



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 20 March 2006, 10.30a.m.

PRESENT: 39 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 17 as recorded.

Major Lyn Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Lyn led a devotional based on Genesis 2: 7 – he formed a man...he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils; John 20: 22 – then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”, and Acts 2: 1-2 ...all the believers were gathered together ...suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing. We had seen on television athletes with breathing problems after their races – in need of a breather. Pace can cause us to be out of breath, but good breathing physically should be regular, deep and slow. Similarly we need to take a breather spiritually in the presence of God, take time to catch our spiritual breath which also needs to be regular and deep. “Breathe on me breath of God...” Leading in prayer Lyn prayed especially for Branches and asked for blessing on the Council meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting 20 February 2006 were confirmed after correction on page 1: Helen Stutchbury suffered a stroke and is in care, her daughter is attending to her correspondence. Passed on the motion of Irene Roberts and Mina Whybourne.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. 1. Service of Dedication and Installation, Monday 15 May 2006 at 11.00 am at Mary Immaculate & St Athanasius Church, 50 Whistler Street, Manly. Sheets were passed around at Council to note intended attendance of Council members. Publicity leaflets were available for members to take.

2. Annual General Meeting 10 April 2006. It was noted that nominations were still needed for Special Days, ACWC, Membership and Pastoral Care Conveners. It was noted that each denomination must be represented on Executive. Lyn asked all present to consider whether they could accept nomination.

3. Nominations for Certificates of Appreciation. In addition to Life Membership at National and State levels, and inclusion in *Honouring Australian Church Women*, Executive is recommending that those who have served ACW faithfully for 15 years or more be presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. Council members were asked to bring forward names of people who would qualify.

4. Isabel Hewitt reported on her recent trip to South America. The report took the form of a poem covering the first four weeks in Argentina, Peru and Bolivia, and a general report on the World Council of Churches 9th Assembly held in Porto Alegre in Brazil. The workshops at the Assembly indicated that some of the concerns we have dealt with in recent years, such as trafficking, fair trade and refugees are ongoing concerns in many parts of the world. Speakers at the Assembly included the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Rowan Williams who spoke on inter faith matters, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu who thanked the World Council of Churches for its critical role in the abolition of apartheid in his beloved South Africa. He called for greater understanding and an earnest quest for peace.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC-COUNCIL MEETING 20/3/2006-2

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the end of February was \$1743.03. Moved Helen Richardson, seconded Janet Lang that the report be received and payment of accounts for PPSEAWA, WCTU and Lyn Middleton be approved. Carried.

Moved Helen Richardson, seconded Judith Baker that \$625 for the book *Winifred* be paid to National, with a further \$625 to be sent at a later date. Carried.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Winsome Penn reminded members of the Assembly to be held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2006. A request has been made for Australian postcards which can be given to people attending from other countries. Winsome asked for prayers for the people, plans, and preparations as well as for the finances for the conference.

SPECIAL DAYS: Valma Pethybridge thanked Heather for her concern. The Fellowship Day Service prepared by the Queensland Unit has the theme "I am the Bread of Life". Packing day will be 22 May 2006, 9.30 am on level 9.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer in her report asked that people remember the two Australian Scholars for this year. Anjou had sent a card thanking ACW for its support, and asking for prayers for her future ministry.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird presented a document on Concerns with regard to Mental Health Care. Replies from Federal MPs had been received and forwarded from National Executive, and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the ministers and shadow ministers at State level.

MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery reported that Laura Wilkins who suffers from Ménière's syndrome is home from hospital after treatment, but is unsure about whether she should have the follow up because she feels she is worse than before. Robin Phillis is optimistic about the drastic treatment she is having despite its severe side effects. Shirley Wells is to have a hip operation 30 March and sends her love and thanks for prayer.

NEWSETTE: Deadline for copy for the next issue 10 April 2006

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren urged Council to remember Installation & Dedication day.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang reported that donations are still coming in. From *Circle of Prayer* no.17 Janet led a devotional 'Voice from Lebanon' which pointed to the need at each stage of life to listen to the Spirit of God rather than to the futile wisdom of the world.

All reports received on the motion of Thora Thomas and Irene Roberts.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

ACW National – Minutes 13/2/2006, Circular Letter 1/2006, invoice, *National News* 3/2006

Response on Special Project proposals

ACW SA – Newsletter 3-6/2006; address list

Marie McCann – re National Conference

Bonnie Lyons – Burwood-Concord Annual Report

Nancy McLaren – Publicity report

Helen Richardson re Associate Members

Carmel Keys – Minutes

Judith Cayzer – Report

Joan Tong re Advent Project

Forest Kirk Women's Fellowship - cheque

WCTU – Luncheon invitation 27/3/2006

NCW re Australia Day, *News*, Invitation to Jean Arnot Luncheon 28/4/2006

Nungalinga News 12/2005, *NSW Women* 3/2006, *Span* 3/2006

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CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

National Executive – re WCD Special Project

MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Special Project Proposals from NSW – National Executive indicated that the NSW suggestions for assistance to “Young Life” had not been successful.
2. Joan Tong presented her proposal that material be prepared for children explaining the Christian message of Christmas. It was agreed that a meeting be set up with the Bible Society to consider the proposal.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

PRESIDENT’S BUSINESS:

1. Beryl Kirkwood presented a book review on *Winifred*, and saw the book as a window into the many areas of Winifred Kiek’s involvement. This very positive response was an encouragement to buy and read what has been ‘out of print’ and therefore out of reach for quite some time. It was suggested that a copy be sent to each of the past Scholars, but agreed that we should check first with National as to whether this has been done.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The service for 2006 from South Africa has received good feedback. Many services had African people in attendance.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported on the November ‘festive’ meeting where Mary Cabrera, Peace Ambassador for International PPSEAWA spoke of the cotton squares collected to make quilts for use in Indonesia. Three members had attended a “Beyond Interfaith Dialogue” conducted by Muslim women. This year is International Year of Deserts, and Perdita Herbert spoke of her work as a Bush Church Aid Nomad in remote areas of Australia, using her teaching and computer skills to help with desk-top publishing and office work in outposts of BCA.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant spoke of new outreach materials: New Testament for Women including Psalms and Proverbs; He loves Me, He loves me not, He loves me: Jesus the Extraordinary Man according to Luke. New city premises at 213 Clarence Street, Sydney.

Thanks were expressed to the Catholic ladies for setting out the chairs and to the Salvation Army ladies for the excellent morning tea.

The Trading Table was operating, thanks to the Anglican ladies.

NEXT MEETING: 10 April 2006

Annual General Meeting

Chairs: Churches of Christ

Morning Tea: Catholic

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Lyn Middleton closed the meeting with the benediction following prayers for Laura Wilkins, Shirley Wells, Robin Phillis, Thora Thomas, Ruth Dickenson and her son, and for those in Queensland affected by the cyclone.

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____