

Minutes of the Preliminary Meeting of the ACW National Executive Elect
Monday 15th April 2013, at 1.00 pm
Uniting Church Building, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney

Present: Lyn Middleton (Chair), Isabel Hewitt, Pamela Freeman, Lillian Hodges, Joy Inglis, Tricia Graham, Brenda Dickinson, Jan Jeffrey, Elizabeth McEwen.

Apologies: Denise Secombe, Nancy McLaren, Jennifer Pepper

Welcome: Lyn Middleton welcomed everyone to this preliminary meeting and thanked participants for their attendance and stated that there were several issues that needed consideration before we take over.

Opening Remarks and Devotional Thought: *Psalm 124:8 'Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth'.* We need to look to the Lord for our help in all that we do.

Lyn quoted from a book about Gladys Aylward, a missionary to China, who was rejected by the China Inland Mission because they didn't think her capable of learning the language. She worked in China and Taiwan for many years, and became fluent in six Chinese dialects.

Lyn commented that some of us might be wondering about the roles we have accepted and whether we will be able to handle them. Lyn reminded us that whatever difficult tasks we might be called to do, remember that God is our helper.

1 Theme for our term of office as NE

Lyn stated that this needs to be decided quickly to enable the ACT branch to prepare the Order of Service for Fellowship Day 2014. Pamela Freeman is responsible for Special Days, so she is to select themes.

Copies of suggested themes were circulated to the meeting.

Pamela submitted two suggestions:

We Believe God is (based on the Mission Statement)

God is holy and righteous; God is in Christ, reconciling us to himself and others;

God is Father Son and Holy Spirit; God is worthy of our praise.

Building Together: *Let us Build an Altar; a Wise or a Foolish Builder; Building Each other up; Our Future Building.*

'Our Abundant God' (Nancy McLaren) *Abounding Grace, Love in Abundance, Present Peace and Joy overflowing (John 10:10)*

Brenda had similar thoughts to Nancy based on the theme of 'Abundant God'.

'People of Grace' (Lyn)

God is Gracious, Set Free by Grace, Garments of Grace/Growing in Grace, and All-sufficient Grace/The Sufficiency of Grace (Abounding Grace)

Caring for God's Creation (Isabel)

The Earth is the Lord's—Creation Story; Created in God's image—humankind—servants of God; Climate Change—Sustaining Creation—sharing the earth—greed leading to degradation; Justice, Peace & Economic Prosperity—for All.

Together in Prayer & Praise (Elizabeth)

Come into his presence with thanksgiving, Rejoice in the Lord, Pray without ceasing; Let the earth rejoice.

During discussion about the themes, the following points were made:

- Joy suggested that we should consider things that are threatening people, such as world financial crisis, extreme weather events and thought perhaps a Revelation teaching about what we look forward to in Christ would be a good idea.
- Lyn commented that a lot of good thought has gone into the submissions and the main focus is that we have to come up with four worship services and everything put forward would meet that end.
- Tricia suggested combining various aspects of each of the submitted themes.
- Should we use one of the words from the previous theme to show continuity?
- Caring for God's creation and Together in Praise & Prayer can both relate to the environment.
- A theme is needed that sounds good and incorporates what we are thinking about.
- When the themes go out for each service we need to include the scriptures to send them in the right direction.

After discussion and careful consideration about integrating aspects of the various suggested themes, it was agreed that **Building Together** would allow for this. Lyn stated that she would like to see the 'built' and 'building' in each of the topics. Tricia and Jan suggested that 'building' is better to show a continuous thing.

It was agreed that the theme for our term as National Executive would be Building Together, and the topic for Fellowship Day 2014 will be 'Building Each Other Up'.

2 Allocation of Conference funds

- a. Members attending the conference: Elizabeth and Nancy will not be going. Everyone else on the Incoming National Executive indicated their intention of attending.
- b. Those sponsored by State/churches: Pamela and Isabel are covered by the State. The Salvation Army is very generous and will pay for Lillian and Lyn. Lyn advised that Joy might get consideration also. This leaves 5, possibly 6 people, who may be eligible recipients.
- c. Amount available for allocation: Lyn advised that there is a travel fund which is quite healthy. The guidelines allow for an amount of at least 50% of Conference costs, including travel and accommodation to be made out of this fund for five members of the Incoming National Executive.

The Registration fees are \$650.00, air fares around \$550 – so we estimating \$1200 for the fare over and accommodation – an estimated subsidy of \$600 for 5 people, around \$3000.

The Secretary, the President, two Vice Presidents and the Treasurer would need to be there to vote. The Incoming National Executive is allowed seven observers.

An Observer is part of the conference that listens and can contribute to the discussion, but does not vote. Delegates do the same as Observers, but also vote.

Lyn concluded that everyone intending to go is an eligible recipient.

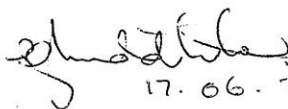
3. National Conference 2015

Lyn has approached The Collaroy Centre for information. The rates for the rooms include all standard meals. The formal dinner is extra. There are 30 hotel twin/share rooms (can accommodate 3) so up to 90 could be accommodated in the hotel. The price is approximately \$435.60 plus Gold dinner \$56: \$492.50 per person.

All agreed that the Collaroy Centre will be the venue for the 2015 ACW Conference.

The conference will be held on 7-11 September, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with a prayer at 2.45 pm.


17.06.2013

Minutes of the ACW ~~incoming~~ National Executive Meeting
Monday 17th June 2013, at 1.00 pm
Uniting Church Building, 222 Pitt Street Sydney

Present: Lyn Middleton (Chair), Brenda Dickinson, Pamela Freeman, Isabel Hewitt, Lillian Hodges, Joy Inglis, Jan Jeffrey, Elizabeth McEwen, Denise Secombe

Apologies: Tricia Graham, Nancy McLaren, Jennifer Pepper

Welcome: Lyn thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Opening Remarks & Devotional Thought: *Matthew 19:14 – But Jesus said “Let the little children come to me and do not forbid them, for such is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Lyn related the story of Lillian Trasher, a missionary who worked caring for children in Egypt from 1911 to 1961. When she was a child Lillian prayed, saying “Lord, I want to be your little girl”, and added ‘If ever I can do anything for you, just let me know and I’ll do it’. She became known as ‘Mother of the Nile’ and her orphanage cared for many thousands of children during her lifetime.

Lyn referred to the profiles of the incoming Executive members and said that it was a blessing to read them. Like Lillian, many of us had made our commitment to Christ as little girls or young women and have been doing what he wants ever since. We have said ‘yes Lord’ with willingness to serve on National Executive.

Minutes of the Meeting 15th April 2013: Lyn moved that the Minutes be accepted and Brenda seconded the motion.

Business Arising:

1 Theme for our term of office as NE

Pamela has given thought to the theme ‘Building Together’ and tried to think of another word for ‘together’, such as unity, solidarity or harmony. Her preference is for ‘Building in Harmony’.

Discussion centred on how the word ‘harmony’ might be misconstrued as ‘new-age’ or interfaith. Lyn commented that there are so many ethnic churches it would be great to draw them into ACW and that ‘harmony’ is an inclusive word.

Brenda thought it should be taken as the literal meaning of harmony, as it relates to Australian Church Women. Isabel thought that we should not be constrained by other people’s interpretations and that a scripture verse that will support ‘Building in Harmony’ is needed.

It was agreed that our theme will be ‘Building in Harmony’.

Pamela listed some of the Special Day themes that have been suggested:
Building up the Body of Christ; Sufficiency of Grace for the Body of Christ; Building with Godly Wisdom – the Wise & Foolish Builder; Building my life in Christ.; Peace Building – bridging the gap; Our future building – Striving for justice; Building to reflect God’s Glory.
Each theme will come with suggested scripture verses.
These suggested themes will be passed on to Lyn to make a decision.

Pamela talked about having a symbol to do with building: perhaps a circular design – something made of rope because it’s flexible and multiple strands to be wound together.

Lyn Googled symbols of ‘together’ and found a Presbyterian church in the States whose symbol is a cross made by people who were kneeling – very clever and it looked very effective. Other ones of a cross made up of little stick figures.

Lyn thought perhaps musical notes to represent harmony.

Pamela will do more research.

2 National Conference Perth

Lyn thanked everyone for submitting their profiles.

The National Executive hoped to have funding worked out by the end of this month so will know soon how much they are sending. The amount will be based on the Qantas fare as at 15th May, for 5 people, and registration for 5.

At the Conference, after the formal dinner, they have the induction and we have to lead a devotional time which will be based upon our theme 'Building in Harmony' and something along these lines will need to be prepared for October.

3 National Conference 2015 Confirmation of dates & venue:

The venue will be the Collaroy Centre, on September 7-11, 2015.

Everyone has specific responsibilities on National Executive. Lyn has asked Denise if she will organise the conference and Joy will work with Denise – they will form a committee. Denise has agreed to co-ordinate. It will all be brought to the executive to discuss but needs one person holding the reins. Lyn commented that Denise has good experience and thanked Joy for assisting.

Request to State Council for Conference bag items

Lyn is thinking about approaching State Council at the next meeting to ask if anyone can make something for the bags, such as small crocheted cross/bookmark. Pamela suggested that branches be approached outside the metropolitan area and ask them for post cards from their area. The discussion then turned to the sort of bag that could be used and where to source these.

The timing of the AGM in 2014 was discussed and Lyn will check with the current National Executive. Pamela thought it would have to be September/October again. This doesn't have to be announced at the Conference, but a venue will have to be booked ahead. We only have to notify two months ahead of the date.

Pamela thought about 20 people would attend – a representative from each State.

Brenda thought it should be within a year of taking office – 11 months, something like that.

The issue of material that will need to be brought back from Perth was discussed. Pamela advised that if taking an extra bag to bring material back, it will be cheaper to book the second bag in advance. It's not known how much material will need to be brought back. It may be cheaper to send it another way, eg by courier, but the approximate volume of the material needs to be known.

4 Auditor:

An auditor will be needed for our term in office. Jennifer Pepper is looking into this.

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 2.15 pm.

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President

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Date

Minutes of the ACW Incoming National Executive Meeting
Monday 19th August 2013, at 1.00 pm
Uniting Church Building, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney

Present: Lyn Middleton (Chair), Brenda Dickinson, Pamela Freeman, Isabel Hewitt, Lillian Hodges, Joy Inglis, Elizabeth McEwen, Jennifer Pepper, Denise Secombe

Apologies: Tricia Graham, Jan Jeffrey, Nancy McLaren

Welcome: Lyn thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Devotions: Denise shared a passage from "Still Waters, Deep Waters" by Rowland Croucher, the theme of which was Love without Limits, based on Matthew 5, 43-44: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Minutes of the Meeting 17 June: The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1 Theme

a) The key verse to go with our theme "Building in Harmony" is Romans 14:19 'So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.' New Living Translation, 2007.

b) Logo for our term in office as NE

Lyn and Pamela both had some ideas and examples for a logo which were passed around for comment and discussion. Lyn thought a cross needed to be in the logo. Other suggestions were that the logo should have a few colours but also to look good in black and white. After discussion, a logo was chosen with a simple cross theme and people together, which represented harmony and building.

2 National Conference Perth

a) Subsidy money has been received (\$3,205) and will be distributed between four.

b) Registration and Flights: Lyn asked how everyone is going with their registration and flights and advised that she would like a list of flight schedules so she knows when everyone is leaving and arriving. Those attending the conference will send their information to Lyn and she will collate and give a copy to those concerned.

c) Incoming NE devotions – discussed later in the meeting.

d) Material to be brought back from Perth: This was discussed at the last meeting and Isabel has received some correspondence from Margaret Ker regarding this. The National Executive will discuss this at their next meeting and will advise how much will be handed on. We can bring back lighter stuff and they can send across heavier items by courier. The Treasurer's books will not be available until after they have been finished off.

Lyn suggested that each person could discuss with their counterpart what they have that has to be brought back. When packing, perhaps leave a bit of space to bring material back and then we will negotiate sending the rest.

3 Auditor

The Auditor for our term in office will be Mr Malcolm North CPA – financial controller for the Bible Society. Lyn thanked Jennifer for organising this.

4 AGM

The constitution has been looked at and there is no change in the draft constitution for this. The AGM has to be held within five months after the end of the financial year.

c) Incoming NE Devotions

Lyn would like to introduce our theme at the conference and has put down her thoughts, which can be worked on to make a responsive meditation.

Building in Harmony

1. So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. New Living Translation ©2007 Romans 14:19

2. We are the church – the people of God, so when we talk about Building in Harmony we are not talking bricks and mortar, we are talking about the community of believers in our towns and suburbs.

3. The church is the body of Christ – just as the body has many parts so we are different but are connected to the whole and work together in harmony for the Kingdom of God. It is the one Spirit – the Spirit of Christ that is in us and through us. 4. We are the church in our communities – not just ACW but all Christian believers. Individually and corporately, we are the temple of the living God.

...you are ... members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit Eph. 2:19-22

In harmony with the indwelling Spirit of Christ let us seek to build each other up and encourage each other in the faith. For many people their church congregations are small and there is little fellowship. ACW provides an opportunity for Christian fellowship to be enriched, enlivened and extended within our communities.

Eph. 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. 5. NE Membership participation. I am God's workmanship and I will seek to build my life and Christian community in harmony with God's spirit of ...

.... Will you join me?

Lyn doesn't want this to be a devotion that only she has done, but something to which all members have contributed, by completing the above sentence (item 5) according to the role they will be playing in National Executive.

Pamela's theme chorus will be used during the devotions.

Participants would have a print-out of the devotion. Maybe they will look at the areas our members will speak about, and stand up if what has been said particularly resonates with them.

In response to a query from Jennifer, Lyn stated that the theme would be introduced after the installation.

The issue of how to involve all participants in the devotions was discussed. Some of the suggestions were:

- To give everyone a couple of pieces of lego. They will wonder what they are for, and say 'Let's build something together' and see what you can build. Try to make something; this will get them to think about building.
- Weaving with ribbons.
- Making a chain.
- Each person making a book mark
- A small keep sake.
- Joy thought she would like to make something since she can't be there.
- At the end could we have streamers and everyone stand in a circle or share the streamers around the circle.

Lyn would like those attending to send their ideas for their sentences to her, eg justice, inclusion, compassion and she will make sure that everyone is saying something different. She thought of a big box of wooden blocks with verses in clear labels on and everyone be given one at the end of the devotion, but couldn't find any suitable blocks.

Pamela: sang her song 'On Christ we build in harmony and God is glorified'.

NEW BUSINESS

1 Convenors:

Pamela reported on progress of Special Days Planning. Pamela has had word from Olive Dell and Margaret Ker, asking could we inform the ACT unit about the themes we have in place. That has been done. Also notify people about Special Day projects. This has to be ratified by State Council. This is already in motion for the branches.

New South Wales is doing the World Community Day next year. So as not to make it just a Sydney thing Tamworth will be invited to do this. Lyn has that ready to send to Tamworth.

Brenda asked if the National Website Administrator, Ewan is on contract with the current National Executive and Pamela advised that he is paid a certain amount. Brenda will find out about renewing the arrangement with him.

Jennifer advised that in the past when closing of the accounts you have to open new accounts and she can't see why we cannot have the signatures done in Perth and take ID to the bank when we get home and suggested we tell Perth this is what we would like to happen. Three signatures will be needed. They are also paying bank fees. The account should be a non-profit account with no fees – this is something that might be arranged. Lyn, Jennifer, Denise and Isabel would be the signatories.

Jennifer advised that she sent for papers to the insurance people in Melbourne and got quote for public liability insurance. They will renew until the end of December on the condition that they issue the paper work when we have taken out a new policy. Perth will renew it but they will cancel it at 31/12.

2. Social Justice Convenorship

Jan Jeffrey has undergone surgery and is not well. Jan offered to relinquish her position on National Executive. NSW Executive said to carry the position for Jan so she is still included and she could come back when ready. We will all have to carry the position of Social Justice Convenor. Trish Graham in her role could pick up some issues and all of us could contribute.

3. Format of NE meetings from November

This is the last meeting as an incoming National Executive and the form of meetings from then on will follow the same form as our council meetings. We will go around the table and take it in turns to bring devotions and will need reports from each person about their particular area of concern.

National News has had a message from the President and a report from each convenor. It should not be an onerous task for anyone. Lillian suggested that it could be called E News and sent electronically.

There being no further business the meeting closed in prayer at 2.40 pm.



Our Choice is Love

Australian Church Women Inc.
National Executive 2011-2013



4 Heatherton Mews
Hillarys WA 6025

13 September 2013

Mrs Isabel Hewitt
35 Veda Street
Hamilton NSW 2303

Dear Isabel,

Greetings from the National Executive of Western Australia.

It was decided at the National Executive meeting on Monday 9th September to increase the amount paid to the Incoming National Executive to \$2,000.00.

Please find enclosed cheque No.89 for \$2,000.00.

We wish you well with your term of office -- we have enjoyed being part of National Executive but it is good to know we are now on 'a count down'.

Looking forward to meeting with you again at the Conference.

Sincerely,

Leeola Loughnan
Treasurer
National Executive WA

President: Major Laurel Pearce
Secretary: Mrs Margaret Ker
Treasurer: Mrs Leeola Loughnan

Correspondence to: 92 Vincent St Mt Lawley WA 6050
email: passerella.dei@gmail.com
Website: www.acw.org.au

Doug Isabel Hewitt

From: K & L Middleton [middletonk@bigpond.com]
Sent: Monday, 14 October 2013 4:30 PM
To: Allan and Denise Secomb; Brenda Dickinson; Doug & Isabel Hewitt; Elizabeth McEwen; howardtricia@optusnet.com.au; janjeffrey@rocketmail.com; Joy Inglis; Lillian Hodges; nancy.mclaren@aue.salvationarmy.org; Roger & Jennifer Pepper; Warren & Pamela Freeman
Subject: National Executive

Dear Ladies,

Well here we are at the beginning of our first week in office. I think most of us are back from National Conference now or very shortly will be. It was a good conference. The venue was delightful. Accommodation was clean, comfortable and cosy. Food was excellent. Location was picturesque. Weather was temperate. Bible Study inspiring. Fellowship warm and enjoyable. Ecumenical Service, uplifting – very pertinent address. Input from special guests (Esther Kilagblian – ICFLC, Lebanon; Sonya Pell – our delegate to the Young Women’s Forum) most impressive. Business sessions, stimulating.

Our induction ceremony was conducted very thoughtfully. Scripture was from Hebrews 12:1-3; 13:21. Each member of the Incoming National Executive was introduced either in person or in absentia. Following an Act of Commitment in which we pledged our commitment to the task, we were presented with our badges of office and a token gift of a little crocheted angel and a small tin of mints. Following the installation we lead in devotions introducing our theme – *Building in Harmony*, and our theme chorus. There was considerable positive feedback on our choice of theme and appreciation expressed for the devotions.

We now have the task ahead of us. Quite a mandate has been set us by national conference 2013. While it is not a formidable task, neither is it inconsequential. Almost all of the motions and recommendations put to conference require their accomplishing by the Incoming National Executive. Much of this business I will be able to foreshadow at our next National Executive meeting and much we are sufficiently cognizant with to start work on without waiting for the conference minutes to come. Not all files and material were ready to be handed over at conference so we do have to wait for these to arrive by courier.

I want to thank you all again for being willing to serve on National Executive. It may call for some extra mile service in the next two years but as the outgoing National Executive who chose the theme of *Love* said they had learned to work together in love, I’m sure we too, will work together in *harmony*.

The quote on my calendar for this month is under the heading *Wisdom* and says – *Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.* (Marie Curie) – wisdom indeed! The conference just passed has helped me to appreciate the truth of these words. As we come to grips with our roles and understand them better and better as the days go by we can approach our task with confidence knowing that God, himself, by His Spirit walks with us, guiding, enlightening and equipping.

The next National Executive meeting will follow State Council meeting on Monday 18th November. Any apologies should be sent to Isabel.

God bless you!

Lyn

Doug & Isabel Hewitt

From: Laurel Pearce [laurip@tadaust.org.au]
Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2013 12:08 PM
To: Doug & Isabel Hewitt
Subject: Re: NSW Executive

Dear Isabel, Thank you for your kind words. I am glad NSW members received so much from the conference. In chairing the conference, I was aware that it was not what I wished to happen that was important but to ascertain how the meeting wished to proceed, so I felt it was important to allow people to say what they needed to say but also to keep things moving. Everything worked out well and we were happy with the results. All the speakers were excellent and all delegates, observers and visitors contributed well.

My ribs are still sore, but not as sore as they were. It is just a matter of waiting for them to completely heal. Takes about 6 to 8 weeks according to my Doctor. I am beginning to sleep a little better so hopefully will not be so tired and will be able to complete the paper work to pass on to national executive soon. Progress has been rather slow on that front. I hope I am not holding you folk on national executive up too much.

Every good wish to NSW Unit and to National Executive .
Blessings,
Laurel.

----- Original Message -----

From: Doug & Isabel Hewitt
To: 'Laurel Pearce'
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 5:37 PM
Subject: NSW Executive

Dear Laurel,

We had our NSW Unit Executive meeting yesterday which included a report on National Conference. There was high praise because it was a time of great blessing to all of us lucky enough to attend. One of the matters that brought many comments was the way you chaired the sessions. I would summarise by saying that we were very impressed by the way that you kept things moving and dealt with whatever was happening. And you did it so well. Thank you.

Margaret told me in an email today that you are still suffering soreness as a result of the fall you had at Conference. I am so sorry that this is the case, and do hope that it will soon pass and you can get on without the discomfort of the cracked rib. Do take care.

With very best wishes. God bless. Isabel