



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING, 2nd floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 21st November, 2011, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: The President, Nola Dickson welcomed everyone

DEVOTIONS: Helen Hill presented the Christmas Message entitled 'King Born in Bethlehem.' It was noted how very different the announcement of Jesus' birth was compared to the global communications of to day. Angels made a spectacular announcement to some shepherds on duty in the fields, what an amazing experience that must have been! Some Magi knew a king had been born and followed a star till they found Jesus, but this might have been some two or three years after the birth. The question is posed were these the first gentiles to worship Jesus? Nola read Matt,2:v1,2 & v 11. Simeon and Anna recognised Jesus as a special baby, the promised Messiah, when He was brought to the temple for circumcision on the eighth day. Helen Richardson read Luke 2: v15, 26 and Luke 2: v36a, 38. so only a handful of people knew about the uniqueness of Jesus' birth and it's implications for the world. That little baby born in obscurity united, but also divided the people of the world then and continues to do so to day. John 3:v16, God has graciously shown us the big picture of His plan for us in this well - known promise. Will we accept this gift – will we allow God to restore in us this Christmas, the joy of our salvation as we remember Christ's humble and obedient sacrifice for us? Will we seek opportunities to share this gift with others?

Helen prayed that our Christmas becomes more than just another reason for holidays, presents and an over abundance of food. That we might be given opportunities to point others to the great significance of His coming down from a perfect heaven to a fallen sinful earth in order to bring us back to Christ.

Norma Dumbrell wanted to tell the council that she has been invited back to Myanmar to do some teaching and to say farewell to all those she has had contact with over the years, her husband will accompany her this time and she would appreciate our prayers. Christians are still being persecuted. Lyn prayed for Norma and her husband's trip thanking God for the mission that Norma has put in place and also for all the people in Myanmar.

Beryl Kirkwood wanted to thank everyone for their prayers during her past year of health problems. She has written a book, about God's work through her and entitled "A Gem of a Life", copies available.

PRESENT: 43 as recorded. **APOLOGIES:** Lily Hanlon, Bev Elliott, Peg Blake, Val Neilson, Beryl Duncan, Mina Whybourne, Lillian Hodges. Moved by Norma Dumbrell and Olive Bolliger

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 15th August 2011 having been circulated were approved after correction on a motion by Trish Graham and Jan Jeffrey.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1.Jennifer spoke of the continuing work on Constitution. National Executive will do this over the Christmas period.

2) Jennifer also advised that when a Constitution is changed, Dept of Fair Trading must be notified within 28 days. This has been done so Isabel moved that 'we formally adopt Constitution presented to council in June 2011,' seconded by Carmel Keys

3)Public Liability Insurance – continue with present cover. Units to decide which cover they want. We will contribute \$300, this will cover our premium and contribute towards another less financial Unit.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that from 1-8-11 to 31-10-11, cash book is \$6, 978.21. Balance at bank \$7,223.21. Moved by Pat Cory and Lorraine Hughes

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN : Lillian was delighted to be asked to speak at World Community Day at Sutherland again, the service was held in Caringbah Baptist Church. The tables were arranged to seat eight people, it was a well – planned meeting and enjoyed by all present. Lillian has the new Circle of Prayer booklets, cost \$3, she will bring them to the February meeting.

The devotion comes from Margurite Carter of USA and spoke of harmony and the resolve to stand fast to what we believe. We must stand for the rights of women, children and the family.

PRAYER, Almighty God, we thank you that in the midst of all our trials, You are ever aware of our situation. As women of God, help us to have unity of love and boldness to act and humility to serve. In the Name of Christ our Redeemer, Amen.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN’S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton declared the Multicultural Concert at Eastwood one of the best, a great variety of performers, wonderful cooperation from the church and pastor and a very good attendance. Lyn thanked everyone for the contribution of food and Ramona for organising it. \$838-70 raised. New prayer partners are Mongolia and East Timor. Has sent a report of Concert to Rev. Lee Moon Sook, had also spoken to her at Adelaide conference.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reminded council that she is not standing for re-election to this position. She had received a communication from Bear Cottage , Mosman/Neutral Bay to submit a proposal through our unit for a grant from World Community Day Funds. It was pointed out that there was no mention of any Christian affiliation in the letter. Pamela to follow up.. Pamela moved this and Carmel Keys seconded.

WKS Judith Cayzer reported that she had heard from Sisaret in Cambodia; Arpona in Assam, India; Tonu in Fiji; Leinamau in Vanuatu; Christy Ferguson on Mission overseas; she has not had word of 2012 scholars, Multicultural Australia is the area. Judith also expressed thanks to Maureen Clark the past WKS National Convener for her support .

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys brought to our attention the following concerns, ALP Conference to be held in December – same sex marriage on agenda; A discussion paper is to be released from Lara Giddings, Tasmanian Premier on Euthanasia; World wide progress being made in training doctors and carers for those with life – threatening diseases; Only one component in the bid to control problem gambling; World wide problem of trafficking of women and children remains; Bid to ban mobile phones in schools – pros and against; Need to bring all states in line for Justice System; Proposals to encourage all countries to adopt anti death penalty; Call for Global Authority on finance imperative; As food prices rise many parents are going without to feed family; Equal pay for women in low paid jobs will lead to more groups gaining same; Refugees – many more coming into country by plane rather than by boat.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive told us that a number of members had been contacted by mail, email or phone. Reference was made to the passing of former member Phyllis McKinney and Mr Bruce King OAM.

NEWSETTE: Jennifer asked that everyone try to encourage more subscribers, many extra magazines this time due to printer’s generosity. Deadline for next issue is 15th January, 2012.

PUBLICITY: No report

CORRESPONDENCE (Inward)

SA National Executive – letter re Constitution

SA National Executive – letter re Public Liability Insurance

ACT Unit Newsletter

Invitation to PPSEAWA lunch

PUBLICATIONS: Span, Connexion

CORRESPONDENCE (Outward)

Letters to all members and life members re procedure oversight in dealing with Dept. Fair Trading for constitution process

OTHER ORGANISATIONS: NSW, Churches Together and Honouring Church Women, WDP, Girls Brigade.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Ruth Dickinson thanked all those who prayed and sent messages to her when her Mother passed away, also for people who filled in for her at ACWC concert. Annual reunion held at

Brigade House with approx. 26 ladies present, they were asked to take along a special cup and saucer, then to tell all about it. Next meeting in October.

W.D.P. Helen Hill reported on the successful information day for those hosting a service next year, well attended meeting.

CHURCHES TOGETHER : Isabel had no report, just that there is to be an executive meeting soon.

HONOURING CHURCH WOMEN: Isabel told us about Margaret Watson (U/C), Vera Dean (Anglican), Roma Hickman (U/C), Leah Pickering (RC), Patricia Taylor-Rogers(Anglican).

N.C.W. Trish Graham reported on second annual Marie Bashir Peace Awards, held at Parliament House on United Nations International Day of Peace. Then Forum at Parliament House on Nov.4th to promote the nomination of women for recognition if the Australian Honours system. 66 people attended from 33 different organisations, guest speaker caught in plane difficulties and unable to attend. No response from Hon. Andrew Constance MP, the Minister for Aging & Minister for Disability Services on 'Elderly parents caring for adult children with a disability.' to the submission given to him. Next function is "Celebrate being an Australian" Luncheon to be held at Cellos Restaurant on 25th January. Strangers Dining Room is shut while being fitted with bullet proof glass!

Trish was congratulated on being new President!

PPSEAWA: Edith Ridge reported on three meetings, guest speakers had been Alan Byrne (Chaplain at Sydney International Airport), Meliana Suihengalu told about the changes that have come to Tonga, her birthplace and showed her beautiful collection of handicraft. Grace Warren spoke at the lunch in October, her work with Leprosy Mission. Members attended the Interfaith International Day of Peace. The PPSEAWA President attended the Marie Bashir Peace Awards, it was agreed that PPSEAWA will support a student selected by National Council of Women to the amount of \$250 and maybe increasing this in 2012. Rugs have been sent to Japan and Christchurch, letters of appreciation have been received . Each meeting begins with a reflection, this is one that Edith has picked, accredited to Helen Keller – "I am only one, but still I am one; I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

The reports were passed on the motion of Trish Graham & Nola Dickson

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: Nola reported that she had attended PPSEAWA lunch, spoken at World Community Day Services at Wirreanda and Kincumber.

Thanks to the Anglican Ladies for the Morning Tea

CLOSING PRAYER : Nola chose a prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson, then wished everyone a safe and blessed Christmas.

MEETING CLOSED: 12-30 pm

NEXT MEETING: 20th February, 2012, 2nd floor Piccadilly Court, 222 Pitt Street at 10-30 am

CHAIRS: Uniting

MORNING TEA: Catholic

Trading Table: Anglicans