Lochinvar Magazine 2000.

PRESENT and APOLOGIES: There were 26 members present and apologies were received from Brenda Dickinson, Olive Edmondstone, Helen Hill, Lillian Hodges, Ineke Nieuwland, Moya Potts and Denise Secomb.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November 2018 were confirmed on the Motion of Yvonne Coorey and Seconded by Tricia Graham.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Dedication Day 20th May: This will be held in the Chapel at Marian Court, 18 Margaret Street, Strathfield, commencing at 11.00 am. The service will be followed by a light lunch. Peg advised that there is very little parking in the area, and it's a 10-minute walk from Strathfield Station or a short taxi ride. There is some parking available in nearby Strathfield Plaza (first 3 hours free). Peg reminded members that Dedication Day is an important part of the ACW year and encouraged everyone to invite branch members.

2. ACW NSW Unit President Elect: This is still a work in progress.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory advised that the books are with the auditor and will be picked up next week. This report finishes up November and December 2018.

Total Income for November and December 2018: \$7,478.,00

Total Payments for November and December 2018: \$16,928.54.

Bank Balance at 31st December was \$3590.04

The amount of \$16,454.05 was paid to ACW National Executive. Pat received a receipt and a gracious letter from National thanking NSW for our generosity. Accounts to be paid are Reimburse Petty Cash \$50.00 and Reimburse I. Hewitt (Newsette Postage) \$70.00.

Pat moved that the Financial Report be accepted, and the accounts be paid. Seconded by Glenda McSorley. Carried.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Judy O'Hara announced her resignation from this position and encouraged others to think about taking on FLC Convener position. Judy assured that her help would be available to the new convener.

Judy shared a reading from 'Circle of Prayer' booklet 'Stand up for Human Dignity'. 'Human Dignity refers to the status of human beings entitling them to respect. Prov. 31:8-9 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute, speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor

and needy'. The little you do individually or as a group to 'Stand-Up' for human dignity will go around and round like the least coin and bear much fruit, for God's glory.

Special Days: Most of Lyn Middleton's report is in the latest Newsette. The draft copy of the Fellowship Day service has been received. The main theme is 'Women Serving Open-heartedly'. The bible reading is John 4:13-42. The whole passage is printed in the Service. The message is 'Women at the well: Conversing Open-Heartedly with Jesus'.

Applications for this year's Special Project: National wanted these at the end of 2018, but normally they are in at the end of February. One application was received last Monday for Hope Street Women's Centre in Darlinghurst. This is a Baptist Care initiative. They provide 'life transforming support for women victims of domestic violence and for culturally and linguistically diverse women in the sex industry'. This application was presented to the Executive and they approved it. Normally it would come to the Council meeting to be ratified, but Lyn submitted it immediately on the authority of the Executive on the proviso that it can be rescinded if Council is not in favour of submitting this project. A show of hands indicated that all were in favour of this application. Lyn commented that if it is not accepted this year, we can submit it next year.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Judith Cayzer referred everyone to the Newsette for more details on WKS scholars and advised that she has received replies to emails sent at Christmas.

Christy Ferguson (Melb. 2009) is now hoping to do a short trip to SE Asia in September. Christy works in a large Medical Centre where she endeavours to see colleagues come to faith.

2018 Scholars: Lauren England's studies are continuing at Fuller Seminary in the U.S. Elise Ruthenbeck Stilson is continuing her PhD. Studies in SA.

2019 Scholar: Rev. Geraldine Williame (Fiji) is doing PhD Research. Geraldine says 'with the assistance of this scholarship this study will help me further my skills and allow me to better serve and create awareness in ecumenical bodies, congregations and Theological Colleges. Prayer is appreciated for these women.

WKS Scholars for 2020 will be selected from the member countries of Asian Church Women's Conference and must be in by the end of May.

Social Issues: Rae read out a reply sent to Valerie Hazlewood, in response to her letter regarding funding for the Food Bank. The Government announced it is increasing funding for food relief.

Rae has composed letters to: 1) **Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs**, regarding the lack of human rights available to the women of Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern nations. She asked how Australia is raising its voice on the international stage to protest the behaviour of Governments involved in these incidents. 2) **The Prime Minister** asking how we are to keep a balance between the use of water by farmers for irrigation and what is needed to prevent degradation of the environment especially in the light of climate change. 3) **Mitch Fifield, Minister for Communications** expressing concern for perceived bias by the ABC. Rae provided letters for those who wished to use them.

Glenda McSorley advised that Mothers' Union has five full-time representatives on the UN Council for Women. Their place is to ask question and to get them on the floor of the UN. Questions will be asked in March regarding arranged marriages going against the wishes of the women. Peg advised that the Catholic women's organisation WUCWO has representation on several UN Committees and that CWLA has accreditation of Observer Status to the UN Economic Social Council (ECOSOC) and the CWLA National International Secretary (NIS) attends the Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York in March each year. Peg spoke about the importance of all women's Christian organisations working together. She thanked Glenda for raising this issue.

Membership: Martha advised that Carmel Keys is now living at Pitt Wood Aged Care in Ashfield. Carmel is very pleased to be where she is and wants her friends visiting her. Martha will visit her regarding her position on Council.

Pastoral Care: Helen Hill sent apologies for the meeting and advised that she has written to Carmel and been in touch with Bev Elliott whose son passed away recently.

Newslette: Isabel commented that all will have received their February Newslette, either by email or mail. If anyone would like to submit something for the next edition, please submit it by April. Isabel has had a lot of help from Heather Reid in the search for Life Members and she hopes to get some responses.

ACWC: Tricia advised that the ACWC General Assembly was held in November and the new President is from Thailand, and Australia's new prayer partner is Japan. There have been no prayer requests and Tricia will follow up with ACWC rep. to see if they forgot to pass messages on. Pamela Freeman has offered to be co-ordinator for ACWC Concert in 2020.

Publicity: Jennifer Peffer has updated the information leaflet for ACW for the Illawarra branch and has brought the Associate Membership form up-to-date. Jennifer stated that we should push Associate Membership for those who stand down from Council. The branches would then be responsible to inviting to Special Days etc. Associate members can speak at meetings but not vote. Jennifer will produce a leaflet for Dedication Day.

The Reports were received on the Motion of Roslyn Abbey and seconded by Judy Hicks.

Correspondence – Inwards

NE 2019 Conference registration information
Boronia Park Uniting re FLC
ACT Unit Newsletter
PPSEAWA Invitation IWD Luncheon
NE – Office bearers WA 2019
NE – Minutes 29/01
PWA – Span 12/18
Girls' Brigade Report
Lynette Green – Prayers for Flood & Fires

Correspondence – Outwards

NE – thanks for Conference information
ACT Unit – thanks for Newsletter
Boronia Park Uniting re FLC

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

PPSEAWA Invitation Wed. 6th March, Lindfield Uniting Church: Pamela Freeman will represent ACW at this event.

In response to a query from Heather Reid re Boronia Park Uniting, Elizabeth explained that groups often contact her to find out where to send the FLC donations they have collected. Elizabeth sends them Pat Cory's address and thanks them for contributing to FLC. Heather suggested that this is a good way to inform people about ACW and include ACW information when sending the receipt.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND: Tex Quirk attended the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Dedication Service on 13th February.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

Bible Society: No Report. Elizabeth will send them our Calendar for 2019 and invite a representative to attend one of our meetings.

Girls Brigade: Elizabeth Neale sent her apologies for this meeting and a report. GB had their first Special General meeting on 2nd February where they had a time of fellowship, workshop, business and a guest speaker from 'Days for Girls', which is supported by GB as their Advocacy project for 2019. GB is now a registered 'Creative Kids Provider'. This is a NSW Government program, where parents apply for a \$100 voucher to help pay for outside school activities. This will be particularly helpful to families on low incomes.

National Council of Women: Tricia Graham reported that on 30th November 2018 NCW hosted a delegation of twelve women, their tour guide and an interpreter from Japan sponsored by Australia Japan Healthcare Network. Aspects of the difference of women's lives between the two countries were discussed.

In January the Celebrate Being an Australian Luncheon was again held at Parliament House, with Mrs Linda Hurley in attendance. Fourteen young women were selected by their Universities to receive the NCW Award and a cheque for \$1000 donated by sponsors.

On 1st February ten members of NCW went to Blacktown to the office of SydWest Multicultural Services to meet with a group of 35 refugee women from Syria and Iraq, who spoke of the difficulties their families face settling into life in Sydney: having their qualifications accepted, the cost of housing and how hard it is to be

separated from their families left in their home countries. **Tricia reminded everyone to nominate any nonagenarians in our group for the Jean Arnot Luncheon on Friday 3rd May at Parliament House.**

NSW Ecumenical Council Nothing to Report

Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women’s Association (PPSEAWA): Nothing to Report

World Day of Prayer: Tricia reported there has been no WDP meeting since November. All material for this year’s Word Day of Prayer prepared by the women of Slovenia has been distributed and the details of where services will be held in NSW are listed on the WDP website. The next meeting will be on Monday 27th May, which will be attended by Sr. Elizabeth Delaney.

Australian Women’s Coalition: Tricia is unable to attend the AWC meeting on 24th February. She asked if anyone was able to attend in her place.

NEW BUSINESS

1. AGM April Meeting – election of Executive. All positions (except President, Past President and President Elect) are declared vacant. Nomination forms are available. Peg encouraged Council Members to think about taking up a Convener or Representative position. Lyn Middleton is stepping down as Special Days Convener and she outlined the work involved in this position. A representative of each denomination is needed on the Executive.
2. ACW Conference Brisbane 9-12 September – Registration and deposit of \$50 need to be sent in by 31st March.. Forms were available for those interested. Elizabeth commented that the ACW Conferences are always uplifting and enjoyable, with excellent bible studies and interesting speakers.
3. ACW Conference – Business items to be discussed at Conference. A nominee for ‘Honouring Australian Church Women’ will be considered by the Executive at the next meeting.
4. Illawarra Branch: Peg outlined the progress of the newly formed Illawarra Branch.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 18th March 2019

Morning Tea: Catholic **Chairs:** Salvation Army **Trading Table:** Anglican

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 12.00 noon.

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