



# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

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## GENERAL MINUTES

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**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2011, 10-30 am

**WELCOME:** Nola welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2011

**DEVOTIONS:** Nola based her devotion on Ps. 29, vv 10 and 11. God rules over all and treats us all equally if we are obedient to Him, as was the case with Noah. Nola then referred to the faith of Noah in obeying and trusting God and likened his beginning again to those tested in the Queensland floods.

**APOLOGIES:** Sr. Joan Bird, Norma Dumbrell, Peg Blake, Val Neilson, Shirley Wells, Jean Porteous, Beatrice Kay and Karen Ross.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** The minutes of November meeting having been circulated, were approved on a motion moved by Judith Baker and seconded by Bernice Baker.

**BUSINESS ARISING:** Life Membership paper work completed, will be presented to Executive next month then to General Meeting a week later if approved in present format.

**ISABEL** gave a very informative and amusing account of the trip she and her husband Doug had taken before Christmas visiting many and varied countries. Fortunate to have seen Egypt at that time.

### **REPORTS:**

**TREASURER:** Helen reported that the bank balance at 31-1-11 stands at \$ 1743.26. Moved by Denise Secombe, seconded Lily Hanlon.

**FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:** Lillian had checked the web again to see if grants list for 2011 had been announced, but it had not. She is at Caringbah Anglican Church on 8<sup>th</sup> March and Blacktown Salvation Army Home League on 22<sup>nd</sup> March speaking about FLC.

Lillian read a few lines from to day's devotion "We are part of God's community of believers. Community comes as we reach out in love. This special community connected through the Circle of Prayer brings us together and provides a sense of belonging. Our circle invites everyone and no one is excluded."

**ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN CONFERENCE:** Nothing to add to what is in Newsette. Report of Quadrennial Conference is in there also. 2011 Concert is at Eastwood Baptist Church at 2-30 pm. ACWC Australian representative is Donna Bryan.

**SPECIAL DAYS:** Taree will host Fellowship Day for present. More in Newsette. Pamela asked for prayer for branches, some are struggling, she prayed specially for Kincumber.

**WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:** Judith said to check Newsette. Pamphlet for 2011 given out introducing the new scholars. Arpona from Assam is a Boro girl, whose family was known to Beryl Kirkwood, who told the meeting of Arpona's background. Sisarot from Cambodia will come mid-year to Alan Walker College to do the same course as previous scholars. News given on Mary Au (1990) and Sue



Nitrae (2000). Ruth (2010) has had a baby boy and is back at work. Tonu is in Melbourne with her father, many issues to sort out and needs to feel hope for the future.. Applications for 2012 due in by May for Multi-Cultural Australia. (Contact Judith if necessary).

**SOCIAL ISSUES:** MAJOR ISSUES IN 2011, Same sex marriages, euthanasia, surrogacy. Govt have increased funding for people with disabilities, but cutting funding to Natural Family Planning. More recognition that human embryo is a living being. Rape, sexual abuse assaults lead to drug and alcohol abuse, Take notice of what messages children are taking from TV shows, show more support for our Police and Law. Ethics vote has made possible this course, but it is running concurrently with SRE classes, children should be able to attend both. Catholic Care and House of Welcome run by NSW Ecumenical council are caring for refugees. Off-shore processing should be abandoned – only leading to more trauma and mental illness. Afghani who do not meet refugee status should not be returned to Afghanistan to face torture or death. Surely we can add that small number to our welcome list. Pray for the people of Egypt and Iraqi Christians. Prayers too for all the people in our own country who have been affected by floods, fires and cyclones.

Write to Nestles and congratulate them on their stand to use only cocoa from non-trafficking areas. Kit Kat are free and all chocolate products will be so by the end of 2011. **LETTERS BRING RESULTS!**

**MEMBERSHIP:** 44 present, apologies noted, 2 new members. Martha is a new grandmother! Ethan.

Jan Jeffrey introduced a new UCA representative Janice Willis. We also welcomed Ineka Nieuland, she is a new representative from the Catholic Church

**NEWSETTE:** February issue circulated, Nola congratulated Jennifer on presentation. Jennifer impressed by how far and wide the magazine goes. She will do next issue also, deadline is 18-4-11. Very grateful to Sub Editor for all her help preparing this issue.

**PUBLICITY:** Nothing relevant to report.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER:** (Formerly known as NSW Ecumenical Council) A consultation on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011 considered the future of Churches Together NSW ACT. Up to 40 representatives from member churches met at St Paul's Kensington and were led through the process by two facilitators, Geraldine Hawkes from the S.A. Council of Churches and a consultant Andrew Keene. Using a future scenario of the year 2016, participants were challenged to focus on the nature of an ecumenical partnership that will meet the needs of the church and community five years hence. We all strongly committed to Ecumenism fulfilment of Christ's call in John 17: 21, but problems of (a) insufficient funds therefore lack of staff and (b) the absence of significant impact on member churches. A group discussion concluded that there is a way forward with six major areas of focus: (1) Relationships (2) Prayer, (3) Study, (4) Dialogue, (5) Action, (6) Communication.

These were expanded identifying goals to be achieved and strategies to reach those goals. In a concluding act the participants made individual personal promises to work on the process, which they read to the consultation and in October will report on the results of actions between now and then. The Rev. Paul Swadling committed himself to continue working as Acting Honorary Secretary for further six months.

**PASTORAL CARE:** Shirley Wells sent thanks for all our thoughts, Olive prayed for all those who have health problems.

## **OTHER ORGANISATIONS:**

**GIRL'S BRIGADE:** Another company formed

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Shirley Mitchell, said there are 246 meetings throughout state. Proceeds will go to aid literacy program in Chile, domestic violence is rife in South America.

**PPSEAWA:** No report

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN:** Next meeting later this week.

Reports were passed on the motion of Judith Baker and Bev Elliott



**TRADING TABLE:** Will operate at each meeting during the year, thanks to the Uniting Ladies.

Jan Harrison told the meeting that she had spoken to Julie Bryant while visiting the retirement village where she works and found Julie very content praising the Lord who led her to this place and is really enjoying the new job.

**ISABEL** had been asked at Executive if she would pick a few names out of the Honouring Australian Church Women Book and give the meeting a short talk on them. She chose Juliet Backhouse 1924-97, a Medical Missionary in Africa, Lt.Col. Isabel Macintyre 1922-2000, a Salvation Army officer in Tas., W.A., Vic./ compiled record of WKS scholars, A/V of FLC, history of ACW Vic. Unit. Win Dougherty 1919-1994 Noted for her dedication to church and civic organisations. Bettie Saint 1906-1997, Leader, worker and encourager in church and beyond. Regina Stolz 1904-1989, a Lutheran who valued inter church and community.

**CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)**

- A) National Minutes, Executive Minutes Special Meeting, National Executive Minutes Nov 2010, National Minutes AGM Nov 2010.
- B) ACT Unit Newsletter
- C) Victoria Unit Newsletter
- D) Christmas Cards from PPSEAWA and UCA Adult Fellowship Members
- E) Resource for International Womens' Day (Catholic)
- F) Bible Society, request donation towards Bible based Literacy Program in Mozambique
- G) PPSEAWA seeking names of suitable applicants for Youth Ambassadors.
- H) Invitation from Catholic Women's League Aust. NSW to Changeover Mass of State Office Bearers at Noraville. (President).
- I) PPSEAWA invitation to attend Luncheon at Glengarry (President and Secretary).
- J) Invitation to attend Luncheon at Parliament House for the Australia Day Awards

**PUBLICATIONS:** Bibles at Work, SPAN

**CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)**

- a) Christmas Cards to PPSEAWA and UCA Adult Fellowship Members.
- b) Change of name and address of secretary to Bible Society
- c) Emails to National addressing questions.

The correspondence was taken as read on the motion of Carmel Keys and Judith Baker.

**PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:**

**FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:** Nola attended Woy Woy PWA Christmas Service, the NCW Lunch at Parliament House for the Australia Day Awards, and the UCAF Dedication and Lunch.

Carmel attended the Changeover Mass for the State Office Bearers of the Catholic Women's League at Noraville as Nola was not free to do so.

Nola closed the meeting in prayer thanking God for all the women who contribute to our organisation and then the Benediction

**NEXT MEETING 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH**

**MORNING TEA:** Salvation Army

**CHAIRS:** Churches of Christ