



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 16 June 2008, at 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Carmel Keys welcomed Mrs Jennifer Peffer to the Chair as the new President. In welcoming everyone to the meeting Jennifer made special mention of Marie McCann and Joan Tong who were visiting for the day, and later Heather Reid who was back after a time of ill health.

Devotions were based on Isaiah 60: 1-5a 'Arise, shine, for your light has come' (NIV). It is hard to wake up when surrounded by darkness, but with light in our lives we can change and be open to others. Faith in Christ will give us purpose.

PRESENT: 38 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 16 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Council Meeting on 21 April 2008 were confirmed on the motion of Carmel Keys and Bernice Baker. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on the same day were initialled as being correct on the motion of Peg Cameron and Val Neilson.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. The Service of Installation and Dedication at Eastwood Baptist Church, Monday 19 May 2008 was an excellent day. Appreciation was expressed for the address and the overall conduct of the service. The collection amounted to \$631.50.
2. Preparations for the 70th Anniversary of the Unit to be celebrated 15 September 2008 at Scots Church, Margaret Street are proceeding. Theme for the day is *Looking Back – Moving Forward*. Speakers on *Looking Back* are Edith Ridge and Joan Tong, while Pru Goward MP will address *Moving Forward*. Lyn Middleton will lead the closing devotions for the day. Registration will begin at 9.30 am and the \$25 cost includes morning tea and lunch.
3. The collection of material for 'Profiles' of Presidents NSW Inter Church Council/ACW NSW Unit has at last been completed with a photo of Amy Bowden being received. A limited number of Annual Reports which included her photo were made, and one was given to Ian Bowden, a nephew of Amy. An extract of the section on Past Presidents in the Annual Report was emailed following an enquiry from one of the women who had supplied a photo of her grandmother. It is hoped to supplement the very basic information in the report into a more informative version.
4. Since the Annual General Meeting there has been no advance in the quest for a Social Issues Convener. Council members were asked to keep this matter in mind and to pray that someone might be found to take on this responsibility. Following the suggestion of Sr Joan Bird that we keep sight of local social needs Robyn Gaspari from Eastwood Christian Community Aid has been invited to speak at August Council meeting. Robyn is also involved with Australian Women's Coalition.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the end of May was \$2963.98. Morning tea and Trading Table amounted to \$57.80 at April meeting. It was moved Helen, seconded Judith Baker that the report be received and accounts paid/ratified. Carried. Moved Helen, seconded Beryl Kirkwood, and agreed that \$2000 be transferred into an investment account.

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PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone was an apology. Her daughter in law is to have a bone marrow transplant, and prayers were asked for the family, including Olive and John. It was good to have Heather Reid back, Edith Ridge has had a problem with ulcers on her leg, Peg Blake is home but may need an operation on her back, Bev Elliott's husband is home from rehabilitation.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported briefly on her recent travels to France and Canada. Fellowship Day theme is **Growing in Faith**, and packing was to follow Council meeting. An error in the order of service was brought to attention, the Hebrews reading being chapter 11 and not chapter 1. Pamela spelt out how Parramatta Branch has been revitalised by using the experience of older members to assist new people.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer has been in contact with Leinamau and with Imelda, the current WKS Scholar. Judith has been playing a very significant part in WKS, keeping information flowing beyond NSW.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton brought information supplied by Donna Bryan on the cyclone damage in Myanmar/Burma early May. The ACWC representative had made contact as had Esther Byu, but the extent of the trauma would take time to heal. Pakistan conditions are still difficult, while in Sri Lanka the situation is worsening. China has been affected by earthquake damage. Lyn noted that churches were making responses to the great needs in these areas.

ACWC Executive Committee and General Committee meetings were held early June. Donna Bryan and Pat Walker attended, but reports are not yet available.

Items for the ACWC Concert at 2.30 pm on Sunday 21 September 2008 at The Salvation Army Parramatta, corner of Smith and Phillip Streets are making slow progress. Lyn asked members to pray that contact might be made with groups who can contribute, and also asked for any leads people had for churches who could help.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: In Janet Lang's absence in the Shetlands Helen Richardson led a devotional from Scotland. Shanti Solomon visited Scotland and Helen Galloway followed in her footsteps. We are asked to value and pray for the poor in spirit, those suffering abuse, the addicted, the homeless, the hungry, the infirm, the lonely, the uneducated, the refugee, those who don't know forgiveness. The Holy Spirit is with us, and we need courage and strength to tell of God's love.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin noted that the deadline for copy for the next issue is 21 July 2008. Email address for copy is newsette@aanet.com.au

PUBLICITY: Leaflets were available for the ACWC Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Concert at The Salvation Army Parramatta on Sunday 21 September 2008 at 2.30 pm. Nancy has also produced a leaflet for Associate Members.

Reports were received on the motion of Sandra Wise and Heather Badgery.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 11/4/08

Jennifer Peffer

PWA NSW Invitation

NSW Ecumenical Council – AGM 14.6.08 at Thornleigh

Helen Hill

Janet Lang – from Shetlands

Margo Watson – re Past Presidents

Edwina Blair, C of C Women's Ministry – apology

UCAF Sydney Day Mission Support Group – invitation 11/8/08 Roseville

Marie McCann – photos

Dorothy Woodhouse

Prison Fellowship Unbound 2008-including Supporter Survey; PWA Span 6/2008; Family Violence Clearinghouse Newsletter 32

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CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

National Executive: NSW Council Minutes 3/2008, Annual Report
ACW States/Territories – Annual Report
Margo Watson – Extract from Annual Report

Correspondence was received on the motion of Thora Thomas and Nancy McLaren.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells reported that the Jean Arnot Memorial Lecture had been held with Dr Louise McLeod as the speaker. A total of 43 women over 90 years of age attended and were honoured. NSW had hosted the National NCW conference, and the NSW resolutions passed related to 457 Visas and the human rights of trafficked people. The Foundation Luncheon will be held at Parliament House 6 August 2008 and the cost will be \$70. The wife of the Prime Minister has been invited as speaker, but it is not known whether she will be available.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Sr Joan Bird reported that PPSEAWA had been looking at Fair Trade, and Council members were referred to the website for further information. Another topic of great interest is Organ Donation, as it has been pointed out that Australia has a very low rate of donation because families don't always honour what a person has requested. The Sharelife Australia website has information for people wishing to follow this up. As a fundraiser PPSEAWA has produced a recipe book, *Platters for Peace*, a copy of which was passed around.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The service for nursing homes has been prepared. Hostess Day will be 24 November 2008 at Salvation Army Headquarters.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Pamela Freeman reported on the AGM with the theme 'the leaves of the tree for the healing of the nations'. Topics raised at the meeting included: What is expected of the Council? Justice, peace and reconciliation, Refugees, Iraq, Urban Pilgrimage, Working and praying for justice and peace in Palestine/Israel.

BIBLE SOCIETY: There will be a stall at the 70th Anniversary celebration at Scots Church.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- ❖ Thora Thomas reported on recent experiences in Northern Ireland.
- ❖ Brenda Dickinson told of her replies regarding Fellowship Day for inclusion on the website.
- ❖ Marie McCann told of a YWCA reception at Admiralty House – significant because funds from the sale of 'Wybalena', a house set up in 1952 by the NSW Women's Inter Church Council for young country women in Sydney had been donated to the YWCA in 1971 for 'Tremayne' hostel at Kirribilli which provided similar accommodation and care.
- ❖ Isabel Hewitt spoke of attending Myall Creek commemoration with its focus on reconciliation.
- ❖ Carmel Keys drew attention to the coming World Youth Day event in Sydney and asked for prayer for those who attend, for patience and for welcoming.
- ❖ Sr Marie Craddock reported that the Australian Christian Meditation Community was providing a sacred space at Paddington Uniting Church during the event. Fr Laurence Freeman will assist those who wish to know more about contemplative prayer.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Jennifer Peffer closed the meeting in prayer – World Youth Day events, Sydney city, those who attend – before asking for blessings of light, love and power, God with us.

NEXT MEETING: 18 August 2008

CHAIRS: Churches of Christ
MORNING TEA: Catholic

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____