



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 1.

MARCH 2010

From the President

I do hope that 2010 will be a good year for all of our MU Members and your Branches.

Once again we have seen dreadful natural disasters in Chile and Haiti. In our own country people are being badly affected by floods. The Mothers' Union in Baghdad recently lost their kitchen and clinic from which they cared for destitute families and children in a bombing raid. Fortunately no one was killed. Please keep all the victims and those who so valiantly work to help them in your prayers.

MU Australia does have a Disaster Relief Fund and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

We have already celebrated World Day of Prayer and our Quiet Day. We are about to celebrate Lady Day. Please note further dates for your Diary on the back of this Newsletter.

Our Diocesan MU now has a web page up and running - www.anglicanrock.org.au. Please have a look if you are able.

I do hope you are enjoying using our new Prayer and Worship Book.

Lurline Jones

Diocesan President.

Some thoughts from our Australian leaders as we begin 2010

From our Australian President, Deane Bray: (excerpts from her Circular)

The Theme for Australia Council in October is *Journeying Together*.

Please consider the following areas and discuss with Executive and Diocesan Council.

1. Vision. MU Australia – Vision Statement, Aim and Purpose
2. Foundations. Prayer and Bible Study; Commitment; MU Objectives.
3. The Journey. Where have we come from?
Where are we going?
What tools do we need?
4. Family. Our own; Parish and Diocese; Worldwide.
5. Who travels with us? Who would you like on board?

Point 5 will be the subject of our Diocesan President's 3 minute presentation at AC.

Any ideas will be appreciated.

Marjorie Voss, Department of MU Caritas and Promotion & Development, has also taken up the theme in her Newsletter, as have other Department heads, so our Newsletters will contain bits and pieces from them to guide our Branch programming, which Christine Hurford from Bathurst Diocese and the Australian Vice President, sees as *an avenue for outreach*. It is a very appropriate theme for our Diocese as we approach 100 years of MU in Rockhampton Diocese in 2011.

From Marjorie, commenting on their overseas journey in 2009:

At times we travelled alone...independent but at times stressful.

At times ... the loving support of family and friends to look after us and show us around. ...we felt safe and supported, but experienced some loss of independence.

Group travel ... formed new relationships and shared experiences with one another. Relaxing... experienced leaders, but fewer choices...The journey with strangers was the most challenging and rewarding...

This can apply to our life as MU members.

There are many journeys in life to reflect on as we consider our own growing up, schooldays, our work life, family life, membership of organisations, our spiritual journey and so on. "No matter where or with whom we journey, we should never behave in such a way that we lose respect for ourselves or that others lose respect for us and what we endeavour to accomplish".

From Carolyn Ford, in her Education Department Newsletter:

Taking up the theme of journeying, Carolyn discusses the need for a:
Roadmap : Scripture will supply a firm foundation for our spiritual journey. Lent is a good time to soak our lives in the Word of God.

Firm Foundation : a foundation that is anchored firmly on the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Travelling Companions : we need other people to share our lives, our hearts, our laughter and our tears with. Our MU groups are a great place to build relationships, to share our lives and experience genuine fellowship.

Trust : our Lord Jesus Christ and each other to get there!

WHEN DO WE MEET?

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| St Paul's Cathedral | 3 rd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Contact Noelle Frazer P: 4922 9310 |
| St Luke's Wandal | 4 th Wednesday of the month 9.30am Contact Lurline Jones P: 4927 2377 |
| All Saints North Rockhampton | 2 nd Friday of the month 9.00am Contact Bev Jarvis P: 4928 7659 |
| St James Keppel | 3 rd Thursday of the month 9.30am Contact Anita Suthers P: 4939 5976 |
| All Saint's - Caritas | 2 nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Contact Judy Shepherd P: 4927 0222 |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| 17 th March | Speaker from Trinidad - St Paul's 7.45pm All Welcome |
| 20 th March | Quiet Day at the Mercy Centre, Range Convent 9.30 - 3.00pm |
| 25 th March | Lady Day Service at the Cathedral 9.30am |
| 10 th April | Visioning Day at Lis Escop - Diocesan Council |
| 4 th June | Diocesan Council Meeting |
| 16 th June | Soup and Sandwiches – St Paul's Meeting Room - 7.30pm - All invited. More details later |
| 5-10 th August | Wave of Prayer |
| 9 th August | Mary Sumner Day - All Saints TBA |
| 3 rd September | Diocesan Council Meeting |
| 5 th November | Diocesan Council AGM and Meeting |
| 12-14 th November | Lay Retreat at the Haven |