



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

*Minutes of Council Meeting Monday 20th June, 2016
10.30 am, 222 Pitt Street Sydney*

OPENING: Past President, Tricia Graham, introduced President Pamela Freeman to the Council meeting. Pamela welcomed all to the meeting, with a special welcome to Sister Judith Clark, visiting with Carmel Keys.

DEVOTIONS: Pamela shared readings from Psalms quoted from the book of Jonah, Chapter 2, when Jonah prayed to God while inside the fish. When Jonah had come to a crisis, he reverted to the words familiar to him from the Psalms and other parts of the Old Testament. He went to those words that he had learnt in his youth. He prayed a set prayer that he had been taught, his prayer has been kick-started by his plight, though it has not been reduced to that situation. His prayer took him into a world far larger than his immediate experience. His prayer reflected how large and great God is, and acknowledged the one with whom he was dealing. May we be encouraged to continue memorising passages of scripture that are to be hidden in our hearts, and may be drawn upon in the times of crisis, threats and uncertainty. Pamela closed the Devotions with prayer.

PRESENT: 25 present and 1 visitor. **APOLOGIES:** 9

MINUTES: The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th April 2016 were initialled as correct. *Moved by Tricia Graham and Seconded by Yvonne Coorey.*

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th April 2016 were confirmed as correct. *Moved by Lyn Middleton and Seconded by Catherine McCahill.*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Essay Competition: Information has been received from the ACW National Executive regarding the Essay Competition for 2016. This information has been forwarded to the school represented at the Dedication Day, OLMC Parramatta, also to Toongabbie Christian School.

2 Dedication Day: Comments received indicate that this was an uplifting and happy service. The music of the Salvation Army band, the OLMC music group and choir were most enjoyable.

3 Archives: Lyn Middleton reported that Isabel has started looking at NSW documents. Lyn is still going through Winifred Kiek up to 1970. This is a work in progress.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments 1st April – 31st May 2016. Total Income for April and May: \$1149.09; Total Payments for April & May \$726.23, giving a Credit Balance at 31st May 2016 of \$2699.49.

Accounts presented for payment were: P. Freeman (gift for T. Graham) \$29.95; Epping Baptist Church printing \$125.50; Treasurer's Petty Cash: \$39.85; PPSEAWA Winter Lunch \$30; Donation to Salvation Army Parramatta \$50; Epping Baptist printing ACW information \$125; Martha Noel - Postage \$20.

Pat moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and that the accounts be paid; Seconded by Denise Secomb

Fellowship of the Least Coin –No Report

Special Days: Lyn Middleton gave her good wishes to everyone planning Fellowship Day in July. Branch representatives present gave details of their services. Elizabeth will send this information to Brenda to be placed on the website. Materials have been received for WCD and these will be ready at the next meeting in August or mailed out. The theme is 'Empowered by the Spirit' – a celebration of 60 years of FLC. The 2016 Special Project is Seeds of Affinity. This project involves working with Aboriginal women prisoners in Adelaide Women's Prison, teaching skills via peer training from Seeds of Affinity participants. Lyn commented that this is a good project worthy of our support.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: There is a new WKS pamphlet with the new scholar, Esline. Christy Ferguson (Melb. 2009) is now in SE Asia for short-term mission. On arrival the creative event with many villages attending ranged from percussion through to business sessions. She is getting to know the Community Development Organization. Christy has done training sessions on TB and immunisation. There have been recent deaths from TB. She has been involved with bike-rides, tropical storms, a wedding, and catching up with old friends. Christy asks for continued prayer and that she would be used by the Father for His glory.

Leinamau (Vanuatu 2007) is on a 3 week break (Bible College, Fiji). Busy revising the Hebrew she has learnt last semester. 'She is good and happy, also putting on weight, due to more study and less play and work. The 2016 Scholar Esline will be using the Funds of the scholarship to accept an invitation to attend World Churches of Christ Convention in January 2017 in New Delhi, India. The theme is to be 'God tears down walls to build bridges' from Ephesians 2:20-21. Judith thanked Council members for their partnership with scholars past and present.

Social Issues: Rae provided form letters to: Justice Peter Johnson expressing support for sentencing of persons involved in female genital mutilation; The Deputy Prime Minister, Julie Bishop – concern about cutting foreign aid budget; and Michaelia Cash, Minister for Employment and Women, support for Government's plan for child care costs.

Membership: Martha Noel commented that falling numbers at Council meetings are becoming a concern. She encouraged Council Members to invite new people to join.

Pastoral Care: June Kay reported that a sympathy card had been sent to Roger and Jennifer Peffer on the death of Roger's brother; a card also sent to Roger and Jennifer congratulating them on their 50th wedding anniversary. June also sent a sympathy card to the family of Pat Sutton and wrote to Jean Porteus on her move to Mittagong.

Newsette: Jennifer requested articles and reports by 6th July and requested that comments be emailed to her regarding Dedication Day. Reminders have been sent to those who have not renewed their subscription and the option given of receiving Newsette by email. There has been some response – some have said they are too old to read now. Postage costs will be less because a number will be receiving Newsette by email.

Publicity: Pamphlets were handed out for the ACWC Concert of Praise on Sunday 21st August at Epping Baptist Church, and for the State Day Conference on Monday 19th September at the Salvation Army, Granville. Pamela advised that some of the artists who have performed before will be there.

It was moved by Helen Hill that the Reports be accepted; Seconded by Beatrice Kay.

CORRESPONDENCE Inwards

Lynette Green: National Essay competition
Lynette Green: Essay Poster
Nat. Secretary – ACWC Service Liturgy
Lynette Green: Report on 2016 ACWC
National Executive – March Minutes
National Executive – April Minutes
Letter from Shirley Mitchell: resignation from ACW
Tas. Unit – Committee members 2016/17
WA Unit – Office Holders 2016
SA Unit – Office Holders 2016
Jan Currie PPSEAWA re death of Marjorie Wood OAM
Robyn Gaspari PPSEAWA re Memorial Service
Return thanks from Maj. Elaine Johnson & family
WDP re ACW Representative
Girls' Brigade – Brigade Affect June 2016
PWA – Span June 2016
Governor of NSW – Invitation to Open Day
PPSEAWA Minutes Mtg. 25th May

CORRESPONDENCE Outwards

Lynette Green, Nat. President: NSW Annual Report
Anne Kennedy, Nat Secretary: NSW Annual Report
Annual Report to all State Unit Secretaries
State Unit Secretaries – NSW Unit Executive list
Letter of thanks to Shirley Mitchell, re resignation from ACW
Sympathy card to family of Pat Sutton

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

1) ACW Representative to World Day of Prayer: In response to the request from WDP for an ACW representative, Tricia Graham has offered to take up this position. If anyone else is interested in this, ACW is able to have two representatives – there are 4 meetings per year, with the next one on 28th November.

2) PPSEAWA Representative: A representative to PPSEAWA is still needed. Their meetings are on last Wednesday of the month, at the same venue as ACW meetings.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: Pamela attended the funeral for Pat Sutton, and commented that it was a well-represented service. Pamela will be attending the PPSEAWA Winter Luncheon on 22nd June and PWA Annual Conference on 4th July.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bible Society: No report

Girls' Brigade: Elizabeth Neale presented the Girls' Brigade Report for June. Their Annual State Conference was held on 29th April – 1st May at Yarramundi. Jenny Fayth was voted in as State Coordinator. Pioneer Leadership Training was held on the weekend of 14th & 15th May. Pioneer Leadership Training was also held at Cootamundra in May. The GB have been creating and sending cards to Julie Bishop advocating for the release and return of the girls captured in Nigeria. Elizabeth outlined her experience at the Pacific Conference held in Auckland in April. Five countries attended the conference: Australia, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Niue and PNG. The Commissioning of Renelle Neale (Elizabeth's mother) as new International Vice President took place.

NSW Ecumenical Council: No Report

National Council of Women (NCW): Tricia attended the Jean Arnot Luncheon at Parliament House where Anna Bligh, former Premier of Queensland, was the speaker. The morning tea to celebrate 100 years of NCW will be held on Tuesday 28th June. The Foundation Day Lunch will be held at Parliament House on 8th August – recognition awards will be presented to persons who have worked to advance the status of women, but who have not yet been recognised. The Members and Friends morning tea is on the first Wednesday of each month in the Upper Room Café.

Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA): Minutes from their meeting of 25th May were received. The guest speaker was from OzHarvest, a voluntary organisation which operates through the generosity of people, funding and donations and is the first perishable food rescue organisation in Australia that collects quality excess food from more than 2000 commercial outlets and delivers it, direct and free of charge, to more than 800 charities.

World Day of Prayer: No Report

OTHER BUSINESS:

1) **State Website Manager:** Pamela had a discussion with Brenda regarding this position, which Brenda wanted to clarify, as it was listed with 'Committees' on AGM Agenda, but is not a committee. The Website Manager does not need to be on the Executive, but be separate from Committees. They looked at ways that the website could be used and information has been sent through Brenda for ACWC Concert and for the Day Conference in September, and also information about Fellowship Day Services.

2) **Spiritual Enrichment Day 2017:** Pamela advised that the Executive is thinking of having this on the Central Coast. Pamela has been in touch with a couple of people. Also need to decide whether to have it in July or September. The National Conference will be in Melbourne in the first week of October.

3) **ACWC Concert Catering:** Following a suggestion by Helen Hill and Jan Harrison, it was moved by Heather Reid and Seconded Lyn Middleton, that Jan and Helen buy the hot food requirements (pies/sausage rolls) and paper plates and serviettes needed for the ACWC afternoon tea.

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.00. Pamela closed with prayer and ministered to us with song. *Benediction: 'Go out from this place assured of his continuing presence with you in every circumstance. Amen*

NEXT MEETING Monday 15th August 2016

Morning tea: Uniting

Chairs: Catholic

Trading Table: The Salvation Army