

**GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY WORLD COUNCIL
AUSTRALIA
24/25 APRIL 1959**

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society held at Gilbulla, Menangle, New South Wales, Australia, on 24th and 25th April 1959.

Present:	Chairman	Mrs K H Bright-Parker, Australia
Australia:	Delegates	Mrs K H Bright-Parker Miss M Bunday
	Observers	Members of Fifth Meeting of Australian Commonwealth Council
England and Wales:	Delegates	Mrs F Russell Barry Miss Mary Bell
Ireland:	Delegate	Miss Ivy Kerr
Japan	Delegate	Miss E Tsuji
New Zealand	Delegate	Mrs E J Rich
Scotland:	Delegate	Mrs J Powell
USA:	Delegates	Mrs E Ferreira Miss G Eagleson
	Observers	Miss E Sloane
	Secretary	Miss J Perkins, Australia
	Chaplain:	Rt Revd J A G Housden, Bishop of Newcastle Australia

Friday morning 24th April 1959

The fourth World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society was held at Gilbulla, Menangle, NSA, Australia, following the fifth meeting of the Commonwealth Council of Australia.

Opening

The Chairman, Mrs K H Bright-Parker opened the Council meeting with prayer.

Welcome

Mrs Bright-Parker welcomed the delegates and observers to World Council.

Greetings

Personal greetings were given by Mrs Berry, Mrs Powell, Mrs Ferreira, Miss Kerr, Mrs Rich, Mrs Tsuji and Miss Bunday on behalf of their countries. Mrs Barry brought personal greetings from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Greetings were read from: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (Patron), Her Excellency Lady Slim (Commonwealth Patron), Rt Revd Arthur Lichtenberger (Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of USA), Rt Revd R C Halse (Acting Primate of Australia), 29th Triennial of Women's Auxiliary of USA; Mrs Carrington (President of Girls' Auxiliary, Canada), Mrs M Woodward (USA), Mrs F Power (USA), Board of GFS Diocese of Los Angeles, Mrs Sims and Council of GFS in Ireland, Miss E Cowan (on behalf of Scottish GFS), Mrs Le Messurier (USA), Miss F Kirby, From GFS Diocese of Wellington

(New Zealand), Grafton (Australia), Newfoundland, Birmingham (England), Kempsey (Australia), and from Mrs de Mel (Ceylon), Mrs Storrs (Morpeth, Australia) and Miss J Rossiter.

Greetings with the reports came from Ceylon, New Hebrides, Windward Islands, South Africa, British Guiana, Puerto Rico and St Vincent, West Indies.

With the greetings from Mrs Woodward (USA) came the gavel which is to be used at all World Councils. Mrs Ferreira, on behalf of Mrs Woodward, presented the gavel to Mrs Bright-Parker to use for the first time at this Council meeting.

Mrs Bright-Parker then read as a challenge to each delegate and observer, St Matthew 28:18-20.

Apologies

Mrs Sumner Walters, USA, Mrs Carrington, Canada; Mrs de Mel, Ceylon; and from those countries unable to send delegates.

Reception of Greetings and Apologies

"That the greetings and apologies be received" was moved by Miss Eagleson, USA and seconded by Mrs Powell, Scotland." CARRIED.

Minutes

The minutes of the World Council meeting held in Bronxville, USA on 24 and 25 June 1957 were read.

Directives: The Directives formulated after the last Council Meeting were read.

"That the Minutes and Directives from the World Council meeting 1957 be endorsed" was moved by Miss Bunday (Australia_ seconded by Miss Bell (England) CARRIED.

Reports from Member Countries

Reports were presented by Miss Mary Bell on behalf of England and Wales, by Mrs Powell on behalf of Scottish GFS, by Miss Eagleson for USA, Miss Kerr for Ireland, Mrs Rich for New Zealand, Mrs Tsuji for Japan and Mrs Bright-Parker for Australia.

Gifts

Mrs Tsuji presented each delegate with a bookmark cross; Mrs Bunday on behalf of Australia gave each delegate a coloured booklet "Wildflowers of Western Australia"; Mrs Rich presented Mrs Tsuji with a bookmark and conveyed the greetings of New Zealand GFS to GFS of Japan.

Reports (cont)

Reports were received from Ceylon, Windward Island, Petro Rico, St John's Diocese, South Africa, Grahamstown, South Africa, British Guiana, Mrs Barry (England) moved, and Miss Eagleson (USA) seconded

"That these reports be received." CARRIED

New Member Countries

Two countries have applied for membership of the World Council. They are New Zealand (comprising Wellington, Auckland, Waiapu, Nelson Dioceses) and the Province of South Africa. It was moved by Miss Bunday (Perth) seconded by Miss Kerr (Ireland)

"That South Africa become a member country of the World Council of GFS" CARRIED

It was moved by Mrs Barry (England) seconded by Mrs Ferreira (USA)
"That New Zealand become a member country of the GFS World Council" CARRIED.

The Chairman reported that the member countries of the World Countries of the World Council of GFS are: Australia, British Guiana, Ceylon, England, Wales, Ireland, Newfoundland, Japan, Panama, Puerto Rico, Scotland, United State of America, New Zealand, South Africa and affiliated member – Girls' Auxiliary (Canada_ . Linked through England are: Barbados, Ghana, India, South Sudan, Southern Rhodesia, Windward Islands, Antiqua, St Vincent (British West Indies), Mauritius.

Friday afternoon 4.15pm

Relationship with other Organisations (cntd)

Mrs Tsuji (Japan) said that in Japan the government has recently given permission for co-education and asked why GFS thought it better for the girls to work separately from the boys' societies.

Mrs Russell Barry (England) replied that in her country they are very keenly aware of the whole situation. The church has set up a new Board of Education and it is hoped that GFS and its work will come under their consideration and will come into consultation with them. She further replied that up to the age of 15 most girls seemed happier in groups of their own and although some after this preferred to stay in GFS, most tended to prefer mixed groups.

Mrs Tsuji asked for information of any organisation especially for boys. Mrs Marry replied that in her opinion the CEBS of Australia was the most effective.

Miss Sloan (USA) commented that they recently had a combined girls and Scout Leader's Rally at which they had a teenage panel of scouts and girls and the publicity for this meeting and the pictures of the boys and girls planning the panel has spurred the interest of both boys and girls everywhere. Gail Eagleson (USA) said she had always gone to a co-ed school, but they still feel the need for separate boys' clubs and girls' clubs. The Chairman said that it is generally accepted that both psychologically and physiologically the younger age groups are better working separately. Mrs Powell (Scotland) commented that the PFA is a mixed group but is not always very satisfactory. Comment was made by Mrs Read (Australia) that she felt that the Conference had brought home the potentiality of GFS coming into YMD and MU and that as Australian Chairman of MU she intended to see that a GFS speaker is invited to come to their meeting. It is very important for the unity of the church that women's organisations should get to know each other and to cooperate with each other. It was moved by Mrs Barry (England)

"That the World Council recommend wherever there are MU, GFS and the Women's Division of Christian Work (USA) there be reciprocal representation on the various Councils".

Seconded by Mrs Ferreira (USA) CARRIED.

Friday evening. Prayers were taken by representatives from England.

Resolutions from Member Countries.

The English resolutions were taken first, and Mrs Barry presented three which were sent in by the Central Council in England.

- 1 That the Central Council feels that it would like to send in a resolution to the World Council to the effect that in the future the World Council should meet not more than once in three years.
- 2 That there should be a small common fund to which every member country of the World Council contributes to defray the cost of a country carrying the Chairmanship.

- 3 It was proposed by Miss Scott (Ireland) seconded by Miss Williams (USA) and agreed
“That each country represented on this Conference send a recommendation through their Central Councils, Assemblies or Boards to the GFS World Council urging that in view of the pressing need for two workers, one MU and one GFS among the native girls in the diocese of Mombasa, East Africa, all countries represented on World Council should, as a follow up to Lambeth year, make this a special project and raise £300 per annum for two years for the salary of one of the workers”.

Mrs Barry reported that the English Council does endorse the Mombasa project.

Whereas we, as Christians, are one family in Christ, and

Whereas the United Nations is the major channel through which 81 nations are working together, and

Whereas this is the area of education in which the GFS may take leadership in international goodwill, therefore

Be it resolved.

That the GFS World Council meeting in April 1959, heartily endorsed education with regard to the United Nations and its specialised agencies and requests that the GFS, USA, provide member organisation of the World Council with continuing information from United Nations.

The Chairman asked Mrs Ferreira (USA) to speak to the Council about the work of the United Nations, Mrs Ferreira being an accredited observer at same. Mrs Ferreira said that non-governmental organisations are represented by observers, and that is their obligation to pass on as much information as possible to their constituencies. The organisation has received information from the United Nations on which programs can be based. The GFS in USA is one such organisation.

Mrs Rich (New Zealand), moved that the Council endorse the resolution seconded by Miss Bunday (Australia) CARRIED

Leader Training

Mrs Ferreira (USA) said that Leadership Training was one of their main concerns. They have organised a new plan by which they can train their leader. They are hoping there will be a plan by which each Provincial Vice-President will survey her territory consult with her Diocesan President, find out just what the situation is and then have some sort of training conference for leaders who will in turn go to as many Dioceses as possible and as many branches as possible. At every age they try to train for leadership, not just as young women, but for the jobs they are doing and the lives they are living at the moment. The G3 plan is the method for training special teenage girls who have showed a potential for leadership.

Mrs Barry told of leadership training in England. Two basic schemes that have been put out to help in training are Branch Program Syllabuses and Training Syllabuses. Branch Training Syllabuses are for the different age groups. In the last year or so suggestions for branch meetings put out specifically in the Syllabus have been a great help. Each year there is a theme around which the syllabus is built. Training Syllabuses are also put out in the different age groups; Junior for potential leaders, Intermediate for leaders and Advanced, which is intended for people who are going to take up some sort of youth work. There are four sides to the syllabus: Religious Knowledge, Methods of Teaching religion in the branch, Human Relations, Practical Branch work. This year they are going to do a telescoped course, covering the four

spheres in one year instead of the usual three. They have a director of studies who is a voluntary worker. She is put in touch with any girl who wants to take the syllabus. This can also be done by correspondence. Also, training is given at Summer schools of all types and diocesan training week-end study groups are starting in a number of dioceses.

Mary Bell reported that in England a Leader Training Corps works towards a Leaders Voluntary Certificate. Members of the Corps must be a Branch Leader or do active leadership of some sort. This is a three-year course and at least once in three years candidates must attend a Summer School. Training weekends or days are organised for the group. A members committee is formed within the Diocese. All branches are represented, and the committee has representation on the diocesan council. One Diocese has formed a GFS Commando Group (8 members) who are ready to go immediately to give practical help to any parish to start or to help a branch.

Mrs Ferreira asked Australia about their Correspondence Course in Leadership Training and was told that though this is all ready for use it has not yet been tried. Mrs Barry (England) asked that the Council discuss ways and means by which countries could help one another by the interchanging of ideas and schemes.

A minute from the last meeting was read in which all the countries agreed to make available to other countries their Leader Training material. Mrs Barry suggested it be mentioned in the next Newsletter that such material is available.

It was moved by Miss Bunday (Australia)

"That we publish in the Newsletter and circulate member countries that a list containing names and addresses of the countries from which suitable leadership material could be obtained."

Seconded by Mrs Barry (England) CARRIED.

Saturday 25th April 1959 – morning.

This session opened with prayer by Miss E Sloane (USA)

World Project

Discussion on this project was opened when Mrs Barry (England) reported that the original Mombasa scheme is not now practicable. Correspondence was read from the Bishop of Mombasa and Mrs Beecher setting out a new project which is to help provide a worker to introduce GFS to the people of the Taia Hills district, in the south east of the diocese. The MU and CMS will also help and in this way, money will be provided for the salary of a missionary who has been working in this district for a number of years. The lady has been engaged in educational work, but this job ends during 1960 and she would be available. Mrs Barry stated that the World Project should be one that we can all share and which satisfies all participating countries.

Mrs Ferreira (USA) said that the United States would be willing to accept whatever Council decides. This was supported by Miss Sloane (UA). Japan and Scotland also signified their willingness to support the Mombasa scheme and the following motion was moved by Miss I Kerr (Ireland) seconded by Mrs Tsuji (Japan)

"That we proceed with the Mombasa Scheme" CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was reported that the following amounts are held in reserve funds for the World Project:

England	£125
Australia	£70
USA 542.24 dollars	£241
Ireland £40 pa (for 2 yrs)	£100
TOTAL	£425 (England), 1,206 dollars (USA) 431,478 yen (Japan) £536 (Australian)

It was moved by Miss Eagleson (USA) seconded by Miss Bell (England)

“That the reserve funds of the respective countries be held in their countries until further notification is received, after Mrs Barry has enquired as to currency problems.” CARRIED

The Chairman stated that we must keep in mind the Exchange of Students Scheme put forward by the United States. Mrs Barry (England) suggested that perhaps it could be decided at this World Council what form the next World Project is to take.

It was moved by Miss M Bell (England) seconded by Miss Bunday (Australia)

“That the World Project monies collected until the next Council meeting be applied to provide instruction and help to a GFS member from a country such as Central America, Melanesia, New Guinea or Ceylon. It is desired by this Council that the chosen girl be given training and instruction in say America, England, Australia, New Zealand or a similar country to fit her for work among her own people.” CARRIED.

GFS World Newsletter

The Chairman suggested that as the reports are in Australia, together with photographs, that the Newsletter be produced here, and that we follow the directive of 1967 with regard to future issues.

World Day of Prayer and Intercession

The Chairman reported that Ireland will prepare the intercessions for the World Day of Prayer on the subject of Human Rights and Freedom.

Poster for World Day of Prayer

It was moved by Miss M Bell (England) seconded by Mrs Powell (Scotland)

“That we do not have a world poster for the World Day of Prayer but leave it to the individual countries to prepare their own”. CARRIED

Exchange of Representatives from one country to another

Open discussion took place on this matter. Miss Bell (England) reported that she had learned much from her visit to Australia which would be of help to her when she returned to her own country. Mrs Ferreira paid tribute to the hospitality of GFS branches around the world. Mrs Tsuji (Japan) asked for help of member countries. Mrs Gerdes told the Council of the wonderful hospitality extended to the Australian delegation to the 80th birthday celebrations in London when they passed through Ceylon and also the hospitality given by the England GFS to their party. Miss Gerdes also reminded Council of the need for careful consideration of finance when travelling abroad. Miss Gerdes emphasised that although the hostess country was often quite

prepared to provide hospitality it was always necessary for the visitor to be prepared to pay her own travelling expenses.

Miss G Eagleson (USA) asked if there was anything the World Council could do to promote this exchange and said that she could never say too much in favour of exchange visits and added how much valuable experience she has received from her visit and that she would be sharing it with other GFS in the United States on her return. Mrs Barry (England) suggested that perhaps we could help promote regional camps.

Out of this discussion it was moved by Miss Bunday (Australia) seconded by Mrs Ferreira (USA) *'that (1) a person be appointed in each country to act as a commendation secretary to receive from other countries the names of members travelling and to pass the relevant information to the appropriate people. (2) a list be published in the World Newsletter of the names and addresses of these commendation secretaries.*

(3 that these commendation secretaries be supplied within their own countries with a list of the times and places of camps and conferences which might be attended by those members aboard."

CARRIED.

Mrs Rich (New Zealand) asked that girls booking accommodation in GFS Hostels be careful to advise hostels if arrangements are changed.

Mrs Barry (England) moved

"That we should plan now to have an international camp, if possible, an international workscamp in conjunction with the next World Council." CARRIED.

Mrs Ferreira (USA) moved, and Mrs Rich (New Zealand) seconded

"That in the meantime each country tries to promote international camps. " CARRIED

Mrs Ferreira (USA) reported on International Christian Youth Exchange Scholarships.

Mrs Barry (England) and Mrs Tsuji (Japan) seconded

"That the International Christian Youth Exchange be made known through the newsletter and through the Minutes of the World Council with details." CARRIED

Saturday Evening

Scottish greetings were received before this meeting. Prayers were said by Miss I Kerr of Ireland.

Next World Chairman

The Chairman said she had had communications from both Scotland and Ireland advising that each is prepared to accept World Chairmanship. Mrs Barry asked that in the voting would it not be fairer if each country had just one vote, particularly as the voting which has already been received had been done in this way. It was agreed that each country be allowed one vote.

A ballot was then held, and the Chairman announced that the result was that Ireland would have the World Chairmanship. The new World Chairman would therefore be Mrs M Simms, wife of the Archbishop of Dublin. The Chairman then read the Council two letters, from Mrs Simms and the other from Miss JH Scott, who is the Central Secretary of the GFS in Ireland. The Chairman pointed out that Miss Ivy Kerr, the Irish delegate, would be asked to receive the World Badge at the Commissioning Service, on behalf of Mrs Simms.

Mrs Barry (England) said she felt that the World Council would greatly enjoy having Mrs Simms as their World Chairman and also that as we are on the verge of accepting a new World

Chairman we might from this Council send to Mrs Woodward, the first World Chairman, the best wishes of this Council.

Mrs Barry moved, and Mrs Powell (Scotland) seconded

"That these wishes be sent" CARRIED.

Vice-Chairman

The Chairman then said that this position is an automatic one in that the retiring Chairman occupies this position.

Secretary

It was pointed out that in our directives there is no place for the appointment of a Secretary to the World Council.

Mrs Rich (New Zealand) moved, and Miss Bunday (Australia) seconded

"That the new World Chairman be empowered to appoint her own Secretary for her term of office". CARRIED

The Chairman pointed out that though Mrs Woodward, former World Chairman, had a National Office which could deal with the work, and Mrs Barry of England when she was Chairman, had the Central Office, in Australia there was no such office, and it did mean that great deal of work fell on the Chairman. She felt that it would be unfair to expect Mrs Simms to work under such conditions, but the appointment of a Secretary would greatly relieve the situation.

Next World Council Meeting and Time between meetings

Mrs Berry (England) spoke about the resolution sent in by the Central Council of England and Wales, that each country should be asked, if possible, to contribute to a common fund to help defray the expenses of the country carrying the World Chairmanship. Mrs Barry, in speaking to the resolution, said she felt it was very important that we should have something of this kind to make sure that smaller countries would not, when it came to their time, feel that they could not afford to accept World Chairmanship as the expenses involved would be too heavy. If the Council would agree to establish such a fund it would help considerably. It should be made quite clear though, that such a fund would be optional and there should be a sliding scale for larger and smaller countries. Miss Bunday (Australia) asked approximately what amount such a fund would involve. The Chairman replied that the approximate amount would be £100.

Mrs Ferreira (USA) said she thought the idea was excellent. Mrs Barry (England) and Miss Eaglesham (USA) moved

"That the above resolution". CARRIED

Mrs Rich (New Zealand) moved, seconded by Miss Bell (England) then moved

"That the basis of contribution to the expenses of the World Council be upon membership, that countries with membership of less than 500 be asked to contribute the equivalent of 5/- sterling annually, those with membership between 500 and 1000 to contribute £1, between 1000 and 5000 to contribute £2 and those countries with membership of over 5000 to contribute £5."

CARRIED

The contributions are to be sent to the Secretary appointed by Mrs Simms, in Ireland during her time of office.

Length of time between meetings

Mrs Barry (England) brought forward the third English resolution

“That World Council should not meet more than once every three years. She said that they felt very strongly that is probably too great a financial strain to meet oftener than this, and that the Council should be able to do the work every three years.”

Mrs Barry (England) moved the above resolution, seconded by Miss Bunday (Australia) CARRIED
It was suggested that the summertime in Ireland would be a good time for the next World Council, particularly as that would avoid the Australian Commonwealth Conference. Ireland is to be notified of the three-year period between meetings and will be asked to advise when the next meeting will be held.

Next Hostess Country

The Chairman asked for approval to send a cable on Monday of warm greetings and congratulations to the new World Chairman.

The Chairman moved and Mrs Barry (England) seconded

“That this be done”. CARRIED

It was also felt by the Council that Council meetings should be held in the country where the World Chairmanship was held.

Reply by Ireland.

Miss Ivy Kerr spoke on behalf of Ireland and thanked the members of the World Council for choosing her country for the World Chairmanship, and therefore Mrs Simms to be World Chairman. She then gave all members a cordial invitation to visit Ireland for the next World Council meeting. The Chairman then said she would write immediately to Mrs Simms to ask for a photograph to be printed in the newsletter.

26 April 1959, Morning.

The session was opened with prayer by Mrs Bright-Parker.

Directives

- 1) Name - Correct
- 2) Purpose – Mrs Barry moved, and Mrs Powell seconded
“That the World Day of Prayer sentence be deleted – and that there be a separate heading for the World Day of Prayer, to become Clause No 3” CARRIED
- 3) Now 4 – Membership – Correct
- 4) Now 5 – Officers leave out “after 57/58. Should read “That the new World Chairman be empowered to appoint her Secretary for the duration of her term of office” (The above motion from a previous session to be included in the Directives.
“That Mrs Barry and Mrs Ferreira present to the next session the wording of the opening sentence of Clause 5 ‘Officers’ was moved by Mrs Rich, seconded by Miss M Bunday.
CARRIED
- 5) Now 6 – Voting – Heading to be “Voting at Meetings”.
- 6) Now 7 – Agenda – Correct
- 7) Now 8 – Minutes – Correct
- 8) Now 9 – Newsletter – Correct

9) Now 10 – Finance –

“That a clause headed ‘Finance’ be added after Clause 8 Minutes” was moved by Miss Kerr, seconded by Miss Bell. CARRIED

(Minute from previous session re Finance to become Clause 10)

Mrs Powell (Scotland) spoke appreciatively of the warm hospitality extended by Australia during the time of the Council meeting and expressed grateful thanks to overseas visitors and Australian delegates for friendship and fellowship. Mrs Bright-Parker thanked Mrs Powell for her contributions to the meetings and, as a newcomer to Australia, for representing Scottish GFS, and extended her greetings for many happy years in Australia.

27 April 1959- morning

Day of Prayer

5 It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the World Council to arrange for the election of the country to preside over the World Council for the succeeding period, the voting to be carried out by mail. The method of voting to be determined by each country concerned. There shall be one vote for each member country in this election.

It was moved *“that No 5 be altered to read as above. Moved by Miss Eaglesham (USA) seconded by Miss Kerr (Ireland).* CARRIED.

It was moved *“That the Directives be altered and printed as amended”.*

Moved by Mrs Rich (New Zealand) seconded by Mrs Barry (England) CARRIED.

There shall be a small common fund to which, if possible, every country shall contribute to defray the costs of the country carrying the World Chairmanship. (This to be added to the Directives).

Mrs Ferreira said she felt it had been a very happy and successful meeting and thanked Mrs Bright-Parker for the work put in by her. She said she felt we, and succeeding generations, will feel the benefit of the work done for GFS by Mrs Bright-Parker.

The meeting then closed.