



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 16 November 2009, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: President Jennifer Peffer opened the meeting, welcoming especially Vala Palu.

DEVOTIONS: Jennifer led devotions on Light and showed the candle received at National Conference in Canberra from the new National Executive (South Australia) whose theme for their two years is 'Turning Darkness into Light'. At the Thanksgiving Service for Lucelle King Jennifer had spoken on behalf of ACW. Lucelle was a Life Member of ACT NSW Unit, had written the Unit's theme chorus and mission statement, and had been sought after as a speaker, illustrator and musician. The name Lucelle means 'light'.

Jan Harrison led in prayer, giving thanks for the life of Lucelle.

PRESENT: 45 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 6 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 August 2009 were confirmed on the motion of Carmel Keys and Lily Hanlon.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. National Conference: Canberra 21-25 September. NSW Unit was well represented. The Secretary's report of the conference was circulated for Council members to read. The incorporation of Australian Church Women at national level was ratified after serious debate, and the matter of public liability insurance was referred to the incoming National Executive to act on. As the previous providers of the website have ceased to exist a new provider needs to be found.
2. Asian Church Women's Conference celebration at the Churches of Christ Northside Community Church was a great success and Lyn Middleton thanked all who had supported her in staging the event. The offering had amounted to \$732, with minimal expenses thanks to the generosity of the hosts. Thanks were expressed to Lyn for all her work in putting the concert together.
3. Associate Members: Jennifer Peffer explained the procedure that had been recommended from Executive with a view to attracting Associate Members other than those who were no longer representatives of their denominations on Council. Nancy McLaren had produced a leaflet that she will adjust in line with comments made during the discussion. It was also suggested that it go online. Cost of Associate Membership is \$15 per year and includes Newsette and any other mailings in respect to special days/events.
It was agreed that ACW NSW State Unit Inc. should work to attract Associate Members who wish to be involved in and support ACW activities.
4. NSW Ecumenical Council: The suggestion that ACW NSW State Unit be represented on one or more of the Commissions of the NSW Ecumenical Council was noted, possibly that of Local Initiatives could be most helpful. The matter will be kept on the agenda and looked at again early 2010.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported \$8715.27 Bank Balance which included unrepresented cheques for \$150.00. Monies for transfer to National including FLC and WKS would be sent during December. On the motion of Helen Richardson and Judith Baker: the financial report was received; payment of accounts passed; investment funds transferred to meet requirements. Carried

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Lillian Hodges was absent but sent a report. She had fulfilled three speaking engagements and is encouraged by people enthused with this great prayer movement.

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SPECIAL DAYS: Bev Elliott outlined a proposal from Kincumber Branch for consideration as the Special Project for World Community Day 2010. The Allowah Children's Hospital for disabled children at Dundas in Sydney is a care and respite facility. If successful as the chosen Special Days Project the funds would be used for the purchase of specialist bedding – 'cocoons' – needed but costly.

Moved Shirley Wells and seconded Helen Hill that the proposal from Kincumber Branch be forwarded to National for consideration as the Special Project for WCD 2010. Carried enthusiastically.

Pamela Freeman reported that a group from NSW had prepared an order of service for Fellowship Day 2010 together with an ideas sheet and this has been forwarded to National. Pamela was thanked for her hard work in bringing this task to completion.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer referred members to her article in Newsette. The new National WJS Convener is Maureen Clarke.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys touched on several matters: health care for all; a fair go for refugees; human reforms must comply with international human rights; the question of the necessity for a Bill of Rights; first UN Millennium Development Goal is to eradicate poverty and hunger by 2015 so our help is needed; UN Disarmament Week and UN Day aim to highlight the dangers of the arms race; the death penalty should be a universal campaign not just Australia and neighbours; the Federal Government is being lobbied against the legalisation of gay marriage. All these matters require our prayerful consideration and action where appropriate.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone reported that she had received thanks from Jean Porteous and Sandra Wise whose families had been remembered in prayer. Winsome Penn represented ACW at the funeral of Noelene Roose's husband. Olive's daughter-in-law has received a good report twelve months after her bone marrow transplant.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin advised that the deadline for copy for the next issue is 19 January 2010.

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren will continue working on the leaflet for Associate Membership. Nancy and her husband, Phillip, have been advised of their new appointment from January 2010 as The Salvation Army Divisional Commanders at Armidale, northern NSW. Nancy expressed her thanks for the nine years she has been part of ACW NSW State Unit, almost all of which time she has also been a member of Executive, first as FLC Convener and then as Publicity Convener. As President of ACW National Executive 2003-2005 Nancy led what she saw as a special team.

As a token of the appreciation for Nancy and her wonderful contribution to Australian Church Women she was presented with a certificate, and a card signed by Council members with best wishes for the future.

The reports were received on the motion of Helen Hill and Jan Harrison.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

ACW National Executive – Minutes 10/2009, AWC material

ACW Victoria – Unit News

ACW WA – Annual Report

ABM Sydney Auxiliary - invitation

PWA – re delegates – no change

Bible Society; NCW; MU

Pam Walker – thanks for concern for her health

AWC – Advocacy Training Workshops; I Million Women

PWA Span 9/09; UCAF Newsletter 10/09; Domestic & Family Violence Newsletters; Prison Fellowship Unbound

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

UCA – re 2010 dates, meeting room

Sr Joan Bird – congratulations on 60th Jubilee

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PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

Public Liability Insurance was discussed at National Conference and National Executive was asked to look into the matter. It is felt that because of the time lag NSW should take out cover for 12 months. It was agreed that we take out public liability insurance for 12 months on the motion of Denise Secomb and Lyn Middleton.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND: PPSEAWA Luncheon – Nola Dickson attended for ACW

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported on speakers at recent meetings. Dr Bronwyn Gould told of work with homeless women and children around the Sydney Domain after midnight, the time when they are at greatest risk. International Peace Day service was held 23 September at St David's Uniting Church at Lindfield and there were 13 different faith groups represented. Dianne Madden addressed the September meeting to tell of the Camp Kookaburra project to give free weekend camps for 8-16 year olds from families affected by mental illness. In October Biljana Milosevic spoke on the Jannawi Family Programme at Lakemba, a child protection service that has been operating since 1978. It works to improve safety and resilience in individuals and the community.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Jan Harrison reported that WDP host days for services March 2010 will be held for Sydney 23rd, Blue Mountains 24th, Newcastle 25th and Wollongong 27th November 2009. The country of focus is Cameroon.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Helen Richardson reported that a Tibetan gentleman had been speaker recently and she learnt that most of the 400 Tibetan refugees in Sydney settle in Dee Why.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Isabel Hewitt had attended the half-yearly meeting, held at Newcastle to emphasise that it is the NSW Council. The Rev Dr Gerard Kelly from Catholic Institute Sydney had spoken on 'Receptive Ecumenism'. Churches in dialogue were asked to be self-critical, open to change and consider what might be learnt from others. By looking at what we do we might see how others do things better, a lesson that applies to ACW. Other activities reported on were Israel/Palestine, local ecumenical activities in Newcastle, Morpeth Jazz Festival and combined church services, especially when there is a fifth Sunday of the month. Christmas Bowl material was available.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant reported the media campaign Jesus, All about Life is still having effects and there will be follow up each year. Julie asked for prayers for the Bible Society and its work.

GIRLS' BRIGADE: There is need to fill a vacancy for a national position, and Ruth Dickenson hopes to be in a better position to bring reports next year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Jennifer Peffer reminded Council of the need for a Publicity Convener to replace Nancy, and a new Secretary to take over after the AGM 2010.

Thanks to the Catholic ladies for morning tea.

Norma Dumbrell is planning to go to Myanmar in January and had asked for prayers.

Thora Thomas is undergoing radiotherapy and chemotherapy and is not well.

CLOSING PRAYER included Nancy and Phillip as they take up their new appointment, people in need mentioned during the course of the meeting, Advent as the time of preparation for Christmas.

NEXT MEETING: 15 February 2010

CHAIRS: Baptist

MORNING TEA: Churches of Christ

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____