

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2009-2011



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 8 February 2011 at 1.45 pm at 65 Flinders Street, Adelaide

PRESENT Margaret Flint OAM, Christine Barber, Judy Burge, Maureen Clark, Judith Dell, Aileen Eldridge, Wanda McKeand and Kath Smith

APOLOGIES Donna Bryan, Brenda Dickinson, Dorothy Ferrier, Margaret Greenslade

WELCOME

President Margaret Flint OAM

President Margaret opened the meeting at 1.49 pm, welcoming all present – a special welcome was extended to Aileen who was attending her first meeting of National Executive. Acknowledgement was made of the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting was held, the Kaurna people. Margaret invited all to participate in the Prayer of Commitment before proceeding with the meeting.

REFLECTION

Judith Dell

Judith based her reflection on Rainbows of Significance, chosen because of recent rains and Cyclone Yasi in Queensland. Her message reinforced the theme that God will never leave or forsake us even through the storms we experience in our lives.

BUSINESS

President Margaret reported that The Salvation Army had recently announced its new world leader, Commissioner-Elect Linda Bond who currently heads the church in the Australian Eastern Territory. She will take office as Commissioner when the current incumbent retires at the beginning of April. A letter of congratulations is to be sent to Commissioner-Elect Bond from Australian Church Women Inc. President Margaret enquired if any member was able to pass on information regarding members who had been recognised in the Australia Day Honours Awards. There was a negative response from those at the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 25 January 2011

PROPOSED Maureen Clark, SECONDED Wanda McKeand that the Minutes be regarded as a true and accurate record of proceedings
CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1 **Conference 2011** **defer to General Business**
- 2 **Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust** **visit of Rev Lee Moon Sook**
Request to Winifred Kiek Fellowship Trust regarding Rev Lee Moon Sook's travels to other State Units following her attendance at National Conference. Secretary Judy reported that she had received some responses but was waiting for replies from all Units. Once they have all been received, and a decision made as to which units will be visited, Convenor Cynthia Gifford and Barbara Gear will make finance available from Trustees for this visit.
- 3 **Archives** **ongoing**
Investigations into this matter are continuing
- 4 **Reflection Day 2011**
President Margaret invited all at the meeting to think about an appropriate location and date for such an event – perhaps it could contain unstructured time as well as time of study. Work through denominations, perhaps suburban venue with a garden would be a good idea. Margaret mentioned that there was a real need for all of us to 'switch off' occasionally in order to recharge our spirits.
- 5 **Invitation to ACW NSW Unit to form Executive 2014-16**
An invitation to the NSW Unit had been sent out by Secretary Judy Burge
- 6 **National Executive Minute Secretary appointment**
President Margaret referred to the appointment of new National Executive Minute Secretary Aileen Eldridge. Documentation recording this appointment had been forwarded to the Registrar General ACT.

7 Annual disbursement of monies**defer to Reports****8 Website****defer to Reports****9 ACW WA Unit letter****defer to General Business****CORRESPONDENCE****printed lists attached**

From Secretary:

1 Visit of 10 women from northern Thailand, Church of Christ in Thailand.

Donna's response has been that this would be a good idea – but she queried the costs involved. It was agreed that such a visit could be a part day visit, etc Fit visit into timetable for Conference

PROPOSED Wanda McKeand, SECONDED Kath Smith that the Correspondence inward be accepted, and outward ratified. **CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Business Arising from Correspondence.

REPORTS**President:****Margaret Flint OAM**

There was no formal, written report from President Margaret.

Treasurer:**Christine Barber**

Treasurer Chris issued a printed financial statement for the period ending 31 January 2011. She reported that she is awaiting the arrival of funds from the Tasmanian Unit; to this end she will call the Unit to arrange for them to finalise their finances for 2010. Chris reported that the sum paid to Mercury Printing related to the printing of WKS documentation.

Various issues were discussed, as follows:

1 Annual disbursement of monies

Chris explained the deduction to the total of all amounts received from State Units for Fellowship of the Least Coin collections, Fellowship Day offerings, and World Community Day and Special Project collections.

PROPOSED Christine Barber, SECONDED Kath Smith that the following deduction percentages apply for payments to be forwarded in February 2011 –

Fellowship of the Least Coin	2%
Fellowship Day offerings for Winifred Kiek Scholarship	10%
World Community Day and Special Project	10%

CARRIED**2 Accounts for Payment**

Treasurer Chris presented the following accounts for payment

• National President Margaret Flint, fare to visit Queensland Unit	\$257.71
• Winifred Kiek Scholarship postage	\$131.63
• Wanda McKeand, purchase of Conference stationery – treat as Petty Cash float	\$200.00

PROPOSED Christine Barber, SECONDED Judith Dell that the above accounts be paid. **CARRIED**

President Margaret referred to her planned visit to the Queensland Unit, reporting that the invitation made no mention of accommodation, but she was prepared to meet the charge for this herself. At the time of the meeting she had not received a programme outlining the requirements of her visit to the Unit.

Secretary:**Judy Burge**

No Report

Fellowship of the Least Coin:**Margaret Greenslade**

I have received Grant Application forms from the ICFLC Executive Secretary, Rev Lee Moon Sook, and sent the appropriate ones to Juanita Miller (Tasmanian Unit) and Vimala Isaac (ACT Unit) who had requested them. Vimala was asking on behalf of Eileen Holley (ACT), and after several phone calls, Eileen has now received them. Juanita has since advised me that the Tasmanian Unit will not be furthering their application this year.

I received, via Margaret Flint (thank you), a request (20 January, 2011) from Corazon Tabing-Reyes asking the numbers of the latest edition of the 'Circle of Prayer' required for Australia. I have written to all Units and the Darwin branch asking for their individual requirements, requesting a prompt reply – as yet I have not received any.

In the letter to Margaret Florence, Queensland Unit, I also included our thoughts and prayers for those affected by the devastating floods. The cyclone occurred after the letters were posted.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship:**Maureen Clark**

Please use my new email address – clarkm@adam.com.au – as my old email address will 'die' soon. WKS pamphlets for Fellowship Day have been posted to all WKS Convenors.

CORRESPONDENCE**Inward**

18/12/10 Ruth Usa Marsipal Christmas letter
23/12/10 Christmas replies from Siok Cheng and Doreen Tie Chin Bing
04/01/11 Christy Ferguson's newsletter and reply
05/01/11 Letter from Rev Mary Au

Outward

03/02/11 WKS pamphlets to WKS Convenors
03/02/11 WKS Circular 14 to WKS Convenors, news from Rev Mary Au (1990), Sue Nitrai (2000), Imelda Aquino (2008).

Maureen also reported verbally that Ruth had given birth to a son.

Publicity/ Newsletter:**Margaret Flint OAM**

President Margaret reported that she was currently working on preparation of the *National News* newsletter; she requested that Maureen Clark proof read the draft version prior to final printing.

Special Days:**Judith Dell**

Judith reported that she had received two Special Project applications from the ACT Unit. With regard to the 2011 Fellowship Day Service, that it had been decided to remove from the list the reading from Ephesians, with a replacement suggested. President Margaret and Judith will organise to send the final Order of Service out to Units. Judith mentioned that Kay Viney, now living in Darwin, had done a good job of preparing this Order of Service amongst the upheaval of moving from Alice Springs.

The SA Unit will be meeting soon to work on World Community Day Order of Service for 2011; they had been advised of this responsibility only recently.

Judith asked that the dates of responsibility for these services be included in the upcoming *National News* newsletter.

Social Justice:**Kath Smith**

It is time to get back to work, and I am enclosing an email from Helen Raymond to Margaret Flint (dated 2 December 2010, relating to the proposed PNG legislation to legalise prostitution in that country) that has been passed on to me to deal with. I am sending my response to all State Unit Social Issues Convenors to ask all members to pray about this matter.

My response to this email reads I feel it is not our prerogative to advise another country how to organise their affairs. While I disagree with this suggestion by the Minister for Women, Carol Kidu, I feel as an ACW body in Australia we can only pray for them, and if they want our support then they much contact us to seek our help. I am informing all State Social Issues Convenors of this issue and hopefully a successful solution to the matter can be reached.

Could you please send your Social Issues Report to me by 30 July, 2011, so that I have time to prepare my report for Conference please.

Regards to you all, and I hope to see you all from 10-14 October for the National Conference at Immanuel College.

I am going to work on Reducing Violence against Women and their children.

ACWC:

A Prayer Request had been received from the Executive Secretary of ACWC, Rev Lee Moon Sook:

Greetings from Seoul!

Another news about Sri Lanka and Australia have worried us.

Heavy rains in Sri Lanka's north central and eastern provinces have displaced almost a million people and caused widespread devastation, a government official said Saturday. The displaced have been housed in 505 welfare centres and relief efforts are under way. Almost 1,000 houses have been destroyed. The worst hit areas were the districts of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa in the north central province. The eastern districts of Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara are also affected. Prisons flooded in Anuradhapura, and inmates had to be moved to three different prisons. In the Polonnaruwa district, the town of Medirigirya was fully submerged in water Saturday. Army search-and-rescue teams – assisted by naval craft – were deployed for evacuation work.

Cyclone Yasi, the biggest storm to ever hit Australia. The massive cyclone was a category 5 storm when it slammed into the Queensland coast just after midnight Thursday, leaving more than 170,000 homes without power. Some areas could be without power for weeks. Once-powerful Tropical Storm Yasi diminished to a category 1 storm Thursday, but was still expected to bring heavy rain and blustery winds to Australia's interior. The rains could produce localised flooding in the already water-logged region for days to come.

Could you please pray for our members' countries and people in continuing natural disasters.

This email is to be forwarded on to State Units.

AWC:

Margaret Flint OAM

Margaret referred to recent AEC President's Report relating to this organisation which she had received from another source recently. There is to be a meeting of AWC in Sydney in late March, and she reported that she was planning to attend this meeting, hopefully courtesy of frequent flyer points.

Website:

Margaret Flint OAM for Brenda Dickinson

There was discussion on the printed email from Brenda, relating to the new website and the election of a new National Website Manager. Margaret reported that she and Secretary Judy had been in touch with Brenda and had the existing website as up to date as possible.

PROPOSED Maureen Clark, SECONDED Kath Smith that we accept Ewan Arnold's quote for \$380 for the design and initial set-up of a new website with unlimited support. CARRIED

PROPOSED Maureen Clark, SECONDED Kath Smith that we accept Ewan Arnold's offer of obtaining hosting for \$76 pa for 50 Mb. CARRIED

PROPOSED Kath Smith, SECONDED Wanda McKeand that President Margaret forward a memo to State Unit Website Managers informing them of this information. CARRIED

There was some discussion on Brenda's decision to want to step down from the role of National Website Manager. A new Website Manager would have to be elected at Conference. It was decided that National Executive ask Brenda, that given our support for Ewan setting up a new website, is she would be prepared to see through the set-up process until Conference. National Executive will need to advertise the vacancy for a new Website Manager.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1 ACW WA Unit letter

There was some discussion relating to the letter received from the WA Unit, expressing its concern to the issue of a membership register given that some Units appeared to now be questioning this obligatory requirement of incorporation. President Margaret reported that we contact them and offer our support for them in this issue through prayer; if necessary, President Margaret would consider visiting the WA Unit to talk about the Constitution with them.

2 Constitution overview

President Margaret expressed her thanks to Judy Burge and Aileen Eldridge for the format of the document outlining proposed changes to the Constitution. Maureen Clark reported that she believed that some changes had not been identified. Margaret requested that members of the National Executive take their copy of the document home and read through it thoroughly, noting any problems that they could see. She went on to say that some time during March or April the Constitution group should meet with Gilbert Materne to go through the identified alterations with him, and to identify the reasons for each change. Following that stage the document would be refined, and would then be sent out to all State Units for consideration prior to Conference.

The meeting gave their approval for the group to meet with Gilbert Materne.

APPROVED

It was agreed that Margaret Flint and Maureen Clark would meet to discuss and document the reasons for all suggested changes.

3 Preparation of Guidelines for running of Annual General Meeting in years alternate to Conference

Discussion revealed the necessity to recommend to National Conference on the process to prepare for the AGM in alternate years. It was agreed that Margaret Flint, Judy Burge and Christine Barber meet and list all ideas of these requirements. Items to be discussed should include time lines, etc – currently there are no guidelines in the Rules; some complication arose in the hands-on process which possibly had not been foreseen. It was agreed that they would refer to the Guidelines for ideas.

With regard to implementation, it was considered that Teleconference could be regarded as a possible format.

Further discussion involved making a formal request for Gilbert Materne to attend the Conference when this issue was dealt with, although there was a real possibility that he would not do so.

4 Conference 2011

There was continuing discussion on details relating to the 2011 Conference.

The meeting finished 4.43 pm with prayer

President

Date