



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.**
*Minutes of Council Meeting, Monday 19 August 2019
10.30 am, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney*

OPENING: The meeting began at 10.35 with a welcome from President Peg McEntee.

DEVOTIONS: *'From the moment we awoke this morning, whether we knew it or not, we were worshipping. In its most basic form, Worship is simply about what we value. It's our response to what matters most to us. It's a religious thing but it's also an 'everything' thing. Peg shared this from an article printed in the Wollongong Catholic Diocese Newsletter 'The Journey' which was prepared by Peter Gilmore and Darren McDowell. As Christians, the call is to make the worship of God the mission of our lives. We are reminded of the commandment, reinforced by Jesus himself 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve' (Luke 4:8). St Augustine tells us 'that the highest good is 'that which will leave us nothing further to seek in order to be happy, if only we make all our actions refer to it, and seek it not for the sake of something else, but for its own sake'. This is why worship is so important.*

PRESENT: There were 26 members present. **APOLOGIES:** Nine apologies were received.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 17th June 2019, were confirmed on the motion of Judy Hicks and Seconded by Helen Hill. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Spiritual Enrichment Day 23rd September will be held starting at 10.00 am, at Marian Court, Margaret Street, Strathfield. Pamela handed our pamphlets, prepared by Jennifer Peffer, giving details of the day. The speaker will be Rebecca Naoum from Hope Street, and the bible study will be given by Sandra Pawar. Peg acknowledged Jennifer Peffer's help with the pamphlets.
2. WKS Fellow Visit: Dr Liza Lamis (FLC International Exec. Secretary). Elizabeth outlined the plans for Dr Lamis's visit. Martha Noel will meet her at the airport on arrival on Sunday 1st September. On Monday 2nd, those available will meet at Circular Quay for a ferry ride to Watsons Bay for lunch. Liza expressed a wish to go to the Blue Mountains and this will be arranged for Tuesday; on Wednesday she will fly to Melbourne.
3. Conference: Observer change: As Pamela Freeman is unable to attend the Conference in Brisbane, Yvonne Coorey will now be the NSW Observer.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Treasurer, Pat Cory presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for 1st June to 31st July 2019. The Total Income for June and July was \$3096.95; The Total Payments were \$3120.79, leaving a Credit Balance at Bank 31st July 2019 of \$4643.70.

Accounts to be paid: Petty Cash Reimbursement \$46.95; Reimburse P. Cory (new Life Member Badge) \$17.95; The Salvation Army, WCD printing \$75.36; NCW NSW Membership Renewal \$65; Reimburse: I Hewitt Newsette Postage \$80; L. Middleton WCD Postage \$48; Printer Cartridge \$29; Donation to Marian Court, Spiritual Enrichment Day \$50; Donation to Hope Street Guest Speaker Spiritual Enrichment Day \$50.

It was moved by Pat Cory that the Report be accepted and the accounts be paid; Seconded by Tricia Graham. Carried

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Moya has received the FLC In-gathering Service which has useful information that she will use when she visits Campsie on 16th October. Pat Cory has passed on letters with receipts for FLC donations from two groups, and Moya has passed on to Pat a donation from a lady at Marian Court. The Marian Court Chair acknowledged receipt of the ACW donation for Dedication Day.

Special Days: Lyn advised that Fellowship Day Reports have come in with good results. Tricia Graham attended the new Illawarra Branch service at Keira View Uniting Church, which was well attended with over 40 people. The Burwood/Strathfield/Concord Branch held their service at Malvern Hill Uniting Church, Croydon, where the Minister Beverley Matthews was speaker. This too was well attended with lunch following. The Newcastle service went well where Judy Hicks was the

speaker. The World Community Day services have gone out and Lyn hopes that WCD services will go as well as the Fellowship Day. At the last Council Meeting Lyn mentioned that because so many branches had discontinued Fellowship Day Services, Council Members might like the opportunity to contribute to WKS fund at this meeting and a collection was taken for this purpose.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Judith commented that it's a privilege to partner with people in all corners of the world. A report from **Lauren England** has been received from the National Convener/Trustees. Lauren's studies, MA at Fuller Theological Seminary, US continue. Lauren doesn't know her future on return to Australia but expresses thanks for this opportunity through our support both financially and in prayers. Leinamau (2007, Vanuatu) at theological college in Fiji has submitted her first draft of her PhD. She is anxious to visit her mother who has had a stroke and is paralysed on her left side. 2019 scholar Reverend Geraldine Williame at the same college as Leinamau, doing part-time PhD while teaching. They talk over their 'academic stuff' and encourage on another. Past scholar, Verenaisi (Deaconess) is teaching at the Deaconess College, Suva, and is also doing well. Wonderful that these girls can support one another and that we have this partnership with them. Christy Ferguson (Melbourne, 2009) On 24th August Christy will fly to her past SE Asia Mission place for a 3-week visit. She will give educational talks on Dengue Fever and will visit and encourage team members and locals known to her.

Social Issues: Rae had a petition that members might like to sign regarding the Reproduction Bill currently before the upper house. Rae had prepared 3 letters:

- 1) To Health Minister Greg Hunt regarding the lack of urgency in implementing the reforms recommended in the 2017 Carnell Paterson Report.
- 2) To the Prime Minister expressing disappointment that Government is not planning to increase the New Start allowance.
- 3) To Health Minister Greg Hunt expressing concern regarding gender treatment for young children.

Membership: Martha read the names of those who had sent apologies. Peg has had more ACW brochures printed to help give more awareness of ACW.

Pastoral Care: Peg Blake's daughter phoned Helen Hill to let her know that Peg has had a fall. Helen mentioned Bev Elliott, recovering from death of son and husband. Helen has recently enjoyed a week's rest in hospital.

Newslette: Isabel hoped everyone enjoyed the last issue and asked that items for the next issue be sent to her by mid-October.

ACWC: Tricia Graham reported that Prayer Requests have been received for the countries that have been impacted by natural disasters recently. She asked for prayer for Japan (our prayer partner) the Philippines and China and Asian Church Women in general and for Hong Kong, suffering from Civil unrest. A date has been set for our bi-annual Multicultural Concert of Praise – Sunday, October 18th 2020. The venue and time is still to be organised.

Publicity: Brochures for the Spiritual Enrichment Day were handed out. Peg thanked Jennifer for the design and printing of the brochures.

Reports were received on the Motion of Yvonne Coorey, and Seconded by Pamela Freeman. Carried

Correspondence – Inwards

ACT Unit Winter Newsletter
PPSEAWA Minutes from 26/6
NE Conference Information
L. Green – FLC In-gathering Liturgy
Precious Stones Connection invitation
PPSEAWA Invitation to mtg. 24/7

Correspondence – Outwards

NE – NSW Motion to Conference
NE – HACW profiles P. Freeman, Y. Coorey
NE – HACW profile H. Reid
L. Green – response re Essay Comp.
NE – response re addresses
NE – Response re Memorial at Conference

L. Green ACWC Prayer request
L. Green re Essay Competition
Tas. Unit AGM & FLC Report
NE – Report to WKS Board
PPSEAWA Minutes of 24/7
NE – New Exec. Addresses
NE – Re Memorial Service Conference
NE - Jean Thomson new address
Dr Liza Lamis response re visit
Brigade Affect August 2019
Dr Liza Lamis re arrangements for visit

Dr Liza Lamis re arrangements for visit
Uniting Church – room bookings 2020
Dr Liza Lamis re visit
Sister Julie Adlawan re Liza Lamis visit

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Regarding the Essay Competition, Roslyn Abbey advised that Scots College, Bathurst and All-Saints Bathurst have been combined as one school.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/ TO ATTEND:

President Peg McEntee attended the PPSEAWA Winter Luncheon on 26th June.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

Bible Society: No Report

Girls Brigade: Elizabeth Neale attended a Mother and Daughter Camp held at Lawson. A Special General Meeting was held on 3rd August where elections were held. A new State Co-ordinator was elected, who has seven assistants to help her. The new Patron of Girls' Brigade is the NSW Governor, Margaret Beazley, AO, QC. Renelle Neale, IVP Pacific region has attended a Conference in the Cook Islands. The next International Conference will be in Jamaica in 2022. This week she will be leaving for a 10-day visit to Vanuatu to do some training.

National Council of Women: Tricia advised that the Guest Speaker at the June meeting was Lucile McKenna OAM, on Aged Care Issues and the Royal Commission. At July's meeting, Dr Deborah Bachmayer spoke on Medical and Forensic Management of Adult Sexual Assault victims. Dr Julie Depczynski from Australian School of Rural Health will speak at the August Council meeting. The Foundation Day Lunch will be held at The Apprentice Restaurant, 695 Harris Street, Ultimo, on 22nd August. The Members and Friends Morning Tea is on 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.15 am in the Piccadilly Food Court in the Piccadilly Arcade. Council Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month in the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street at 4.30, with refreshments and a Guest Speaker at 6.00 pm.

NSW Ecumenical Council: Elizabeth Delaney reported that she attended the NSW Ecumenical Council Fundraising Dinner at St Hurmizd Assyrian Church of the East Cathedral at Greenfield Park. Archbishop Mar Meelis Zaia, Archbishop of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon, spoke on the Assyrian Church of the East, its history and growth in Australia. Bishop Benyamin, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria and New Zealand, gave the keynote address on the topic of issues facing the eastern churches. On 17th August Elizabeth attended the AGM at the Coptic Orthodox Church in Guildford. His Grace, Bishop Daniel, Bishop of the Coptic Diocese of Sydney and Environs gave the keynote address, telling the story of the Coptic Church which is celebrating fifty years in Australia. Elizabeth was able to speak with Bishop Daniel and Fr. Kyrilos of the Greek Orthodox Church. Both were keen to learn about ACW and Bishop Daniel indicated that he would be happy to name two women to join ACW NSW and Fr Kyrilos was open to the possibility.

PPSEAWA: Helen Richardson reported that the Speaker at the meeting on 24th July was Rabbi Zalman Kastel who spoke about 'Together for Humanity', whose goal is to foster interfaith and intercultural understanding among school students.

World Day of Prayer The material for next year's 2020 Services prepared by the women of Zimbabwe has been received and is being printed ready for distribution. Tricia advised that 960 WDP Services were held around Australia this year, and \$85,000 was forwarded to the Bible Society to be passed on for Slovenia's Trauma Healing Program. At the meeting Long Service Certificates were awarded to three members of the Committee, one being Rae Goth for her 16 years service. The next meeting will be on Monday, 25th November, for which Tricia will be an apology.

NEW BUSINESS:

Constitution Change

Executive proposes

*7.3 iii) 'That the tenure of Presidency be three years. One year as President-Elect; Two years as President
The Secretary will organise a member of Executive to chair meetings if the President is unable to attend.*

This proposed Constitutional change was discussed, whether to make this one change, or hold off and form a committee to do a complete review of the Constitution. The reason for the above proposal was to make the tenure of the President clear and to be less of an undertaking for a President-elect. However, it was pointed out that the current Constitution (Clause 7.3) does not currently stipulate a definite term of office other than a 2-year term as President. Lyn commented that the issue we are facing is of rotation of Presidency as not all churches are able to supply a President. This becomes an unfair burden on those churches. It was also suggested that the Motion NSW forwarded to the National Conference could have ramifications to the Constitution.

Moya suggested that a Recommendation could be made in line with the above suggested change to 7.3 of the Constitution without it being set in the Constitution.

Peg stated that we need to form a Constitution Review Committee. It was moved by Tricia Graham that a Constitution Review Committee be formed, Seconded by Moya Potts, Carried.

A Recommendation relating to Clause 7.3 of the Constitution will be presented to the next Council Meeting.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 18th November 2019

Chairs: Anglican

Morning Tea: Presbyterian

Trading Table: Anglican

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.20 pm, with the Lord's Prayer.

Thought for the day: My presence can remind others that God loves them.