



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.
Minutes of Council Meeting Monday 20th March 2017
10.30 am, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney

WELCOME: President Pamela Freeman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Catholic representatives Peg McEntee, Jo De Groot and Sister Elizabeth Delaney. Sister Catherine McCahill, Bernice Baker and Beryl Duncan have submitted resignations from Council.

DEVOTIONS: As this is the last Council Meeting before Easter, Pamela chose to read from Psalm 22, 1-2; with Easter in mind: 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' These verses from the beginning of Psalm 22 are readily recognized as those words uttered by Jesus when on the cross. He was offered a sedative draught which he refused. He refused to escape from the reality of the situation. 'My praise shall be of you in the great assembly; my vows I will perform before those who fear him'. Verse 25: is telling us that the present situation is not the last word. Christian contentment does not consist of minimizing reality. It consists of affirming that there is more to come – greater days. There is heaven and eternity in which longings will be fulfilled and sufferings understood, bearing fruit that could not be seen from here. Pamela closed the Devotion with prayer thanking God for sending Jesus to be our Saviour.

PRESENT: There were 20 members present

APOLOGIES: There were 13 apologies

Pamela commented that some of the ladies mentioned in the apologies are facing trials with their husbands. Olive Edmondstone needs to be with her husband at all times; in the next couple of weeks Judith Cayzer's husband has to have a shunt put in the brain to relieve pressure. Remember Olive and Judith in prayer as they support their husbands at this crucial time.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Council meeting of 20th February 2017 were confirmed as correct.

Moved by Helen Hill and Seconded by Yvonne Coorey.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1) **Archives:** Lyn Middleton reported that all the scanning of the archives is completed. It was a daunting task that took 3 years to get done. Over the weekend Lyn scanned all the FLC application forms from 1986-2014 and that was her last task. This week everything will be packed up and made ready for transportation to their new repository. We have been advised that the National Archives will be stored at the Victorian Council of Churches. Lyn stated that as the National President who committed us to this task, on behalf of National she paid tribute to Isabel Hewitt who has done the lion's share of the work and recorded appreciation for the work she has done.

2) **Essay Competition** – Pamela explained the competition for Year 9 girls writing on the subject of 'A Christian Woman who has Inspired Me'. The 2016 Essay booklets were received late last year and are available for \$5 each.

3) **President Elect** - Carmel Keys was pleased to announce that Mrs Peg McEntee OAM will be the President Elect of ACW NSW Unit from the April AGM, representing the Catholic church. Mrs McEntee is a Life Member of CWL having been a member for 40 years, and has been a CWL NSW State President, National President and Wollongong Diocese President.

4) **AGM April meeting – nominations** – Pamela pointed out that apart from the position of President and President Elect, all positions on the Executive are declared vacant at the AGM. Pamela summarised the duties of each position and stressed that the Fellowship of the Least Coin Convener is definitely standing down. Council Members were also encouraged to consider being an ACW representative to some of the organisations we are affiliated with. Nomination forms were available at the sign-in desk.

5) **Dedication Day catering** – A light lunch will be provided following the Service on Dedication Day (15th May). A form was circulated and members offered to provide food for the occasion. An email will be circulated closer to the day as a reminder. Please contact Elizabeth to say you are coming.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments from 1st January to 28th February 2017. The total income for this period was \$2238.35 and the total payments \$597.95, giving a credit balance at bank as at 28th February of \$3114.01.

Accounts to be paid are: Donation to Uniting Church for use of rooms \$350; ACW – Essay booklets \$100; Kids Hope Australia \$500; M. Noel Reimburse Postage \$10; PPSEAWA Membership \$45.00

Pat Cory moved that the Financial Report be accepted and the accounts paid: Seconded by Carmel Keys. Carried.

Pat advised that the general bank account doesn't have a lot of build-up over the year. There won't be enough in this account to cover the Kids Hope Project \$500 and expenses that come up later in the year for the National Conference. Money will need to be withdrawn from the investment account to cover the extra expenses. There is a minimum withdrawal of \$5000 from the Churches of Christ Property Trust. Pat asked for approval to withdraw \$5000 from this account.

Pat Cory moved that permission be given to withdraw money from the Churches of Christ Property Trust to cover expenses. Seconded by Ramona Cowle Carried

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Pamela presented the FLC report on Lillian's behalf, who sent her apologies. Lillian wished to remind everyone that copies of the FLC story book for children is available for \$10. Contact Lillian if information about FLC is needed for your women's meetings in your church, and she will send them to you. After 8 years as FLC Convener, Lillian is stepping-down from this role, and is hopeful that someone will take-up this useful and interesting position.

Pamela shared a Devotion from the 'Circle of Prayer' booklet. It comes from Karineh Sahakian Cholakian of Lebanon, entitled 'Great Faith! Request Granted' about the Canaanite women in Matthew 15:21-28. The Devotion closed with a prayer to 'open our eyes to see your loving mercy, enlighten our minds to understand the depth, the width and the height of your love towards your children'.

Special Days: Lyn Middleton reported that last Thursday she had received the Order of Service for Fellowship Day. It has been prepared by South Australian Unit of ACW. The theme is *Women Empowered to Lead* which is a continuation of the current National Executive's theme *Women Empowering Change*. The message title is *Let Justice Flow*. The Bible reading is Luke 18:1 – 8. Lyn has arranged to have the service printed this week, however, there is still no word on when the WKS Pamphlet will be available. The packages would normally be posted out this week, but Lyn will delay until the April meeting, but no longer. If the WKS pamphlets have not arrived by the April meeting, then Lyn will include a leaflet with the information received from the WKS National Convener.

Another Special Project application has been received, which has been approved by the Executive, and presented to the meeting for ratification:

Title: Asylum Seeker/Refugee Mission, located at Northmead NSW. Run by Rev. John Jegasothy, it has been operating for 21 years and funded by Uniting Church Mission resource fund, but this has stopped and he has been keeping part of the work going through the help of the Rose Bay and Vaucluse Uniting Church. He works with the Tamil community of the UC and services include pastoral care, advocacy and help with settling in to the community. They are asking for \$2000 to help with expenses such as:

- Transport of clients to detention centre, service providers and medical centres
- Subsidising of medical expenses
- Transport of goods and furniture
- Start-up packs including information on drug and alcohol use, books and stationery for children.

Heather Reid moved that the Special Project application be ratified by NSW Unit and forwarded to ACW National Executive for consideration. Seconded by Ramona Cowle

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Elizabeth presented this report in Judith's absence. WKS Trustees would be receiving applications for 2018 Scholarship for multicultural Australia. If anyone would like the application form, it would probably be best to email Judith and she will contact the Trustees to email to you. Also please email Judith if you would like Esline's Report from her 2016 Scholarship (tootoot@tpg.com.au).

Leinamau (2007/Vanuatu) is finishing her degree at Fiji Bible college this year. She has started on her thesis on Ordination of Women. Remember 2017 scholarship holders: 'All India Council of Christian Women' will be holding a Certificate Course for 8 women addressing gender justice in India and Hina Burq (Pakistan) to attend a Conference on Women's Leadership and Empowerment.

Social Issues: Rae Goth presented three letters with a congratulatory note:

- 1) To the Prime Minister, supporting recent legislation making it unlawful for children to be enrolled in childcare or daycare unless fully vaccinated also encouraging him to add meningococcal B vaccine.
- 2) To the Treasurer, Scott Morrison, re recent announcement to limit the purchasing power of offshore investors in the property market.
- 3) To the State Minister for Education passing on congratulations to the Principal of Grafton High School for training teachers involved in dealing with youth suicide.

Rae has copies of these letters available needing only a name, address and signature.

Membership: Martha Noel commented that some denominations have few delegates and suggested that members talk to ladies from our own congregations and encourage them to come for a visit. Christine Stiles from the Salvation Army has resigned, as she is very busy working in her local area.

Pastoral Care: Helen Hill advised that she has received a letter from Bev Elliott and family following the death of her husband. Jan Harrison spoke about Heather Badgery's funeral service held at St Thomas' Anglican Church, Enfield. Jan commented that it was a beautiful service, with hymns chosen by Heather and eulogy written by her, in which she thanked God for guiding her and using her for his purposes throughout her life. ACW was represented by Jan, Lyn, Helen, Yvonne and Elizabeth.

Newsette: Jennifer is on holidays and sent her apologies. Copy for the next issue is requested by 6th April. Any changes of address or change to receipt by email should be directed to Jennifer. There is just one nomination so far for a new Newsette Editor, whose first production will be the August issue.

ACWC: No report

Publicity: Dedication Day invitations are ready.

It was moved by Yvonne Coorey that the Reports be received and Seconded by Helen Hill.

Correspondence – Inwards

NE Archives and Application form & poster for Essay Comp
NE – Essay Comp. enquiry & Guidelines
Helen Raymond – request for photos & info. WDP
Helen Raymond – Item from All India Council of Christian Women
PPSEAWA – Minutes 22/2/17
PPSEAWA – Membership Renewal form
PWA – SPAN – March 2017
Girls Brigade: Newsletter and Report
NE Minutes February 2017

Correspondence – Outwards

NE – re Essay Competition
Helen Raymond – WDP photos
Pacific Hills School re Essay Comp.
Tangara School re Essay Comp
Catherine McCahill re resignation from ACW

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters have been written to Pacific Hills Christian School and Tangara School for Girls inviting them to take part in the 2017 Essay Competition for Year 9 girls. No response has been received to date.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/ TO ATTEND

Pamela and Elizabeth attended the PPSEAWA Women's Day lunch on 10th March. The guest speaker was a young woman film maker Rebecca Barry, whose film 'I am a Girl' has been shown world-wide.

Pamela is invited to MU Sydney Annual Festival Service 31st March, St Andrews Cathedral

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bible Society: Jonathan Harris has agreed to come to our AGM and speak about the Bible Society's 200 year celebrations.

Girls' Brigade: Elizabeth Neale was unable to be present and her March Report was tabled.

NSW Ecumenical Council: No report. Meetings are held twice a year, usually on a Saturday.

National Council of Women (NCW) Tricia Graham reported that normal meetings started with the Members' and Friends Morning Tea on Wednesday, 15th February, followed by the Executive meeting. At the Council meeting on Thursday 30th the Guest Speaker was Deb Hunt, who told of her work with the Flying Doctor Service. Nomination forms are now available for the Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon, to be held on Friday, May 12th. Ladies who are 90 years and older who have contributed to your organisation or the community can be nominated. ACW is nominating Carmel Keys this year.

Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA) - Their meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney.

World Day of Prayer: Tricia Graham attended the WDP Service at St Michael's Thirroul on Friday, 3rd March. A local Filipino lady was the Speaker and she told of her life, mainly since she arrived in Australia and how she had been accepted into the local community. The Wollongong Advertiser Newspaper reported that a Service was held in Wollongong with about 100 people present. The next WDP Committee meeting will be held on Monday, 22nd May. Positive comments were made by those who had organised and attended WDP services in their area: Miranda Uniting, Merrylands Presbyterian, Lane Cove Roman Catholic Church, Uniting Church, Beecroft, Concord West Anglican and Parramatta area at Seventh Day Adventist Church. All had enjoyed the service prepared by the Philippines.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon – Nominee Carmel Keys

Mrs Jacqueline Kemp from CWL, Broken Bay, has contacted Elizabeth and advised that CWL would like to be joint-nominators for Carmel Keys for the Jean Arnot Luncheon, to be held at Parliament House on 12th May.

Pamela moved that ACW NSW share the cost of supporting Carmel Keys for the nomination to the Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon with the Catholic Women's League. Seconded by Jan Harrison

2. The Second Reading of the Addition to RULES accompanying Constitution of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc.

9. NATIONAL CONFERENCE. All members of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc, including Associate members, are eligible, at their own expense, to attend the biennial National Conference of Australian Church Women in whatever State it may be held. To ensure adequate representation of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. at the National Conference, subject to availability of funds, the following subsidies may apply:-

- * Registration, accommodation and fares for the incumbent President and Secretary
- * Registration and accommodation for the Treasurer and President Elect.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 24th April 2017

Morning tea: Presbyterian **Chairs:** Baptist

Trading Table: Catholic

Close of Meeting: Pamela closed the meeting at 12.20 pm with prayer.