

Australian Church Women National Executive

Minutes of meeting of National Executive held at Yarralumla Uniting Church Centre, Friday 19th July 1996 at 10am.

Present: Evonne Sullivan, President; Jean Thomson, Hon. Secretary; Helen Lloyd, Treasurer; Beth Webb, Publications Editor; Betty Laurie, Special Days Convener; Jenny Jarvis, WKS Convenor; Ruth Burmester, National Life Member.

Apologies:- Betty Farrell, Eileen Holley, Dorothy McMaster, Olga Scott

Announcements: We were pleased to welcome back our National President, after a month spent in Darwin and Brisbane

Devotions: by Betty Laurie were held over until the end of the meeting.

Minutes of meeting of 17. 6. 96 were confirmed on motion of Jenny Jarvis, Beth Webb.

Business Arising

1. Amended Constitution - print ready copy is not available yet.
2. (refer report of WKS Convenor) The proposed visit of Deaconess Barkat Dass to meet with the WKS Trustees in Adelaide was not possible.
3. (refer report of WKS Convenor - 1997 scholar) The Trustees of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship sent out letters to each State/Territory Unit inviting requests for application forms, and also placed 'ads' in Church newspapers. Discussion followed, about the procedure of finding a suitable scholar. National Executive thought that in future longer lead time should be allowed for publicity prior to the selection of a scholar. It was agreed that the Trustees be consulted about the matter.
4. ACW Fluted spoons still to be ordered.

Reports:

1. **National President** - Evonne reported on her eventful trip to Darwin and Brisbane, where she worked very hard for ACW, leaving little time for her well earned holiday!

1. Darwin Branch of Australian Church Women:

It is with much pleasure that I announce the establishment on 24th June 1996 of the Darwin branch of ACW. The ten women with whom I spoke (representing the Anglican, Catholic, Salvation Army and Uniting Churches) agreed that there was a need for an ecumenical committee of women in Darwin. They felt that such a committee should focus on the three Special Days services, Fellowship of the Least Coin, and Winifred Kiek Scholarships. I was happy to agree, and a committee of six women, representing four denominations was appointed, with Mrs Elizabeth Appleby and Major Wilga Morris as Co-Convenors. The committee will liaise directly with National Executive, and is accorded official status with ACW.

The Darwin women were of the opinion that the formation of a formally constituted Northern Territory Unit of Australian Church Women was a little premature at present, and as a former Territorian I agreed. I express deep appreciation to Elizabeth Appleby for her co-operation and hospitality, and to those already busy church women who so pleasantly agreed to serve as committee members.

2. Queensland Unit Luncheon:

On Friday 12 July I lunched with members of Australian Church Women and Catholic Womens League in Brisbane. Unit President Terry Reeves accorded me a warm welcome and introduced each of the twenty two guests present. It was great to renew old friendships and to form new ones. I had the pleasure of meeting the Unit President Elect and Secretary Elect, who will assume office at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 22 July.

I am extremely grateful to the Queensland unit members for their hospitality, their thoughtfulness in meeting me at the Transit terminal, and for transporting me to and from Grace College.

3. National Council of Churches of Australia National Forum 12 - 16 July 1996

Held at Grace College, the Forum attracted approximately 180 participants comprising Heads of Churches, Delegates of Member Churches, Delegates of State Ecumenical Bodies, Observers from non member churches, NCCA Commissions and Networks, State Ecumenical Bodies, Ecumenical Organisations, Special Guests and Staff.

A friendly atmosphere prevailed, meal times providing great opportunities to 'meet and mix'. I was grateful also for the company of long time friend Barbara Grealy of Adelaide, who attended as an Observer for World Day of Prayer - Australia.

The packed agenda addressed many matters - reports and recommendations being high priority. Discussions were interesting and informative and at times quite spirited! Many important decisions were reached especially the establishment of :

1. An Autonomous Indigenous Ecumenical Body
2. Social Justice Network
3. Network on Women and Gender Relationships

A number of motions were carried, including the one re Euthanasia proposed by the Anglican and the Catholic Churches, - 'encouraging all efforts to remove the Northern Territory Euthanasia legislation from the statute book'

Daily worship was held in the chapel of the nearby Cromwell College. A capacity crowd attended the Service of Celebration at St John's Cathedral Brisbane where a most moving homily was preached by Jill Tabart, President of the Uniting Church in Australia. Jill used as her theme the A. A. Milne poem 'Halfway Down the Stairs'.

The Forum was an educative exercise for me and I wish to express my appreciation of being allowed the privilege to attend as the Official Observer of Australian Church Women. It was sometimes frustrating not to be able to contribute to the discussions!

2. **Fellowship of the Least Coin** - Eileen Holley - It was reported in her absence that the two applications sent forward had been received and Eileen had heard that they would both be put before the International Committee for consideration.

3. **Publications** - Beth Webb - The newsletter is with the printer, to be circulated next week. Beth pointed out that we are recording history in this publication, so we must include information on all aspects of the work of ACW and she would like to see more reports from the State/Territory Units.

4. **Special Days** - Betty Laurie reported that Alice Springs branch of ACW will prepare the 1997 World Community Day Order of Service after the Oldtimer's Fete is over.

Betty asked again for ideas for a special project for 1997 World Community Day Offering. Units are reminded that proposed projects must be accompanied by full documentation.

The master copies of Orders of Service for World Community Day 1996 will be sent out shortly.

5. **Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor - Jenny Jarvis** reported on a letter she had written to all State Convenors, outlining the timing and constraints inherent in the fact that Deaconess Barkat Dass was in Australia recently on a private holiday visit. She told of the procedures followed in endeavoring to enable Barkat to visit several States, and of her frustration that these visits were not all possible. Jenny regretted that it was not possible for the 1978 Scholar to meet with WKS Trustees.

Jenny will prepare a circular giving guidance about entries in the Bursary Book, and including a list of all those already included.

6. **Incorporation:** Ruth Burmester reported that following wide ranging consultation and legal advice, she recommended that Australian Church Women National Executive not proceed with the concept of incorporation. National Executive agreed that the time was not right for incorporation at a national level. The annual expense of incorporation being a contributing factor. National executive accepted the recommendation, thanking Ruth for her time and wise counsel in researching the matter.

Treasurer - Helen Lloyd - The report as circulated was moved Helen Lloyd, seconded Jenny Jarvis and accepted.

Accounts: \$18.00 for 1996 Yearbook of Australian Religious Organisations,
\$19.95 for postage of National minutes
\$32.60 for Photocopying
\$25.00 for crosses bought for distribution by National President.
were passed for payment.

Correspondence as listed was received/endorsed on motion of Jenny Jarvis, seconded by Betty Laurie.

B/A

1. ACWC material sent by Lynette Green was enclosed with last minutes posted out.
2. Joan Tong asked about Mabel Wylie, Secretary to write and confirm that her name is already in Bursary Book
3. Secretary to write and congratulate new executive of Victorian Unit.
4. We were pleased to receive acknowledgement that the Ministerial Committee on the Portrayal of Violence in the Media had received our submission, and apparently taken note of the points made therein.
5. Note the Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast and Service will take place on 3rd November - Parliamentarians from all State Houses, as well as the Federal Parliament, are present at the event.

General Business

1. **National Conference** : The question of Public Liability Insurance was raised. National President will enquire from John XX111 College as to their provisions and report back

2. Resignation of National Minute Secretary National President received with regret the resignation of Dorothy McMaster as National Minute Secretary. Dorothy's husband is ill, and therefore she does not have the time she thinks necessary to do the job properly. We will all miss Dorothy very much from our meetings. A special minute of appreciation to Dorothy is recorded for all the assistance she has given as a member of National executive. Secretary to write to Dorothy expressing our appreciation.

3. Nungalinga College Darwin National President reported visiting the College at the invitation of the Principal, Rev Wali Fejo. The College, founded in 1973, provides training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The syllabus covers Theology and Church Leadership, Community Organising, Bi-Cultural Life Studies for Women, Textile Art, Literacy and Cross - Cultural Awareness Courses. Of the 400 students enrolled 150 are studying Theology and Church Leadership.

Evonne was impressed by the facilities of the College, especially the air-conditioned library, computer room and the textile art department.

The Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches are equal partners in Nungalinga College.

4. Absence of National Secretary Good wishes for a happy holiday in Queensland were extended to Jean and Neville Thomson. National President will clear PO Box 95 daily and will be contact person on telephone (06) 2811585 during Jean's absence from Canberra.

Devotions led by Betty Laurie, including a reading from Colossians concluded with a benediction from Iona.

Next Meeting: 26 August at 10am at the same place.

Devotions: Beth Webb

Hostess: Jean Thomson

-----National President

Date -----

Correspondence for ACW National Executive Meeting on 19.7.96

Inwards

19. 6. 96 1. CCA News March/April 96, fwd from Vic
19. 6. 96 2. Information from L. Green enc.
O/S for ACWC Day prepared by Pakistan; Inc with Minutes & sent to each Unit
3 sets of Survey Forms from ACWC;
Report from Iluminada Dominga on promoting FLC;
Biblical reflections on "Peace & Justice" Fwd to Publications Editor
and thanks to all who responded to her appeal for information on 'Aging in Australia'
21. 6. 96 3. Thanks from P Murray (congrats sent on OAM)
4. Minutes etc of AGM Tasmanian Unit
5. 'Agenda' 3 - May 1996 (tabled)
24. 6. 96 6. N Bishop re correct address To Beth Webb
7. Bishop N Chynoweth Thanks for congrats sent
8. Minutes of Qld Unit 27. 5. 96
9. papers for NCCA Conference to E Sullivan FWD to her at Qld Address.
25. 6. 96 10 D Ferrier re change of Address
11. NSW Unit re Overseas Visitors; enc list of office Bearers - Fwd to Publications Editor
26. 6. 96 12. NCWA Quarterly Bulletin June 96
1. 7. 96 13 OCW News July 1996
2. 7. 96 14 Shirin Samuel to FLC National Convenor FWD
15 Betty Laurie (Special days) from Alice Springs FWD
16 Thanks from Topsy Evans - Quakers Tas (congrats sent on AM)
17 Minutes from SA Unit 14. 6. 96 Filed
5. 7. 96 18. Vic Unit list of Office Bearers for Newsletter
19. WA Unit Minutes of Mtg 14. 6. 96
also enquiry re souvenir items
20. Subscription for ACWC News enc \$15.00 from Bundaberg fwd to Treasurer.
21. Press release and info re Workplace Relations Bill
9. 7. 96 22 from S. Birch to Eileen Holley FWD
23 Thanks for Submission to Committee of Ministers on the Portrayal of Violence.
24 Newsletter CWLA May/ June 1996.
18. 7. 96 25 Prior notice re Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast
26. Notice of Lecture by Dr Patricia Brennan
19. 7. 96 27 Minutes of Qld Unit 24. 6. 96
28 Media release from Sen Alston re Ministerial Committee on the Portrayal of Violence
29 CAPOW! Newsletter - winter edition
30 'What figures' from Australian Bureau of Statistics

Outwards

24. 6. 96 Minutes to all on list enc O/S from ACWC
27. 6. 96 To Rev D Gill enclosing Survey Forms from L. Green
2. 7. 96 2 Survey Forms returned to L. Green (not the ones above)
17. 7. 96 T Reeves - greetings to Qld Unit for AGM
18. 7. 96 E. Appleby, Darwin, - thanks for help to Nat Pres.
18.7. 96 Iluminada Domingo - Invitation to National Conference.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Treasurer's Report 17 June 1996 to 19 July 1996

CHEQUE ACCOUNT

Balance at 17.6.96 \$3392.40

RECEIPTS

ACW - ACT Unit - Donation NZ Travel FLC Nat. Conv. 400.00

- Circles of Prayer Special 40th 4.00

Interest 120.90 524.90

3917.30

PAYMENTS

Petty cash - National President 50.00

Jean Thomson. Postage Minutes 18.00

Stationery 30.68

Nth Woden Parish Uniting Church. Photocopying 20.00

Petty Cash - Secretary 48.80

Salvation Army - Postage ACW News 110.05

- Postage 2.70

H. Lloyd. Refund Allowance - Barkat Dass 45.00 325.23

Balance at 30.6.96 \$3592.07

RECEIPTS July

ACW - Bundaberg ACWC Bulletin Sub. 15.00

Balance at 19.7.96 \$3607.07

CASH SUMMARY 19.7.96

Cheque Account 3607.07

Term Deposits 10171.64

\$13778.71

SUMMARY OF DESIGNATED FUNDS 19.7.96.

Administration 8174.34

National Conference Travel 2990.47

Overseas Conference Travel 1856.70

Winifred Kirk Fellowship 696.60

NZ Travel - FLC National Convenor 45.60

ACWC Bulletin Sub. 15.00

\$13778.71

H Lloyd
19/7/96