

1. **Welcome** The meeting was opened at 9.45 am by National President Major Laurel Pearce. A special welcome was extended to Donna Bryan.
 2. **Devotions (Donna Bryan)** Donna offered a reflection and prayer based on the challenge posed by our NE theme. Bible passage: John 13 "A New Commandment".
Prayers offered for Jan Jeffrey (NSW, Constance Aronsen(ACT) and David Hill (husband of Helen), all of whom recently underwent major surgery. Also Lois Hoeper (SA) who is terminally ill. Recently deceased ACT member Helen Christianson was also remembered in prayer.
 3. **Attendance** Laurel Pearce, Lee Edwards, Leeola Loughnan, Marie Majoor, Margaret Ker, Olive Dell (from 10.30am), Donna Bryan. **Apologies** Meryon Goode
 4. **Minutes of Previous meeting (8 July 2013)** Confirmation as a true and accurate record moved Marie Majoor, seconded Leeola Loughnan..
 5. **Business Arising** Dealt with later in meeting.
 6. **Correspondence** *List circulated/ attached.*
 7. **Reports** Written reports in the Secretary's File.
 - **President (Laurel Pearce)**
 - NSW Unit President, Isabel Hewitt was attending the 8th National Council of Churches in Australian Forum in Melbourne in early July and agreed to represent ACW at that forum. She attended the Ecumenical Worship Service at the Antiochian Orthodox St Nicholas Church in East Melbourne and the greetings session at the Forum. Isabel took the opportunity to pay tribute to the late Rev. Harvey Perkins who in the early 60's was instrumental in the establishment of Australian Church Women .
- <http://www.ncca.org.au/home/media-releases/700-ncca-pays-tribute-to-devoted-ecumenist-rev-harvey-l-perkins>
- Laurel compiled a report on the visit of the ACWC Executive Committee to Perth for the July issue of the National Council of Women WA newsletter.
 - Laurel received an invitation to the Presbyterian Women of Australia National Conference in Sydney on 9 September. Isabel Hewitt has kindly agreed to represent her at that event.
 - Laurel received from Anne Parnis, South Australian Unit Social Justice Convenor, a prayer request for Asylum seekers.
 - Laurel received an invitation to the WA Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Annual Synod Fellowship Day on 27 August.
 - The itinerary for the visit of Esther Kilagbian has been completed and sent to Esther and to Units hosting Esther. Esther is really looking forward to her visit to us and requests our prayers that God will be glorified through her visit.
 - Confirmation received that The Salvation Army will cover airfares of our conference guest Sonya Pell .
- **Vice Presidents** (Lee Edwards/Marie Majoor)
 - Marie has recorded Conference registrations as they have been forwarded to her by Leeola, and has a spread-sheet prepared which will facilitate the process on arrival.
 - Lee, Marie and Laurel visited St John's Bookshop at Fremantle, and were pleased with the array of books available, and the Manager's interest and assistance. The books will be sent to Shoalwater with all necessary information regarding the sale of the books.
 - Lee and Laurel prepared the prayers for the Ecumenical Service. The intercessions for the church and the world will be completed nearer the time to be as relevant as possible.
 - Once again we worked together quite seamlessly on the National News, with Lee receiving news items and reports and preparing them, then Marie type-setting them into the format for A5 publication. Lee then took the proof sheets into the Council of Churches of Western

Australia office for printing. Included in mailout were the official Notices of the 2013 AGM. We were pleased to get them out in July as planned and to receive reports etc in good time.

Letter of thanks to be sent to CCWA.

▪ **Secretary (Margaret Ker)**

- **Conference Preparations** All the jobs identified as urgent last month have been covered.
- **Preparing the draft of the Ecumenical Service to send to Archbishop Herft as requested** This was done and we have heard the Archbishop will stay for the rest of the afternoon. Final order of service will not need to include hymns.
- **Invitations to Ecumenical Service and High Tea** 14 were sent. So far two official acceptances have been received (Revs Ron Larkin and Frances Hadfield).
- Preparation of other invitations (Service and Open Session and Open Day) Lists to be finalised as soon as possible.
- **Invitations and information to National Denominational Organisations** These were delayed by the need to explain the implications of the constitutional revision for organisations.
- **Invitations and information relating to Young Women's Forum** We needed to change the timing of this session because of Elaine Ledgerwood's limited availability on a Tuesday morning. It will now take place on Thursday morning. No reply yet from Elaine or Leanne.
- **Annual General Meeting** This will now take place on Wednesday evening rather than Thursday morning. The required official notice to all members went out with National News. The Conference session to debate and vote on the constitution revision needs to take place before the AGM. The most practical time for this seems to be before lunch on Wednesday, though this does not leave much time for intervening discussion before all members vote.
- **Conference devotions** The roster has been sent out with relevant information on venue facilities and an update relating to the availability of hymn books.
- **Working Papers** These are "progressing well".
- **Constitution revision.** A reminder that two votes, each requiring a 75% majority, are required for the revised Constitution to be adopted.
- **Winifred Kiek Scholarship** see separate report.
- **Website** NSW requested some urgent updates (publicising Fellowship Day services) that Ewan Arnolda kindly did immediately. Others are currently being finalised.
- **National News** Congratulations to Lee for the prompt mailout of these. Using the membership register as the basis for this enabled us to send notice of the AGM directly to all members.
- **Conference preparation timeline** An annotated/updated copy was circulated.
- **Guidelines revision** See General Business

▪ **Treasurer (Leeola Loughnan)** *Circulated/attached.* Acceptance of report seconded Lee Edwards.

▪ **Winifred Kiek Scholarship (Margaret Ker)**

- Information on Scholars was disseminated to Units through another WKS Circular .
- Further information came through just before the service, especially news of Lou Momoru. This was sent out to Units in a separate email .A letter from Lou has now been received.
- Margaret expressed concern that the information leaflet is often outdated by the time it is used on Fellowship Day. Last year for example Sara Dingle did not even commence her studies. It was agreed that a review may be needed, given the cost of the brochures.
- **Scholars for 2014.** There were three high quality applications from within ACWC countries and the Trustees recommended that the money available be shared between them. NE ratified this decision with certain provisos.
 - **Seng Ja** from Myanmar has accepted the offer of a full Scholarship (ie the amount she requested) to continue her studies in Singapore.
 - **Rev.Hsing-Ling Lee** from Taiwan has accepted the offer of a partial Scholarship to be used towards her postgraduate studies in Canada.

- An offer has been made to **Rev. Wasana Fernando** from Sri Lanka of a partial Scholarship to be used in her proposed postgraduate studies in the UK.
 - We now have a total of two motions and one recommendation relating to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship for Conference. The **motions** deal with the legal relationship between the Trust and ACW Inc and with the carry over of funds not used in any one year. The **recommendation** is for a review of the criteria for awarding Scholarships.
- **Fellowship of the Least Coin** (Olive Dell)
 - It was noted that due to an oversight additional copies of Circle of Prayer had been received. Donna offered to return to ICFLC after Conference any that remained unsold.
 - Correspondence
 - from Tasmania asking for Invoice (sent separately).
 - from Queensland advising they already have Circle of Prayer. These will be returned at Conference.
 - from South Australia saying they have received Circles of Prayer
 - with Cora Reyes asking for FLC Boxes and reply from her saying she had sent them.
- **Special Days** (Olive Dell)
 - Margaret circulated to NE and WA Unit members copies of emails from Sutherland Branch NSW and from Tasmania commenting on the Fellowship Day Service.
 - Letter from Ronnie Palmer (Tasmania) requesting the Orders of Service be sent to her. Olive will advise that electronic copy has been sent to Unit secretary Juanita Miller.
- **Social Justice (Laurel Pearce)**
 - This year's homeless persons week (5-11 August) has just concluded. Homelessness is a big problem in our country. Housing is the single biggest factor contributing to financial stress for low income families. Anglicare in 2012 found virtually no affordable housing for people on benefits and pensions. The situation is little better for people on the minimum wage. Young people, the aged, low income families are among those at risk of homelessness due to lack of affordable housing.
 - Trafficking is a huge problem throughout the world. According to the latest United Nations Global report on human trafficking children account for more than a quarter of victims. At the recent Australian Women's Coalition meeting in Sydney, Jean Thomson reports that an excellent speaker was Sister Margaret Ng who has been working with trafficked people for over 8 years in the Sydney area. She gave some frightening figures about the number of people involved. For more information see <http://www.sosj.org.au/justice/Trafficking.htm>
 - The present policies of major political parties in Australia towards asylum seekers are disturbing. Anne Parnis, South Australian Social Justice Convenor, rightly calls us to prayer on this issue. A Forum on "Hospitality to Asylum Seekers and Church-State Relations" exploring how should Christians be involved in caring for asylum seekers when Government policy seems unjust is being held on Monday September 16 at 7pm at Whitley College, 50 The Avenue, Parkville in Melbourne. There will be live streaming on www.sabc.edu.au/discussion
 - In Perth, an Interfaith Election Forum is being held on 14 August from 7.30pm to 9 pm at the University of W.A. Social Sciences Lecture Theatre. It will be a discussion about what really matters in this election with interfaith leaders and politicians taking part. It is hosted by the Ecumenical Social Justice Roundtable in partnership with UWA Chaplaincy and the Centre for Muslim States and Societies.
- **Website** Updates will be done as soon as possible.
- **ACWC (Donna Bryan)** The ACWC executive secretary and officers are in preparation mode for a number of upcoming events. Please pray for
 - Revd Lee Moon-Sook and the Korean hosting committee as they prepare for the World Council of Churches 10th General Assembly to be held in Busan from 30 October to 8 November 2013.

- Cora Tabing-Reyes (FLC Exec. Sec.) and officers and members of the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) as they prepare for their annual meeting, which will be held in Busan prior to the WCC Assembly. The core business of the annual meeting is to consider and decide the FLC grants for 2014 and to meet with and encourage the local women of the hosting country. Meeting with the local women and discussing/workshopping the FLC further promotes the FLC prayer movement and expands its outreach into new communities. The ICFLC will also attend the pre-Assembly of the WCC Assembly and take the opportunity to emphasise women's issues and lead at least one of the worship sessions.
- Donna also requests travelling mercies for herself as she represents both the ACWC and the ICFLC at the pre-Assembly and General Assembly.
- **Australian Women's Coalition (Laurel Pearce)**
 - Received from AWC on 9 July information on the Beijing platform for Action, and on 13 July the AWAV Alliance Newsletter.
 - Our alternate delegate to AWC, Jean Thomson, represented me at the general meeting of AWC in Sydney on 14 July. She has sent me a good report on what seemed to be a very interesting meeting and I also received a summary of the meeting sent to all AWC member bodies by Sharyl Scott, President of AWC.
 - The theme for the day was sustainability. There were two Shout presentations to complete the acquittal report of the 2012-2013 DIAC funding. See www.dawn-network.org for more information on the Canberra Shout Project.
 - Guest speakers included Professor John Troughton who spoke on Food and Water for life, and Marvin Weinman who spoke about problems with organ donations.
 - 3 Catholic sisters gave wonderful insights into their work on trafficking and Slavery, on working in Fiji and about the order of the Sisters of Mercy. For more on their work with trafficked people see <http://www.sosj.org.au/justice/Trafficking.htm>
 - AWC will be following up in these areas.
 - The Annual General Meeting of AWC will be in Sydney on 9-10 November 2013.

8. General Business

- **Guidelines revision:** Margaret presented a draft of suggested revisions. Members asked to check their own sections carefully as soon as possible.
- **Conference Planning**
 - **Visit of Esther Kilaghbian** Itinerary has been finalised and circulated.
 - **Accommodation and transport requirements** Marie identified major issues with transport given the high proportion of late arrivals and early departures.
 - **Day registrations and Open Day:** guest lists to be finalised
 - **Finalisation of Programme** This needs urgent attention
 - **Delegates and Observers** Laurel and Margaret are Observers, rest of NE Delegates.
 - **Reports** needed urgently for Working Papers
 - **Ecumenical Service and Devotions** Committee needed for latter.
 - **Preparation of Working Papers** Olive to check with The Salvation Army.
 - **Reference and selection committees** Process to be finalised next meeting.
 - **Handover** NE members to advise of amount of material at next meeting.
- Correspondence with ACT re Public Officer: Laurel to contact ACT President.

Meeting closed 3.45pm

Next Meeting Monday 9 September 9.45 am. **Devotions** Laurel Pearce

Minutes confirmed

National President

Date

