



**ACW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
MINUTES OF Meeting
Friday 10 October 2008 at 10.00 am**

1. **Welcome** President Jean welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked Vonnie for hosting the meeting at her home.
2. **Devotions** Constance led the devotions with a reading from the Old Testament, Malachi Chapter 3, verses 13-18 and a prayer of St Augustine (354-410) from "A Treasury of Christian Prayer" by Oliver Turchetta.
3. **Present** Jean Thomson (in chair), Jan Abrahamffy, Constance Aronsen, Angela Devlin, Eileen Holley, Margaret Lawton, Helen Lloyd, Helen Raymond, Judith-Ann Sjostedt, Ruth Burmester (NLM) and Evonne Sullivan (NLM).
4. **Apologies** Donna Bryan, Brenda Dickinson, Jacqueline Hipwell, Fran Moss.
5. **Minutes** of meeting held on 12 September 2008, were accepted, with the following amendments in italics:-
 - o Item 6 a) Business Arising from Treasurer's report "Accounts for payment included \$108.05 to President Jean *for petty cash* and \$60 to Helen R *being reimbursement for two bus fares to attend the AWC AGM in Sydney in November*".
 - o Reports - WKS report - 2) under reports - "Details *had been sent* to Judith Cayzer.....".
 - o Reports - ACW "President Jean *and Constance Aronsen* will attend.....".Moved Helen R, seconded Judith-Ann that the Minutes, with these amendments, be accepted.
5 a) Business arising. President Jean has written to *Harper Collins Religious* asking for permission to use certain material in the ACWC Order of Service 2009. Once permission is received the order of worship will be ready to be forwarded to ACWC.
6. **Treasurer's report** as attached.
Moved Helen L, seconded Judith-Ann that report be received.
6 a) Business arising.
 1. Accounts for payment include \$442.32 to Eileen for printing of the latest Newsletter plus \$80.55 postage; petty cash to Constance for the sum of \$133.09; expenses amounting to \$367.60 for President Jean and Constance to attend the ACW NSW Unit 70th anniversary celebration/conference in Sydney on 15 September 2008. Jan moved, Judith-Ann seconded that these accounts be passed for payment. Carried.
 2. Helen L advised that the accounts from 15/11/07 to 30/6/08 had been audited by Ms Pauline Hore. A letter of appreciation would be sent to Ms Hore for undertaking this task.
 3. Helen L further advised that she had sent out the Treasurer's annual report to all State and Territory treasurers, together with forms requesting that all monies for FLC, WKS etc. be returned by 30 November 2008.
7. **Correspondence IN September 2008**
 1. VIC Unit Minutes of meeting 22.08.08.
 2. ACW (VIC) NEWS Sept - Oct 08.
 3. WA Unit Minutes of meeting held on 15.08.08.
 4. SA Unit Minutes 8 August 2008.
 5. SA Unit - copy of Order of Service for Fellowship Day 2009, plus CD of same.
 6. Email from A Jell (QLD Unit Secretary) saying she has "not received any Nat Exec Minutes".
 7. Responses to Nat Exec survey received from
ACT (C), VIC (C), SA (C), NSW (C), TAS (C) - (C indicating constitution enclosed).

8. CWL (Canberra Goulburn) Newsletter Oct-Nov 2008.
9. Barbara Lacy attended Seminar on Breast Cancer in Melbourne on President Jean's behalf, and sent in a report.
10. Invitation from ACT Unit inviting President to attend meeting on 28 November.
11. TAS Unit September Minutes.
12. An invitation had been received to attend the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Women and participate in the ACT consultation into the Productivity Commission's Paid Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave, on Wednesday 12 November from 10-12pm. Helen R will attend on behalf of ACW. RSVP by 7 November 2008.

Correspondence OUT September 2008

1. Minutes of Nat Exec meeting 12 September 08 emailed to all Units and Life Members. Hard copies sent where needed.
2. Email to Averil Jell asking which sets of National Minutes she was missing, and attaching two sets. No response as yet.
3. President Jean - letter to ACT Unit accepting their invitation to attend November meeting.
4. Letter requesting permission to use material in ACWC Order of Service.
5. Treasurer's annual report to all State and Territory treasurers, together with request forms, the latter to be returned by 30 November 2008.

Moved Constance, seconded Helen R, that inwards correspondence be received, and outwards correspondence be ratified. Agreed.

8. Reports

- 1) **FLC** Jan reported that a parcel of 750 FLC flyers and 750 prayer cards had been received from Corazon. She also had a phone order for 300 ACW brochures and 250 prayer cards from Lee Edwards. These were posted from Bega, NSW, on 7 October 2008.
- 2) **WKS** Constance is presently gathering information on the 2009 WK scholars to forward to the convenors of all states and territories.
Eileen moved, Constance seconded, that for 2009 WKS leaflets be professionally printed and supplied to each State and Territory unit. All agreed.
Imelda had just emailed to report that she was doing her last two subjects and trying to finish all the requirements before the first week of December. She was finding the Church history subject "a little bit heavy since this is an independent study and the fee is double as well as the requirements". She sends regards to all women of ACW and the WKS executives.
- 3) **Special Days** Fran M has received the Order of Service, including a CD from South Australia and this has been approved by the National Executive. She also sent a report on the Meth Federation Seminar which she attended in Tonga in September.
- 4) **Social Justice** Judith-Ann drew attention to the current world wide economic situation. As a result of this, the head of *Caritas International*, Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez, has said that escalating food and oil prices meant that 100 million more people were now being pushed into poverty. *Caritas Australia* has raised its voice in the UN calling for renewed focus on alleviating poverty particularly in the Pacific. It is worthy of note that the Australian Government has already committed \$1 billion to the Pacific this year. The White Ribbon Campaign (men working to end men's violence against women), was established in Canada in 1991 by a group of men on the 2nd anniversary of the massacre of 14 women in Montreal by a lone gunman. The Australian Government has just announced funding of a \$1,000,000 to this campaign over the next 4 years. Two projects worthy of note in Australia that are working towards the elimination of violence towards women are the *Religion and Family Harmony Project* in Western Sydney and *Jewishcare* in Eastern Sydney – this group works with rabbis, male doctors and lawyers to speak out against men's violence and raise awareness and understanding of issues of violence against women in their communities.
- 5) **Newsletter** Eileen was once again congratulated and thanked for the sterling effort and all her hard work in producing 440 copies of the latest Newsletter, which has recently been sent to all state and territory units. She is already accepting copy for the first Newsletter of 2009.

- 6) **ACWC** Donna not in attendance, but President Jean read a report from Donna on the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) meeting held in June 2008. This year has seen a surge in the persecution of Christians over an ever widening area of Asia and deaths and suffering are increasing as Christians are violently attacked for their beliefs. She makes particular note of the situation in Orissa, in Northern India, where Christian cleansing is taking place to endeavour to eradicate Christianity and consequently many Christians are living in fear of their lives. Recent reports from the area are not good, with our faithful ACWC representative from the region advising *"We are not allowed to give food and clothing either in riot stricken area or in flood affected places as the charge of conversion (Christian) goes with relief. We know help in coming and God has a definite purpose in this critical situation. We are not able to think why God allows these innocent women and children to suffer"*. Both ACWC and the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin have sent emergency funds to local representatives to assist in distributing aid during this persecution crisis.
- 7) **Website** Brenda has advised on a slight misunderstanding coming from her end regarding additional website costs. The extra cost would be \$85 per annum for four fifteen minute technical support sessions and not \$95 as previously stated. No invoice has been received for the annual cost of maintaining the site and further information on this and other matters regarding the website is ongoing and hopefully will be resolved shortly.
- 8) **AWC** President Jean and Helen R will attend AWC Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 9 November, with proceedings to get underway from 9.00am.
- 9) Constance reported on her and President Jean's attendance at the ACW NSW Unit 70th anniversary celebrations/conference held at Scots Presbyterian Church in Sydney on 15 September. Approximately one hundred were in attendance, with many members of long standing present. Guest speakers included Pru Goward and Major Lyn Middleton. It had been a truly uplifting and beautiful service and overall a wonderful day.

9. General Business

1. ACT Unit motion re "Honouring Australian Church Women", amendment to include the words "to include members who are still living". This will be left in abeyance as at present the Guidelines are being looked at by Margaret and Helen L to ensure that it is consistent with all motions from past conferences. Margaret advised that some editing/proof reading is still required before printing, and distributing to all Units.
2. With regard to the Constitution and Guidelines, Helen R advised that the Constitution has to comply with 'model rules' for incorporation and checking was almost complete.

10. Next Meeting – at 10am on Friday 14 November 2008, at the same venue.

Meeting closed at 12.30pm

The members then discussed Conference planning and some ACT/Housekeeping matters before lunch.

Signed: Jean Thomson
(Jean Thomson, President)

Date: 14-11-08

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN – NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Treasurer's Report, 10 October 2008

Cheque A/C

Balance at 12.09.08		\$6213.40
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Receipts

1 copy "Winifred"	12.50	
Interest	<u>84.81</u>	<u>97.31</u>
		6310.71

Payments

Bus fares (2) NSW ACW AGM Nov '08	60.00	
Petty cash – President	<u>108.05</u>	<u>168.05</u>
		<u>\$6142.66</u>

A D F Call a/c

Balance at 12.09.08	\$22327.45
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Interest	<u>615.69</u>
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Balance at 10.10.08	<u>\$22943.14</u>
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Balance of Funds at 10.10.08

National Travel Fund	3585.95
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National Conference Fund	12667.86
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Overseas Conference & Travel fund	2435.00
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Honouring Aust Church Women	60.00
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F L C	104.46
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Asian Church Women's Conference	100.00
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Administration	<u>10132.53</u>
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Total Funds	<u>\$29085.80</u>
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Helen Lloyd, National Treasurer
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Helen Lloyd
National Treasurer

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