



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney on Monday 15 March 2004 at 10.00 a.m.

Jan Harrison welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that Ros Bemrose was attending for the first time as a Churches of Christ representative.

Apologies had been received from Jean Porteous who had suffered a mild stroke, who is progressing well, and who has asked for prayers; and from Ruth Bouckley for this and next meetings.

DEVOTIONS: Beryl Kirkwood focused on the Exodus instructions for the Passover which show the redemptive activity of God, the deliverance from oppression, and supplying daily needs. Jesus celebrated with his disciples on the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread and we learn who Jesus is - the Bread of Life, the True Vine - the sustenance for 'life' as the living bread. We are the branches of the vine who must bear the fruit - each needs the other. We need spiritual preparation for the Easter period.

Prayer was offered for Joan Thuaux, Past President of NSW Presbyterian Women's Association, whose husband's funeral was being held at the time we were meeting.

PRESENT: 36

APOLOGIES: 13

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of 16 February 2004: The Minutes were confirmed on the motion of Robin Phillis and Nancy McLaren.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Nominations for April Annual General Meeting have been received for most positions, but *Social Issues and Special Days* have not yet been filled.
2. The Installation and Dedication Service will be held at Dulwich Hill Salvation Army, 54 Dulwich Street, Dulwich Hill on Monday 17 May at 10.30am. Extra leaflets were available and there was some discussion on buses from the city, with a promise that full information would be available for the April meeting. The Salvation Army ladies will provide food for the lunch to follow, and Council members are asked to supply slice.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the books have been audited. Moved Helen Richardson, seconded Judith Baker that the audited reports be received. The current balance is \$3114.75. Moved Helen Richardson, seconded Norma Dumbrell that the report be received and accounts passed for payment. Carried

MEMBERSHIP/PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery reported that Beryl Duncan was having surgery for a shoulder replacement. Heather had contacted Jean Porteous and Thora Thomas.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer reported that Mina Whybourne had received a letter from Doreen Tie Chin Bing who was WKS scholar in 1990. Doreen is Principal of a School for Handicapped in Kuching. Her two children are at school. Awaiting news on the scholar for 2004, Mereani Dinaeika Raqeu. Judith gave a very brief outline of the life of Winifred Kiek after whom the scholarship is named.

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FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Nancy McLaren led a short devotional from *Circle of Prayer 14* from Guatemala. The situation is not good in Haiti at present. From the story of the raising of the young girl and the healing of the bleeding woman we learn that Christ is accessible to everybody, responds to our needs and is our hope. The church must be an instrument of hope to bring justice and peace.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin asked that copy for the next Newsette be in her hands by 5 April 2004.

SPECIAL DAYS: Irene Carder reported that packing day will be 24 May 2004 at 9.00am on the 9th floor, 222 Pitt Street. Theme for Fellowship Day is "*My peace I give to you*", and for World Community Day it is "*Be one that the world may believe*".

Moved Janet Lang, seconded Peg Cameron that the reports be received. Carried.

President Elect, Lyn Middleton gave a report to Council on her recent stay in Moldova with her husband working with the Salvation Army Eastern Europe Command. The Division with which they were associated takes in the Ukraine, Moldova and Romania.

Moldova has 4.5 million people, and is rated the poorest country in Europe with 80% living in poverty. As might be expected with such conditions, diseases such as rickets and HIV AIDS are prevalent. The average monthly income is \$US30-40, with teachers/doctors earning \$US20-25. It was very cold while Lyn and Ken were in Moldova with heavy snow falls most days.

The two thrusts of work in the Division are Evangelism and Humanitarian Aid. Friendship evangelism tries to reach people who have no religion - personal relationships are important. Ladies meetings were well attended, as were youth meetings in the city. Reflecting the early church, the people care for each other greatly. Project funding comes from overseas for projects such as: Gypsy people from Romania are eligible for funds available to Holocaust victims; provision of heating; food once a week for the poor; education on HIV AIDS; school education; child sponsorship; prison work. There are few trappings and a real freshness among the Salvation Army people they worked with who are ready to give testimony that God is answering prayer.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive - Minutes 19/1/2004, 16/2/2004; Circular letter, Ratification notice;

Elizabeth Connor, Narooma - New office bearers

Yvonne Ward, Churches of Christ Women's Ministries - Rosalyn Bemrose new rep.

YWCA - invitation International Women's Day Lunch 12/3/2004; notice re Kid's Program

Edith Ridge - re ACW News

NCW - Jean Arnot Luncheon 30/4/2004

Living the Dream Program 16-18/4/2004

PLC Sydney, Cross Roads Community Perth - thanks on WCD Special Project money

Winners Without Drugs - invitation for noon 22/3/2004 Salvation Army Eliz. St - \$25

Norma Dumbrell - Sutherland Shire Report

Deidre Miles - Mayfield Branch

ABM Sydney Auxiliary - AGM invitation 10.30am 24/3/2004 St James' King Street

Span 3/2004, Womenspace 3/2004

(Outward) Elizabeth Connor - thanks

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Ratification of Motions for Changing the Constitution of Australian Church Women. Five motions were passed at the National Conference in Perth, but because adequate notice had not been given to State Units the motions were subject to ratification. The motions involve:

- inserting the word 'National' before the word 'Conference';
- National Executive sending amended Constitution to State Units;
- the Mission Statement being included as part of the Constitution;
- voting rights for five members of incoming National Executive and five members of the incoming National Executive;
- extending the "Relationships" clause to include Australian Women's Coalition of which ACW has become a member.

It was agreed that the NSW State Unit delegates to Perth, Jean Porteous and Isabel Hewitt endorse ratification of these changes to the Constitution of ACW.

REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells reported that in recognition of Women's History Month NCW were to hear a talk by Patricia Skehan of Concord Heritage Society on Dame Eadith Walker. The first meeting for the year was in February and the program for the year looks good. NCW will meet now on the last Wednesday of the month. Preparations are going ahead for Beijing +10, and Shirley told us that we would be hearing about Women's Caravans in the near future.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Nola Dickson reported on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which this year is based on resources prepared by the Christians of Aleppo, Syria with the theme "*My peace I give to you*". The Refugee Program based at the House of Welcome in Carramar is expanding with churches becoming more involved - thanks from Lorraine Phelan and the asylum seekers who are helped. A fund raising dinner will be held 29 April at Canterbury Park Events Centre where Archbishops Peter Carnley and John Bathersby will speak on "The Unity We Seek-Have we stopped looking?" Cost is \$70. The aim of the Council is "That we may be one".

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Follow up meeting on the recent Service will be held 5 April 2004.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Peg Blake told Council that Mina Whybourne's daughter, Anne, was to leave soon for a six month placement with Medicins sans Frontiers in Sierra Leone. Peg asked for prayers for Anne as she takes up this difficult task of working with the children who are victims of the war.

NEXT MEETING: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 April 2004

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Jan Harrison closed the meeting with prayer after thanking the Churches of Christ ladies for providing and serving morning tea, and Baptist ladies for doing the chairs.

Prayer points included: thanks; the challenge of spiritual preparation for Easter; Haiti; the Spanish people coming to terms with the recent violence; those who are unwell, including Jean Porteous, and Alan Richardson, Helen's husband; Thora Thomas undergoing eye surgery; Joan Thuaux at her husband's funeral; Mina and Anne Whybourne; positions to be filled.

Confirmed: Jean I. Porteous Date: 19-4-04

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR FEBRUARY 2004**

CREDIT BALANCE AT 31 JANUARY 2004 2776.40

Receipts -	Membership Fees	50.00	
	Donations	5.00	
	Morning Teas	25.70	
	ACWC Bulletin	10.00	
	Trading Table	69.00	
	Newsette	100.00	
	Fellowship of the Least Coin	<u>341.05</u>	<u>600.75</u>

3377.15

Payments -	Postage Newsette	115.00	
	Printing Newsette	62.40	
	Strathfield Korean Church	50.00	
	PPSEAWA Aff. Fee	<u>35.00</u>	<u>262.40</u>

3114.75

Amounts for Ratification/Payment

Uniting Church for use of Meeting Rooms	\$250.00	
WCTU - Luncheon for our Representative	25.00	
Donation to Auditor	60.00	
Treasurer's Petty Cash	50.00	
<i>ACWC National</i>	<i>20.00 (2 ACWC Bulletins)</i>	
<i>Membership Convenes</i>	<i>65.00 Postage + cards</i>	