



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 17 March 2008, at 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Carmel Keys welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting the date as St Patrick's Day.

Devotions were based on Ephesians 5: 8-10 – 'for once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord . . .' Carmel called on us to live as children of light, find out what pleases the Lord. We are light, and draw power from our Source. To dissipate fear we just have to be on. Darkness is heavy, oppressive, but light provides relief so stay on, stay bright.

PRESENT: 45 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 11 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Council Meeting on 18 February 2008 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Helen Hill.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Leaflets were available for the Service of Installation and Dedication at Eastwood Baptist Church, Monday 19 May 2008 at 11.00 am. Council members were reminded that drop off will be possible at the church, but parking is nearby, not on site. A light lunch will be provided and a gold coin donation is requested. Transport by train or bus is quite easy.
2. The 70th Anniversary of the Unit will be celebrated 15 September 2008 at Scots Church, Margaret Street. Jennifer Pepper thanked those who had written suggestions at last Council meeting, and read them, saying that if there were more she would be pleased to receive them. It is thought that the cost for the day would be about \$25. Martha Noël volunteered to make a cake for the occasion. A small committee will be formed to make arrangements, photos/slides were asked for, and Council members were asked to indicate if they could billet a country visitor to enable them to attend.
3. 'Profiles' of Presidents NSW Inter Church Council/ACW NSW Unit still needs photo for Amy Bowden, (1871-1955) President 1940-41, Methodist, wife of Rev Harold Stonham Bowden.
4. The Annual General Meeting will be held 21 April 2008 and nominations for conveners were required by the end of today's meeting. Reports need to be in by the end of March.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the end of February was \$2372.33. Morning tea and Trading Table amounted to \$115 at February meeting. It was moved Helen, seconded Norma Dumbrell that the report be received and accounts paid/ratified. Carried

PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone's daughter in law has been diagnosed with leukaemia, and Olive had asked for prayers for her daughter in law, and for the family. While Olive is helping to care for the children Jennifer Pepper offered to follow up on pastoral matters on Olive's behalf.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman told of the application that had been sent from NSW to be considered as the Special Project at World Community Day on behalf of *Mayumarri*, a residential program for young women who have been abused. A short DVD was viewed to give some background, website: mayumarri.com.au

Fellowship Day theme is **Growing in Faith**, and if WKS brochures are available packing day will be after April Council meeting, and failing that, after Council in June.

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer has received emails from Leinamau. Ramona Cowle had floated the idea of contacting Imelda the current WKS Scholar when she is in the Philippines, but it is not likely that she could meet her. Next year the scholar will be from Australia and members were reminded that forms can be obtained from Judith. Since 1962 there have been 49 students from 25 countries who have been assisted by the WKS Scholarship.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton referred to AVAAZ, an organisation that supports the oppressed in different parts of the world – such as Myanmar - and asks for online supporters. The Sunday afternoon ACWC celebration will be held at 2.30 pm 21 September 2008 at the Salvation Army, Smith Street, Parramatta. Lyn is to visit Taiwan soon and is hoping to meet up with Shu-Wen Chaing in Taipei.

South Korea, is our prayer partner at present and Christians in both North Korea and South Korea will join in prayer over Easter for the journey of healing in the Korean Peninsula. Lyn led the prayer at Council.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird indicated that because of changes in her role within her community she will not be standing for office this year. Joan emphasises the need to work at social needs in the local community as well as in the wider sphere, that is, network for action locally. We need to be in touch with where women need our support, as in maternity leave, carers, domestic violence. It is ironic that in domestic violence situations it is often the victim who has to move out of the family home and the perpetrator stays.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Courtesy of Graham Harrison a new collection tin was used for least coin donations. In Janet Lang's absence Helen Richardson led a devotional from Scotland in *Living the Jubilee*. We are asked to value and pray for the least, the forgotten, the poor . . . Pamela Freeman has volunteered to speak about FLC to a group at Penrith and asked for prayer support. Nancy McLaren said she had spoken at Turramurra last week about FLC – contributions had been made since 1956 but the story of FLC needed to be retold. Nancy challenged Council members to be ready to speak about FLC and ACW.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin noted that the deadline for copy for the next issue is 14 April 2008, not the 21 as previously advised. Email address for copy is newsette@aanet.com.au

PUBLICITY: Leaflets were available for the Service of Installation and Dedication.

Reports were received on the motion of Thora Thomas and Mina Whybourne.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 8/2/08

MU Australia – invitation

Judith Cayzer – re Jean Drysdale as Churches of Christ representative; report

Dorothy Woodhouse

Carmel Keys – report

Pamela Freeman – reports; Mayumarri

Judith-Ann Sjöstedt – ACT Unit address list 2008

Joan Bird - report

NSW Women 2/2008; PWA Span 3/2008

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

National Executive: NSW Minutes Council 11/2007 email

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND

PPSEAWA International Women's Day

Jewish Harmony Day

MU

WCTU Luncheon

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OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells reported that NCW had a wonderful February meeting with lots of visitors, including two men. They were saddened to learn that Bev Pavey, former President had died. Uniting Church Adult Fellowship was in the spotlight and Edith Ridge had done a great job in her report. Diane Westaway from Wild Women on Top spoke about climbing high mountains, and of a special climb involving mothers and teenage daughters with the aim of bonding. Presentations of youth awards were given to 14 girls in response to essays on *Tell us Your Story*.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge gave background on Margaret Groenewegen, speaker at their February meeting. Margaret had been involved with children at risk and violence against women from an early age, taught in a migrant hostel and has for the last few years worked to help children from culturally and linguistically diverse families make a better transition into formal school life. At the March meeting Robyn Gaspari will speak on Conflict Resolution.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The Committee will meet in April. Lily Hanlon reported that the WDP Service at Woy Woy had gone very well.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant is on sick leave. The first part of her treatment has finished and more will follow.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION: There has been a good response for the luncheon that will be held at Parliament House Macquarie Street to launch the foundation. Jean Drysdale has been the WCTU representative to Council and now will be a Churches of Christ representative.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Pat Sutton asked for prayers for an Egyptian lady, Hannah, who had converted to Christianity and intends to return to Egypt to visit her sister despite a threat that she will be killed if she does so.

Norma Dumbrell told of visitors from Myanmar who have been in Sydney with MU. They have expressed thanks for the thoughts and prayers of people who have been supporting them.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Carmel Keys closed the meeting in prayer based on the fruits of the Spirit working in our lives, as well as praying for Hannah and sick members.

NEXT MEETING: 21 April 2008
Annual General Meeting
Council Meeting

CHAIRS: Salvation Army
MORNING TEA: Presbyterian

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____