



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor at 222 Pitt Street on Monday 21 March, 2005 at 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Lyn Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting

Heather Badgery then introduced Denise Secomb who is one of the new representatives from the Uniting Church. She also welcomed Karen Blake from The Entrance who was bringing Bernice Baker the new Entrance Branch representative and had come even though Bernice was sick and unable to come.

DEVOTIONS: Lyn Middleton used the passage Mark 14:32-38 to focus attention on the Garden of Gethsemane, usually a place of rest and sanctuary, but it held no peace or tranquility for Jesus. Rather, Jesus despaired at what was to come and asked that it might not, but added that God's will, not his should prevail. To pray within the will of God is to pray for the Kingdom of God where God's will is done. This is not easy because our wants are not always what God wants. In sad, difficult, even sacrificial times we see God's glory if we do his will. This takes time, but we should not delay when we know what we should do. Our Lord knows what dread can be. Triumph is the empty tomb – God walking with us. Paul in Romans 8:18 sums up our hope and promise – “I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us”.

In prayer Lyn gave thanks for Jesus' life, deeds of love, fellowship, death, courage, obedience, resurrection and for always being with us.

PRESENT: 52 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 8 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of 21 February, 2005 were confirmed on the motion of Carmel Keys and Winsome Penn. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. AGM 18 April so nominations for conveners were needed by today. Reports were requested from Conveners and from representatives of other organisations by 24/3/05 at the latest.
2. Service of Dedication 10.30 am Monday 16 May 2005 at The Salvation Army, cnr Johnson & Archer Streets, Chatswood. ACW National President, Major Nancy McLaren is the speaker. Leaflets were available for distribution. A board was passed around to enable Council members to indicate what they would contribute for catering on the day.
3. Notice of Spiritual Enrichment Day 18 July 2005 was given so that people could mark it in their diaries. Executive will provide morning tea, but those attending are asked to provide their own lunch. The theme is on *God's Treasury* and will begin with Bible study led by Lyn Middleton. The second segment will focus on the treasure experienced, and three people will share their stories. The third section, the treasure shared will engage participants in different activities at prayer stations.
4. National Conference Collaroy 9-14/10/2005: Council members are invited to attend to help celebrate 50 years FLC, 40 years ACW, 40 years WKS, 20th National Conference. Registration forms will be available in April.

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Notices of Motion to change the National Constitution are required by early June, as are nominations for delegates to the Asian Church Women's Conference Quadrennial Assembly to be held in Malaysia in 2006. National Conference needs to appoint three delegates and profiles need to be distributed beforehand.

5. Nominations for *Honouring Australian Church Women*: As requested by Council in February Executive recommended that entries be submitted for Lucelle King, Peg Blake, Edith Ridge, Marie McCann and Mina Whybourne, and that \$50 accompany each entry. It also suggested that research begin for details of Beth Finlay and Yvonne Davis in order to have their names submitted in 12 months time.

Heather Reid noted that Marie Majoor who has moved to the Western Australian Unit is a worthy nominee. NSW Unit could provide information on Marie to the WA Unit if they wished to nominate her.

6. ACW Website: a letter has been sent to National advising of NSW support for action on website. Anyone with expertise who would like to add comment was invited to speak with Brenda Dickinson.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the end of February was \$3758.10, and she asked for approval to move \$2000 into investment fund. Moved Helen, seconded Ramona Cowle that the report be received, payments approved and \$2000 be moved to investment fund. Carried.

MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: Heather Badgery extended best wishes to Thora Thomas who is due to travel overseas. She also wished Jennifer Peffer well as she is travelling to the UK to spend time with family and will be away until August. Heather and Jan Harrison had visited Margaret Jessup who is now living in Roden Cutler Village where she joins in the activities. Prayers were asked for Beatrice Kay whose husband Noel is suffering with meningitis following his recent operation.

SPECIAL DAYS: Val Pethybridge reported on the two projects chosen for support from World Community Day offerings this year. The first is Parakleo, an outreach to prevent suicide in Sheffield, Tasmania. The second is the Aboriginal After School program in Broken Hill. While it is some time until October, Val suggested that members could pray for them. Council members were very happy with the choice of projects.

Packing day for Fellowship Day orders of service is set down from 23 May 2005 from 9.30-12.00 and packers are welcome.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer reminded Council of the two new scholars from Malaysia and from India. She also drew attention to the call for applications for a scholar in 2006 from multi-cultural Australia. Forms – more modern and readable – are available from Judith. Judith also gave some insights into the reports on Mereani's time at Project Respect in Melbourne. One report had been written by Mereani and the other by her supervisor at Project Respect. Mereani had expected that she would be coming to a formal education situation, but had practical experience meeting with prostitutes as well as attending workshops. She found networking with other organisations valuable. The reports are quite lengthy, and Judith recommended that Council members should read them and pass them on to their denominations.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Janet Lang had sent a report which indicated that money is still coming in - \$911 in the 'quiet period' of January to March. Two groups had indicated that they would no longer be able to continue, but there had been a request from Wagga Wagga for material on FLC.

NEWSETTE: Copy for next issue is required by 18 April.

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ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Ramona Cowle reported that the ACWC Service for 2005 is to be held in conjunction with the Crows Nest Japanese Christian Church, 65 Willoughby Road. The arrangements will be a little different in that afternoon tea is set for 2.45 pm with the service to follow at 3.30 pm.

Shu-Wen's mother who has suffered a stroke is rehabilitating, and Shu-Wen has sent thanks for the prayers that were offered on her behalf.

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren had prepared posters and flyers for the Annual Service of Dedication.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird reported that there was information on trafficking, and she had forms available if people would like to sign a petition.

Joan had received a letter from National that State Governments needed to be asked to do more for the mentally ill. Another issue that might warrant attention is the irradiation of food. Joan suggested that if denominations are following issues we could lend support to it would be good to hear about them.

Moved Thora Thomas, seconded Norma Dumbrell that the reports be received.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive – Minutes 13/12/2004; 7/2/2005; 21/2/2005;
Circular Letter 1/2005

UCA Board of Finance & Property – re meeting rooms

Bible Society – re affiliation

Winners without Drugs – President's Luncheon 12/4/2005

UCAF – new Uniting Church representatives

UCA Sydney Day Mission Support Group – 30/5/2005 10.00 am

Janet Lang – reports; Judith Cayzer - report

Brenda Dickinson – Sutherland Branch report

Bev Elliott – Kincumber Branch report

PPSEAWA luncheon

NSW Women 3/2005; PWA Span 3/2005; UCAF Newsletter 3/2005

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

UCA Board of Finance & Property – re meeting rooms

Bible Society – re affiliation

ACW National – Minutes 8/2004, 11/2004, 2/2005; letter re website

Irene Roberts, Keasi Kupu, Denise Secomb – new UCA reps

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

MU Service 18/3/2005; Anglican Board of Missions 23/3/05

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells told of Lady Martin who reported on the work of the David Martin Foundation in supporting the Triple Care Farm run by Mission Australia. The aim is to get kids off the streets thereby addressing the problems of homelessness and drug abuse. At the next meeting of NCW members will look at matters such as poverty/inequality; trafficking/visas; Third World debt; irradiation. The Jean Arnott luncheon honouring 90 year old women is to be held and Heather Reid is taking her aunt.

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NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: The 2005 fund raising dinner will be held at Canterbury Park Events Centre Thursday 14 April and the cost per ticket is \$70. Speakers Stephen Crittenden and Dr Patricia Brennan – *Good News, Bad News – The Church and the Media.*

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported that Kath Fear from Opportunity International spoke at PPSEAWA February meeting. As Donor Relationship Manager, Kath is to engage with existing donors, particularly those funding the Trust Bank program. One woman from the Philippines had turned her life around after receiving her first loan from the Trust Bank. Opportunity International operates in 26 countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia, including the Philippines, East and West Timor and Indonesia. At the March meeting corporate members will give a short report on the work of their organisations, and Edith will report on ACW.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Ruth Dickinson reported on the success of the weekend activity with 200 young people camping at Geroa, with 400-500 spending the day at Jamberoo.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION: Annual Convention is to be held 12 April 2005 at the Salvation Army Headquarters.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Merle Menzies reported on the recent death of Connie Groat who had been a Presbyterian representative to ACW for many years.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Lyn Middleton closed the meeting with prayer

NEXT MEETING: 18 April 2005

CHAIRS: Baptist

MORNING TEA: Churches of Christ

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____