



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

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MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 16 February 2009, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Jennifer Peffer welcomed Olive Bolliger to the meeting following her absence because of full time caring for her husband. Jennifer then welcomed all present at the beginning of the New Year before leading devotions.

DEVOTIONS: What prompted Dorothea McKellar to write the poem *My Country*? Viewing Australia from a plane one sees the amazing diversity of the land, but there is a harsh side, and from the relative safety of city living it is sometimes hard to appreciate the destruction wrought by fires and flooding. We can offer prayer for the victims of bushfires and floods, and those who work to bring relief, healing and comfort. We ask, "Why?" Matthew 6:25 reminds us that God is in control, and Psalm 46 speaks of God as refuge and strength. In prayer, thanks were offered for salvation, and blessings asked for the meeting.

PRESENT: 39 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 13 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Council Meeting on 17 November 2008 were confirmed on the motion of Helen Hill and Nancy McLaren.

### BUSINESS ARISING:

1. The Service of Dedication will be held at Eastwood Baptist Church at 11.00 am on Monday 18 May 2009. Following on from last year we look to the past for inspiration, but the future is our responsibility. The speaker is Colonel Jan Condon. A basket lunch will be organised and a list sent around at the April meeting. Isabella Harrison will be the song leader and soloist.

2. A recommendation from Executive on the costing of *Newsette* is still to come.

### REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported the books have been audited for 2008 and the audited financial statements will be included in the Annual Report. Moneys forwarded to National last year included nearly \$13,000 for FLC, and over \$1000 was received in December which will be included in the total for 2009. The balance at the end of January was \$3,650.57.

It was moved Helen Richardson, seconded Lily Hanlon that the report be received and payments approved/ratified. Carried.

Moved Helen Richardson, seconded Heather Reid that \$2,000 be moved into the investment account. Carried.

PASTORAL CARE: The death of Keasi Kupu was noted. Carmel Keys and Edith Ridge had represented ACW at her funeral, and a tribute was included in the most recent *Newsette*.

Jennifer Peffer reported that Enid Utber from Strathfield Branch underwent surgery recently and is now off the danger list.

Olive Edmonstone reported that her daughter-in-law Naline will learn on Thursday whether her body has accepted the bone marrow transplant. Peg Blake has continuing medical appointments.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton advised that the venue for the 2009 concert will be at the Churches of Christ Northside Community Church, 34 Oxley Street, corner of Pole Lane, Crows Nest at 2.00 pm on Sunday 18 October. Council members were asked to advise Lyn of groups or individuals who could be contacted and asked to contribute to the afternoon.

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**SOCIAL ISSUES:** Carmel Keys reminded members of the ever growing list of causes demanding a response from us as Christians. The call for justice for the poor, the homeless and children head the list, but the intervention into Indigenous communities still needs to be looked at. We have just observed the first anniversary of the apology to the Stolen Generations.

The matter of asylum seekers being returned to their homelands and facing death or danger is now receiving attention in the courts. Euthanasia is a continuing debate, and global issues such as the situation in Zimbabwe are ongoing as well.

Australia has signed up to the elimination of discrimination against women, but there is a need for issues to be addressed in this regard.

Friday 20 February 2009 is World Social Justice Day.

**FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:** Janet Lang will be in Scotland until September. During her absence last year Helen Richardson sent receipts, but it was felt that there is a need to have a Convener to promote FLC rather than let it languish.

**SPECIAL DAYS:** Pamela Freeman reported that she had received a letter of resignation from Forster/Tuncurry Branch of ACW. This is the Branch that Lucelle King was involved with until failing health prevented her attendance.

Packing days will be April 20 after the AGM, and following August Council meeting. In the overall theme of Faith in the Future, Fellowship Day will assert Our God is Ever Faithful, and World Community Day, Faith – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. There was discussion at Executive regarding the format and presentation of services, and the need for flexibility and latitude for local groups.

**WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:** Judith Cayzer told of the advantage in having email contact with scholars. A full report can be found in the current Newsette, but in addition Judith reported that Rachel McManus is working as an Aboriginal Teacher's Aide at Miles High School in Queensland, and she now has a young son. Una Birchnall in Victoria has made contact with Christine Ferguson, one of the scholars for this year who will be studying at Lilydale. Judith has not yet made contact with Inese Foiakau who will study at North Parramatta.

Heather Reid drew attention to mention of Kayleen Manton in the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Bimbadeen news letter. Kayleen attended an ACWC assembly as an Aboriginal delegate.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Thora Thomas attended the meeting, her last as a Uniting Church representative. Thora said that she has come for the past 12 years, expressed her feeling that ACW is unique and her thanks to all for the friendship and fellowship she has enjoyed. Having received a clearance from her oncologist, Thora is going overseas again, assuring that it would be 'only for five weeks'. Olive Edmondstone led in prayer for Thora.

**NEWSETTE:** Beryl McLaughlin advised that the deadline for copy for the next issue is 20 April 2009. Email address for copy is [newsette@aanet.com.au](mailto:newsette@aanet.com.au) New email address for Brenda Dickinson is [brendad2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:brendad2@optusnet.com.au)

**PUBLICITY:** Nancy McLaren offered copies of the booklet for 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to those who had not received one.

**CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)**

National Executive: Minutes 14/11/08, 12/12/08, 16/1/09

ACW SA – 2008 Annual Report

Yvonne Pawley

Jan Condon

Pupunu Kupu – return thanks

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CORRESPONDENCE (Inward) continued:

UCA Mission Support Group – invitation 30/3/09

PPSEAWA – invitation 11/3/09, notices

Dorothy Woodhouse – re affiliated organisations

ACW ACT *Newsletter* 12/08; UCAF *Newsletter* 11/08; PWA *Span* 12/08; Prison Fellowship *Unbound* 12/08, 3/09; NCW NSW *Newsletter* 11/08, *Domestic and Family Violence* papers

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

ACW Minutes to National 6/08, 8/08

Jean Ashton

ABC re program changes Radio National

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND: PPSEAWA Luncheon

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells reported that the first NCW meeting for the year would be next week. The Australia Day luncheon was a great success. Post graduate awards were made to 'women of achievement' for honours or specific research.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported that 2009 will focus on Millennium Goals III on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In March our representatives will give a five minute talk about Australian Church Women.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Everything is in place for the 2009 World Day of Prayer Services. For 2010 the country of focus will be Cameroon. If the proposed rearrangement of WDP goes ahead ACW will be asked for three representatives.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant expressed thanks for prayers, and offered to speak to groups. The Bible Society is pleased to report that they have a new printing press in China, and there is contact with North Korea through China. Papua New Guinea is one of the current goals for Bible Society outreach.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Unit Address List was available for members to update prior to reprinting.
2. Annual General Meeting will be held 20 April 2009, and Nomination forms were available for all positions other than that of President.
3. National Conference Canberra 21-25 September 2009 and any motions for consideration will need to be submitted well ahead of that time. The cost of the Conference – registration \$90 (early) or \$100 and accommodation just over \$700 – was thought to be rather more than a number of Council members could contemplate. On the motion of Nancy McLaren and Olive Edmondstone it was agreed that a letter be written to National Executive expressing concern at the high cost of National Conference.
4. Diary Date Bookmarks were available for Council members.
5. Trading Table 2009 – will be organised by Churches of Christ ladies in March, June, August and November. Members were asked to support by buying and/or supplying sales items.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Jennifer Pepper closed the meeting with words from *Jesus our Future* by Bruce Prewer. Where there is injustice and suffering we leave to God what we cannot do.

NEXT MEETING: 16 March 2009

CHAIRS: Anglican

MORNING TEA: Uniting

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_