



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney on Monday 17 February 2003 at 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME & DEVOTIONS: President Jean Porteous welcomed everyone to the first meeting for the year. Jean read Psalm 23 and Psalm 27:1-5 - when 'Men's hearts are failing them through fear' we can be witnesses and impart the good news of Christ. David put his trust in the Lord, and in John we are told 'abide in me and I will abide in you'. We need to be aware of God's presence in whatever comes.

In prayer Jean gave thanks that God is our heavenly Father, and that through Christ we can know His peace in our hearts. We are sorry for the times we fret and are anxious. We ask God to bless us and the work of ACW, and to bless those receiving help through the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

PRESENT: 50 as recorded

APOLOGIES: 9 as recorded

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of 18 November 2002 were confirmed. Moved Thora Thomas, Seconded Robin Phillis. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2003: Jan Harrison presented to Council the list of names agreed on by the Nominating Committee for all positions except that of WKS Convener and moved that they be voted on. Jan thanked the Committee for its work, then explained voting procedures as stated in the Constitution. Judith Baker, Heather Reid and Merle Menzies acted as scrutineers for the ballot papers. Of the 50 papers, 2 were informal and the remaining 48 endorsed unanimously the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee.
2. NATIONAL CONFERENCE PERTH 6-10 October 2003 with the theme *Toward Community*. The conference is to be held at Swanleigh, a residential college on the outskirts of Midland and Guildford, 15 minutes from the city centre. National Executive are hoping that a minimum of 60 will attend.
3. PRIVACY PROTECTION: A request to those who have not yet returned their signed forms to do so - this will ensure that ACW directory is up to date and we meet legal requirements.
4. AGM APRIL: Nomination forms to be filled in and returned by 14 March for all positions except the presidency. All annual reports are required by 17 March for inclusion in the Annual Report which will be distributed at the AGM.
5. DEDICATION SERVICE is to be held at 10.30 am 19 May 2003 at Church of Christ, 31 Bridge Street, Epping and the Speaker is Mrs Martha Nixon of Outback Patrol.
6. LIST OF SPEAKERS: There is a need for an updated list, and people are invited to volunteer their services to speak about Australian Church Women and its activities to church women's groups.
7. TRADING TABLE DATES 2003: Jean Porteous reported that Miss Elsie Cox who has operated the trading table so well feels that she would like someone else to take over. Helen Hill volunteered to operate the trading table at April, June and August meetings.
8. FUNDRAISING: As calendars were not sold last year there is a need to find another way of generating income, and members were asked to try and come up with some ideas. It was suggested that further enquiries be made on the possibility of small inexpensive calendars being a possibility.
9. CITY WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE: For mention only at this stage to keep it in mind.

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REPORTS:

TREASURER: Elaine Wilson reported that she had just received the books from the auditor and all is in order. Balance for December was \$7,045.54. Over \$13,000 had been forwarded to National for Fellowship of the Least Coin. Elaine moved that the report be received, that payments made be ratified, and that payments to be paid be passed, seconded by Judith Baker. Passed.

Elaine stated that she will not be able to continue as Treasurer. Jean Porteous thanked her for her work and stressed that we need a new treasurer. Computer literacy would be helpful and Elaine said that a disc could be given with a suitable program if wanted. Some overlap between the current and new treasurer would be an advantage.

PUBLICITY: Robyn Collins had prepared a very good flyer advertising the Dedication Service in May and members were invited to ensure they had one.

MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery reported on the death of Les Woodhouse, husband of Dorothy. ACW was well represented at the lovely thanksgiving service held at Kincumber Uniting Church. Lucelle King's husband Bruce has been very ill but is now recovering. The Baptist Union has been supporting them well and Lucelle's strong faith has been evident. Mina Whybourne has had pneumonia and is progressing well. Peg Blake is waiting for hip surgery but hurt her knee. Laura Wilkins is not well.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer reported that she has been hearing from the Australian recipients and offered to copy and send letters if people request them. Janet Watts has sent a letter received from April, the 2002 scholar in Hong Kong who had hesitated to write because of her lack of English fluency. However, the letter gave a good insight into what she is doing.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Cela Cooper tabled copies of suggestions for writing to the Prime Minister with a plea to oppose war and make every effort in the cause of peace. She reminded all of the need to minimise use of plastic bags - and offered use of "The Garden Planet" video. Attention was drawn to advertising standards and 'tolerance'. State Parliament has been considering an Equal Age of Consent Bill which is on hold until after the election.

Anglican Media Sydney reported on an Advent Pageant in Campsie involving many in the community. "Silent Night" was sung in English, Chinese and Arabic. Cela recommended a NSW Government publication "Family Matters *how to approach drug issues in your family*".

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Nancy McLaren reported that her first commitment as a speaker for FLC was at Miranda - an experience with learning experiences for her as well as the people there. Nancy thanked people for the wonderful response to FLC with \$13,000 sent to National. Nancy read from Matthew 12:15-21 - we put our hope in Christ. We care for others in hope with FLC. Nancy led in a prayer of thanks and praise, praying also for the recipients of FLC funds.

FUNCTIONS: Helen Richardson drew attention to the need to provide lunch following the Dedication Service. A sheet was passed around for people to indicate what they would bring, and for volunteers to help in the kitchen.

ACWC SERVICE: The date for the service is 28 September 2003 - details later.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin reported that the latest issue had been sent out and that 14 April 2003 is the deadline for the next. Good comments were made, with thanks to Beryl.

SPECIAL DAYS: Irene Carder reported that the themes for this year are:
Fellowship Day - Towards Community "Empowerment by Love"
Community Day - Towards Community "Love in Action"
Packing day for Fellowship Day is 12 May 2003.

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CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

1. National Executive: Minutes 18/11/2002; Circulars 2003/8, 2003/9; Special Project Guidelines/Application Forms; AWC Report; ACWC re Prayer Partners; ACWC Assembly Statement; ACWC Directory
2. PPSEAWA - membership renewal, Notice of General Meeting 26/3/03 - 222 Pitt Street
3. ABM Sydney Auxiliary - Annual Meeting 26/3/2003 - 95 Bathurst Street, Sydney
4. UCA Sydney Day Mission Support Group - Monday 31 March 2003 at Bondi Junction
5. YWCA - International Women's Day Lunch - 13/3/2003 'Celebrating our Diversity'
6. UNIFEM International Women's Day Breakfast - 7.15-8.45 am 7/3/2003
7. NCW NSW Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon - 12 noon 2 May 2003
8. UCA NSW Synod - thanks for donation for use of meeting rooms
9. Lee Edwards - launch of *Window of Women* website: www.windowonwomen.gov.au
10. Christine Ryan PLC Sydney - info on East Timor Project
11. Marie Majoor - themes for Special Days, regards to ACW NSW

Publications: ACW (VIC) NEWS; Womenspace 12/2002; Forward Together 12/2002; ACW ACT - Newsletter; Span 12/2002

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

1. Father Don Richardson, St Mary's Cathedral
2. Mrs Pat Walker - ACW Representative to ACWC
3. PPSEAWA - Edith Ridge as second delegate from ACW NSW
4. NCW NSW Inc. - confirming names of our delegates
5. National Executive - Council Minutes 18/11/2002
6. Commissioner Carolyn Morgan - asking for nomination for President Elect

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED:

1. St Stephen's Uniting Church - Christmas Luncheon
2. Women in Solidarity Ecumenically - On a Road to Refuge
3. NCW NSW Australia Day Luncheon

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: In response to a request from Mina Whybourne consideration was given to offering Life Membership to Mrs Peg Blake.

On the motion of Robin Phillis and Jan Harrison it was enthusiastically agreed that Peg Blake be given the honour of Life Membership. Arrangements will be made to confer the honour.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION:

ACW NSW State Unit reports with sorrow, the death of Les Woodhouse, husband of our Life Member, Dorothy. The history of our Unit has been enriched by the recording of our activities over many years, through photographs, and audio and video tapes produced for us by Les Woodhouse. His quiet, reliable and unfailing support of Dorothy when she was in office as Secretary and inaugural Newsette Manager in ACW was so important to her that she averred that 'half of her Life Membership award really belonged to Les'. In retirement he continued to support Dorothy in her work for ACW through the Kincumber Branch of ACW. The Unit was represented at his Thanksgiving Service by several members of this Council.

We take this opportunity to record our appreciation of many 'serving husbands'. The support given to our Presidents and other officers of ACW, over many years, by their husbands is unheralded but incalculable, and we now record our gratitude.

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GENERAL BUSINESS:

SPECIAL PROJECT APPLICATION: A special project application for the East Timor Kindergarten Project is being made on behalf of PLC Sydney.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY: Jean proposed that rather than a Spiritual Enrichment Day with a speaker/ facilitator on 21 July, perhaps a day of prayer should be considered. This would mean having someone lead us in thoughts on prayer with opportunity to break into small groups.

RADIO: It was suggested that enquiries be made as to whether some radio publicity could be obtained outlining what Australian Church Women is about. Stations 2CH, 2CBA FM and community stations are possibilities.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS Jean Porteous proposed that the number of Council Meetings per year be considered. As this requires a change to the Constitution two months notice is required before a decision can be taken. The Constitution says there should be a 'minimum of 6' and she would like to propose that this be changed to 'at least 4', with the possibility that other days be set aside as fellowship days not business sessions. Jean said that she felt the business could be done in four meetings, and this could become important when NSW assumes National Executive.

Discussion suggested that people need time to think and talk about the proposal. The danger of losing track in the practical sense needs to be considered.

On the motion of Judith Baker and Merle Menzies it was agreed that people should be given time to think about the proposal and that it be brought to a further meeting.

APOLOGY: Edith Ridge offered apologies to the Baptist ladies who had found the kitchen was not clean when they arrived to prepare morning tea.

Alison Todd stated that for legal reasons the dishwasher should be used rather than doing the dishes by hand.

Sandra Wise asked if a stand could be used for the microphone to facilitate proceedings for speakers.

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Service has been prepared in Lebanon and Judith Baker encouraged members to attend if possible.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Lorna Steel reported that she had visited Ireland where Girls Brigade was founded in 1893. Currently there are 22,500 members in Northern Ireland - only 7,000 in Australia. State day will be celebrated next weekend.

NEXT MEETING: 14 April 2003 - Annual Meeting CHAIRS: Baptist
MORNING TEA: Salvation Army

Jean Porteous closed the meeting with prayer, giving thanks, asking for safe travel and the blessing.

Confirmed: Jean L. Porteous

Date: 14th April, 2003

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (NSW STATE UNIT)
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR TWO MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

CREDIT BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1.11.02			22896.26
ADD RECEIPTS FOR TWO MONTHS			
Donations	61.00		
Affiliation	15.00		
Associate Members	30.00		
Interest - Glebe Board	56.72		
Newsette	355.00		
Travel Fund - Morning Tea	21.40		
FLC	6722.65		
WKS	20.00		
World Community day	1846.50		
Refund - Dept. Fair Trading	34.00		
Suspense A/c	5.00		9167.27
			32063.53
DEDUCT PAYMENTS FOR TWO MONTHS			
Snap Printing - Prtg WCD Programme	640.00		
UC in Aust. NSW Synod - Prtg Fellowship Day	235.00		
UC in Aust. NSW Synod - Prtg Newsette	67.80		
B. McLaughlin - Postage Newsette	91.67		
Monitoring Media for Youth - Sub.	27.50		
J. Porteous - Gifts/Postage/Telephone	59.00		
Carramar Church of Christ - Prtg. ACWC Programme	18.90		
E. Wilson - Postage/Staty/Prtg	47.05		
FLC Stamps	45.00	92.05	
J. Harrison - Accom. Lee Edwards			
(2 nights)	60.00		
Gift for Speaker (St. Marys)	30.00	90.00	
UC in Aust. Trust Assoc. - Use of Rooms 2003	250.00		
N. Dickson - Regn NSW Ecumenical Ccl	25.00		
H. Badgery - Postage	26.65		
L. Jackson - Conf. Exps.	50.00		
UC in Aust. NSW Synod - Postage Fellowship Day	94.82		
ACW National Exec.			
Fellowship of the Least Coin	13044.48		
Fellowship Day	4258.04		
World Community Day	4855.45		
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	252.63		
Overseas Travel	150.00		
National Travel	150.00		
ACWC Bulletin	10.00		
ACWC Donation	29.00	23249.60	25017.99
Balacce at 31 December 2002			7045.54