



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 18 February 2008, at 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Carmel Keys welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Padma Ebenezer from Sri Lanka, and Bernice Baker who was present after treatment.

Devotions reflected the Lenten theme of God's mercy, based on Luke 6. We have received God's merciful love, and the Spirit draws us into freedom, healing and forgiveness. We may have seen the divine through human kindness – help in time of need, peace and joy when burdened. God's mercy is our sure hope. We are to identify with Christ's mission to others with forgiveness, acceptance and welcome. We should take time to think of mercies received. As we have received, we should be thankful and outgoing, helping those around us.

PRESENT: 45 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 11 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Council Meeting on 19 November 2007 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Thora Thomas.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Service of Installation and Dedication at Eastwood Baptist Church, Monday 19 May 2008 at 11.00 am. Leaflets will be available next meeting. A light lunch will be provided and a gold coin donation is requested. Transport by train or bus, and parking available in streets nearby.
2. The 70th Anniversary of the Unit will be celebrated 15 September 2008 at Scots Church, Margaret Street. Council members were asked to note ideas on forms provided to help with the organisation. Jennifer Peffer spoke of the need to reflect on the history, but also to look to the future.
3. 'Profiles' of Presidents NSW Inter Church Council/ACW NSW Unit still needs photo for Amy Bowden, (1871-1955) President 1940-41, Methodist, wife of Rev Harold Stonham Bowden. Ideas for finding a photo would be welcome.
4. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Beryl Kirkwood for her work in organising the Asian Church Women's Celebration in 2007 despite having relinquished the position of convener because of ill health. Beryl accepted the certificate 'on behalf of the committee' who had helped her to accomplish such a good outcome.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the books have been audited. A sum of \$22,952.39 was sent to National at the end of 2007. This included over \$14,000 for Fellowship of the Least Coin, as well as offerings for Fellowship Day, Winifred Kiek Scholarship and World Community Day. Moved Helen, seconded Bev Elliott that the report be received and accounts paid/ratified. Carried

Helen explained the request from National Executive for State/Territory Units to support travel for the President of ACW National, and also for the delegates from Australian Church Women to the Asian Church Women's Conference meetings. Moved Helen, seconded Irene Roberts that money from the Trading Table this year be directed to the Travel Fund. Carried

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PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone told of Olive Bolliger whose husband had a stroke, is now home, but requires constant care. Julie Bryant has breast cancer and is undergoing treatment. Prayers were asked for both these Council members.

Jean Porteous had an operation in January to remove a lesion on the lower right lung, and has since had a short stay in hospital. Members were asked to remember Jean and Henry in their prayers, and also Ethel Wladysiuk who has had a stent inserted following a heart attack, and has the prospect of more surgery.

The family of Marjory Baker had sent thanks for the support they had received from ACW members on the death of their mother.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang had made a brief visit to the last Executive meeting to advise that she will be away until July as her husband ministers to people on three of the Shetland Islands. Helen Richardson will send receipts for donations direct in Janet's absence. Pamela Freeman volunteered to speak about FLC to a group at Penrith.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reminded members that the theme chosen by the new National Executive based in the ACT for 2008-2009 is *Faith in the Future*. Fellowship Day theme is **Growing in Faith**, and World Community Day is **Great is your Faithfulness**. Letters have been sent to Branches to confirm addresses, and information on Special Project requirements was included. Packing day will be after June Council meeting. Pamela encouraged face to face contact with other groups in an area, especially across denominational boundaries.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer referred members to Newsette for her detailed report. She has received emails and a letter from Leinamau and had attended the thanksgiving dinner when Leinamau finished college. A certificate was given by the college to ACW for enabling Leinamau to study through the WKS scholarship. Christmas cards had been received from some past scholars. Rachel McManus is now living in Roma, Queensland. She has practical work still to do to complete her teaching qualification, but is pregnant and will not undertake the work in the near future.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird made mention of the suggestion of the new National convener that there be an information exchange between States and National.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin reported that the first issue for the year had been sent. The deadline for copy for the next issue is 21 April 2008. email address for copy is newsette@aanet.com.au

ACWC: Lyn Middleton referred Council members to the ACWC report written by Donna Bryan in the current National News, with special reference to South Korea, our prayer partner at present.

Reports were received on the motion of Helen Hill and Denise Secomb.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 18/10/2007, 9/11/2007, 11/1/08; letter 11/2007; National News 1-3/2008

National President: emails – AWC positions vacant, Girl Guides invitation

Jean Porteous – letter/photo

Australian Women's Coalition 2007 Annual Report

Prison Fellowship

UCA Sydney Day Mission Support Group – invitation 31/3/08.

PPSEAWA – Christmas greetings, invitation 5/3/08, membership renewal

Jean Porteous – resignation as Public Officer

WCTU – Luncheon Invitation 7/4/2008 Parliament House Sydney \$35

B. Randall, The Entrance Branch – change of address

Prison Fellowship *Unbound* 2/3 2008, Family Violence Clearinghouse *Newsletter* 2/2008, *NSW Women* 11/2007, *Span* 12/2007

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

National Executive: NSW Minutes Council 20/8/2007, emails

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: On the resignation of Jean Porteous it was necessary to fill the Position of Public Officer in accordance with the requirements of our Incorporation. Moved Lyn Middleton, seconded Norma Dumbrell that Helen Richardson be appointed as Public Officer for Australian Church Women New South Wales State Unit Incorporated. Carried.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

NCW Luncheon *Celebrating Being Australian* in January the speaker was Christine Hogan, Journalist, Author and Media Producer.

UC Adult Fellowship Service Helen Richardson represented ACW NSW.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: November meeting was an opportunity for corporate members to report on their organisations. Edith Ridge and Joan Bird, as representatives from ACW NSW State Unit Inc prepared a comprehensive and interesting report on our behalf.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: *Celebrating being Australian* was held 23 January 2008. Christine Hogan as guest speaker proved to be very good, entertaining. The mature age students who received awards impressed with their endeavour to continue their studies and not give up.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Hostesses Day was held in Sydney enabling those organising services to learn about the music and use of DVD. The Newcastle meeting had also shown that some people had no experience with inter church organisation and needed a great deal of assistance in getting started.

GIRLS BRIGADE: The leaders from GB Australia who went to Tanzania have returned to Australia after a rewarding time for them as well as those they worked with. Materials had arrived at the last minute but all worked out.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant was an apology, but Norma Dumbrell told of Julie's efforts in fund-raising for the Bible Society.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION: A luncheon will be held at Parliament House Macquarie Street to launch the foundation.

The adoption of the reports was passed on the motion of Norma Dumbrell and Judith Baker.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held 21 April 2008. Nominations for Conveners need to be received by March Council Meeting, and reports (preferably by email) are due by the end of March.

Birthday greetings were expressed to Heather Reid and Pat Sutton.

Bev Pavey, the former President of National Council of Women is very ill.

Norma Dumbrell gave a very positive report on her time in Myanmar.

Thora Thomas reported on her health, and we heard she had arranged a concert for Spastic Centre funds.

Judith Baker told of her daughter's return to Australia from Uganda last July – another answer to prayer.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Carmel Keys closed the meeting in prayer – asking that we be open to God's mercy and extend it to others; that our lives might be transformed with faith, hope and love.

NEXT MEETING: 17 March 2008

CHAIRS: Presbyterian

MORNING TEA: Anglican

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____