

## Australian Church Women National Executive

**Minutes** of meeting of National Executive held at Yarralumla Uniting Church Centre Monday 26th August 1996 at 10am.

**Present:** Evonne Sullivan, President; Betty Farrell, Vice President; Olga Scott, Vice President; Jean Thomson, Hon. Secretary; Helen Lloyd, Treasurer; Eileen Holley, Fellowship of Least Coin Convenor; Beth Webb, Publications Editor; Betty Laurie, Special Days Convener; Jenny Jarvis, Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor; Ruth Burmester, National Life Member.

**Announcements:** The President welcomed back all the travelers, and also Betty Laurie after such a traumatic month with the illness of her husband. **Beth Webb has a new address :- PO Box 4256, Manuka ACT 2603.**

**Devotions:** led by Beth Webb, who took us on an imaginary journey, and led us in prayer, including prayers for Dorothy McMaster after the recent death of her husband, the three Australian nuns, hostages in Sudan, and for Mother Teresa of Calcutta, presently gravely ill.

**Minutes** of meeting of 19. 7. 96. Confirmed on motion of Beth Webb, Helen Lloyd.

### Business Arising

1. Amended Constitution - Now on to disk, ready for alterations/corrections to be added by National Secretary
2. Consultations with WKS Trustees - left to the WKS Convenor's report.
3. NCCA Report - to General Business
4. ACW Fluted spoons had been ordered.
5. National Conference Public Liability Insurance. President reported that she had as yet not been able to contact the person with whom she had to consult. Enquiry is ongoing.

### Reports:

**1. National President** - Evonne reported on her relatively quiet month, no special events to attend on behalf of Australian Church Women. Evonne cleared PO Box 95 and dealt with correspondence in the absence of the Hon Secretary. She also held telephone consultations with Peg Blake (President NSW); Barbara Grealy (National Liaison Officer of World Day of Prayer); and Beryl McLaughlin (Editor of Newsette). Evonne expressed appreciation of the many goodwill messages received following establishment of Darwin Branch of ACW.

**National Vice President - Betty Farrell** reported on her recent trip to Alice Springs. She spoke to Mrs Joan McDonald on August 2nd. They discussed the preparation of the 1997 Community Day Order of Service - Joan and Deaconess McKechnie will begin that work shortly.

At that time Betty was unaware that an ACW Branch had been formed in Darwin, so that was not discussed. However, on Sunday August 4th Betty spoke with National President, and was briefed on the Darwin situation. That day Betty and her husband attended morning worship in the John Flynn Memorial Church and met with Frances McKechnie, who kindly included them in an afternoon tea previously arranged at her home. They were taken on an interesting guided tour of the Old Timers Homes and noted with interest the newly laid foundations for a Hostel Block.

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After the other guests left, the Farrells were invited to stay on and that enabled Frances and Betty to discuss, among other things, the setting up of a Branch of ACW in Alice Springs. Frances pointed out that for a branch to operate effectively, there was a need to find a capable willing person to be Secretary. Betty mentioned the possibility of a 'seeding' grant from National Executive, to help cover incidental expenses incurred in the establishment of the Alice Springs Branch.

National President thanked Betty for her report, and expressed the appreciation of National Executive for the efforts made on our behalf by our National Vice President while she was on holidays in Alice Springs.

Betty Farrell proposed that her discussions should be formalised by an exchange of correspondence, seconded Betty Laurie and **Carried**. National secretary would write to Deaconess McKechnie formally inviting her to accept the Convenorship of Alice Springs Branch of ACW.

2. **Fellowship of the Least Coin - National Convenor Eileen Holley** - As reported to the last meeting, the two applications sent forward had been received by Shirin Samuel but 'new' forms had been sent as the ones filled out were now obsolete. Eileen had filled these out and returned them, asking for more copies of the 'new' forms for Grant Applications.

The agenda and program for the Conference in New Zealand had been received. Still no word about any accommodation, though she had written about this matter again.

A letter from Shirley Birch in South Australia had been received, telling of her speaking engagements and requesting more materials. The National Convenor has no stocks of FLC promotional material, despite ordering this all from Shirin Samuel last October. The meeting agreed that an order for 100 FLC spoons should be expedited as soon as possible, as well as badges if available. Eileen to expedite order for FLC crested spoons.

Letters had been received from the overseas visitors who will be speaking at the two meetings arranged in Sydney. These had been forwarded to NSW Unit as they are arranging the visits.

3. **Publications - Beth Webb** - the Webbs enjoyed their holidays, Les is much improved in health. After discussion it was decided that the numbers of newsletters to be printed will be increased to 600 copies, as both National President and National Secretary could use them to give to interested members of the public. Copy for next newsletter is due by **16th September** please.

4. **Special Days - Convenor Betty Laurie** reported that Master Sheets of the Order of Service for World Community Day were posted out to all Units. Owing to the extreme illness of her husband, only 'scrappy' letters went to the Units - Betty apologised for this. Betty wished to put on record her thanks to Michael Thomson, National Secretary's son, for his assistance with formatting the document.

Some suggestions for a special project for 1997 World Community Day Offering had already been received from Units, see Correspondence.

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5. **Winifred Kiek Scholarship National Convenor - Jenny Jarvis** reported on a letter she had received from Tasmanian Unit outlining the way they put money aside for a travel fund for any visiting Scholar who may be able to include Tasmania in her schedule. Jenny commended this idea to other Units for consideration for the future.

A circular setting out the requirements for entries in the Bursary Book, and including a list of all those already included has been sent to all WKS Convenors.

A phone call had been received from Dorothy Ferrier, telling of applications received for the 1997 scholarship. After consultation with National president, a decision will be made and the appropriate announcements made.

National Executive commented, that as the order of the various areas from whence a scholar was chosen had been determined at the 1995 National Conference, this information should be forwarded to the appropriate organisations in the areas to alert them well ahead of time.

Jenny requested Petty cash and also reimbursement of the many STD Phone calls made in relation to the visit of Deaconess Burkat Dass. **Agreed.**

**Treasurer - Helen Lloyd** - The report as attached was moved Helen Lloyd, seconded Olga Scott and **accepted.**

The Seeding Grant to Darwin Branch of ACW of \$75.00 was **endorsed** on the motion of Betty Farrell/Beth Webb.

It was resolved to approve; 'in principle' an equal amount to Alice Springs Branch: after correspondence had been exchanged with Deaconess Frances McKechnie.

Accounts:

Petty Cash for WKS Convenor and Special Days Convenor were passed for payment.

The meeting decided that the treasurer should pursue the matter of badges to be bought for ACW.

**Correspondence** as listed - received/endorsed on motion of Betty Laurie/Jenny Jarvis.

### **B/A**

1. Fliers advertising visits to Sydney of various overseas visitors, were distributed. Olga Scott and Eileen Holley will attend, representing the National Executive. Others expressed interest, but not sure of availability. Expenses will be covered for official representatives of National Executive.

2. National Executive expressed disappointment that General Eva Burrows was not able to accept our invitation to be speaker at 1997 National Conference. It was suggested that her letter be forwarded to incoming National Executive for their information.

### **General Business**

1. Appointment of National Minute Secretary - An appointment had not yet been made.

Australian Church Women National Executive

Treasurer's Report 19 July 1996 to 26 August 1996

CHEQUE ACCOUNT

Balance at 19.7.96 \$3607.07

RECEIPTS

CWL Coolamundra - Donation WKS 21.50  
3628.57

PAYMENTS

E. Sullivan - year Book Aust. Religious Organisations 18.00  
J. Thomson. Postage 19.95  
Mt Woden Uniting Church - Photocopying 32.60  
St Andrews PWA Day Branch - 10 Crosses in pocket 25.00  
Darwin Branch of Acw - Seeding grant 75.00  
Salvation Army Nat. Secretariat - Postage + Photocopying 26.12  
- Postage Acw News 58.45  
Highland Press - Acw News - Aug/Sept. '96 139.84  
WKS Trust Treasurer - Petty Cash 100.00 494.96  
Balance at 26.8.96 \$3133.61

CASH SUMMARY 26.8.96

Cheque Account 3133.61  
Term Deposits 10171.64  
\$13305.25

SUMMARY OF DESIGNATED FUNDS 26.8.96

Administration 7679.38  
National Conference Travel 2990.47  
Overseas Conference Travel 1856.70  
Winifred Kiek Fellowship 696.60  
Winifred Kiek Scholarship Donation 21.50  
NZ Travel - FLC National Convenor 45.60  
Acwc Bulletin Subscription 15.00  
\$13305.25

No Lloyd.  
26/8/96.

2. Letter from NSW Unit re National Aboriginal Ecumenical Council (Dr Anne Pattel- Gray) and eligibility for grant from 1997 World Community Day service offering. This proposal would be considered along with others received in due course. Secretary to write to NSW re this.

3. National Council of Churches of Australia - National President brought to our attention that the National Forum decided to 'Establish a Network on Women and Gender Relationships' - See page 18 of 'Working Documents of 2nd National Forum of NCCA .

Evonne told us that this 'network' would be set up to '*help churches understand and respond appropriately and effectively to women's issues in society*'. Members of the network would be nominated by member churches, and would be based initially in Sydney. Evonne pointed out that ACW is ideally placed to help the NCCA in this regard and urged all of us to 'lobby' for ACW oriented women to be appointed. National Secretary to write to General Secretary of NCCA promoting ACW and pointing out that ACW is the original ecumenical womens group/network.

4. Jean Thomson reported briefly on the visit that she and her husband made to Shalom Christian College in Townsville on August 12th. It is a very large complex, on about 80 acres. As well as classrooms for children from Grades 1 through 10, there are Arts rooms, Science block, Manual Arts, Home science rooms and of course the Boarding Houses. Part of the complex is an Aged Persons Hostel and Nursing Home, with plans to expand to take up the allocation of 28 nursing home spaces recently allocated by the Government as part of the provision of nursing home beds in North Queensland.

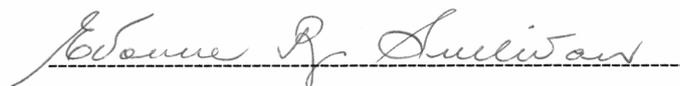
The Board of Shalom is headed by Rev Shayne Blackman, an impressive man of Aboriginal descent who kept reiterating that Shalom will be most effective in instilling a 'work ethic' in all the students if the community atmosphere can be continued as they go into training for careers.

Already there is a well organised construction company working within budget and to the time constraints imposed. This 'Shalom Constructions Co Ltd' is also tendering for work on the remote communities and competing on equal terms with other building firms for the work.

**Next Meeting:** 23 September at 10am at Yarralumla Uniting Church Centre.

Devotions: Ruth Burmester

Hostess: Helen Lloyd



National President

Date 23/9/96



35 from B. McLaughlin re Bimbadeen College as requested by Evonne fwd to ACT Unit

### **Outwards**

19. 7. 96 Dorothy McMaster accepting resignation w regret  
Joan Tong NSW Unit re Mabel Wylie in Bursary Book  
Congratulations to new Exec Vic Unit  
SA Unit asking questions re items in their minutes
26. 7. 96 Sympathy Card to Joan Tong  
Birthday greetings to Ken Jarvis  
WA Unit re crested items  
Bartel Publications - order for crested spoons.  
Marion Nairn - Congrats on OAM  
Minutes to all on list - some sent with Newsletters
19. 8. 96 Reply re ALP Breakfast to Sen M. Reynolds (J. Thomson to attend)  
Darwin ACW Branch re Fellowship Day
20. 8. 96 Change of Address notice to CARE Australia  
Change of Address notice to CCA News
20. 8. 96 Congratulations to Sen Reid on being appointed President of Senate  
Condolences to Dorothy McMaster, after death of her husband

prayers and we look forward to hearing a report.

3. **Publications - Beth Webb** - the mailing list has been reviewed and updated. Some material sent for the newsletter had apparently gone astray in the post, but re-written copy has come in. The newsletter will be the last one for 1996, and goes to the printer before the end of this week.

4. **Special Days - Convenor Betty Laurie** reported that Vera Wilson had written, with thanks for the material received.

*ed.* Following a phone call from Lynette Green, Special Days Victorian Unit, a letter had been sent to Mrs Barbara Grealy OAM, ~~International~~ World Day of Prayer National Liaison Officer, asking if the Special Days for 1997 could be advertised in the WDP Services in all States/ Territories. No reply received as yet.

Some suggestions for a special project for 1997 World Community Day Offering had already been received from Units, more are expected.

5. **Winifred Kiek Scholarship National Convenor - Jenny Jarvis** read the report she had written for the Newsletter

A number of Winifred Kiek Scholarship applications had been received, evidently the fact that the Trustees used the Church press, and put information about the Scholarship onto the 'Internet' meant that it was well publicised. There were two successful applicants for scholarships for 1997.

#### **Rachel McManus and Joanne Harries.**

Rachel McManus is 21 years old. She attended Wauchope High School, attaining her Year 12 certificate. In 1995 she completed an Associate Diploma in Social Science (Youth Work) at Kempsey College of TAFE, and she has also attended a number of workshops on such topics as Court Support, Suicide Prevention and Foster Care. At present Rachel is living in Sydney, studying at the Anglican Youth Department/Robert Menzies School of Christian Studies where she will continue her studies, with the help of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Her course will cover introduction to Old and New Testament and Youth Ministry.

Already Rachel has had a wide range of experience in working with young people, and since discovering her Aboriginal heritage 2 years ago, is keen to work among Aboriginal young people. One element of her course involves part time work at Crossroads, Redfern. At the conclusion of the course, she will be involved in establishing a project to work with Aboriginal girls through the South Sydney Anglican Mission Team.

Cost of the above course and accommodation is \$8540.00

**Joanne Harries** completed her studies with the Salvation Army Training College in January 1994 and shortly afterwards began a joint ministry with her husband David. At present they are working in Davenport, Tasmania.

Joanne is currently working towards a Bachelor of Theology with the Evangelical Theological Association accredited through Melbourne College of Divinity, based at Whitley College, Parkville, Melbourne. Since moving to Tasmania, she has continued her studies through Coolamon College, Brisbane, using their Distance Education Programme.

The Winifred Kiek Scholarship will enable her to do a 2 week "Intensive" course at Whitley in July 1997 and be sponsored for a further 20 week correspondence course.

Cost of course and accommodation is \$1,200.00.

The text books required for both scholars will be covered by the Winifred Kiek Bursary Account.

A letter will go to each State/ Territory Convenor with this information and reminding them of the rotation of Scholarships as determined by the 1995 Conference.

News had recently been received of the serious illness of Deaconess Barkat Dass after her return to Pakistan, a card was circulated and signed by the National Executive to be sent.