



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

Minutes for Council Meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013 held at 222 Pitt Street Sydney.

**WELCOMES:** President Isabel Hewitt welcomed all, especially Sonya Pell, Australian delegate to Young Women's Forum hosted by Asian Church Women's Conference & Conference of Churches in Asia in Bangkok May 2012; and Major Nancy McLaren, National President 2003-5, visiting Sydney.

**DEVOTIONS:** Isabel led this segment. The 10th Assembly of the WCC will be held in Busan, Korea 30 October—11 November this year. Its theme is *God of life, lead us to justice and peace*. A quote from Robert F Kennedy pointed to the possibility of numberless small acts of courage and belief working together to strike out against injustice. The encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well showed his belief in the worth of all people. Jesus broke down barriers, giving us an example to strive for justice and peace - and in the spirit of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, for reconciliation. We need to be vigilant in prayer, and active in our responses to right wrongs, working with determination for the common good. Isabel prayed for the meeting.

**SPEAKER:** Isabel introduced Sonya Pell to the gathering before Sonya brought a report with PowerPoint presentation to the group. Sonya thanked all for the opportunity to attend the Young Women's Forum with the theme *Towards a Life-giving Community Based on Justice and Peace*. Roles of women within the church and society were discussed. In the church, women appear to be equal. Is this a facade when decisions need to be made? Violence against women is prevalent in the church and society. We need to seek God to plead for justice. Some of the responses to the questions raised urged that education and awareness levels of the inequality be raised; in parenting - the role model of women be supported; programs needed to empower women; women to be encouraged in leadership, being recognised for their skills and abilities. Bible studies are helpful when these show women being empowered; mentoring to be encouraged; and programs supporting women who report violence are to be promoted.

Sonya experienced deep sharing with each of the young women present as representatives from 22 countries across Asia. Journeying across to the conference there had been some apprehension regarding how the various cultures would work together. These fears were allayed from the time of arrival as young women shared a common faith.

There were many significant moments for Sonya. She expressed thanks for this experience which stretched across boundaries and challenged her faith journey. Sonya now is supported by sisters in other countries. It was a moving time for her to see these people from various backgrounds and denominations working together.

Words of appreciation were expressed by President Isabel.

**PRESENT:** 39 + 2 visitors. **APOLOGIES:** 8

**CONFIRMATION of MINUTES:** The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were confirmed on the motion of Heather Reid and seconded by Carmel Keys.

### **BUSINESS ARISING:**

**National Executive from NSW 2013 – 2015.** Lyn Middleton thanked the meeting for responses to the nominations and gave an update of the process. There was enthusiastic support by those on the nomination committee for which Lyn was grateful. It is hoped that the positions will be announced at the Council Meeting in March.

**Visit of Esther Kilaghbian after National Conference.** Isabel stated that this visit was proposed for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013 prior to Esther leaving Australia.

**NSW Spiritual Enrichment Day/75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 16 September 2013-** Isabel tabled the various proposals. It was agreed that The Salvation Army venue at 140 Elizabeth Street be booked for the day. Information is to be sent to the branches inviting country branches to send representatives for the day. Contact has been made with the country branches offering those from Executive and Council to be available to come to share with these celebrations in the branch, at no expense to the branch. There has been one response.

**Vacancy for Asian Church Women Convener [ACWC][NSW]** Isabel explained how this role may be divided into 2 parts if this would be an easier way to oversight this task. Expressions of interest were invited.

**NSW Unit Banner.** This is still a work in progress.

**REPORTS:**

**TREASURER:** The ledger has been audited as correct for 2012 by Mr Fryirs. Income - January \$325.04; Payments - January \$160. The report was received, and accounts to be paid totalling \$628.95 were passed on the motion of Helen Richardson and Denise Secomb.

**FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:** [FLC] Lillian Hodges announced her first speaking engagement for 2013, at Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. More dates to be confirmed. Lillian expressed her delight in learning that ICFLC is exploring possibility of a book for children to promote FLC. An extract from devotional by Betty Durrah was shared, the question being "What kind of heritage are you leaving?" Remember the African proverb - *When you pray, move your feet.*

**ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:** Information from National forwarded by email.

**SPECIAL DAYS:** Lyn Middleton told the meeting that a letter had been sent to each of the branches introducing herself as the Convener for Special Days in NSW, as well as advising the themes for 2013. Mention was made of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NSW State Unit Inc of Australian Church Women and plans being made for this. The proposal was sent that women from the Council could visit the branch to assist with the celebrations as desired. This would be at no cost to the branch. **Fellowship Day 2012** 12 services with attendance of 477. **World Community Day 2012** 19 services with attendance of 689. Fellowship Day theme for 2013 is *Love Never Fails*. With regard to the Special Project for 2013, it is now past the date for submission. Lyn outlined again the requirements for the application and invited people to explore the possibility of such an application for 2014.

**WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:** Judith said that recent updates were reported in *Newsette*. Christy Ferguson [2009] praises God for the new flatmates and opportunities to learn the language. Please continue to pray for work/visa situation and the Sunday Clubs. National is preparing the pamphlet for 2013, featuring the 4 new scholars who have started their courses in their own locations. Berebere Kataueu [Kiribati]; Lou Momoru [PNG]; Christina Tavilti [Vanuatu]; Vereanasi Toga [Fiji] are the scholars for 2013.

**SOCIAL ISSUES:** Rae Goth presented the following issues for prayerful support. 1. Giving way to pedestrians crossing roundabouts. 2. Urged to contact the Attorney General to suggest mediation be introduced more widely as an effective way of resolving disputes rather than the adversarial system of litigation. 3. At International level to encourage the Minister for Foreign Affairs to speak clearly on Australia's opposition to the ongoing development of the capacity for nuclear warheads.

**PASTORAL CARE:** Helen Hill acknowledged Olive Edmonstone. Points for prayer - Shirley Wells has had a fall. Jennifer Peffer to have knee surgery. Prayerful support for the safe arrival of Sonya Pell's baby. Heather Badgery had surgery and to have radiotherapy. Helen thanked all for continuing support for her situation.

**NEWSLETTE:** Report from Jennifer Peffer was read. The first issue of *Newsette* 2013 mailed out at beginning of February. It is hoped that using the magazine for advance publicity may engender greater numbers in attendance. The common renewal date for subscriptions is now November. Check with Treasurer to ensure financial membership. Copy for May issue to be to Jennifer by first week in April. Thank you to Brenda Dickinson for preparing the mailing labels and the proof reading.

The reports were received on the motion of Shirley Mitchell and Nola Dickson.

**CORRESPONDENCE (Inwards):**

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting of ACW held at Westmead Uniting Church 9.11.12  
Minutes of N.E - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012; 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013, with financial statement Dec 2012.

National Constitution review and Minutes from NE meeting January 2013.

Copy of Trust Deeds for WKS.

Prayer requests associated with ACWC as sent by National Executive:

Proposed Itinerary for visit of Esther Kilagbhan - Sept/ Oct 2013.

Annual Report from Australian Women's Coalition [from Jean Thompson - ACT Unit]

Annual Report; Newsletter (Nov 2012); Dedication Service; List of Unit Executive [Sth Australia]

Summer Edition Newsletter 2012/13 ACT Unit

December Issue of SPAN - Presbyterian Women's Assoc

Christmas greetings from PPSEAWA.

Letter from PWA confirming the names of Presbyterian delegates to State Council

Form from Central Baptist Church - possible hiring of facilities for September 16<sup>th</sup> 2013.

2 copies of 'The Little Black Book of Scams'.

Invitation from PPSEAWA to International Women's Day Luncheon 15<sup>th</sup> March and Renewal Membership Notice.

ACT Unit Newsletter Summer 2012/13; ACW SA notification of the death of Shirley Birch

**CORRESPONDENCE ( Outwards):**

Prayer Requests forwarded from NE to members of the State Unit Council.  
To PWA acknowledging Roslyn Abbey as new Presbyterian representative on NSW Unit Council.  
State Council members with update of contact details and new members.  
Letter of Welcome to Roslyn Abbey as new Presbyterian representative .

**HONOURING AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:** Isabel Hewitt brought snippets of information about Grace Sims and Lois Harris from SA, Rachel Cocks and Effie McCormack from Tasmania, and Brigadier Mabel Ward from NSW.

**FUNCTIONS ATTENDED / TO ATTEND;** NCW 'Celebrate being an Australian' Luncheon, Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Dedication Service. PPSEAWA International Women's Day Luncheon 15 March.

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS;**

**Girls' Brigade:** Ruth Dickenson reported that there is to be another representative from Girls' Brigade. It is hoped that Ruth will be able to accompany that person to the March Council meeting.

**National Council of Women;** Tricia Graham mentioned that NCW held their annual 'Celebrate Being an Australian' Luncheon in the Strangers Dining Room at NSW Parliament House. 10 young women were awarded a Certificate of Achievement and a cheque for \$1,000 to assist with further studies. E news for February has been sent out. Tricia distributed copies of contact details for the various TV outlets to be challenged regarding the frequency of gambling ads and at appropriate time slots.

NCW has learned that they have a meeting scheduled with Hon Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services, regarding a submission on "Elderly parents caring for children with a disability". This comes in response to a submission sent to him in November 2011. The President's Lunch is to be held on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> at Hunters Hill. On Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> NCW will host the Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon where women 90 years and over are honoured for their work for women and their communities. Anyone interested in this luncheon to contact Tricia Graham.

**Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association:** PPSEAWA Edith Ridge brought news of the various meetings. In November 2012, the speaker was Kate Prowse who has taught at Ravenswood School for Girls for the past 20 years. Kate is highly qualified as a teacher, and prior to this participated in a Bangladesh/ Australia Child Health Project, a joint initiative between Scouts, Guides and UNICEF. In July 2012 students from Ravenswood and Knox Grammar visited Cambodia on a joint immersion project, the aim being to raise awareness and engage in Social Justice initiatives. Two of the girls accompanied Kate to the meeting and expressed thanks for this opportunity. The 2013 International Conference is to be held in Fiji. On 15<sup>th</sup> March, a Women's Day Luncheon will be held at Turrumurra UCA cost \$35. Ms Maria Jose de Jesus will speak on 'Women and children of East Timor'. At the February meeting the Executives proposals for donations will be considered. There are to be luncheons in May and October.

**World Day of Prayer:** Helen Hill reported the 2013 service prepared by women in France will be held Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, with the theme *I was a stranger and you welcomed me*. There was a meeting in February to discuss the World Day of Prayer service for 2014 prepared by the women of Egypt with the theme *Streams in the Desert*. At the AGM Elizabeth Clarke steps down as President NSW to become the National Liaison Officer [NLO] A treasurer and secretary are likely to be needed. Please pray for those people who may come to fill these roles.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Please return the form sent indicating your intention to attend the National Conference to be held in October in Western Australia.

**NSW AGM:** Nomination forms available for positions for NSW State Unit.

Please send addresses to secretary for those to whom invitations are to be sent for the Dedication Day and those to whom the AGM report should be forwarded.

**NEXT MEETING:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013 Morning Tea: Uniting Church Chair Duties: Catholic Church

Isabel closed with prayer. Meeting concluded at 12.10 pm.



18. 3. 2013