

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 222 Pitt St Sydney on  
Monday, February 20, 1989.

Opening. The meeting opened at 10.50 a.m. with the President, Mrs Marjorie Baker in the Chair. In welcoming the members of Council to the first meeting for 1989, Mrs Baker expressed the hope that all members had celebrated a good Christmas.

Those present were as recorded in the attendance book, 45 and apologies were recorded there for 7 members.

Especially welcome were visitor, Mrs Elizabeth Walker, (former State Treasurer), and new delegates, Mrs Isobel Mackay, U.C.A., Mrs. Mollie Gilchrist, Anglican and Mrs Barbara West, Presbyterian. Mrs Avis Stretton from the Catholic Church was welcomed as an observer. Guest Speaker Miss Diana Catt was welcomed in the place of Mrs Dorothy Harris, whose husband suffered a heart attack overseas and Dorothy had flown to be with him in Taiwan. Prayers for the safe return of the Harris' was requested.

Welcome to President-Elect. It was with great joy that Mrs Baker pinned an Executive Member badge to the uniform of Mrs Major Joan Tong, who has joined the Executive as President-Elect. The members of Council greeted Mrs Tong with acclamation.

Devotions. Psalm 96 was used as a basis for the time of opening prayer. Members were asked to remember Sister Norma Clare Mackay at present suffering from a very bad back.

Minutes of the Meeting, 19 September, 1988 were read and confirmed on the motion of Mrs June Graham and Mrs Beryl McLaughlin.

Business arising from the Minutes.

1. A.C.W. Service in May. The President will contact Mrs Mersina Soulos as a possible speaker at the service on 15 May, to be held at 11a.m. in the Central Baptist Church, George St. City.

2. A.C.W. Honour Roll. The Executive having discussed this matter, the following Motion was presented and accepted by the Council. "As it is considered that sufficient avenues already exist for the honouring of our members -- Presidents are honoured by the inclusion of their names in the official Bible and on other lists, Secretaries and other Office Bearers are like-wise acknowledged, the Council from time to time appoints Life Members and outstanding members are recorded in the National Memorial Book -- it is moved that no Honour Roll be established at this time. Carried.

3. X-rated Videos. The Council was informed of the action of the Penrith Ministers' Fraternal. This body acting on the advice of a resident of Bathurst, who was successful in interesting the owner of a Video Store in Bathurst in offering Children's and Christian Video tapes for hire, has encouraged two of the Fraternal members to visit one of the Video Stores in Penrith. It was reported that the owner has shown some interest. Members were encouraged by this positive step in this war against Pornographic Videos.

4. Banners. It was regretted that few people saw the Banners made for the Golden Jubilee Service. The suggestion that as many as possible be brought to the May service to be again displayed in the church and afterwards at lunch, was enthusiastically accepted. An album of photos of the banners is being compiled and there are good shots of the banners on the video of the service, also. The Turrumurra Branch is loaning its banner to each church in the area, for a period of 2 months. Other Branches propose to display their banners on Special Days.

#### 5. Report of the Golden Jubilee Bi-Centennial Service.

The President was congratulated on her conduct of the service, as were all those people who contributed in any way. A letter of thanks to Sister Norma Clare Mackay, the Convenor of the Committee has been written. The report, as printed in 'Newsette' is attached to these minutes. Sound cassettes and video tapes of the service are available. It was reported that Lady Rowland had enjoyed the day. The speaker, Mrs Margaret Knauerhase has been quite ill since her visit to Sydney, but is now improving. Mrs Lucille King was welcomed back to the meeting after her illness.

#### Correspondence. Outwards.

1. To Barbara Greal, re migrant services.
2. Orders to Perfection Plate.
3. To Judy Nelson-Clegg.
4. Jubilee invitations posted.
5. Calendars for 1989 meetings posted.
6. To National Secretary, re W.K.Scholar and hospitality.
7. Appreciation to Sister Norma Clare McKay.
8. Booking dates for meetings at 222 Pitt St. Sydney.
9. Get-well greetings to Lucille King.
10. Get-well greetings to Margaret Knauerhase.
11. Congratulations to Mr Roy Stanhope on his A.M.Award.
12. Congratulations to Mrs Joyce Bragg, on her A.M. Award.

#### Inwards Correspondence.

1. Bimbadeen Training College, thanks for our donation (Offering Golden Jubilee service). When a scholar is chosen to receive this Scholarship, we will hear from the College again.
2. Margaret Knauerhase, thanks for our hospitality.
3. Congratulations from Barbara Greal and special thanks to Glad West for her F.L.C. Report.
4. Thank You letters from Dorothy Lumb, Peg Cameron and Lucille King.
5. Invitations. World Day of Prayer City Service, 3 March, 1989 Mothers' Union Festival, 17 March.
6. W.C.C. News of the Assembly Meetings, 1991. Churches' Decade for Solidarity with Women. Judy Nelson-Clegg will convene the N.S.W. Meetings.
7. A.C.C. pamphlets, 'Stop the Killing in Mozambique'.
8. National Committee.  
Letter requesting hospitality for Faulautusi Teb'ati on her way to Perth.  
Information brochures National Committee Meetings, Perth.  
Letter re. Incorporation of A.C.W.  
National Minutes.

- 8.1. Aug. 29, 1988. Page 2, Business arising from the Correspondence Item 5. "that because of the varying rates for COPYWRITE FEES Units preparing Fellowship or World Community Day Services should not print the words of hymns in the order of service but should use the actual hymn books instead, only choosing hymns from the Australian Hymn Book."
8. 2. Oct. 3, 1988 Page 3. 'That Janet be asked to write to all Units asking for a report on how F.L.C. is promoted in their State. Reports direct to Barbara Greal.  
Page 4. Themes for the Conference announced. "Come, Holy Spirit, Come!" -- in Love, Peace, Relationships, Service, Life.
8. 3. Oct. 31, 1988 Page 1. Re. Stella Min.  
Page 4 Re Rashmira.

- 8.4. Nov. 28, 1988 Page 1. Incorporation of A.C.W.  
8.5. Jan. 27, 1989 Pages 5,6. Information re W.K.Scholar, 1989.  
Page 6. New "Circles of Prayer" expected soon.  
9. Letter of retirement from Mrs Olwen Lean. Her Replacement as an Anglican Delegate is Mrs Mollie Gilchrist. A donation of \$50 from Mrs Lean was received with thanks.  
10. Letter from Mrs Elizabeth Walker accepting an invitation to be present at this meeting as a visitor.  
11. From Uniting Church Synod Fellowship Committee, Notifying Mrs Isabel Mackay a new delegate.  
12. From Mrs Edna Chambers, Lane Cove Branch, notifying Mrs Janet Jeffrey the Branch's representative.  
13. From Baptist Women's Fellowship, notifying Mrs Lewis a new delegate.

Business arising from the Correspondence.

- Item 5. World Day of Prayer Service, 12 noon, 3.3.89 at Central Baptist Church. Miss Doris Mitchell will represent the Council.  
Mothers' Union Festival, 17.3.89 Brigadier Mabel Ward will represent the President.  
Item 8 Members of the W.K.S. Committee met the Scholar on her arrival at Mascot. They had afternoon tea with her and she spent the night at the home of Mrs Mina Whybourne.

The information brochures were tabled.

Incorporation of A.C.W. Explanation was given re the advisability of incorporating the National Committee. Corporation provides protection in the case of liability at a number of levels. Organisations not incorporated find it impossible to receive Government grants. The advice of the National Committee, acting on findings of the group investigating this issue, is that State Units need not find it necessary to become incorporated. The Council decided to follow this advice and it was moved J.Graham, seconded L.King that we notify the National Committee of our approval of their wish to become incorporated. Carried.

Insurance of State Funds. Mrs P.Burke moved, seconded J.Graham that Executive be instructed to investigate the insurance of Unit funds. Carried.

Matters referred to in the National Minutes were noted.

Reports. Treasurer's Report. The Financial Statement as attached was presented by the Treasurer. Moved the adoption, Mrs D.Lumb, seconded Miss D.Mitchell. Carried. The Treasurer was congratulated on her handling of the Unit's funds, and thanked by the Council for all her work.

Business arising from the Treasurer's Statement.

Cost of badges. Production costs having risen, it was moved J. Graham, seconded D.Lumb that we charge \$3.50 for A.C.W. Badges and Spoons. This rise in costs to be advertised in Newsette. Carried.

Accounts for Payment. The Council approved the payment of any outstanding accounts and amounts due for Imprest payments to members of Executive.

Fellowship of the Least Coin. The Convenor tabled leaflets on F.L.C. Prayer Cards, lists of grants and copies of Circle of Prayer. Members were encouraged to avail themselves of these publications.

W.K.S.Convenor spoke of the charm of our new scholar and of the happy meeting with her. She has commenced her studies in Perth. It is hoped that she will visit the State Units after the Nat. Conference.

Mary Au has sent a photo of her church.

Prayer for our Scholars was requested, especially for Stella Min, in Burma.



Promotions. The Convenor awaits the arrival of Fellowship Day Service 'Reach Out in Love'. It is hoped to distribute the copies by the April meeting.

Publicity. The Convenor advertised both the May service and Fellowship Day. Information regarding times, speakers and places of Fellowship Day were requested. Copies of Newsette were available for new members. Calendars of 1989 meetings were also available. Copies of The History of A.C.W. in N.S.W. are for sale at a cost of \$2.

Marie Majoor has spoons and badges for sale.

People interested in going to Perth for the National Meetings were invited to take the brochures.

General Business. The business of the day was the election by the Council of the N.S.W. team for National Committee, 1989-1991. Sheets were distributed with the names of all nominees, with their church affiliation for all positions on the Committee.

Before the vote was taken this motion was presented.

Moved D.Lumb, seconded M.Whybourne that "The people nominated for office in the National Executive be invited to identify themselves and tell the Council their background and experience in A.C.W." The rationale for this motion was that there were a number of new members entitled to vote who did not know many of the nominees. The motion was carried and the nominees proceeded to introduce themselves to the council.

A number of questions arose regarding the vote. It was explained that only members were entitled to vote. Visitors and observers could not vote.

In reply to the question as to why all the denominations were not represented on the voting paper, it was pointed out that the

In reply to the question as to why all the denominations were not represented on the voting paper, it was pointed out that the Constitution of the National Committee does not require this.

It was also pointed out that provision is made for the appointment of 3 co-opted members on the Executive 'for special purposes'. It may therefore be possible to fill in any 'missed' denominations in this way. Attention was drawn to the fact that there are no guidelines drawn for the nomination and election of National Executive. It was felt that this is something for the next National Meetings to consider and to rectify.

The vote was taken and the elected Scrutineers, Mrs B.Finlay, M.Majoor and Mrs Major J.Tong announced the following result.

<u>President.</u>	Mrs. Marie McCann.	Catholic
<u>Vice Pres. (2)</u>	Miss D.Mitchell, Brigadier Mabel Ward.	Angl., S.Army
<u>Secretary.</u>	Mrs Helen Richardson.	U.C.A.
<u>Minute Secretary.</u>	Mrs Beryl McLaughlin.	Anglican
<u>Treasurer.</u>	Mrs Elizabeth Walker.	U.C.A.
<u>A.C.W. News.</u>	Mrs Mavis Burtenshaw.	U.C.A.
<u>F.L.C.</u>	Mrs Glad West.	Baptist
<u>W.K.S.</u>	Mrs L.King.	Baptist
<u>Special Days.</u>	Mrs YVonne Davis.	Presbyterian.

Mrs Marjorie Baker led the council in a prayer for those people who will take on this commitment.

Mrs E.Ridge moved a vote of congratulation to the new committee and on the Council's behalf promised the support of the members. This was carried by acclamation.

Guest Speaker. Mrs M. Baker introduced Miss Diana Catt who went to P.N.G. 25 years ago as a teacher. She is at present on holidays and will return to P.N.G. Her church, Churches of Christ, has recently honoured her for her work.

Miss Catt told us that although she works for the Church of Christ, she and others are very inter-dependent with other denominations. All Christian groups depend on the Bible Society's publications, 'tok Pigin' the translation of the New Testament & the Psalms, and on Missionary Aviation Fellowship. She had brought photos of her work for us to see. Much use is made of cassettes in her teaching work. Hand-operated cassette players mean that they can be used in remote areas where there is no electricity and where batteries are not procurable. In an unusual presentation, she told of the training of the people. They are a very spiritual people, receptive to the Gospel. Mrs Major Joan Tong moved the vote of thanks and presented Miss Catt with flowers and an A.C.W. spoon.

Announcements. Deaconess Mary Andrews had been interviewed this morning and the broadcast will be heard on 2 F.M.C.B.A. on Tues. 21 February. The interview was on World Day of Prayer. Thanks were expressed to the Presbyterian ladies for their hospitality. The March meeting will be on 20 March and the Catholic ladies will be the hostesses. The Guest speaker is to be Soon Young Chang a Korean theological woman.

At the March meeting nomination forms will be distributed for the State Unit Executive. These forms must be returned to the Secretary before the Executive Meeting in April. Voting will be held at the A.G.M. in April.

Benediction. Jude 1 verse 24 was used as a benediction.

*Mary J. Baker.*  
Confirmed.

20 / 3 / 89.

Address by Miss Diana Catt, Missionary Teacher, Churches of Christ, in P.N.G. since September, 1964.  
To the Council of A.C.W. Meeting, 20.2.89

This is the story of Epron, a woman of Papua New Guinea and of her husband Anton. Epron never went to school, but she did learn to read and to write Pigin. The church held a short (3 weeks) Bible course for those men who could do a ministry in the local church. Twenty of these men came to meet in Epron's village, some from other villages. These people needed to be housed and fed for the time of the course, & this was how Epron could help. We were shown a photo of her kitchen, the stove made from a frame packed with earth. Epron fed the men and her own children. The main food is sago and it requires a very lengthy process to prepare sago for eating. One tree will feed a family for three weeks. Other foods eaten for taste (sao has no taste) and for variation are yams, sweet potatoes, green leaves and fish. One day they had a small crayfish. Epron also opened tins of fish. There were no complaints from the men about the food for the three weeks of the course.

At the conclusion of the course, it was suggested that a present should be given to Epron. The men had all left their gardens to attend the course and they were unable to offer a large amount. They offered two kina, which equals about \$3. "there is to be no present", said Epron. What she had done was given as a gift to God. She regarded the men as her Christian brothers. Once they could have been her enemies.

There are women like Epron all over P.N.G. They are like Christian women everywhere. What she and they do they regard as a gift to God. These women are our sisters. They love God and want to serve Him and offer Him gifts from whatever they have. This is an encouragement to us to do the same.

(Diana's work area (to which she will return at the end of her furlough) is Medang, East Sepik area.)

The Bible course in Epron's village was very good. Everyone worked hard and went back home to share what they had learnt and gave leadership.

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After telling us about Epron and the Bible study course, Diana told us about her work and answered questions.

She told us that all Christian workers are interdependent with all Christian groups. They depend on Missionary Aviation Fellowship and Bible Society. The use of cassettes in her work is vital. A lot of 'Gospel Recordings' cassettes are used. Study materials are made both on paper and on cassettes. Special speakers at conferences are recorded. Cassette libraries are established.

The people are very spiritual and receptive to the Gospel. The knowledge of a loving and benevolent God means a lot to them.

In the Girls' Bible School, the women are given 2 years' training before they marry. This is really the only opportunity for residential learning in their whole lives.

The national church is getting stronger. It is said P.N.G. that "Woman is 'Something-Nothing'" but this has not been Diana's experience. The women have ways of influencing the men. Christian training makes them articulate.

There is some tribal fighting in the Highlands. Rascal activity is in all the towns. After a crackdown on this activity, the 'rascals' move out into other areas.

There is a higher proportion of committed Christians in P.N.G. than in Australia. Those people who are not Christian in P.N.G. are going far away from that ethos.

People are leaving the land to go to the towns. There they find no work, so to exist they steal, form gangs and then they leave the towns and go back to their villages and do the same things there. However, there is no drug problem yet, as far as Diana knows.

Because of the long time that Diana has been in P.N.G. in this work, a recent council of her church has just honoured her.

We found her a very interesting speaker.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (N.S.W. STATE UNIT)**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1989**

**CR. BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1/1/1989** **\$2,387.96**

**ADD RECEIPTS - FEBRUARY**

Affiliation Fees	67.00	
Donations	56.50	
"Newsette" subscriptions	201.00	
Overseas Travel Fund	15.70	
Sales "Circle of Prayer"	3.00	
" Teaspoons	34.50	
" Badges	8.00	
Subscriptions Asian Bulletins	30.00	
F.L.C.	351.07	
Partners A.C.W.C.	22.00	
Sale History Books	102.00	
		<b><u>890.77</u></b>
		<b>3,278.73</b>

**DEDUCT PAYMENTS - FEBRUARY**

Postage	33.93	
Publicity	4.89	
Imprest - President	100.00	
"Newsette" Printing & Postage	96.59	
Imprest - F.L. Convenor	25.00	
F.L.C. - National Treasurer (balance 28/2/89)	1,715.85	
Subscription Friends of Australian Cncl. of Churches	25.00	
Videos & Photos	25.00	
		<b><u>2,026.26</u></b>

**CR. BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 28/2/1989** **\$1,252.47**

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**a/es to be passed for payment**

Postage	33.93	
Publicity	4.89	
Uniting Church Board of Education		
(Printing "Newsette")	40.00	
Postage - "Newsette"	56.59	
F.L.C. Convenor's Imprest	25.00	
Imprest - President	100.00	
Sub. Friends of the A.C.C.	25.00	
Videos & Photos	25.00	
	<b>310.41</b>	
Balance F.L.C. at 28.2.89	<b>1,715.85</b>	
	<b>\$2,026.26</b>	
	<b>*****</b>	