



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 15 August 2005, 10.30a.m.

PRESENT: 47 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 10 as recorded.

Major Lyn Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Major Nancy McLaren as National President of Australian Church Women.

Before leading devotions Nancy thanked Lyn for her support for National Executive. She also reported that her new granddaughter, Gabriella, is making good progress, and Nancy expressed thanks to all who had upheld her family with prayers during the anxious time they experienced.

After reading from Acts 3:1-10 the story of the lame man at the temple gate, Nancy asked does giving love come naturally, or do we have to learn it – even as Christians? It is easy to give religious duty priority, as illustrated in the Good Samaritan story, and familiar to us all. Giving alms was an important part of Jewish faith which is why the man in the story sat near the temple. But it was evident to Peter that he needed more than money. As part of the Christian community we put ourselves available to God to ‘feed his sheep’ as he gives opportunity. We must be aware of each opportunity given and show God’s love.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting 20 June, 2005 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Norma Dumbrell.

SPEAKER: Lyn Middleton introduced Patricia Burke, an Associate Member who is involved with the work of Caritas, which at its international level is second only to the Red Cross in size. The Australian contributions to Caritas amounted to \$22 million following the Tsunami in December 2004 and people need to know what is being done with the money raised. Patricia emphasised the need to *act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God*.

Patricia introduced Britt Barry who is the Pacific Emergencies Officer with Caritas. Britt told of helping on the phones following the Tsunami, but her knowledge of Asia through work with an NGO in Japan led to her being employed in her present position. To make it easier to understand the situation that she was describing Britt distributed some maps and many photos which graphically illustrated the devastation, and the rebuilding that is taking place. As well as the 200-300,000 people estimated to have died, one and a half million people have been displaced. The pattern adopted in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand, the countries most affected, has been early relief, recovery of bodies and trauma support. Shelter, buildings supporting social structure, and land title are the next steps. The insistence of some governments to have a buffer zone means more displacement, and the problem of resettlement of people dependent on the sea for their livelihood is one that is not easily solved.

Caritas works through local partners who strive to place people in work that will bring some income. It has been found that psycho/social activities are of great importance. Public buildings are being rebuilt fairly quickly because it is easier to establish ownership.

While the Australian community asks why money has not yet been spent Britt pointed out that it took ten years for Darwin to be restored following Cyclone Tracy. However, it is good to have careful scrutiny as to how the money is spent so that misunderstanding of the process which causes the delay in spending can be addressed. Rebuilding itself can have side effects, as in India where some communities will be better off than those nearby, and indirect effects might follow.

Britt was thanked for coming and for her clear outline of the work being done in the Tsunami area.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC-COUNCIL MEETING 15/8/2005-2

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Spiritual Enrichment Day 18 July 2005 at St James Hall Phillip Street had evoked good responses. Lyn thanked all for their participation and support.

3. National Conference Collaroy 9-14/10/2005: Council members were again encouraged to attend to help celebrate 50 years FLC, 40 years ACW, 40 years WKS, 20th National Conference. Those wishing to attend for one day were reminded that Wednesday 12 October is 'Open Day' with an Ecumenical Service in the morning and Winifred Kiek Celebrations later in the day.

New South Wales will have 2 Unit delegates, 2 observers and 5 voting members of National Executive. Council signified its confidence in those voting to represent the view of the NSW State Unit.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the end of July was \$3370.89. Moved Helen, seconded Thora Thomas that the report be received, and payments of accounts approved. Carried.

MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery welcomed Thora Thomas back after her overseas trip. Brigadier Ruth Smith had recently been honoured as a Life Member of World Day of Prayer, but died soon after. Marie McCann had acknowledged the greeting sent on her 80th birthday. Dora Quarmby has a back problem which is slow to improve. Heather asked for prayer for Robin Phillis and Edith Ridge who are undergoing treatment, Joyce Liddell who has had a stent inserted in the knee, and Ethel Wladysuik is not well. Best wishes to Sr Joan Bird and Norma Dumbrell who will travel overseas.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird reported that she and her committee had been looking at the question of where we should focus, and indicated the need for Council members to make some response.

“We speak as Australian Church Women who hold Christian values and are concerned with the care of the disadvantaged in our society, those who are experiencing injustice because of neglect of their human rights or affronts to their human dignity. We speak out because we believe that we are all brothers and sisters in one human family and because Jesus Christ himself reached out to the poor and the disadvantaged. As Christian Women we speak with a Christian voice and after due discernment.”

Areas of concern might be those related to the well-being of women and children and the family, care for the mentally ill, accommodation for younger disabled adults, young carers. State issues predominate, but not exclusively.

Comments from the floor included that issues should not be political, that the Convener should bring matters to Council and members act on them.

Further consideration needs to be given to this matter, and Guidelines updated as necessary.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer reported that she had sent on 35 letters addressed to 12 WKS Scholars and Joan Tong as National Convener from Spiritual Enrichment Day. Letters have been received from Lily Politini (1995) involved in regional leadership training in Fiji; Monique Crabtree (2003) whose study towards a Bachelor of Ministry is continuing; and Mereani Raque who is continuing to benefit from the placement she had in Australia as she works with street people and prostitutes in Fiji. Judith requested prayers for Anju and Siok, the current recipients.

Joan Tong had asked for a reaction on the proposed form of the WKS Leaflet, and Council was happy with what was shown.

The WKS Trustees have agreed to grant a WKS Fellowship to Valamotu Palu of Tonga who is the General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches. This will enable Vala to attend National Conference in October and to visit Queensland, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales. It is proposed to hold a picnic lunch with Vala on Monday 17 October, with announcement of details at the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC-COUNCIL MEETING 15/8/2005-3

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang led a devotional from *Circle of Prayer 17* written by an African woman, and dealing with gender stereotypes. God's desire is to use all for his purposes. Mary was the first missionary. Shanti Solomon was used by God to bring peace and dignity to many. This year 30 grants have been made world wide. Janet concluded with the FLC prayer.

Copies of *Circle of Prayer 17* are still coming, and should certainly be available at National Conference.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Winsome Penn encouraged members to attend the ACWC Pleasant Sunday Afternoon on 25 September 2005 at Northside Baptist Church Crows Nest. Afternoon tea at 2.45 pm will precede the presentation which is timed to finish at 4.30 pm. A great line up of musicians promises a wonderful afternoon. Bus 273 from Chatswood or Wynyard stops outside the church.

SPECIAL DAYS: About 1300 orders of service were sent out for Fellowship Day, and there will be about 1400 for World Community Day. Packing day for World Community Day orders of service is set down for 22 August 2005 from 9.30-12.00 on the 9th floor 222 Pitt Street and packers are welcome. Copies of the order of service for World Community Day were available in Korean and members were invited to pass them on to Korean congregations who might be interested.

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren requested Council members add the information on bus 273 from Chatswood or Wynyard to the pamphlet she had prepared for the ACWC Pleasant Sunday Afternoon.

NEWSETTE: Deadline for copy for the next issue coincides with National Conference or early in the week following to allow for a Conference report to be included.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

ACW National – Minutes 20/6/2005; Circular letters 4/2005, 5/2005; *ACW News* 5/2005

YWCA – Health & wellbeing event 19/8/2005

Glebe Trust – statements

PWA – delegates

St James King Street – receipt

Winsome Penn – apology, comments on Social Issues

Mina Whybourne – re *Honouring Australian Church Women* entry

Bev Elliott – re *Honouring Australian Church Women*

Beryl McLaughlin – profile

Bev Elliott – re *HACW*

ACW ACT Newsletter 7-9/2005; *The Branch* 6/2005 CWL Parramatta; *NCW of NSW News* 7/2005

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

ACW National - - nomination of Ramona Cowle as ACWC delegate

St James King Street – thanks for use of room

NSW Ecumenical Council – clarification of ACW representative

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

PWA - Annual Conference 4/7/2005

NCW - Foundation Day Luncheon 4/8/2005,

UCA Day Mission Support Service 8/8/2005

PPSEAWA Spring Luncheon 28/9/2005

Annual Baptist Assembly Women's Celebration 15/9/2005

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

TRADING TABLE: The frequency of holding a trading table and the question of who should take care of it needs to be considered. Members were asked to give consideration as to whether twice a year would be a good idea. The possibility was floated that the denomination not supplying morning tea during the year could be responsible for staffing. A decision is to be made at the November meeting.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC-COUNCIL MEETING 15/8/2005-4
OTHER ORGANISATIONS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Lily Hanlon reported that the service for 2006 will be from South Africa.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Lyn Middleton reported that she had attended the NCW Luncheon.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Due to time constraints Edith Ridge mentioned briefly Juliana Nkrumah who had spoken at the June meeting on refugee women in Australia, and Eileen Pittaway who spoke in July about Beijing+10 meetings.

For International Day of Peace - 21 September - city churches have been invited to ring their bells at noon. Edith had received a report of Spiritual Enrichment Day being 'very inspiring' from a woman at PPSEAWA who has had no involvement with ACW.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Training in leadership is an important feature which helps girls not only during their time in Girls Brigade but in whatever they choose to do. Fourteen girls received Queen's Awards at Government House recently. Numbers are still falling and strategies are being sought to arrest this decline.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant reported that the project of producing a gospel for women continues, and they are looking for testimonies which tell of the Bible as a life-changing situation.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

FLC Presentation: Pam Freeman asked whether the AV presentation would be available for use in promoting FLC. Lyn Middleton said it would be used at National Conference and copies should be ready afterwards.

Greeting Cards: Attention was drawn to the rather tasteless greeting cards that are available in many shops. Council members who are not happy with what they see are encouraged to write to the publishers and to the outlets expressing their concern.

Banner Display: A banner display titled 'Cloud of Witnesses' will be featured at Canterbury Racecourse 24-26 September 2005 during the Uniting Church NSW Synod.

Lyn Middleton expressed thanks to Irene Roberts for the beautiful cards and crochet crosses she had given for use as gifts at National Conference.

Closing in prayer, Lyn gave thanks for the meeting; prayed for the work of Caritas and other groups responding to the Tsunami that money given will be well spent. Members with special needs were remembered, travelling mercies asked for Joan Bird and Norma Dumbrell, and thanks given for Thora's return before Lyn pronounced the benediction.

NEXT MEETING: 21 November 2005

Chairs: Presbyterian
Morning Tea: Anglican

CLOSE & BENEDICTION:

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____