

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

Minutes of the Council meeting, held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney on Monday, 17 September, 1990.

Opening. The meeting opened with the President, Mrs Major Joan Tong in the Chair. There were 41 present & 17 recorded apologies.

Welcomes Mrs Val Clements, Anglican delegate was welcomed to her first meeting. Mrs Muriel Hawkins was welcomed as a visitor to the meeting. A member of the Uniting Church at Chatswood, she was introduced by Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse. Girls' Brigade delegate Mrs Jan Dargin was also welcomed. It was good for us to have a delegate from Girls' Brigade back in our meetings. Mrs Col. Eana Paker was welcomed back after her holiday overseas. We were delighted to welcome Deaconess Mary's sister, Dorothy from Orange who was a visitor to the meeting. Thelma Skiller of World Council of Churches' staff was present in the meeting, as a speaker.

Devotions were conducted by Promotions Convenor, Peg Blake. Peg spoke to us about Romans 15, verses 1-7 and 13. 'Accept one another'. Every job was important, everyone did the thing given to him or her. This is teamwork! We see this in the harmony produced by a well-trained choir. Where there is co-operation, all benefit. With the Lord Jesus Christ at the centre of activities and of our lives, we achieve the goals we set, when we work in harmony. We were reminded of the verse in Revelations 2:1 'Standing in the midst of our church.' Prayer completed the devotional time.

Speakers. Miss Thelma Skiller was welcomed to the meeting by the President and her purpose in speaking to us was explained. We were to hear about the World Council of Churches assembly to be held in Canberra in February, 1991. A full report of this address to the meeting is attached to these minutes.

Appreciation to Thelma was expressed by the Secretary and a gift of one of the new F.L.C. spoons was given to her.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor, Mrs Lina Whybourne was welcomed as the other speaker at the day's meeting.

Lina began by introducing herself to us. Many of us remembered the circumstances of Lina's widowhood five years ago. Lina is the proud mother of a son, the father of her two grandsons and of a daughter who is a doctor.

Lina is an Anglican. She has been a member of Sunday School classes and Girls' Friendly Society, Young Wives and Mothers' Union, where she served as Diocesan Secretary for a term. By the influence of Gwen Bean & Deaconess Mary Andrews she became interested in A.C.W. She became an Anglican delegate to A.C.W. at the time that Gwen Bean was Promotions Convenor. Gwen 'promoted' better than she could have known at that time! With the encouragement of F.L.C. Convenor of the time, Glad West, Lina was instrumental in the beginning of the Sutherland Branch of A.C.W. This branch has grown so that now there are 89 church groups to notify about the Special Days.

Taking on the Convenorship for W.A.S. Lina felt she had two hard acts to follow -- Mary Andrews and Yvonne Davis, both good W.A.S. Convenors.

We were reminded of the story of Winifred Kiek, the first woman to be ordained in Australia, in 1927. Lina recommended Rev. Kiek's story, told in the book 'Winifred' by her daughter Margaret Knauerhase. It was through the vision of Winifred Kiek and her involvement with W.C.C. and the Inter-Church Councils of her day, that a need was perceived for help for overseas women who would benefit from extra studies, not available in their own countries. This was the beginning of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. At first the courses were restricted to studies in Christian subjects, but this was soon altered to include others, first teaching and nursing, and now courses like secretarial.

Mina told us of scholars she has met. Dien from Indonesia was one. Mina had lived in Indonesia and was able to converse with Dien in Indonesia -- for about 5 minutes. Then the conversation on Mina's part dried up! Another was Melini from Sri Lanka. It is good to know that we continue to support Melini with our 1990 World Community Day offering.

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W.K.S. Visiting Fellowship holders, Kathi Selverathnum & Eunice Kim are also women Mina remembers with affection. 1990 Scholar, Doreen Tie is doing well with her studies in Sydney. She went with Mina to the Music & Flower Festival at Castle Hill where Doreen enjoyed herself in the company of Mina and her friends. Doreen impresses all who meet her by her winsome personality. Late in October she will commence her visits around the State Units, with a trip to A.C.T. Unit. The Council was encouraged to remember the Winifred Kiek Memorial Bursary Fund. It is from the interest on this fund that books are able to be bought for the current holders of the scholarship.

Mina then introduced the National W.K.S. Convenor, Lucelle King and invited her to give us up-to-the-minute news on the Scholarship. Lucelle was just back from Korea, where she met with Eunice Kim. She sends her love to us and hopes to see many of her Australian friends while in Australia in February 1991 for the W.K.S. Assembly meetings.

Rashmira is back home in Nepal after completing her course in Singapore. She is working part-time, hoping to soon increase to full-time.

Faiolus is teaching in Kirabati.

Doreen loves the course she is studying here, is learning a lot. Her visit to Brisbane is from 10-16 November. She will return home via visits to Melbourne, Tasmania and Perth, at the end of November.

1991 scholar has been announced. She is Rachel Sobana, a nurse from India. Her study will be in nursing administration a course available in both Melbourne & Sydney.

Both Lucelle & Mina were thanked for their contribution to the meeting. Marjory presented Mina with a small fern as our thank-you gift. (Baker)

Minutes of the Council meeting, 20 August were read and confirmed.

Business arising from the Minutes.

1. Flower Festivals. Peg Blake & Mina Whybourne were thanked & congratulated on the display arranged by them as our part in the St. Andrew's Cathedral Festival. Marie McCann & Marjorie Baker will arrange a display for A.C.W. at the St. Mary's Cathedral Festival on 21 September. Members were asked for donations of money to help with the expense of buying quality flowers.
2. Volunteers Conference. It was reported that Miss Doris Mitchell & Mrs Beryl McLaughlin attended this conference & it was a good day.
3. Patches for the W.K.S. Assembly. Marjorie Baker showed the meeting the patch she has made and encouraged others to make one. Marjorie & Marie McCann attended a workshop for patches.
4. Starting time of Council meetings. The Executive has done a lot of work on this & the format of meetings. The President has reported on this in her Newsletter number 3 (Distributed today). It was resolved by the Council that the recommendation received today should become the new format for Council meetings. 10.30 a.m. Council will commence, preceded by morning tea. 12.30 p.m. conclude the meeting. Members may bring their lunch and stay until 1 p.m. for a time of fellowship over lunch. A cup of tea will be provided by the duty hostesses. Executive meetings will normally be held on a day separate from the Council meeting, except in an emergency.

Report from the National President. At this stage, Mrs McCann was invited to give an up-date on the proposed National Conference in Sydney in 1991. We depend on good publicity for this event, all A.C.W. people are welcome to attend as visitors. Please spread the news in the branches & by word-of-mouth to friends in home parishes & those attending the Special Days. A new Banner for Australia to take to the A.C.W.C. Conference in Jakarta has been made by Lucelle King & we were shown it. Lists of jobs needing helpers at the A.C.W. conference were circulated for people to indicate their willingness to be involved.

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Marie invited members to respond to her request for ideas for A.C.W. especially for the Conference, as referred to in her editorial in the current copy of A.C.W. News.

Correspondence. The Inwards & Outwards Correspondence was tabled and as listed was dealt with.

Business arising from the Correspondence.

1. Number 4. Appointment of new delegate to Children's Films & T.V. Council. It was agreed to defer this appointment to the November meeting. The resignation of Mrs. Kay Wilce was received with regret.
2. Number 8. The Council agreed with the recommendation of the Executive that we had nothing new to contribute to the question of a different name for Fellowship Day.
3. Item from the President's Correspondence. Invitation to the Baptist Women's Fellowship, Annual Rally. The President will attend & invites other members to accompany her. Mrs Dorothy Lumb will also attend.
4. Invitation to the President to attend the Bi-ennial Conference of Catholic Women's League at Port Macquarie from 26-28 October. The Council agreed that it was good for our President to attend this Conference & it was approved that her expenses be paid by the Council.

Reports. Treasurer. The Treasurer presented her monthly report & financial statement which was received & adopted by the meeting. It was moved by J. Groat, seconded P. Burke, that Mrs Tong's expenses for the C.M.L. Conference be paid out of funds. Carried.

The Executive recommended that expenses be paid for a delegate to attend the A.C.W. Assembly meetings in February, 1991. The amount of \$280 registration fee to be paid to A.C.W. for the registration of Secretary Mrs Edith Ridge who is willing to be our Accredited Visitor at this assembly. Travelling & accommodation charges to be met by the delegate. Carried.

F.L.C.

The Convenor led our thoughts by asking 'what can we do about the large problems in our world?' Is our small part going to make any difference? She told us a story of two birds and a snowflake. It was the last snowflake on the branch that broke the branch. Perhaps it is only one voice, our voice, that is needed to make the difference, to turn the tide.

The Prayer was taken from Circle of Prayer, 'Voice from Egypt'.

Promotions. Only two branches have failed to communicate their times & venues for World Community Day. (Abbotsford, Rosman.)

Good news from the representative from Lipping, Mrs. Stoney. Eastwood ladies are willing to work with Lipping so this area is now covered for Special Days.

Peg has received requests for inserts about F.L.C. to go in the World Community Day services. The matter to be taken up with the National Executive.

The list for helpers for Packing Days in 1991 was circulated.

Newsette. The Editor requested contributions for the next issue. The deadline for copy is 7 October.

General Business. 1. The Executive reported that the writing of Fellowship Day service for 1991 is well on the way.

2. Meeting with the Executive & Denominational representatives. The President will confirm with individuals about their attendance at this meeting on 15 October.

3. Mrs Yvonne Davis asked for a greeting to be taken by her from us to the State Unit in Adelaide and also possibly in Perth.

4. Sister Pat Keny indicated that transcripts of the 5 talks at the Women & the Church Conference will be available for \$8 at the Council meeting in November.

5. We said Happy Birthday to Yvonne Davis, celebrating the day with us at our meeting!

6. Best wishes & Goodspeed were expressed to Deaconess Mary as she goes to South Africa for Mothers' Union meetings there.

7. Members were wished a good World Community Day.

Thanks were expressed to the hostesses for the day.

The next meeting on November 19 will be the Christmas meeting.

Marjorie Baker will do the devotions.

The meeting closed with the Benediction.

Confirmed. 19.11.90