



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 20 November 2006,
10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Carmel Keys welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Carmel led devotions based on our journey through life on the road of hope. John 15: 16 tells us that we should bear fruit. The journey needs our departure, duty and perseverance. Many who have gone before us have taken such steps: Abraham, Moses, the Magi, Jesus, Paul, are but a few examples. We should note that saints do ordinary duties, accepting and obeying the will of God. We should not be afraid, but ask and receive help when needed. We should love as a child, and our only failure is if we lose faith. To be saints and reach our reward requires great effort – may we persevere to the end.

PRESENT: 49 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 11 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting on 21 August 2006 were confirmed on the motion of Lily Hanlon and Irene Roberts.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Day Conference 18 September 2006 at Salvation Army Headquarters had good speakers, music and food. Heather Reid reported that she had attended the performance by Sr Nancy Murray on the life of Catherine of Sienna mentioned by Sr Patricia Stevenson and had found it very worthwhile.

2. Asian Church Women's Conference celebration Sunday 24 September 2006 at Eastwood Baptist Church was a great success. Thanks were expressed to Beryl Kirkwood and Olive Edmondstone for their work in planning the day. Photos were reproduced in *Newsette*.

Helen Richardson reported on the ACWC Assembly in Kuala Lumpur. Using the materials received, Helen described the meeting which celebrated 50 years of both Asian Church Women's Conference and Fellowship of the Least Coin. Isabel Hewitt read her poem to give an idea of the tour to the Cameron Highlands and Penang which was undertaken by 19 of the Australians who attended the Assembly.

3. ACW Website: Brenda Dickinson is gathering information for the NSW page.

4. World Community Day Service 2007: The group appointed at last Council to meet at end of this meeting.

6. 'Profiles' of Presidents NSW Inter Church Council/ACW NSW Unit: Work is continuing, and with 2008 being the 70 years anniversary we should try to see completion by this time.

7. Christian Christmas. It was agreed that we recommend the use of Bible Society calendars which can be purchased at outlets including the Pauline Bookshop and Mothers Union shopfront.

Members reported on Nativity Scenes in shopping centres. The display at David Jones was commended and it was agreed that a letter of commendation be sent.

REPORTS:

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported a balance at the end of October of \$9652.68. Moved Helen, seconded Jan Harrison that the report be received, and payments of accounts approved. Carried. It was agreed that \$4000 be taken from investment so that monies due for payment to National Executive can be made. Agreed also that \$750 be forwarded to Asian Church Womens Conference.

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PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone had sent cards to Beatrice Kay, Rosalyn Bemrose, Alison Todd who has had a hip replacement, and Martha Noel. Olive also expressed thanks for Beryl Kirkwood's recovery. Jean Porteous reported on Rosalyn Bemrose who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Nancy McLaren presented the report in Janet Lang's absence and led a devotional on Esther who had to be pushed into action. Thanks are due to people who remind us of God's purpose for us and enable us to be influential in other people's lives. FLC spreads through the world as prayers are lifted.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Beryl Kirkwood thanked Council members for their concern. Donna Bryan is the new Australian Representative to ACWC and she is the new Assembly secretary for ACWC. Barbara Lacy thanked Pat Walker for her contribution as Australian representative. Photos and report from the ACWC concert have been sent to Shu Wen and may be in the Newsletter – for which subscriptions are now due at \$12.

For 2007 it would be good to hold the ACWC celebration on the south side of Sydney, perhaps Hurstville, probably either 16 September 2007 or 21 October 2007.

Korea is the new ACWC prayer partner for Australia.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported that 21 reports were in from World Community Day Services which were held from early October to early November.

Themes for 2007 are: Fellowship Day: *Heaven's Bread* – Exodus 16: 13-18
World Community Day: *Enough for Each Day* – Matthew 6:11

Preparation for next year's WCD service which is being prepared by NSW would take place following Council. Pamela spoke of the need for new contacts in country areas.

Special Project applications for next year are needed by 19 February 2007 at the latest.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer reported that she had received photos from Una Birchnell of South Australia's 70th Anniversary which include Margaret Knauerhause, Winifred Kiek's daughter.

Tanya Eichler sends her love. She finishes her studies mid December and has been appointed to Bundaberg. She will be ordained in February 2008.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Sr Joan Bird read a draft letter she had prepared to send on behalf of Council to the Prime Minister and appropriate MPs. It was agreed that the letter be sent.

Council was also told of the Broken Bay Diocesan appeal for ordinary things like toiletries for distribution to country people badly affected by drought.

A day of prayer for rain has been designated for 26 November 2006.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin expressed thanks to her son for the photos included in the November issue. The deadline for copy for the next issue is 22 January 2007.

The reports were received on the motion of Olive Edmondstone and Irene Roberts.

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CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 14/8/2006, 11/9/2006, 9/10/2006, Nat Exec addresses;

Financial Statements 1/12/2005 to 30/6/2006, and to 30/9/2006, *National News 9/2006*

Denise Secomb – Uniting Church Adult Fellowship National Committee

CWLA NSW – Mothers and Daughters in Action 2007

Cela Cooper – letter of thanks

Judith Cayzer - report

Prison Fellowship Australia – Receipt and thanks from Ian Minnis

Glebe Trust statements

WCTU – Christmas Luncheon 8/12/06

NSW Women 8/2006; Span 9/2006 The Record Spring 2006; UCAF Newsletter 10/11 2006

UNSW Domestic & Family Violence Newsletter Spring 2006

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

Eunice Reidy – email re ratification of appointment of National Treasurer

National Executive –on death of Margaret Watson

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Following the letter received from Ian Minnis of Prison Fellowship Australia, Jan Harrison suggested that we might consider sponsoring a child to attend Camp WerX. It was agreed that we ‘pass around the hat’.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

St Stephens Christmas Function

Woman’s Christian Temperance Union

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported on the speaker from the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Current outreach from 23 bases using 43 planes means that people in need can be reached in two hours. Public donations provide 75% of funding. The Far West Children’s Scheme and Services for the Aged depends on the public for 50% of its funding. Both organisations began with leadership from ministers of the church who saw needs and worked to enthuse others to help them find solutions. Contemporary needs are faced as they arise.

A Day of Peace was held at St David’s Uniting Church Lindfield on 21 September 2006. This inter-faith service brought together people from eight different faiths. PPSEAWA and NCW members visited Auburn Mosque 13 November.

A workshop looking at ‘Improving Maternal Health’ discussed many issues related to the topic. The need to improve the lot of indigenous women in Australia is urgent. Good family planning, education and skilled birth attendants with good hospitals and health services are essential.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Carmel Keys reported that Rev Dr Ray Williamson retires early 2007 and at the recent meeting he gave a history of the 21 years he has served as Executive Secretary. Bishop Anthony Fisher spoke on World Youth Day 2008 which caters for young people 18+ or younger people who are accompanied. There will be a Mass at Randwick on 19 July 2008. It is hoped that much of the accommodation will be in private homes. Greetings were sent from Rev Clive Harcourt-Norton, a former Executive Secretary of the NSW Ecumenical Council.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Lily Hanlon reported that everything is in hand. People in Paraguay have written the service, and familiarisation day for conveners is set for 27 November.

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BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant reported on ways that the Bible Society is working with new technology to 'spread the Word'. In schools children can listen to a device with Bible stories and these can be different languages as needed.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells told of the 110th Anniversary celebrations in the Lady Mayoress's rooms. Claudia Anderson from the Department of Employment spoke to NCW, using the time to try out the workshops they are holding for women and girls to understand their rights in employment with the new legislation.

GIRLS BRIGADE: Ruth Dickenson spoke of the National Conference in October which updated uniforms. There was great worship and fellowship, and the next national conference will be held in the ACT in three years time. There was a smaller decline in numbers this year. Members helped at Premier's concerts, and were ushers at Homebush.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Isabel Hewitt reported her change of address to 35 Veda Street, Hamilton, NSW 2303, phone 4969 6336

Norma Dumbrell is going back to Myanmar early 2007 and would appreciate prayers as she prepares.

Sister Marie Craddock reported that the National Christian Heritage Forum was held 6 August 2006 – a website can be accessed for information.

Camp WerX contributions amounted to \$252, and as the cost for a child to attend is \$250 it was agreed that \$250 be sent to Ian Minnis at Prison Fellowship, asking for some feedback regarding the child who will benefit from attendance.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Carmel Keys closed the meeting in prayer.

NEXT MEETING: 19 February 2007

CHAIRS: Presbyterian
MORNING TEA: Anglican

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____