



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

Minutes Council Meeting – Monday 18th November 2013 - held at 222 Pitt St Sydney

WELCOMES: Dr Valerie Hazelwood was welcomed as representative from Epping Branch and Roslyn Abbey from the Presbyterian group.

DEVOTIONS: President Isabel spoke of a mouse pad sign from the WCC 10th Assembly in Korea, which was not readable as it was in another script. Isabel required a 'language mentor' to be able to interpret the message on the mouse pad, *God of Life, lead us to justice and peace*. Reference was made to the plea from Sonya Pell at the recent National Conference WA for older women to mentor younger women. In Paul's letter to the Romans he tells us something about mentoring. He reminds us mentoring is a two way process. *I so want to be there to deliver God's word in person. You have as much to give me as I have to give you*. This is God's way of putting people right, by speaking into the lives of one another. Those present were encouraged to be available to speak into the lives of other women, especially those younger than themselves. Isabel prayed thanking God for the opportunities shared through the year, for those from the group needing support at this time and for our Asian sisters in their hours of need.

PRESENT: 39 **APOLOGIES:** 12

CONFIRMATION of MINUTES: The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 19th August were confirmed on the motion of Carmel Keys and Jennifer Peffer.

BUSINESS ARISING from the MINUTES:

National Executive [NSW] 2013 -2015: National President, Major Lyn Middleton presented badges, crocheted angels and mints to those present from National executive who were not at the Perth Conference. Denise Secomb, 1st National Vice-President assisted. Lyn read what had been spoken by Major Laurel Pearce at the Inauguration.

National Conference [WA] Isabel [President NSW] showed Powerpoint of National Conference. A copy of the devotions from NSW as National was available for perusal. Tricia Graham commented on the impact from her first conference. Helen Richardson enjoyed meeting with friends. Beatrice Kay and Jan Harrison commented. The paperwork for National Executive, to be sent by courier, had not arrived yet. Esther Kilaghbian had presented to Australian Church Women a carving of the FLC emblem. Bev Elliott prayed.

Report from WCC 10th Assembly in Busan Korea: Leave was granted for this report to be presented by Doug Hewitt instead of later in the meeting under 'Any Other Business'. Doug showed photos of the proceedings of the conference under the heading *God of Life, lead us to justice and peace*. An invitation was extended to the report day of this gathering to be held at the Uniting Church Carrington Ave Strathfield, Saturday 22nd February 2014 from 9.30am to 3.30pm. RSVP Kathy Moroney 92992215.

Visit of Esther Kilaghbian: Pamela Freeman gave brief report of visit with Esther in Sydney on Friday 18th October. Esther was taken by ferry to Manly with small group and had lunch at the beach. After spending time in Sydney, Esther was to travel to Korea.

Spiritual Enrichment Day and 75th Anniversary: Those who attended enjoyed the day. *Highlights were:* the women telling their stories of migrating to Australia when often the church base in Australia was the place of support; sharing the insights from the readings; the interpretive drama of the Good Samaritan arranged by Denise Secomb and Shirley Mitchell. A letter has been sent to Commissioner Jan Condon expressing thanks for her generosity regarding the venue and to The Salvation Army for the catering.

Banner: NSW Executive proposed payment of \$100 to Elizabeth Mayne for her work on the banner for NSW Unit. Passed.

ACWC Voting Delegates to Quadrennial Assembly 9th – 12th October 2014 is to be held in The Philippines.

Theme: United in Christ – we build a life-giving community. Representatives of Australian Church Women will be: Pamela Freeman [NSW]; Fran Moss [QLD]; Donna Bryan [Vic, President ACWC, to retire in Oct 2014]; Helen Raymond [ACT][Incoming representative from ACW to ACWC 2014-2018].

Australian Women's Coalition representative from ACW National Executive. Tricia Graham's appointment to this role was ratified at the recent National Conference. A letter was presented from Tricia requesting leave of absence from ACW commitments February to September 2014 as she will be overseas.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Helen Richardson gave report of income and expenditure and with balance of \$14,815.31. Helen noted the payments that are to be made to National executive before the end of the year, and other payments to be made. The report was received, and endorsement of payments to be made passed on the motion of Helen Richardson and Lyn Middleton.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: In the absence of Lillian Hodges, this report was read by Pamela Freeman. Lillian has visited Beecroft Presbyterian Church, and Uniting Church Parramatta combined Adult Fellowships. Has engagement for Hazelbrook UCAF June 2014. Spoke at 2 services for World Community Day 2013, The Entrance, Anglican and Uniting Church Umina. The devotion came from the pen of Esther Kilaghbian of Lebanon. Reference was made to God's plan and provision for Ruth, Naomi and Boaz. Does God care for His people? Yes. He never promises lives of ease, just that He will take care of us. God never forgets any of His children. Prayer: May our sorrow turn into joy as we grow in You. Amen.

Special Days: Lyn Middleton: 14 services were held for Fellowship Day 2013, with attendance of 539. \$3,744.40 was received from the offerings for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship fund. World Community Day reports are still coming in. Cootamundra Branch has accepted the challenge to prepare the order of service for the W.C.D. 2014 on behalf of the New South Wales State Unit Inc. The theme is *Building with Godly Wisdom*.

Winifred Kiek Scholars: In the absence of Judith Cayzer Pamela Freeman reported. Three scholars have been accepted for 2014. **Rev Wasana Fernando [Sri Lanka]** [Partial Scholarship] – to study in Birmingham UK; **Seng Ja [Myanmar]** to study in Singapore; **Rev Hsing-Ling Lee [Taiwan]** [Partial scholarship] to study in Canada. Esther Kilaghbian was the Winifred Kiek Fellow for National Conference held in WA.

News from former scholars **Christina Taviti** [Vanuatu -2007] has twin babies, all well. **Leinamau** is Deputy Director Christian Education in Presbyterian Church Vanuatu; travels by various means to teach around the islands; working on Sunday School curriculum; translating bible in village language; produces resources for the church; works with Scripture Union; assists with High Schools; has ministry commitments in her village; values the prayer support for herself in these busy days.

Social Issues: Rae Goth highlighted the following issues: 1) Cutbacks to CSIRO affecting about ¼ of scientists; 2) Possible changes to Australian adoption laws to allow foster children to have permanent homes rather than be moved from place to place. Estimated 18,000 children eligible. 3) Asylum seeker conditions in Nauru eg living in tents with no privacy, only 10 caseworkers to entire camp. Reports of no mosquito netting, inedible food and interminable waits for medical attention.

Pastoral Care: Helen Hill mentioned the following people – Graham Harrison, families of Dame Monica Gallagher and Dorothy Woodhouse; Shirley Wells, Pat Cory, Lorraine Hughes, and Lillian Hodges have received cards; Rhyllis Davey going well; Beryl Duncan awaiting surgery; Jennifer Peffer's granddaughter had appendix removed and her daughter in law had operation for breast cancer; Merle Menzies' husband had stroke. Prayer for Ramona and John in the Philippines visiting family.

Newsette: Jennifer Peffer - 12 pages for *Newsette* sent to printer. Subscriptions due for 2014. Some articles held over to next issue in February. Reports for next issue to Jennifer by 6th January.

The reports were received on the motion of Bev Elliott and Edith Ridge.

CORRESPONDENCE: [Inwards]

National Executive Minutes [WA] for August & September 2013.
National Executive [WA] – ACWC Liturgy for 2013.
National Executive [WA] copy of Itinerary for visit of Esther Kilaghbian [ICFLC]
National Executive [WA] – National Directory as at September 2013.
Notification of deaths of Dame Monica Gallagher and Dorothy Woodhouse
Letter re: asylum seekers from AWC
Responses to letter re: asylum seekers from AWC
Replies from Life members; Jean Thomson
ACT Unit Newsletter – Spring edition
SPAN News from Presbyterian Women in NSW – September 2013 Edition
Uniting Church Adult Fellowship [UCAF] NSW/ACTT Synod Committee – *Connexion*
Letter from Tricia Graham regarding leave of absence Feb – Sept 2014.

CORRESPONDENCE: [Outwards]

ACWC Prayer Requests - The Philippines (gun battle); Pakistan (victims of suicide bombing); India (victims of stampede) The Philippines earthquake; and Typhoon Haiyan
Prayer request for Jean Thomson ACT Unit after fall at National Conference
To Greta re: dates for room to be booked for 2014
Copy of calendar to incoming President Natalie McLeod
Council members re: deaths of Dame Monica Gallagher and Dorothy Woodhouse.
Copy of letter from AWC re: Asylum seekers
Death of Lois Mary Hooper OAM Sth Aust Unit.
Pamela Freeman moved that the correspondence be accepted. Seconded Shirley Mitchell.

HONOURING AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN: Deferred to next meeting

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED to ATTEND: ABM Sydney Auxiliary Morning Tea with Rev. John Deane; PWA Federal Conference; Thanksgiving Service for Dorothy Woodhouse.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bible Society: Rhyllis reported that many places have been visited – Project for literacy in Pakistan. There are still vacancies for *Hymnfests* in 2014.

NSW Ecumenical Council: Doug Hewitt's report was given at beginning of meeting.

Girls' Brigade: Elizabeth Neale was very pleased to share some of the moments from the 120th Birthday Celebrations throughout 2013. Newsletter *The Brigade Affect* to be produced. [Copy of first issue] In September a Getaway camp was held. A 3 year plan has been outlined for development and strengthening of the movement. A Brigade is to commence at Deniliquin.

National Council of Women [NCW]: Tricia has attended the Marie Bashir Peace Awards Ceremony, presented by NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir. These awards are presented to young women, years 10, 11 & 12 from private and public schools, who have worked for peace and harmony in their communities. Election of office bearers for NCW was held and Tricia is Immediate Past President. New President is Nola Barkl. Tricia has attended functions raising funds for scholarships. Next event is Australia day Luncheon Thursday January 23rd, 2014, in the Dining Room at Parliament House. Tricia would like another person to represent ACW at the meetings in her absence as tabled.

Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association [PPSEAWA] The International Conference of PPSEAWA was held in August in Fiji with nine members of the NSW branch attending. Members remaining at home shared something good that had happened to them recently. In September reports were received from the Conference, 258 being the total attendance with 17 from Australia. The next Conference will be in Malaysia in 2016. Each delegation placed small stones for a plaque to commemorate the occasion at the Peace Park in Suva. Young Fijian women conducted a session on "Are we doing enough for girls?" The consensus was "NO". A NSW delegate, who is Japanese, modelled a borrowed wedding dress at one of the evenings where cultural wedding dresses were displayed. The Annual International Day of Peace Interfaith Prayer Service was held at Lindfield UCA.

Retired Police Chief Inspector Gary Raymond APM OAM was the speaker at the Spring Luncheon. In retirement he is a Chaplain to the Police Force. PPSEAWA requested prayer for President Mary Cabrera, who has a deep faith and is facing a setback in her health. In 2014 the International Women's Day Luncheon will be held at Turrumurra UCA, Thursday 13th March, to which all are invited. Speaker: Emily Milton-Smith and two school girl recipients of an award at the Marie Bashir Peace Prize.

World day of Prayer: Shirley Mitchell: Materials have gone out for the holding of this day in 2014. *Streams in the desert* is the theme, the service prepared by Egyptian Christians.

Any Other Business:

NSW Representative to the Committee chaired by Lyn Green to consider ways to promote ACW and look at its future.

Vacancies on New South Wales State Unit Inc Executive 2014.

Heather Reid pointed out bargains on the trading table. Thanks expressed to her and her team for this task in 2013.

Thanks to the Presbyterian ladies for morning tea and the Baptist ladies for chair duties.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 17th February 2014. Morning Tea - Baptist ladies Chair Duties - Anglican ladies

Trading Table in 2014 is to be arranged by Presbyterian ladies.

Isabel closed in prayer.

Meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

Signed D. Hewitt

Date: 17.2.2014

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
1 AUGUST - 31 OCTOBER 2013

CREDIT BALANCE AT BANK 1 August 2013 11315.57

INCOME August, September, October 2013

Newsette	60.00	
Fees	45.00	
Travel Fund	99.90	
'Winifred'	60.00	
Spiritual Enrichment Day	1590.00	
Fellowship of the Least Coin	2855.90	
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	50.00	
World Community Day	1419.15	
Fellowship Day Offerings	2282.60	
ACW Nat. Advance for Incoming	2000.00	
Bank Interest	<u>0.85</u>	<u>10518.20</u>
		21833.77

PAYMENTS June and July 2013

B. Dickenson - Toner & Labels	65.06	
ACW Nat - Honouring ACW	100.00	
100 Copies 'Circle of Prayer'	200.00	
J. Peffer - Newsette Postage August	120.00	
National Council of Women - Fee	90.00	
L. Middleton - WCD Postage	150.45	
Travel Subsidy - Incoming Nat	3205.00	
M.. Noel - Postage x 2	55.65	
The Salvation Army - Sp. En.Day	982.30	
H. Richardson - Petty Cash	50.00	
ACW Nat. for new Exec.	<u>2000.00</u>	<u>7018.46</u>
		14815.31
<u>Bank Balance</u>		16839.31
Cheques not yet presented		<u>2024.00</u>
Cash Book Balance		14815.31

ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

J. Peffer - Newsette Postage November	120.00	
I. Hewitt - Spiritual Enr. Expenses	91.30	
L. Middleton Stamps & Postage	9.00	
Donation to Banner Maker <i>Elizabeth</i>	100.00	