



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney on Monday 19 August 2002 at 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Jean Porteous welcomed Ramona Cowle as Baptist representative on Executive; Rev. Myung Hwa Park new Uniting Church representative; Keasi Kupu as a visitor; Marie Brady from Burwood-Concord Branch; Ruth Bouckley new Presbyterian representative; Nancy McLaren and Robyn Collins, nominees to Executive as FLC and Publicity conveners; Helen Richardson at her first Council meeting following surgery. Jean gave thanks for the simple good things we enjoy, praying that our thoughts go out to those who are not as fortunate.

Thora Thomas told of her miraculous cure, reading a letter from her doctor as confirmation. Thora asked for prayers that despite setbacks, a gathering she is organising might go ahead.

DEVOTIONS: Jean read Esther 4:11-17 where Esther finds herself in circumstances other than what she would have chosen. In whatever circumstances we find ourselves, we have a task to fulfil - what God wants us to do - even very small tasks.

PRESENT: 44 members as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 11 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of 17 June 2002: The Minutes were confirmed on the motion of Cela Cooper and Robin Phillis. Carried.

CONVENERS: Council confirmed the nominations of Major Nancy McLaren as FLC Convener, and Aux. Captain Robyn Collins as Publicity Convener. Jean Porteous presented Executive badges to these two ladies, and to Cela Cooper and Ramona Cowle.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. STATE CONFERENCE - Sydney Congress Hall Function Centre, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, Monday 16 September 2002 - \$25 per person all inclusive. Jean Porteous reported that she had made contact with Robyn Claydon whose two topics for the day are 'Stepping into the Future' and 'Seizing Opportunities'. Registration at 9.45 will enable a 10.00 am start, and finishing time with afternoon tea at 2.30 pm. For catering purposes numbers need to be advised to the Salvation Army by 10/9/2002.

2. ACWC SERVICE - Arrangements for the ACWC Service to be held at 3.00 pm on Sunday 29 September 2002 at Carramar Church of Christ are well in hand.

3. CITY OF SYDNEY WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE - To be held in the crypt of St Marys Cathedral 12.15 pm on Tuesday 22 October 2002. Mary Melville reported that Father Richardson at the cathedral would like a copy of the order of service.

4. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2003 - Jan Harrison reported that there had been a good response and that any further names to be placed before the nominating committee should be in today. There would be a meeting of representatives following this meeting. Jan reminded people that sometimes, like Deborah the prophetess, we are called to do things outside our experience.

5. PPSEAWA - A second representative to PPSEAWA is still needed.

6. INCORPORATION - Australian Church Women NSW State Unit has been incorporated and Jean Porteous showed the certificate. To maintain registration we will be required to pay \$34 in September for a twelve month period. As part of incorporation we need to have a seal which will be used on major documents e.g. to change name of bank account. Suggestions on design of seal needed.

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7, PRIVACY PROTECTION - Some consideration had been given to this matter at Executive. Cela Cooper has submitted the form of notification given to members of Catholic Women's League and it was suggested that other denominations might also let us know what they have done.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Elaine Wilson thanked Beryl for standing in for her in June, then presented the statement of receipts and payments for the period ended 31/7/02 showing a balance of \$10854.33. Fellowship Day receipts now total \$4125.15.

Elaine moved, seconded Judith Baker that the report be received. Moved Elaine and seconded Judith Baker that payments be ratified. Carried

MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery was unwell and Jan Harrison reported on Heather's behalf. Heather had sent a card to Ramona Cowle and had contacted Robin Phillis whose sister is in Pakistan.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: In the absence of Judith Cayzer, Mina Whybourne presented the report. We are still waiting news on April, the 2002 Scholar, and also the name of the scholar for 2003. National Convener, Janet Watts has asked whether the book, "Winifred" by Margaret Knauerhase is in anyone's library, as she recommends it for learning about Winifred Kiek's history and accomplishments.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Cela Cooper tabled copies of questions and answers on stem cell research and its applications from the Baptist social issues committee which were available to anyone who would like to be better informed on the ethics of this debate. Cela stressed that bringing matters to the attention of government is probably best done by letter - in a hand addressed envelope - and letters should be sent whenever something offensive comes to our attention. Expressing opinions on matters such as genetically modified food, refugees and asylum seekers, could be handled in this way.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Shirley Wells, Jean and Henry Porteous will travel to Orange for 3 September meeting. Nancy led a devotional on Ruth and Naomi - women journeying together - a call to do so especially in time of loss or pain. The story is a model of love and loyalty. We are privileged to share in this way with women throughout the world.

SPECIAL DAYS: It was felt that Fellowship Day Services had gone well in local branches. Peg Blake had conducted the Service at Caringbah; Jan Harrison had been speaker at Cootamundra; Jean Porteous was at Belmore; Lisa Jackson was at Strathfield/Enfield; Robyn Collins at Willoughby; Isabel Hewitt at Burwood/Concord; Edith Ridge had attended at Carlingford where the singing was very good.

Packing day is set for 2 September 2002 for World Community Day orders of service.

FUNCTIONS: Helen Richardson thanked everyone for their prayers and support during her hospitalisation and recovery. Helen encouraged all to support State Conference.

PUBLICITY: Robyn Collins thanked members who had prayed for her, and she told of her recovery. She has been asked to work on the logo for the seal and on a new brochure.

CHILDREN'S FILM & TELEVISION: Dorothy Kenning reported that a government grant for three years has just been received. This will provide videos for hospitals. A help line for parents will be launched soon by the Youth Media Association enabling parents to check on the suitability of material for their children.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: On Thursday 26 September 2002 at 6.00 pm the speaker at a dinner at Parliament House will focus on stem cell research.

Moved Judith Baker, seconded Robin Phillis that the reports be received.

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CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

1. PPSEAWA NSW - AGM 28/8/2002; renewal of membership due - \$17.50 to 31/12/2002
 2. National Exec. - Minutes 17/6/2002, 15/7/2002; Circular 2002/5; letter re refugees
 3. UC Mission Support Group
 4. Anne Burton - thanks; Pat Burke - thanks
 5. Salvation Army Miranda - FLC speaker for 20/11/2002
 6. Baptist Women - Ramona Cowle as rep. on Exec, Bess Hayward no longer Cncl rep
 7. CWLA - invitation to State Conference 28/9/2002 at Unanderra
 8. Jan Harrison - thanks for flowers and kind words at Installation Service
 9. Helen Stutchbury - thanks for Annual Report
 10. ACW WA - Follow up on Marie Majoor - Greetings from WA Unit to NSW Unit
 11. Mina Whybourne - thanks
 12. Anne Murray, President Vic Unit - Congratulations on Annual Report
 13. PWA in NSW - representatives - retirement of Peg Blake, Ruth Bouckley new rep.
 14. Bonnie Lyons - Burwood Concord Branch reps
 15. Judith Cayzer - apology, reports
 16. Gwen Jones, YWCA Sydney - please take YWCA off ACW list
 17. Baptist Women NSW/ACT - invitation
 18. Peg Blake - thanks for prayers
- Publications: Forward Together Bulletin 6, 5/2002 ACW ACT Newsletter July-Sept 2002
Womenspace issue 18 - 7/2002 ACWC Newsletter 8/2002 PWA NSW - Span 8/2002
ACW Vic Newsletter June 2002 ACW News June- August 2002 Record - Winter 2002

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

1. Major Kerry Hagggar - apology
2. Aux Captain Robyn Collins - apology
3. Rev Elizabeth Walker - thanks, Associate Membership
4. Mrs Ruth Moore - thanks, Associate Membership
5. Mrs Ruth Bouckley - new rep.

LETTER RE REFUGEES: ACW National Executive had forwarded the attached letter and enclosure from Australians for Just Refugee Programs (Inc) asking for a response to guide National Executive as to whether ACW should become an Organisational Supporter. Comments ranged from being extremely cautious to wholehearted support. There was concern that financial support could be part of becoming a supporter; the 'overall national campaign strategy' is not spelt out; this is a serious matter requiring us to be wise and prayerful. It was pointed out that our churches are working hard in the matter of refugees.

It was agreed that our response to National Executive should say that we require more information before we could recommend what stance they should take.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

1. PWA NSW - Annual Conference 8/7/2002
2. NCW Foundation Day Luncheon 2/8/2002

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Program dates for 2003 are being finalised.
- Speakers at Council meetings: Jean is lining up a speaker on ministries in prisons.
- Greetings from Lucelle King.
- Merle Menzies has embroidered a panel for the communion table in the Pitt Wood chapel, and will have work in a display at the Sydney Town Hall 16-20 October 2002.
- Isabel Hewitt gave a report - in poem form - on her trip in June to Syria and Lebanon as a member of a study group from the NSW Ecumenical Council which was hosted by the Middle East Council of Churches.

NEXT MEETING: 18 November 2002 - MORNING TEA: Uniting Church

CHAIRS: Catholic

The President closed the meeting with the benediction.

Confirmed: Jan S. Paterson

Date: 18th November 2002