

Australian Church Women Inc

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of Meeting

Friday 10 July 2009 at 10.00 am

1. **Welcome** President Jean welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked Vonnie for hosting the meeting at her home.
2. **Devotions** Jean led the devotions with a reading from the Newsletter, followed by prayers.
3. **Present** Jean Thomson OAM (in chair), Jan Abrahamffy, Constance Aronsen, Angela Devlin, Jacqueline Hipwell, Eileen Holley, Margaret Lawton, Helen Lloyd, Helen Raymond, Judith-Ann Sjostedt, Ruth Burmester OAM (NLM) and Evonne Sullivan AM (NLM).
4. **Apologies** Donna Bryan, Brenda Dickinson, Fran Moss.
5. **Minutes** of meeting held on 12 June 2009 were moved Judith-Ann, seconded Helen L and accepted with the following amendments:-
 - Judith-Ann Sjostedt was in attendance at the June meeting;
 - 5(a) the word Conference added after the word National and unfortunately Corazon will not be able to accept an invitation from NSW unit *or* WA;
 - Site (XXX) referred to in item 6 Treasurer's report is ACW National Women's Justice Commission and cheques received from the Anglican Church in Grafton were sent to Helen Richardson, NSW Treasurer;
 - Correspondence OUT, item 8 no. 28, no 'c' in Plibersek;
 - AWC report 9-8) should read "..... affecting"

Business arising

5. a) Corazon Tabing-Reyes' itinerary has been revised slightly to enable her to visit the Victorian Unit. However her dates of arrival and departure remain the same (see below). President Jean advised that she has not yet confirmed payment of fares with WKS so at this stage no bookings have been made. Corazon will travel from Manila to Brisbane on Monday 14 September; Brisbane to Melbourne on Wednesday 16th; Melbourne to Launceston on Friday 18th; Launceston to Canberra (via Melbourne) on the morning of Monday 21st. Corazon will attend the National Conference until Friday 25th and then travel to Adelaide for time with WKS Trustees and the new National Executive. She will return to Manila on Tuesday 29 September.

- 6. Treasurer's report** Helen L presented her report – see attached. Helen L moved, Constance seconded that her report be accepted.

Business arising

6. a) Helen L proposed and the meeting agreed that an amount of \$1000.00 would be forwarded to the SA Unit to allow the incoming National Executive set up an account, to facilitate easy transfer of funds once they take over the office. A further amount, which will cover 50% of travel* registration and accommodation for 5 members of the incoming National Executive to attend the National Conference will also be sent to the SA Unit. (*Travel costs will be based on the least expensive airfare available.)

6. b) President's travel expenses to attend unit meeting in Brisbane on 27 July 2009 in the amount of \$244.70, was approved.

6. c) With the help of Ruth Burmester, the National's copy of the Honouring Australian Church Women book has been extended and a new cover and slip box made. Additional "bolts" were purchased and will be passed on to the Units at the National Conference to facilitate expansion of their books. Cost of cover and bolts was \$110.00 and Ruth has generously donated \$50.00, so total cost amounts to \$60.00, which will be reimbursed to Ruth.

Moved Helen R, seconded Angela that accounts be passed for payment.

7. Correspondence IN

1. Further letter from Governor-General's office regarding morning tea at Government House at 11am on Thursday 24 September (RSVP by Friday 14 August 2009);
2. Application from 2008-09 Women's Leadership and Development Program Grants unsuccessful. (Fares for Alice Springs women to travel to conference);
3. Minutes from Units: SA (12 June 09), VIC (24 April 09) TAS (25 May 09);
4. SA Unit Motion and information re Incorporation (see 23 June 09 letters);
5. Nungalinga College appeal;
6. Pat Burchell (with confidential enclosures);
7. VIC Unit 2009 Annual Report;
8. NCWA Newsletter June 09;
9. Olive Ackland re conference accommodation.
10. ACT Unit Newsletter July-Sept 09.

11. Letters from WA Unit re having invited Corazon to visit, but now not possible to include in her itinerary;
12. Hellenic Club to consider funding grant application at their board meeting – decision by 15 July 09;
13. Report from AWC (Some has been printed out);
14. Several brochures from companies wanting to organise our next Conference in exotic locations!
15. Eileen Holley had received the new edition of *Circle of Prayer* together with new FLC brochure.

Correspondence OUT

1. Nat Exec Minutes of 12 June 09 distributed.
2. National Newsletter July–September 09 posted.
3. Letters to Units with Conference info, including inviting nominations for ACWC delegates to Assembly 2010. Later, correction to ACWC nominee requirements
4. Dorothy Wright (SA NLM) re contribution for Honouring ... Women.

Moved Helen R, seconded Jacqueline that inwards correspondence be received, and outwards correspondence be ratified. Agreed.

9. Reports

1) **FLC** – Jan reported that she had received a letter, dated 25 June, from SA FLC convenor Eva Cooper, with a request for 100 FLC flyers and 100 prayer cards, which were sent on 8 July 2009. Jan had also received an email from Brenda Dickinson with the FLC grants for this year. Supplies of flyers and prayer cards had also been requested by the ACT unit convenor and Jan will telephone to ask what quantities are required.

2) **WKS** – Constance reported that she had enjoyed her trip to South Australia, where she had been very warmly welcomed by the WKS Trustees. She was pleased to be present at the meeting when the Trustees considered five very worthy applications, this year from the Pacific Islands, for 2010 scholarships. Two candidates were shortlisted for further consideration and a selection will be made shortly. Constance has been trying to contact as many ex students as possible in order to update contact details. To date the following have replied:

Chew Siok Cheng, Susan Liersch, Leinamau Manrogoana, Gaye Inall, Tania Eichler, and Susan Nitrai. More details are in the National Newsletter for July-Sept.

Constance was congratulated for her persistence on tracking scholars down and for her continuing hard work on behalf of the National Executive.

3) **Special Days** – Fran sent greetings and advised that she is still waiting on the theme chosen by the incoming National Executive for their two year term of office.

4) **Social Justice** – Judith-Ann had prepared and read her Annual National Social Issues Report and advised that she has found the experience both a pleasure and an honour to serve in this role for the past two years. Over these years a good rapport has been established with all State Units who have Social Justice convenors and Judith-Ann reiterated the importance we have as Christian women to continue to speak out against all forms of injustice – society is judged on the way it treats its most vulnerable citizens. She closed her report with the words of our Lord when he said “What-so-ever you do for the least of my brethren you do unto me”. The full report will be included in the National Conference papers.

5) **Publications** – Eileen reported that the National News for July-Sept. had been despatched and drew members attention to the advertisement of a *Spiritual Enrichment* Day. It should be noted that this will take place on Monday 20 July 2009 in St James King Street Hall, Phillip Street, Sydney. This Newsletter will be the last for this National Executive’s term of office.

6) **ACWC** – Donna had given a comprehensive report in the National News for July-Sept. The 14th General Assembly will be held in Indonesia from 7-12 October 2009 and prayers were sought for all preparations, with much still to do before the event. She sent blessings and thanks for prayers and support for the Asian Church Women’s Conference.

7) **Website** – Brenda, in her latest email dated 6 July 2009, is still continuing her efforts to resolve the requested change to the logo. Still no response has been received from the web managers, despite of several follow-ups. Efforts will continue until the matter has been resolved, hopefully before the National Conference in September.

8) **Australian Women’s Coalition** - President Jean sent apologies for the meeting in May as she was visiting the SA and WA Units, but is now in receipt of the minutes of that meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in August before Jean hands on the responsibility to the new National Executive in September. AWC’s final report on the health and welfare issues affecting young women and girls is due for completion in October this year.

9) **President** – President Jean will travel to Brisbane on Monday 27 July to attend the QLD Unit meeting. She will return to Canberra the next day. An invitation had been received to attend a Symposium at the Law School, University of Sydney from the 19-21 July entitled ‘Challenging Islamophobia: Towards Social Justice and Inclusion’. Jean will contact the NSW Unit to establish if someone from the Unit could attend on behalf of the National Executive.

10. General Business

1) **Conference planning** – well underway with another successful planning day at the end of June. All reports are due by 21 July and printing and distribution will be complete by 21 August 2009. Preparation of motion regarding Incorporation and issues raised by the SA Unit, together with other motions and a matter for concern, also from SA Unit, regarding how the Government intends to raise standard of living for indigenous Australia, are almost complete.

2) **Survey report** – this will be distributed with the Minutes.

11. **Next Meeting** – at 10.00 am on Friday, 14 August 2009, at the same venue.

Meeting closed at 1.05 pm and members continued to discuss Conference planning over lunch.

Signed: Jean Thomson

Date: 14.8.09

Jean Thomson, President

amd:11.07.2009

Treasurer's Report 10 July 2009

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Cheque A/C

Balance at 12.6.09 \$16182.59

Receipts

Donations -

National Conference Fund 150.00

National Travel Fund 150.00

Overseas Conference and Travel Fund 150.00

National Conference 2009

Registrations 3690.00

Conference fees 20292.00 23982.00 24432.00

\$40614.59

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Payments

WKS Trust Honouring Aust Church Women 210.00

Petty cash expenses 60.00

Petty cash floats returned (100.00)

Meeting expenses 100.00 270.00

Balance at 30.6.09 \$40344.59

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Receipts July

National Conference 2009-Registrations 280.00

Conference fees	<u>2490.00</u>	<u>2770.00</u>
		43114.59

Payment July

Transfer to Call a/c		<u>13000.00</u>
Balance at 10.7.09		<u>\$30114.59</u>

A D F Call a/c

Balance at 12.06.09 and 30.6.09		\$23486.86
<u>Add transfer from cheque a/c</u>		<u>13000.00</u>
Balance at 10.07.09		<u>\$36486.86</u>

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Balance of Funds

National Conference Fund	13017.86 + 150.00	13167.86
National Travel Fund	3620.82 + 150.00	3770.82
Overseas Conference & Travel Fund	2860.00 + 150.00	3010.00
National Conference 2009 Registrations	5320.00	
Conference Fees	<u>31601.00</u>	36921.00
ACWC for Victorian Bushfire Support		760.57
Administration		<u>8971.20</u>
Total cheque and call a/c's		<u>\$66601.45</u>

Helen Lloyd, National Treasurer

10.7.2009

CONFERENCE SONG

Judith-Ann Sjöstedt

Faith in the Future

Chorus

*We have faith in the future,
raise your voices in praise and song
that Australian Church women
remain ever faithful and strong. (Repeat)*

1.

Together we are united
in prayer and fellowship
all Protestant denominations,
Catholics, Salvationists.

We are called Christ's disciples
with compassion and charity
befriending the poor and the lonely,
and welcoming refugees.

2.

We have faith in the future,
as servants of his Word,
Australian Church Women's prayers
will always be heard.

We will fight for truth and justice
and reconciliation.
no matter what creed, race or colour
in every nation.

3.

We have faith in the future,
of WKS and FLC,
to keep alive the vision
of Winifred and Shanti.

Lord, lift us in your spirit,
fill us with life anew,
that Australian Church women
remain ever faithful to you.

4.

So said the prophet Micah –
Live justly and love tenderly
we'll walk with our God for ever
in peace and humility.

*We have faith in the future –
raise your voices in praise and song
that Australian church Women
remain ever faithful and strong.*

FAITH IN THE FUTURE

Judith-Ann Sjostedt

We have faith in the future raise your
voices in praise and song That Aus -
tra - lian Church wo - men re -
main ev - er faith - ful and strong We have
faith in the future raise your
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tra - lian Church wo - men re -
main ev - er faith - ful and strong