

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**  
**18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2001**  
**ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**MINUTES**



*Jesus, our Living Hope*

## **AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

24<sup>th</sup> September – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2001

Aquinas College, North Adelaide, South Australia

**'JESUS, OUR LIVING HOPE'**

### **CONFERENCE MINUTES**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2001**

#### ***Conference Session 1***

**OPENING** The National President, Mrs Marj Dredge declared the 2001 National Conference open and welcomed everyone, including Mrs Leatrice McIntyre and Mrs Jennifer Milne from Church Women United Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The Aboriginal flag displayed at the worship centre of the Conference room was a sign of respect for the Kaurna people who are the original owners of the land and that the tragedy of their dispossession was recognised. A moment of silence was observed.

**GREETINGS** Greetings and Apologies were read by Maureen Clark, National Secretary.

#### **Greetings:**

Senator Margaret Reid, President of the Senate  
Mrs Jan Livingston, Mothers' Union Australia  
Churches of Christ Women's Ministries – Daniel 12v3  
Mrs Kay Bullpitt, National Coordinator, Australian Baptist Women  
Mrs Vera Wilson, National Life Member Western Australia  
Mrs Ruth Burmester, National Life Member Australian Capital Territory  
Mrs Esther Elkins, President Queensland Unit  
Major Lynette Green, currently serving in Nairobi, Kenya – Ps 150

#### **Apologies:**

Mrs Marjorie Verco, National Life Member New South Wales Unit  
Mrs Phillis Dolling, Incoming Publications Editor and Publicity Officer, unable to fly out of Broome, WA, due to the failure of Ansett Airlines.  
Mrs Edith Ridge, National Archivist  
Mrs Rathie Selvaratnam, Past President ACWC, now residing in Victoria  
Ms Sue Nitrai, 2000 Winifred Kiek Scholar  
Mrs Evonne Sullivan, President Australian Capital Territory Unit  
Mrs Jean Thomson, Australian Capital Territory Unit  
Mrs Betty Laurie, Australian Capital Territory Unit  
Mrs Jean Porteous, New South Wales Unit  
Deaconess Irene Carder, New South Wales Unit  
Mrs Joan Trudgian, Queensland Unit  
Mrs Vi Bache, South Australian Unit  
Mrs Yvonne Lanyon, State Commissioner for Girls' Brigade SA

**NEWS ITEMS** given by Mrs Barbara Grealy, National Publicity Officer

**INTRODUCTIONS** - Mrs Barbara Lacy, Australian Representative, Asian Church Women's Conference introduced the members of the Executive Committee: Mrs Nancy Lin, President, Taiwan; Ms Uma David, Vice-President, India; Mrs Diana Manson, Assembly Secretary, New Zealand; Ms Yasuko Nakayama, Treasurer, Japan; Mrs Padma Ebenezer, Sri Lanka; Reverend Iluminada Acuna-Domingo, Executive Secretary and Dr Esther Byu, Executive Secretary, International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

**OPENING WORSHIP** - The Theme 'Jesus, our Living Hope' presented by members of the National Executive – Colours, adapted from a Legend of the Rainbow. The candle presented to National Executive from New Zealand was lit and the various colours of ribbons were brought to candles of the same colour which were also lit. This remained part of the worship centre for the Conference.

**REMEMBRANCE** - A flower for each person from the State/Territory Units, as listed in the Working Papers, who had died since the previous National Conference was placed in a vase and President Marj Dredge led a prayer of Remembrance.

**HONOURS/AWARDS** – President Marj Dredge expressed sincere congratulations to those who had received Honours and Awards as listed in the Working Papers.

**PRESENTATION OF WORKING PAPERS** – Alterations to Working Papers  
 National Secretary, Maureen Clark advised the following alterations:  
 Page 2–No Conference Session at 4.00pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
 Page 5- Under National Life Members Mrs Dorothy Wright 'SA Unit' should read **South Australia** and Observer should be in the next column  
 Page 5-Delete Mrs Phillis Dolling, Incoming National Executive, Observer  
 Page 5-Mrs Sheila Meller should be Mellar  
 Page 5-Delete Mrs Edith Ridge, ACW National Archivist, Observer  
 Page 6-Under South Australia Mrs Jane Pederson should be **Ms**  
 Page 7- The Girls' Brigade  
 Page 8-Under SA Unit Finnigan should be **Finnegan**  
 Page 8-Under 'In Remembrance' Mrs Rita Daly should be Mrs Rita **Daley**  
 Page 18-Under National Conference Fund, correct spelling to read Accommodation  
 Page 22-paragraph 7, should read Solomon Islands (**\$2,500**)  
 Page 24- paragraph 4, last line – delete the words in brackets  
 Page 25-paragraph 4, first line – St Mark's National Theological Centre  
 Page 25-paragraph 4 – delete the words in brackets  
 Page 28A-National Publications Editor's Report inadvertently omitted, distributed  
 Page 30 -paragraph 2, third line – capital M for **Major**  
 Page 30 –Under REPRESENTATION, line 3, ACT Women's Consultative Council  
 Page 49- Notice of Motion No.9 – Cate Clarke

**CHANGES TO OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS** - Page 6 UNITS  
**Australian Capital Territory**  
 Mrs Jean Hambley, Delegate, replacing Mrs Evonne Sullivan AM JP  
 Mrs Helen Lloyd, Delegate  
 Mrs Jan Abrahamffy, Observer  
**New South Wales**  
 Miss Heather Reid, Observer replacing Mrs Jean Porteous  
**Queensland**  
 Mrs Margaret Florence, Delegate, replacing Mrs Esther Elkins  
 Mrs Jeanette Olsen, Observer, replacing Mrs Joan Trudgian

**2001/1**      **Motion:** - that the Working Papers together with alterations be received.    Carried

APPOINTMENT OF REFERENCE COMMITTEE (3)

Mrs Shirley Birch, Mrs Eunice Reidy, Major Joan Tong  
**2001/2**      Confirmed by show of voting cards

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS (2)

Mrs Dorothy McMaster, Mrs Shirley Brooks  
**2001/3**      Carried by show of voting cards

ACWC CAMEO SPOT - Mrs Nancy Lin, President ACWC brought greetings. She left Taiwan during a very severe Typhoon which flooded the whole island. She has been working on a translation of 'Word of Prayer', is an adviser to women's fellowships and speaks at many meetings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - President Marj Dredge acknowledged her friend whose flower arrangements were vividly beautiful. Marj acknowledged National Secretary Maureen Clark for her great support and very hard work and the support and work of all National Executive members.

REFLECTION – 'What Heaven is Like'    Marj Dredge

*Conference session 2*

AMENDMENTS TO 1999 CONFERENCE MINUTES

**2001/4**      Amendments listed on page 11 of the Working Papers. Moved Mavis Ellis, National Executive, seconded Lee Edwards, Incoming National Executive that these be accepted.    Carried

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 1999 CONFERENCE

**2001/5**      Jean Hambley, ACT moved, Margaret Greenslade, National Executive, seconded that these be confirmed including all alterations and amendments.    Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM 1999 CONFERENCE MINUTES

**2001/6**      Motion 99/25, review of Guidelines for Publicity Officer and Motion 99/26 review of Guidelines for Social Justice Convener. Moved Barbara Lacy, ACWC Australian Representative, seconded Barbara Greal, National Executive that these Guidelines be accepted as written.    Carried

INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Email from ACWC Australian Representative, Barbara Lacy on 19<sup>th</sup> September proposing 'that the National Executive, on behalf of Australian Church Women, Asian Church Women's Conference and International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin convey a message of sympathy, love and prayer support to the Church Women United – USA regarding the recent horrific events in America.' Also proposing 'that we, the members of Australian Church Women, extend our love and prayer support to the Executive Secretary and members of the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin for safe travel to and from Lebanon for the ICFLC Annual General Meeting'. Moved Barbara Lacy, ACWC Australian Representative, seconded Barbara Bourhill, Incoming National Executive that this be received and action taken.    Carried

**2001/7**

DELEGATION FOR ACWC QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY – The nominees for Australian Representative/Delegates to Asian Church Women's Conference Quadrennial Assembly 2002 were introduced.

#### RECEPTION OF REPORTS

**2001/8** Moved Jean Hambley, ACT, seconded Kath Pearce, Tasmania, that the reports as written be received. Carried

**President's Report:** Marj Dredge said that it would be a special time in her memory and wished the Incoming National Executive, Western Australia, every blessing.

**Secretary's Report:** Maureen Clark said that it had been a privilege to be on the National Executive. The National Executive was indebted to Koorong Bookshop for the use of their Functions Room, free of charge for their meetings, although the members always enjoyed lunch in the cafe afterwards.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION

##### **Motion 2 – page 48**

That Clause 6.1.1(b)(v) Administration National Conference Observers be amended to read: 'Up to seven members from the Incoming National Executive nominees'.  
**2001/9** Moved Maureen Clark, National Executive, seconded Eva Cooper, SA Unit that this be confirmed. Carried

##### **Motion 4 – page 48**

That Clause 9 Dissolution of the National Constitution be amended by numbering the present paragraph 9.1 and adding the following:  
9.2 No member of Australian Church Women shall be capable of acquiring any estate in the property or funds of Australian Church Women'.  
**2001/10** Moved Maureen Clark, National Executive, seconded Beth Skilbeck, Victorian Unit, that this be confirmed. Carried

##### **Motion 5 – page 48**

That 'National Archivist' be added to the list of those receiving registration forms in paragraph 4 of ACW National Conference Guidelines page 28.  
**2001/11** Moved Maureen Clark, National Executive, seconded Major Joan Tong that this be confirmed. Carried

##### **Motion 7 – page 49**

That ACW National Executive Guidelines page 2, paragraph 'December and January' be amended to read:-  
'In January in the second year of term of office, invite the State/Territory Unit next in rotation, to form the next but one National Executive. See ACW National Conference Guidelines paragraph 10 on page 29 for the order of rotation.'  
**2001/12** Moved Maureen Clark, National Executive, seconded Margaret Florence, Queensland Unit that this be confirmed. Carried

REFLECTION Marj Dredge

#### **EVENING PROGRAMME Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

Let's Sing with Shirley Sampson and Shirley Birch as pianist

ACWC CAMEO SPOT - Dr Esther Byu, Executive Secretary ICFLC spoke of her life since the 1999 Conference.

Fun Items by members

Evening Worship led by ACT Unit

Reflection Marj Dredge

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

Let's Sing  
Morning Worship      Victorian Unit      'Bubbling over with Joyous Hope'  
News

TELLERS replacement – Ailsa Skippen for Shirley Brooks

Bible Study      Sr Bernadette Kiley OP      Mark's Gospel Ch 16:1-8

Official photo taken of Conference participants

**Conference session 3**

Reflection      Marj Dredge

**NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT**      Miss Dorothy Chapman

**Recommendation 1**

That for each of the following two years National Executive and State/Territory Units deduct an amount not exceeding 5% from WCD and FLC monies and 10% from Fellowship Day offerings for Administration costs.

Moved Dorothy Chapman, National Executive, seconded Coralie Wright, SA

**Amendment to Recommendation 1**

That for each of the following two years National Executive and State /Territory Units deduct an amount not exceeding 10% from WCD and FLC monies and Fellowship Day offerings for Administration costs.

**2001/13**      Moved Shirley Birch, National Vice-President, seconded Helen Lloyd, ACT

Carried

This became the motion and was carried.

**Recommendation 2**

That for each of the following two years an amount of up to \$1,000 be transferred from National Conference Fund for Administration.

**2001/14**      Moved Dorothy Chapman, National Treasurer, seconded Helen Lloyd, ACT

Carried

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE 1999 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**2001/15**      Moved Dorothy Chapman, National Treasurer, seconded Eva Cooper that this be adopted.

Carried

**ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**2001/16**      Moved Dorothy Chapman, National Treasurer, seconded Leeola Loughnan, WA that the Financial Statement to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000 be adopted.

Carried

**2001/17**      Moved Dorothy Chapman, National Treasurer, seconded Leila, Lady Wilson, Incoming National Executive, that the Financial Statement to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 be adopted.

Carried

**Motion 3 – page 48**

That the maximum amount of \$(2,500 ?) per biennium be made available from National Conference Fund to provide Expenses for the National President or her representative, when invited, to attend Special Functions interstate.

2001/18 Moved Dorothy Chapman, National Treasurer, seconded Margaret Greenslade, National Executive. Carried

**Motion 6 – page 49**

That paragraph 2 of clause 12 of Finance Guidelines page 7 be deleted and the following inserted: 'All interest received on money held by National Executive be transferred to Administration.'

2001/19 Moved Dorothy Chapman, National Treasurer, seconded Mavis Ellis, National Executive. Carried

**Motion 1 – page 48**

That Clause 4.3. 2 Life members be amended by deleting 'one' and inserting 'two' before the words National Life Member, and adding 's' to the word Member.

2001/20 Moved Jean Hambley ACT, seconded Helen Lloyd ACT. Carried

**RECOGNITION OF PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS**

Five Past National Presidents were present at the Conference namely: Reverend Lee Edwards, WA, Mrs Marie McCann, NSW, Mrs Shirley Brooks, Tasmania, Mrs Eunice Reidy, Victoria, and Mrs Aileen Mortensen, Queensland.

**PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

**Fellowship of the Least Coin Report:** Margaret Greenslade, National Convenor read a letter from The Girls' Brigade, Queensland, concerning the canoe bought with a grant from ICFLC.

**Special Days Report:** Laurice Smith, Acting Convenor, said that a Convenor was not appointed so the work was done jointly by the National Secretary and herself, National Vice-President.

**Social Justice Convener's Report:** Mavis Ellis said that she did not receive replies to her letters from all Units.

**Publications Editor's Report:** Major Shirley Sampson, said that she found email a big help when receiving items for the ACW News.

GRACE BEFORE LUNCH – Jan Harrison, NSW – sung by all.

**Conference session 4**

Let's sing

Reflection Marj Dredge

ACWC CAMEO SPOT - Reverend Iluminada Acuna-Domingo, Executive Secretary ACWC spoke about the way women are treated in the Philippines

**PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

**Winifred Kiek Scholarship Report:** Dorothy Ferrier said that the 2002 Scholar is Mrs Lai Mui Ching, also known as April. She will undertake an MA course on Women's Study in Relation to Women and Religion at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. April is married with one son, Timothy, 8 years old.

**Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust Report:** Dorothy Ferrier, Chairman of the Trust has completed her term. Margaret Greenslade expressed, on behalf of the other Trustees, thanks to Dorothy and Jess Horton, Treasurer of the Trust, who has also completed her term.

2001/21 Moved Margaret Greenslade, National Executive, seconded Barbara Greal, National Executive. Carried with acclamation

**Motion 8 – page 49**

That the surplus funds from the 2001 and 2002 scholars be credited to the Winifred Kiek Fellowship Fund.

2001/22 Moved Dorothy Ferrier, National Convenor WKS, seconded Margaret Greenslade, National Executive. Carried

**Motion 9 – page 49**

That Cate Clarke and Christine Barber be appointed as Trustees for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust. Jess Horton and Dorothy Ferrier having completed their term.

2001/23 Moved Eva Cooper SA, seconded Barbara Greal, National Executive. Carried  
Barbara Greal, Margaret Greenslade and Norma Bishop will continue as Trustees.

**Motion 13 – page 50**

That a short paragraph about Rev Winifred Kiek, MA,BD be included in the WKS leaflet with an explanation as to why the Scholarship is so named. (Note: Winifred was MA not BA).

2001/24 Moved Beth Skilbeck Victoria, seconded Lee Edwards, Incoming National Executive. Carried

**Motion 10 – page 49**

That as well as providing the Order of Service for Special Days, it is recognised that these days may be held in the setting of a special celebration, function or other meeting. This may take the form of a less formal occasion, during which in the setting of a special function, focus is given to the particular project or theme.

Moved by Major Joan Tong for the Salvation Army, seconded Jan Harrison NSW. Discussion ensued as to whether a denomination could propose a motion.

2001/25 **Motion:** Reverend Lee Edwards, Incoming National Executive moved, seconded by Isabel Hewitt, NSW, that this motion be deferred and the Reference Committee be asked to consider it and report back. Carried

**REFERENCE COMMITTEE REPLACEMENT**

Margaret Florence, Queensland was nominated to take the place of Major Joan Tong, Salvation Army, on the Reference Committee.

**Motion 11 (part 1) – page 50**

That the National Executive ascertains to what extent the abridged version of Fellowship Day and World Community Day services are used in retirement and nursing homes within each State/Territory.

Moved Margaret Florence, Queensland, seconded Aileen Mortensen, Queensland. After discussion the motion was withdrawn with permission of the mover and seconder.

2001/26 **Motion 11 (part 2) – page 50**

That if the National Executive consider the abridged orders of service for Fellowship Day and World Community Day services are being used enough to continue preparing same, the Queensland Unit request that the National Executive prepare Guidelines for the preparation of abridged order of service.

Moved Margaret Florence, Queensland, seconded Aileen Mortensen, Queensland. Motion Lost

Reflection Marj Dredge

CIVIC RECEPTION - 5pm in the Queen Adelaide Room at the Adelaide Town Hall.

Councillor Bert Taylor received members of the Conference, as the Lord Mayor, Alfred Huang, was unable to be present. Members were able to see the Council Chambers and the memorabilia there.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE – 7.30 pm at Christ Church (Anglican) North Adelaide.

Representatives of the Heads of Churches attended. Led by President Marj Dredge, it was attended by approximately 140 people who gathered for supper in the Hall afterwards.

**WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

Let's sing

Reflection Marj Dredge

Morning Worship SA Unit - 'H O P E'

News

Bible Study with Sr Bernadette Kiley OP

***Conference session 5***

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE REPORT – Barbara Lacy, Australian

Representative read a letter from Shunila Ruth, Pakistan – our prayer partners.

Barbara asked us to stimulate interest in Asian Church Women's Conference and its Signature Campaign.

**Motion 16 – page 51**

That the following Guideline replace Page 30 in the ACW National Conference Guidelines

'Appointment of Voting Delegates to Asian Church Women's Conference ACWC Constitution reads:

5.3.1 Each country shall have an equal number of votes. This shall include members of the General Committee.

Australia has four (4) voting delegates at the ACWC Assembly.

Delegates shall include

- ❖ The incumbent National Representative who represents Australia on the General Committee
- ❖ Any Australian delegate on the Executive Committee
- ❖ The number of delegates elected at National Conference or appointed by ACW National Executive to meet the designated number of four delegates.

In the event of there being an election to fulfil Australian Church Women's voting allocation, those receiving the highest sequential number of votes in a ballot at the preceding ACW's National Conference shall be the voting delegate(s).

The minutes of the relevant National Conference shall record the sequence of the results of the ballot.'

2001/27

Moved Barbara Lacy, AWCW Australian Representative, seconded Major Joan Tong.

Carried

**Motion 14 – page 50**

**PREAMBLE:** Before this motion is presented it must be stated that we consider all previous ACWC Australian Representatives to have been worthy of their appointment and to the best of our knowledge to have performed their duties creditably. There is no thought that any of them was poorly chosen. It is the system by which the representative is chosen that we believe needs attention.

**Motion:** That an ACWC appointment Board made up of two representatives from each state and territory be formed at each National Conference of ACW, during which the Australian Representative for the next quadrennium of the ACWC is to be appointed (every four years). That this Board discuss the nominations, giving consideration to the suitability of each person, and together choosing the person they deem most worthy of the appointment.

2001/28 Moved Isabel Hewitt NSW, seconded Jan Harrison NSW that the conference consider this in Committee. Carried

After discussion, Isabel Hewitt NSW moved, seconded by Jan Harrison NSW that the motion be amended as follows:

**Amended motion:** That an ACWC **nominating committee** made up of two representatives from each state and territory be formed at each National Conference of ACW, during which the Australian Representative for the next quadrennium of the ACWC is to be appointed (every four years). That this **Committee** discuss the nominations, giving consideration to the suitability of each person, and together **recommend** the person they deem most **suitable** for the appointment.

2001/29 Moved Beth Skilbeck, Victoria, seconded Barbara Bourhill, Incoming National Executive, that the Conference move out of Committee. Carried

2001/30 The amended motion (above) was then put. Carried

**Motion 15A – page 51**

That National Executive of Australian Church Women (ACW) ascertain what actions the member countries of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) are taking in their respective countries towards the relief of men, women and children working in sub standard conditions and for very low wages in the textile and footwear industries.

2001/31 Moved Jan Harrison NSW, seconded Terry Reeves CWLA.  
In support of this motion, Terry Reeves read a letter from Catholic Women's League Australia which stated:  
'A motion was passed at our 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Conference at Broadbeach last week that we write to you (ACW) to endorse the actions proposed by you at your National Conference regarding support for the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) in your endeavours to combat the exploitation of men, women and children working in the textile and footwear industries.

Motion carried

**Motion 15B – page 51**

That upon receipt of the resultant information, discern appropriate ways that we can support the members of ACWC in their endeavours.

2001/32 Moved Jan Harrison NSW, seconded Major Joan Tong, Salvation Army Carried

#### AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO ACWC ASSEMBLY 2002

Result of the ballot for Australian Representative and two delegates to attend the Assembly in Korea in 2002 is as follows:  
Mrs Pat Walker (SA) Australian Representative (to take effect after the Assembly)  
Miss Lisa Jackson (NSW) Delegate  
Mrs Jean Thomson (ACT) Delegate  
Mrs Shirley Brooks  
Reverend Lee Edwards  
National Secretary to advise nominees of the result.  
Conference gave permission for the ballot papers to be destroyed.

Grace before lunch

**Wednesday Afternoon** – A bus trip to Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills was enjoyed by participants.

#### **Wednesday Evening**

##### **Conference session 6**

Let's sing  
Reflection Marj Dredge

#### STATE/TERRITORY UNIT REPORTS

*Australian Capital Territory* – Jean Hambley

Correction – page 30, paragraph 2, line 2 should be **Nan** not Nora.

*New South Wales* – Jan Harrison spoke to the report

*Northern Territory* – Maureen Clark brought the Conference up to date with the situation there and asked for prayers that the Darwin Branch will be rejuvenated.

*Queensland* – Aileen Mortensen spoke to the report

*South Australia* – Eva Cooper

Correction – page 35, paragraph 1, line 2 should be **November** not October

*Tasmania* – Kath Pearce spoke to the report

*Victoria* – Elizabeth Kinrade spoke to the report

*Western Australia* – Leeola Loughnan spoke to the report

**Motion 10 – page 49** – deferred from Tuesday afternoon Conference session 4  
The Reference Committee determined that this motion was not valid for presentation at National Conference.

**Rationale** – Denominations have representatives in State Units and any proposals they have, need to go to the Unit which may then forward a Notice of Motion to National Conference.

#### **Motion 12 – page 50**

That the National Executive prepare Guidelines for the Australian Church Women nominated project for World Community Day service.

**2001/33** Moved Margaret Florence Queensland, seconded Aileen Mortensen Queensland  
Carried

ACWC CAMEO SPOT – Mrs Padma Ebenezer from Sri Lanka spoke of her daughter's horrific accident in Australia and that she is now back as a University student in Sydney. Padma then spoke of Sri Lanka with the terrorist attacks and the sufferings of the people through the drought. Padma entreated us to thank God for our bodies and good health – the future is not ours it is God's.

Prayer partner slips were distributed.

Evening Worship Queensland Unit - Meditation on 'The Cross'  
Reflection Marj Dredge

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

Let's sing  
Reflection Marj Dredge  
Morning Worship Tasmanian Unit – 'We serve a Risen Living Lord'  
News  
Bible Study with Sr Bernadette Kiley OP – Contrasting the different emphases in the Christmas story in Matthew compared with Mark.  
Morning Tea

ACWC CAMEO SPOT – Ms Yasuko Nakayama came from a traditional Japanese woman to being liberated by being on ACWC. She related some of her life and then spoke of the high rate of suicide in Japan.

**Conference session 7**

**WINIFRED KIEK TRUST FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Appreciation** – Dorothy Ferrier, Chairman of the Trust, paid tribute to the work of Jess Horton, retiring Treasurer of the Trust, over her term of office.

- 2001/34** Moved Dorothy Ferrier, National WKS Convenor, seconded Barbara Grealy, National Executive that the Financial Statement, page 26A, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 1999 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000 be adopted. Carried
- 2001/35** Moved Dorothy Ferrier, National WKS Convenor, seconded Barbara Grealy, National Executive that the Financial Statement, page 26B, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001 be adopted. Carried
- 2001/36** **Appreciation** – Thanks were expressed to Dorothy Ferrier for her four years as Chairman of the Trust. Carried with acclamation

**DENOMINATIONAL REPORTS**

*Australian Baptist Women*

*Catholic Women's League Australia* – Terry Reeves expanded on the 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Conference held in Queensland

*Churches of Christ in Australia*

*Mothers' Union Australia* – Jean Fordham told of some of the work in the different Dioceses

*Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory*

*Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory* – Major Joan Tong said the Women's Ministries of each Territory take seriously the commitment to Australian Church Women

*Uniting Church Adult Fellowship* – Ann Connan spoke of the World Assembly of Methodist and Uniting Church Women recently held in England.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND – Leatrice McIntyre**

Based in Christchurch, Leatrice explained how it operated throughout the country.

FIRST TIMERS AT ACW NATIONAL CONFERENCE – These women were asked to stand and formed almost one third of the gathering. Jane Pederson, SA Unit, brought concepts of Hope (beginning with each letter of the alphabet).

Grace before lunch led by Shirley Brooks

**Thursday afternoon 27<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

Let's sing

Reflection Marj Dredge

**SEMINAR – THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**

Marj Dredge read some statistics on marriages; people having children later in life and these children become 'lavished possessions'; statistics on people over 65 now and in the future.

For the **Workshop** the participants gathered in groups with a mix of people from the various Units. Findings from the groups were handed in and have been collated – see page 14 herein.

**AIMS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**

These were looked at as State/Territory Unit groups. Various ideas were reported back and have been collated – see page 15 herein

Marj Dredge thanked all taking part in the discussion.

Reflection Marj Dredge

**Thursday evening 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2001** –Thanksgiving Dinner in the Dining Room at Aquinas College. Musical items were provided by Major Shirley Sampson's daughter and son-in-law, Kerry and Nic Lester, accompanied by Shirley Birch on the piano.

Evening Worship (in the Conference Room) – National Executive – 'What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us' (Ralph Waldo Emerson)  
Supper

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

Let's sing

Morning Worship – NSW Unit - 'Faith, love and a sure and certain hope'

**DISCUSSION - No. 17 – page 51**

*The power of National Executive between Conferences.*

Comments were made and there appeared to be a willingness to allow National Executive to allow commonsense in whether the Units needed to be involved in decisions or whether the Executive could make a decision. Spending money would be the crux.

**No. 18 – page 51**

**Web Site**

This was continued after the morning tea break.

Mrs Ann Connan recommended that Australian Church Women put a page on all available denominational web sites (this would be at no cost) and more people would access the page: please keep it up to date.

#### COMMENTS BY NEWCOMERS

Less business – more everything else!

Consensus model in resolving business matters

In the Business sessions the possibility of extending participation to more people (those who have great experience of Australian Church Women)

Time for motions from the floor re issues of the time (e.g. refugees)

Explore the possibility of a Press Release

State Units will report on National Conference and send to the denominational press.

#### ACWC CAMEO SPOT – Ms Uma David, India

Uma spoke of events in her life and then explained what a burden the dowry system is. Even the Christian community adheres to this long-standing cultural custom.

Uma told of her own daughter for whom she had secured an 'arranged' marriage – also a cultural custom – and without dowry, as Uma thought, only to find a few days before the engagement was announced that a dowry was required. Uma believed God wanted her to persist in refusing to pay dowry money and indeed her daughter is now married to a young man who required none of this. Girls are unwanted in India and female infanticide is the highest cause of death in babies. The Government is persecuting Christians and introducing more and more Hindu subjects in schools.

President Marj Dredge told the Executive members of Asian Church Women's Conference how valuable their contribution had been.

Marj Dredge read 'word of hope' from Jeremiah and led in prayer.

Hand painted scarves with the Sturt Desert Pea emblem on them were presented to each member of Asian Church Women's Conference Executive who were present.

Nancy Lin, President ACWC thanked National Conference members for their hospitality.

#### AFTER MORNING TEA

Joining hands we sang 'Bind us together Lord'

Incoming National Executive /Western Australian Unit led in worship 'Towards Community'

Marj Dredge thanked everyone for the great privilege in being National President and leading the Conference. Marj was presented with flowers.

**The installation of the new National Executive**, now based in Western Australia, then took place.

New National President, Reverend Lee Edwards was presented to the Conference and she spoke of the theme for the next two years, 'Towards Community'.

#### CLOSE

Marj Dredge closed the Conference as we went to lunch and said 'Goodbye'.

## SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

### Question 1 - What is ACW trying to achieve?

Survive!  
Promotion of Ecumenism  
Getting to know various Christian faiths  
Together as one body in Christ  
Only body of Christian women that meet?  
Strategies for self preservation including living out the aims of ACW  
At the grass roots to promote ecumenism amongst denominations of women  
Trying to get women not to live in little boxes of denominations. To look outside the square  
Confirmation and qualification of who and what you are.  
Aims of ACW still remain important – to bring Christian women together across denominational groups – encourage ecumenical projects. How to do it?  
Ecumenism – recognition – Unity and acceptance of others' traditions.  
Fellowship of the Least Coin, Winifred Kiek Scholarship, Special Days – worth promoting and spending money on – to raise money e.g good speakers. Up to date videos  
Fulfilling Aims – bringing together, understanding each other, communication on personal level, networking with each other and with other organisations, reach out through social concerns/justice  
Build on common ground  
Recognition from heads of individual churches; educating them by making our aims clearly known. Sharing our differences, appreciating these but working together in unity.  
Have a nucleus of committed women to hold together and build on. Like Cate Clarke's suggestion, have group of young women coming to meetings together.

### Question 2 – What are the current opportunities or threats?

#### Opportunities

Presenting our aims to the community – South Australian Unit holds community morning teas by supporting different causes. They go into different areas to conduct them and by that, extend the news and doings of WKS and FLC.  
Another example is of one person who was a Social Issues convener being asked to represent them on a Denominational Social Issues group and has been able to educate many men and women in this group as to the doings of ACW.

#### **N.B.** Say Australian Church Women **NOT** ACW

Younger generation not so denominational minded, which should make ecumenism easier.  
Younger generation want meaningful meetings that are challenging with good speakers and topic.  
Maybe evening services or Saturday mornings? (though all in group stated they did not want to go out at night)  
Personal invitations still the best. Communication, word of mouth.  
Publicity – Publicity – Publicity!  
Younger women interested in learning/knowing God – not more meetings or structure – so – make contact/use of existing groups e.g. – Bible Study, Craft, Student Christian groups, by encouraging support of World Day of Prayer, Fellowship of the Least Coin, as specific projects and use this means to open further involvement in wider aspects of Australian Church Women.  
Meet in different venues  
Meals – simple, dinners, pubs etc.  
Weekend meetings. Run a kids club at the same time  
Variety of meeting styles

### ***Seminar on the Future of Australian Church Women continued***

Meet with women of different faiths. Commence with dialogue  
Meet on neutral ground – Community centres, council buildings  
One member shared that their Diocese is to have a program of education on Ecumenism  
New branches  
Permission needs to be given to run creative programs to suit the circumstances e.g. No procedures – just fellowship (plus FLC); meetings over evening meals (plus speaker)  
Student groups (plus video)  
Go where there are young people e.g. Pentecostal groups  
Outreach in denominational meetings – not left to affiliates for ACW as well as FLC – more aggressive promotion  
Need for focus – promote links with ACWC  
Forum for women of different churches to come together  
Communication and publicity important  
We have not attracted Orthodox or Anglo Celtic  
An Annual Women's Prayer Breakfast – well organised and publicised – good speaker, sponsored by ACW will give opportunity to promote ACW  
Opportunity to reach out

### **Threats**

No future unless younger women are attracted  
Modern communication with computer etc. can cause isolation  
Concern about multi faith concept overshadowing Christian support and outreach  
Our current image – age – but this can be an advantage too.  
Shift work/lifestyle

### **AIMS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**

1. To unite Christian women across denominational boundaries so that
  - Fellowship is enriched
  - Witness is strengthened
  - Worship is enhanced
  - Study and understanding are enlivened
  - Outreach is enacted
  - Reconciliation is realised
  - Justice is promotedFor all women locally, nationally and internationally
2. To promote and support the Fellowship of the Least Coin
3. To promote and support the Winifred Kiek Scholarship

Question 1 - When people are asked to join ACW, what do they say?

No. - They would answer that they already do that as they worship in many different churches – people move around churches to find where they are comfortable, not necessarily the denomination.  
The aims do not seem to matter. Most women from the churches say that is what we are doing anyway.

*Aims of Australian Church Women continued*

Question 2 - Where do we need to focus our energies?

Communication – publicity – A4 posters  
Always wear our badges at appropriate times  
We need to get the Heads of Churches informed. Closer links with state ecumenical council  
Publicity through all women's ministry Units in all churches, by newsletters, magazines, resource material  
We need to go into all Christian Women's groups and promote in a positive enthusiastic way.  
Make the FLC and WKS information available to others through the Fellowship Day, World Community Day services  
Be involved in wide community activities to promote ACW  
Member churches (not only women's groups) to encourage members to be involved  
Need to get more people involved – promotion and publicity – dynamic growth  
We need to communicate person to person.  
Be enthusiastic for the cause, but make sure when we get them in, that our activities engender enthusiasm – that they are applicable and relevant to people's needs, not just what we are comfortable doing.

Question 3 - What changes do you want to achieve?

Consider a web site  
South Australian Unit is planning to reach out to the four regions of Adelaide suburbs (i.e. North, South, East and West). The Southern region is working well. It is time to move out – not hold all meetings in the city.  
Through contacts try to get local branches established.  
Our Mission Statement needs to be concise.  
Most people do not respond so much to theoretical statements, they respond to enthusiasm.  
ACW needs to 'romance' about it e.g. our response to Asian Church Women's Conference, Least Coin projects etc – something that touches peoples' hearts that they want to be part of it.  
More open interesting meetings, encouraging individuals to attend  
Perhaps change our attitudes re presentation – meeting procedures  
Permission to use creativity – freedom to have flexibility

Question 4 – What are the barriers to change?

The main barrier is holding back 'because it has not been done before'.  
Things do not have to change, people's attitudes have to change.  
Comfortable in what we know and what is familiar  
Change is not always growth.  
The word 'change' is a barrier. Do we need change or do we need growth? If we do not grow we will die.  
Perception that is held of the group (or reps. in own church 'A prophet has no honour in his country').  
People in local churches are often not ecumenically minded.  
Traditionalism  
Age – lack of energy

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