

Australian Church Women Inc National Executive 2011-2013
Minutes of Meeting held Monday 11 June 2012
97 William Street Perth WA 6000

1. **Welcome** The meeting was opened at 10 am by National President Major Laurel Pearce. Welcome back to our Vice President Lee Edwards.
2. **Attendance** Laurel Pearce, Lee Edwards, Marie Majoor, Leola Loughnan, Margaret Ker, Olive Dell
3. **Apologies** Donna Bryan, Meryon Goode
4. **Devotions (Laurel Pearce)** Laurel shared a reflection and prayer from Eddie Askew's *Disguises of Love*, based on Romans 8:26-29. God "co operates for good" in loving relationship with us.
5. **Minutes of Previous meeting (14 May 2012)** Confirmation as a true and accurate record moved Marie Majoor, seconded Leola Loughnan..
6. **Business Arising** Leola had provided Margaret with correspondence on file re website costs.
7. **Correspondence** List circulated/ attached.
 - Inward 8: Margaret to request formal letter and profile. Approval at July meeting and formal advice to ACT Unit. Award at 2013 National Conference.
 - Inward 10: DVD not yet received, Margaret to follow up
8. **Reports** *Written reports in the Secretary's File.*
 - **President (Laurel Pearce)**
 - Laurel had contacted Sonya Pell assuring her of our prayers for the Young Women's Forum. An excellent report received from Sonya. She had a great time. She said that "this experience has greatly impacted my life, my faith and ignited my passion for Social Justice as a cause that deserves increasing attention"
 - ICFLC Grant applications finalised and sent to ACWC.
 - Contribution to Circle of Prayer sent to ICFLC.
 - Letter from Rev Lee Moon Sook accepting Australia's invitation to hold the ACWC Executive meeting in Australia during May 2013. Tentative dates 16-21 May or 22-27 May.
 - **Vice Presidents** Marie Majoor reported that she had followed up on correspondence from Australian Taxation Office forwarded by Nola Dickson. *See Treasurer's report.*
 - **Secretary** No report
 - **Treasurer (Leola Loughnan)** Circulated/attached.
 - ATO Change of Registration details completed, covering letter and authorisation signed by President. Information held on file for future reference, copy to National Secretary.
 - Acceptance of report moved Leola Loughnan, seconded Marie Majoor. Ratification of cheques for payment moved Leola Loughnan seconded Lee Edwards.
 - **Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor** (submitted by Meryon Goode, currently in Alice Springs)
 - Denise has a conference from 7 – 13 July and asks for prayers for safe travel and health issues. In August she is doing a study block on "Planning and conduct of group activities". Also studying "Issues in Ethics". That could prove a very challenging course. In November she is doing 2 subjects on the Bible and working effectively with culturally diverse clients.
 - Kyounghee will have presented her thesis on "Mary, the Mother of Jesus" and is planning now for a trip to Sabah where she will deliver her paper on 11 June.
 - Sarah continues her biblical studies and part-time work.
 - Thank you to Constance Aronsen who has sent news of Rachel Otto (Rachel McManus 1997). Married to Craig, with three children, they live on the Gold Coast, youngest child has health problems. They worship at Reedy Creek Baptist Church. Rachel asks for prayers re guidance about going back to work or studies.
 - Meryon hopes to contact more past students when she returns home. This month she and

her husband had to fly to Singapore after her disabled daughter had a fall while on holiday, breaking her ankle in 3 places.

- Laurel to follow up re working party to award this year's scholarship.

- **Fellowship of the Least Coin Convenor (Olive Dell)**

- Two applications, both from Victoria (Kidz Matta [camps for children of women prisoners] and Women Die Waiting - breast cancer among women of Gaza) formally ratified. Both have been sent to ACWC after completion of remaining details.
- Suggestion that Guidelines be amended to avoid confusion over due dates for submission.

- **Special Days Convenor (Olive Dell)**

- Copies of the order of service for World Community Day 2012 had been sent out to all Unit Special Days Convenors in electronic and hard copy. Deep appreciation was expressed to Juanita Miller and members of the Tasmanian Unit for preparing this year's service, and to Leeola for her work in preparing and despatching the final copies.

- **Social Justice (Laurel Pearce)**

- National Reconciliation Week held from 27 May -3 June <http://reconciliation.org.au>
- Refugee Week 2012 will be held from 17-23 June. This year's theme is "Restoring Hope". Events include "Walk Together" which is an opportunity for all Australians to join together in celebration of our diversity and in recognition that for the sake of our future we need to learn to walk together. At 1p.m. on June 23 in more than 10 capital cities and regional centres across Australia, thousands of Australians will walk in unity. Project is supported by many groups and individuals including churches. <http://www.welcometoaustralia.org.au>
- Wesley Mission recently released *Keeping minds well: Caring till it hurts*, a report on the issues facing people caring for a family member with a mental health problem.
- The Salvation Army has held a forum on research into housing affordability. For more information email e-connect@aus.salvationarmy.org
- A Salvation Army survey which questioned more than 1700 people seeking emergency relief shows many are finding it harder to meet financial commitments. For instance, 82% were missing out on at least five basic essentials.
- Query received re social justice news. We have been sending news out via the Social Justice and AWC reports in the monthly National Executive minutes. We apologise if this news has not been getting through to Social Justice convenors. Social Justice news will continue to be in the Minutes but we will also endeavour to send it direct to Social Justice Convenors. *If any Unit Convenors wish to receive a full copy of the report as on file they are most welcome to request this.*

- **Website (Margaret Ker) Updates (YWF / NSW Unit) to be sent to Ewan (apologies for delay!)**

- **Publications** See General Business

- **ACWC (Laurel Pearce)** Email from ACWC Seoul office asking for updates of activities for the April-July issue of ACWC newsletter. April – June activities included in country reports for the 2012 General committee meeting can also be included in the newsletter.

- **Australian Women's Coalition (Laurel Pearce)**

- Social Inclusion Joined Up E News for June received.
- Update received on progress of the Shout seminars for young women. Four Shout workshops have been completed and over 70 young women have attended. This update has been sent to NSW and ACT Units where Shout workshops have been held. AWC asked for a volunteer from each member organization to be part of a Facebook group to add encouraging comments to the young women in the Shout groups. Jean Thomson (our alternate delegate to AWC) kindly offered to be the ACW representative on that group. AWC has already accepted her offer.

- The Garvan HELLO series will be coming to Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and perhaps Perth. When the dates are announced we will be asked to spread the word through our networks about the free public seminars about osteoporosis.
- Last month we promoted the Human Trafficking Awareness Training Sessions being run by Red Cross around Australia. AWC has now announced that two sessions are being held in Sydney late August. This information has been sent to the NSW Unit.
- AWAVA is seeking views on Australia's performance in relation to violence against women and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, the National Plan to Reduce Violence against women and what Australia's priorities on these topics need to be. More information is available on AWAVA'S website or by contacting AWAVA Programme Manager Amy Blain at pm@awava.org.au

9. General Business

- **Young Women's Forum** Sonya had submitted a comprehensive and inspiring report, and has given permission for this to be put on our website.
- **ACWC Executive Committee Meeting May 2013** Laurel will discuss practical requirements for this with Donna and report back to July meeting.
- **Constitution Review (Margaret Ker)**
 - Margaret expressed appreciation for the commitment shown by Units to responding to the recent survey. Three Units had listed Model 2 as first preference, 2 Units had listed Model 4 as first preference and 1 Unit had listed Model 1 as first preference. The remaining Unit had submitted 5 individual responses. There had been a total of 12 individual responses, favouring a variety of models. **A clear majority of Units and individuals favoured a model with Units rather than individuals as members.**
 - A draft of a revised Constitution was then discussed. This draft is based on Model 2 but requires unincorporated Units to appoint a member to exercise their membership rights and be recorded on the Membership Register (principle contained in Model 4).
 - It was decided to circulate this draft to all Units (with the Unit opting for Model 1 would also receiving a draft document based on Model 1). Units would be asked to consider the new draft and to indicate by early August whether it met their expectations.
- **Planning for 2012 AGM** This is dependent on responses to the next stage of the Constitution review. Final decision to be taken at August meeting. The requirements for the AGM decided at the 2011 National Conference were noted.
- **National Conference 2013** Lee Edwards to write to Archbishop Herft inviting him as speaker for ecumenical service Tuesday afternoon. Angela McCarthy UNDA suggested for Bible study. Laurel to contact WKS Trustees re a possible WKS Fellowship for Conference. Programme to be re-examined at July meeting . Need to consider best timing for AGM within programme.
- **Newsletter** Lee Edwards hopes to present an initial draft to the July meeting with a view to publication late July/early August.
- **Closure of Meeting** The meeting closed at 2.00pm.
- **Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at 97 William Street Perth on Monday 9 July commencing at 10am. **Devotions:** Meryon Goode to be asked to prepare devotions.

Minutes confirmed

Date

National President

Minutes prepared by Margaret Ker 92 Vincent Street Mt Lawley WA 6050 passerella.dei@gmail.com

**Australian Church Women Inc National Executive 2011-2013
CORRESPONDENCE LIST for Meeting 11 June 2012**

CORRESPONDENCE INWARD

1. 16 May 2012 Major Kaye Viney Darwin
2. 17 May 2012 Leeola Loughnan re website costs
3. 22 May 2012 Anne Kennedy (Vic) –Constitution Review response
4. 22 May 2012 Juanita Miller (Tas) -Minutes
5. 23 May 2012 Sonya Pell-YWF Report
6. 24 May 2012 Jean Thomson ACT re Constitution Review
7. 25 May 2012 Margaret Florence (Qld) re Constitution Review
8. 25 May 2012 Judith-Ann Sjostedt (ACT)-Constitution Review response and query re National Life Member procedure
9. 25 May 2012 Lillian Hodges NSW re Bear Cottage
10. 28 May 2012 Sharon O’Neill ABC re Bear Cottage
11. 28 May 2012 Corazon Reyes-Circle of Prayer
12. 29 May 2012 Dulcie French (Tas) Constitution Review response
13. 29 May 2012 Margaret Florence (Qld) –Constitution Review response
14. 30 May 2012 Aileen Eldridge SA Unit-Constitution review response
15. 31 May 2012 Brenda Dickinson NSW –website updates requested
16. 3 June 2012 Laurel Pearce re Victorian Unit query Social Justice
17. 4 June 2012 Laurel Pearce re ICFLC project applications
18. 5 June 2012 Rev.Lee Moon-Sook re ICFLC grant applications, and condolences to Olive Dell
19. 7 June 2012 Further individual responses to Constitution Review from Tasmanian Unit
20. 7 June 2012 Leeola Loughnan- National Treasurer’s Report
21. 8 June 2012 Leeola Loughnan--file copy letter to ATO
22. 8 June 2012 Laurel Pearce-forwarding copy of letter from Rev.Lee Moon-Sook re ACWC Executive Meeting 2013
23. 9 June 2012 Olive Dell-reports
24. 9 June 2012 Leeola Loughnan-report re ATO correspondence
25. 9 June 2012 Laurel Pearce-reports
26. 10 June 2012 Juanita Miller (Tas)-new contact list for Tasmanian Unit

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARD

1. 16 May 2012 Major Kaye Viney Darwin
2. 16 May 2012 Minutes and Circular -hard copy mail out
3. 24 May 2012 Jean Thomson re Constitution Review
4. 25 May 2012 Sharon O’Neill ABC re Bear Cottage
5. 25 May 2012 NE and Unit contacts: Bear Cottage
6. 28 May 2012 Cora Reyes ICFLC-Contribution to Circle of Prayer from Laurel Pearce
7. 29 May 2012 Unit Secretaries re Constitution review
8. 31 May 2012 NE members-results of Constitution review survey
9. 4 June 2012 NE members-Agenda and Constitution review report
10. 4 June 2012 Rev.Lee Moon-Sook (ACWC) re ICFLC grant applications



Our Choice is Love

Australian Church Women Inc.
National Executive 2011-2013



NATIONAL CIRCULAR JUNE 2012

Dear Sisters in Christ

It is rather disconcerting to realise that we are now almost half way through the year.

It has been a fairly challenging couple of months for us on National Executive and we have often been reminded that ours is a rather small team!

At our June meeting we were pleased to welcome back our Vice President Lee Edwards from her holiday in the UK, and Olive Dell, our Special Days/FLC Convenor, after some time out on family matters after the death of her father last month.

However Meryon Goode, our WKS Convenor, was not able to be with us as she is visiting family in Alice Springs. WKS Convenors will have heard from Meryon that she too has had heavy family responsibilities recently, with her daughter hospitalised in Singapore while on holiday.

To all ACW members and loved ones experiencing illness or family anxieties at this time we extend our loving prayers and best wishes. May you know always that God is holding you in the palm of His hand.

Peace and blessings

Margaret Ker

CONSTITUTION REVIEW

As you will see from this month's Minutes we are about to move into the next stage of this process.

Next week a draft revised Constitution will be sent out to all Units in hard copy, and also in electronic format so that you can make additional copies if you wish.

Any individual members, as well as members of denominational bodies, are as always most welcome to request a copy if they wish.

The draft reflects the strong preference expressed for a model based on Units as members, rather than individuals. Special provision is made for Units that are not incorporated to nominate a member of their organisation to exercise its legal rights of membership.

Essentially the model offered for consideration is based on Model 2 but uses the principle behind Model 4 to include unincorporated Units.

We need to know whether this hybrid Model meets the expectations of Units who expressed a preference for Models 2 and 4.

If consensus can be reached on this point we would aim to present the Model to the 2012 AGM for endorsement in principle of this as the preferred Model. We cannot actually adopt a revised Constitution until 2013, but we would then have a year for discussion and amendment before presenting to the 2013 Conference/AGM.

If it is not possible to reach consensus in principle we will continue to offer a choice between two or more Models.

SPECIAL DAYS 2012

For many of us in the wider ACW family our two annual Special Days are the highlights of our year.

Being involved at national level gives a wonderful new perspective on the background to these days.

To realise the amount of work that goes in to the orders of service that we happily hand out as we welcome members, friends and visitors to Fellowship Day or World Community Day each year is both inspiring and humbling. We have come to appreciate the amount of love and sheer hard work that Units asked to prepare services put into doing so.

This year we have committed to producing electronic versions of orders of service as well as hard copies and this brings its own challenges in the final preparation of what is sent out.

We thank the Queensland and Tasmanian Units for the love and dedication they have put into preparing the beautiful orders of service for Fellowship Day and for World Community Day this year, which we know you will all enjoy using.

YOUNG WOMEN'S FORUM 2012

This event was held in Bangkok last month, in conjunction with the other meetings of the Asian Church Women's Conference. Sonya Pell, Australia's representative at the Forum, sent us a wonderful and inspiring report on the event, which will with her permission be appearing on our website very soon. A hard copy will be posted to each Unit shortly, and electronic copies are as always available on request. Here is Sonya's covering letter expressing her appreciation of the opportunity to attend:

Dear Major Pearce,

It is hard to believe the Young Women's Forum in Bangkok is already over, last week I had such a wonderful time in Thailand and wanted to pass on my sincere thanks and gratitude to the ACW for allowing me this opportunity to attend,

Overall the Forum was an enormous success, I was amazed by how effortlessly so many women from so many different countries were able to unite to work, share and pray together. It was truly a wonderful time that allowed women to share openly and honestly about the circumstances in their countries and join together in prayer against such injustices. I can honestly say I came away inspired and empowered to continue my work and my ministry as I am sure so did all of those attending.

I have completed a brief report on my experiences along with some feedback and photos of the event, if you need any further information/clarification please do not hesitate to contact me,

Again thank you for this amazing opportunity, it truly was an enormous blessing,

Many thanks

Sonya

We in turn thank Sonya for representing us so well and pray that God will go with her always as she continues to serve Him.

UNIT CONTACT LISTS My apologies that these have not yet been circulated-I hope to include them in the mail out next week.

A thought for the housebound

If you are far from a house of prayer, do not trouble yourself to seek for one, for you yourself are a sanctuary designed for prayer. If you are in bed, or in any other place, pray there; your temple is there.

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux