

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney on
20 March 1995

Prior to opening the meeting, President Lucelle King extended congratulations and birthday greetings to Deaconess Mary Andrews as she celebrated her 80th birthday. The Deaconess responded with thanks for the special cake and flowers with which she had been presented and, quoting Col. 1:11-12, gave thanks to God for His goodness, with a prayer that He would give us His wonderful strength until we share in His glory.

OPENING: Lucelle welcomed members and led devotions which centred on the Authority of Jesus - Matt. 28:18,19; God gave Him the authority to rule and govern and control; this was predicted long before He arrived - Is. 9:6,7. By obeying Jesus, we acknowledge the power and authority that God has given Him.

PRESENT AND APOLOGIES: There were 48 in attendance and 15 apologies.

A welcome was extended to visitors, and apologies from Joan Tong and Marie McCann were noted. Edith Ridge was thanked for acting as Secretary for this meeting. Prayers were requested for the six-month-old grandson of Helen Richardson. Baby Thomas is critically ill in the Children's Hospital.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING were confirmed as a correct record.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL DAY SERVICES:

Lucelle King spoke about the importance of PREPARATION for ACW Special Day Services. Edith Ridge told of the need to attend to detail in the PRESENTATION of the Service. Marie Majoor spoke concerning the importance of FOLLOW UP after the Service. A printed summary of the suggestions was issued to members after discussion had taken place. The importance of a planning meeting, prior to each Special Day, was stressed as was the need for explanation to the congregation of the two offerings at the World Community Day Service, so that people understood the difference between the FLC giving and the general offering.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: 1. Special Functions 1995: Ecumenical Luncheon 17 July. It was noted that Sr Lyn Green will speak on Ecumenism. Charge will be \$10 and the Executive have luncheon arrangements in hand. The function, to be held at the Scots Church, should finish by 2 pm.

Spiritual Enrichment Day 9 October, also to be held at Scots Church. Speaker will be Joy Jarman (Ev Sims still to reply) and the theme will be "Christian Love - Tolerance or Intolerance?".

2. Annual Dedication Service 15 May 10.30 am Central Baptist Church - light refreshments to be supplied by Council. Speaker will be Joy Connor, a worker with Baptist Inner City Ministries. The Evangelical Sisters of Mary will bring musical items. Members were asked to bring an item for trading table.

3. ACWC Service - no further plans to hand.

4. NCW Executive meeting third Tuesday 6.30-8.30 pm
Volunteer still needed to represent ACW.

5. UNIFEM Breakfast - Nola Dickson reported.

6. National Conference - 21-25 August - registration forms will be available at next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. National Minutes: Noted that WK Trust would make funds available for a New Zealand guest to attend ACW National Conference.

Noted that Joan Stott will attend Beijing Conference and will write a report.

Noted that thanks were received from Shalom Christian College for donation from WCD Services.

Reports: It was agreed that we endorse Joan Tong's action

in writing to National agreeing that WCD Project 1995 should assist the Laos Evangelical Church. It was noted that any Notices of Motion re changes to the Constitution must be with the National Secretary by 21 April 1995, other Notices of Motion to be lodged by 19 May 1995. It was agreed that re Disaster Fund, we should consider a motion to be presented at Conference.

2. Invitation to National Conference of PSSEWA on 1 April. M Majoor and P McKinnirey to attend.
3. From National Convener Special Days, Heather Boatman, to J Tong re WCD Project.
4. Awakening '95 - update.
5. 'Sharing' - from NSW Ecumenical Ccl. Noted Week of Prayer 28/5 to 4/6 for Christian Unity and Reconciliation; A DAY AWAY - 13/5 in Uniting Church Centre for Ministry, Nth Parramatta; theme - "A Woman's Spiritual Journey".
6. Notice advising that Linelle Smith is replacing Mjr Glenys Holley as representative to Council from Chatswood/Willoughby Branch.
7. Invitation for FLC Speaker to Turramurra Uniting Church on 13 July. S Wells will accept.
8. Invitation to Aust. Board of Missions AGM 22 March. B McLaughlin to attend.
9. Invitation to Salvation Army FAMILY SPECTACULAR, 1 April, State Sports Centre, Homebush Bay. B McLaughlin, H Reid and L King to attend.
10. Invitation to President for Churches of Christ Annual Conference, 4 May.
11. NCW re Awards. Names need to be submitted by end of June, of women (not previously considered) who have been involved in women's Christian issues with outstanding performance in the community. Executive will consider names next meeting.

REPORTS:

P McKinnirey reported on excellent International Women's Day Breakfast, Parramatta.

WKS: M Whybourne spoke of two Scholarships being awarded in 1995, advising that the one for Rachel Rolland of Vanuatu is on hold, awaiting a suitable venue.

TREASURER'S report received.

FLC: Devotion read from 'Voice from Bangladesh' - Luke 15 - 'Partnership in a Changing World'. Noted that the new Circle of Prayer is available, costing \$2. National Convener has advised that last year's two applications for grants have been approved. Noted that an application has been received for grant from Girls Brigade - 'Christian Women in Leadership' - seeking \$5,000 to help young women realise their own potential and self-worth and to extend personal leadership qualities.

PROMOTION: Noted that the Fellowship Day Service master copy has arrived and that Packing Day will be 22 May at 10 am in Room 5A.

PUBLICITY: H McIver requests any written coverage and photos of World Day of Prayer and other branch activities whenever available.

NEWSETTE: Deadline for next issue will be 10 April (Executive meeting).

GENERAL BUSINESS: Nomination Forms now available for AGM on 24 April.

Reminder that Branch Reports are due and must be sent to J Tong without delay.

Margaret Jessup, having just returned from Africa, was invited to speak of her visit to Mabale in Zimbabwe (organised by Rotary). On hearing of the need of the women of Mabale for a sewing machine, Margaret offered her own hand machine and Rotary arranged for its delivery. In January, Margaret was able to join a tour of Zimbabwe and saw for herself the wonderful results that 'Margaret Jessup Sewing Club' had achieved with her little machine. Margaret gave a moving account of her experiences attending Services in Bulawayo and while on safari in Nairobi and when the school children sang to her a blessing. When called upon to speak at one of the Services, Margaret had been able to pass on greetings from ACW. Margaret thanked members for prayers for her well-being and travelling mercies.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 24 April 1995 (AGM), Uniting Church ladies for Morning Tea.

Thanks were extended to the Catholic members for today's Morning Tea and to the Presbyterians for attending to chairs.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer.

Confirmed 24 April 1995