

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of National Executive meeting 18th September 1998  
held at Catholic Centre, 143 Edward Street, Brisbane.

**WELCOME** President Aileen Mortensen welcomed all present. A special welcome to Sister Beryl Amedee, from the Catholic Church who is being considered as one of the Devotional leaders for Conference 1999.

**DEVOTIONS** Val Van de Wiel shared with us from a reading entitled God's Love poured out, and then led in prayer from the Australian Salesian Bulletin on Understanding.

**PRESENT** Aileen Mortensen, Terry Reeves, Ina Collard, Margaret Florence, Averil Jell, Val Van de Wiel, Miriam Pratt, Ailsa Skippen, Joan Trudgian.

**APOLOGIES** Mollie Jean Hunt

**MINUTES** Minutes of meeting 14th August 1998 were confirmed. m. T. Reeves s.J. Trudgian C..

**BUSINESS ARISING** from Minutes -  
a. It was agreed that a copy of Lynette Green's newsletter be made available for National Executive members.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Inwards:** as per attached list

**Outwards:** as per attached list

### **Business arising from correspondence -**

1. Women with Disabilities Australia - re Membership
2. Australian Women's Health Network - re Membership  
Val Van de Wiel moved that we do not take up membership with either 1 or 2 as we do not fulfil the requirements. Sec Joan Trudgian Carried
3. N.S.W. State Unit - re Bank charges. Treasurer confirmed that we are not charged Bank fees/charges, but we do have to pay FID and BAD Tax
4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 17th Report - Secretary, Margaret Florence, will investigate availability of additional copies for each State and Territory unit.
5. Pan Pacific & South Asia Women's Association Australia Inc. - Seminars - We do not fit into criteria - so no action to be taken.

Correspondence Inwards received and outwards endorsed m. V. Van de Wiel s. A. Skippen Carried.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

See Attached.

Accounts for Payment:-

Secretary - M. Florence - Petty Cash	\$38.00
Lynette Green - ACWC Conf Rego	1020.00
" " - Gift Retiring President	50.00
Jean Thompson - ACWC Conf Rego	US\$600.00
Barbara Lacy - " " "	US\$596.00
NCCA Conference - M. Florence	
Rego & Accom & Airfare	787.40
NCCA Ecumenical Friends Annual Fees	60.00

Moved that a letter be sent to State and Territory units reminding them that all monies are to be forwarded to the Treasurer by 30th November 1998 and that the Financial Reports be accepted and Accounts passed for payment m, J. Trudgian s. M. Pratt. Carried

**REPORTS**

**1. National President - Aileen Mortensen** - I am happy to give the following report of the 1998 Australian Women's Round Table Conference held at Parliament House Canberra on August 19 & 20 1998.

Wednesday: Hon Judy Moylan welcomed all present. She stated that "Women in Australia are a vital force in shaping the important issues of contemporary Australia". "Women are well placed to lead a positive debate about the future of our nation. The Round Table provides an opportunity to do just that."

Women & Aging: presented by Betty Johnson (Nat. Sec) - 1999 has been designated as The International Year of Older Persons I.Y.O.P.

The majority of older people are women. Living longer means that because of changing circumstances there is a great need for professional independent advice being available to women before and after retirement.

Some of the issues discussed - Employment: Technology: Health: Housing: Violence: Elder Abuse: Rural Older Women: Non English speaking older women: Aged Care Attitudes: Aboriginal & Torres Strait older women.

Child Care - Denise Swift - Child Care costs and comparisons - \$1 Billion a year allocated for child care - Concern expressed for availability for non-working mothers and about cost.

Influencing Government: Australian Council of Social Services methods of influencing Government - gaining access by targeting key persons. Culture change. Recognition of female skills. Find more than one solution to a problem, Analyse information. Assess information and discover any limitations and weaknesses.

Raising Women's Economic Standing: - Gender pay gap not as large in Australia, but part time employment has risen from 34% to 43% for women. Reshaping of employment patterns for women results in less job security. Conclusion is that women are disadvantaged in enterprise bargaining: flexibility of working hours: full time versus part time.

N.G.O. Information:- N.G.Os involve media - target key persons - Government and Community based bodies work together. - Know your own area of interest and wider ramifications. - Government needs to take advice. Judy Moylan's response :- Governments have an agenda not everyone will be pleased with funding, but fairness is sought for all.

Day 2 - Thursday 20th

Women and Leadership in reconciliation - Sally Gould:- Commitment to bringing Justice and walking together. Ignorance may bring defensiveness. Talking Circles: training and information programmes. Diversity of aboriginal women is the same as for white people/ one person cannot always speak for another. A.C.W. was mentioned as one group participating in reconciliation and training.

Tax Reforms - Peter Costello:- Discussion and presentation by Treasurer. Tax Package given out. Questions answered. ACOSS asked questions - advice not heeded.

Federal Government Initiatives on -

1. Violence against women - Discussion has been wide ranging and the package should be before Parliament by the end of the year.

2. Women and Decision making - Lyn Ranieri - Government committed to increasing the representation of women on Commonwealth Boards. Database to be set up - providing monitoring of available and suitable women for representation on boards etc.

**2. Fellowship of Least Coin Convenor - Mollie Jean Hunt**

No report - on holidays until 3rd October 1998.

**3. Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor - Ailsa Skippen**

Correspondence Inwards - 6 applications from W.K.S. Trustees, for the 1999 Scholar. letter and photocopy of new student visa for Milise Taipaleti. Change of dates she is prepared to travel interstate from 2nd to 18th November 1998

Amended Itinerary:- Depart Melbourne 3-11-98 Arrive Canberra 3-11-98  
Depart Canberra 9-11-98 Arrive Brisbane 9-11-98  
Depart Brisbane 14-11-98 Arrive Sydney 14-11-98

I have telephoned Milise to get more information regarding her proposed return to Tonga, and as she is already flying QANTAS on 20th November, we are able to get the reduced interstate fares. Arrangements and payment have to be made one month in advance.

WKS Scholar 1999 - After receiving the large number of nominations I studied them fully and then telephoned Dorothy Ferrier. I then telephoned A.C.W. National President and made arrangements to peruse them together. The hard work has been done by the Trustees and it was obvious the best choice was their selection. Miss Mai Zin Zin Wah is 28 years of age, from Myanmar. Her application is excellent and she has not received a Scholarship before this. She is supported by Archbishop Han of Myanmar, and is nominated by The Mothers Union. Archbishop assures the Trustees that when she receives the official acceptance the air fares will be met by local funding to enable Mai to study at Trinity Theological College, Singapore, where her course will consist of one year pre-entry course for her Masters Degree. The Trustees feel they should go forward in Faith, with the support of the Archbishop, pray and hope all will go well with Mai in her endeavours. A telephone call to Trustee Dorothy Ferrier confirmed their choice of applicant on Monday 7th September 1998.

National Executive have pleasure in ratifying the choice of Scholar.

Letters will now be sent to all WKS Convenors to notify them of the successful applicant for 1999

**4. Special Days Convenor - Val Van de Wiel**

I have been advised that Betty Lawrie has been replaced by Jean Thomson as Special Days Convenor for A.C.T. Also received request that we send copy of Community Day Service to Darwin. (Captain Annette Shearer is co-convenor there with Mrs Elizabeth Appleby) Also request by phone from South Aust re Themes for Fellowship Day for 1999 - Forwarded same but S.A. Convenor said some other person may have requested them from their office and she would follow this up. Also received letter from Caroline Holmes - Rockhampton re having 40 copies of Community Day service forwarded to Capella - Contacted Qld unit Convenor Joan Trudgian re this.

**5. Publications - Major Miriam Pratt**

*Please note* ...all items for next copy to be in be 1st October 1998. Thanks to all who have sent in reports, keep them coming please.

Reports were received on the motion of A. Skippen, S.T. Reeves C.

**General Business**

a. Visit of Maj. Lynette Green - she was in Brisbane on holiday this month and was able to meet with members of National Executive over lunch on Monday 14th September at the home of Margaret Florence. Lynette shared with the Executive the preparations she has made for 11th Assembly of ACWC to be held in Thailand from 14-19th November 1998. Lynette also spoke about the work done by ACWC Executive between each assembly. The National Executive would like to thank Lynette for all the work she has done in preparing for the assembly.

Recommendation 2 from NSW Unit - re Membership eligibility to be discussed at December meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, 9th October 1998

The meeting was closed in prayer and Grace by President, Aileen.

Devotions - Margaret Florence - Hostess - Val Van de Wiel

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National President

Date...../...../.....

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
Meeting held Catholic Women League Centre - 18th September 1998

CORRESPONDENCE

INWARDS

- |         |     |   |
|---------|-----|---|
| 14.8.98 | 1.  | N.E.W.S. Update - 14th August.  |
| 19.8.98 | 2.  | Women 2000 - United Nations - Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs.   |
|         | 3.  | Australian Women's Health Network - Membership.   |
|         | 4.  | Women with Disabilities Australia - re Dinner 12th Sept. - Membership Fees.   |
|         | 5.  | NSW State Unit - re Bank charges - ACW Leaflets.  |
|         | 6.  | ACWC - Illuminada Domingo -   |
|         | 7.  | Affirmative Action Agency - Facts & Figures.  |
| 26.8.98 | 8.  | South Australia State Unit - Minutes Meeting 14th August 1998.  |
| 28.8.98 | 9.  | N.E.W.S. Update - 25th August   |
| 1.9.98  | 10. | Letter Barbara Lacy - re payment registration for ACWC Assembly.  |
| 3.9.98  | 11. | W.A. State Unit - Minutes Meeting 10th July 1998.   |
| 4.9.98  | 12. | Vic. State Unit - Newsletter.   |
| 11.9.98 | 13. | Joint Standing Committee on Treaties - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - Executive Summary - 17th Report.    |
|         | 14. | Pan-Pacific & South Asia Women's Association of Aust. Inc. re Seminars & International Workshop -Singapore - 19-20 February 1999. |
| 14.9.98 | 15. | Letter of thanks - Lynette Green.   |
| 16.9.98 | 16. | Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission - re Pregnancy and Work.  |
|         | 17. | N.E.W.S Updates - 8th September.  |

Phone Call - Miss Shirley Wells NSW FLC Convenor re FLC Leaflets.  
- Lynette Green ACWC Delegate - re Assembly

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

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|---------|--|
| 23.8.98 | NCCA re Registration Form and cheque for National Forum              |
| 26.8.98 | Lynette green ACWC Delegate re Registration Fees etc. ACWC Assembly. |

Phone calls - Lynette Green re Visit to Brisbane  
Heather Reid re PPSEAWA