

DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

SYNOD 2010

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE



Although the Committee is a small group it is able to reach across the Diocese and offer support to all parishes in the promotion of ministry with children and the support those working with children by networking and providing resources and training.

An exciting new ministry in 2009 was working with Kathy and Stuart Haynes at Blackwater. Lyn Baldwin and Gillian Whittall went to Blackwater for two days of leader training in preparation for the 2009 SuperSaturday. The leaders were very enthusiastic and it was a rewarding time of fellowship and learning. SuperSaturday followed a few weeks later and it was a great success. Children and leaders from Blackwater were joined by a busload from Rockhampton and Bishop Alf came over from Emerald. It was a fun day, based on the theme GOD IS BIG, with much learning and new friendships being formed.

The resources of the CMC were expanded with books, CDs, DVDs and kits. Many parishes request these and any visitor to the West is bound to be a courier. The resources are held in the library and a resource list is available from the ad clerums. The Revd Janne Whitehead again purchased and distributed the *Children's Lectionary Bible Year C*. This means that each parish has a set of each year (A,B,C) and these are able to be used with children each week. A DVD with worksheets from Sermons4kids was distributed by Gillian for year B and these worksheets are available each week on line.

The publication *Faith Family* was funded by the committee in 2009 and sent to all parishes. Many parishes have appreciated it. It has been discontinued in 2010 because of distribution difficulties.

The column *Children and Faith* has continued on an occasional basis in the Gazette. It is a way of reaching out to both parents and grandparents and supporting them in raising children in a Christian environment.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all who have supported and encouraged us in our work and to thank the Diocese for funding the committee to provide resources to enable effective ministry with children. On a personal note I have enjoyed working with the Committee for the last 17 years and have seen, in the Diocese, growth and commitment to ministry with children during this time.

Gillian Whittall
Chairperson

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GFS – AN ANGLICAN MINISTRY

Highlights of the year:

- Representation at National level. GFS Rockhampton is again well represented at National level with Cheryl Russell (National Treasurer) and Val Gribble elected to the National Executive at the January national council meeting for another three year term.
- Vibrancy of All Saints branch. A band of leaders and assistants continue to live out the vision GFS to bring others to Christ, in their work with children within All Saints community, helping children to grow in love and knowledge of Christ.
- The Townsend group in Rockhampton continues to cater for adult members of GFS under the leadership of the Chaplain, The Revd Narelle Kidson.
- Continuation of Super Saturdays. Held in Blackwater at the invitation of Stuart and Katherine Haynes and using the theme of “God is Big” children from All Saints and the Cathedral parishes joined with Blackwater children for a day of learning and fun.
- 125th anniversary of GFS in the Diocese of Rockhampton. Over 100 past and present members of GFS in this diocese together with members from North Queensland, Grafton and Melbourne diocese celebrated 125 years of continuous GFS ministry in the Diocese of Rockhampton with a Dinner at Kershaw House in September. The National Chairman, Ms Kate Brewer from Perth also attended. It was a great day of reminiscing and sharing memories and the response from those who attended and those who sent apologies was a very strong reminder of the value of GFS membership in so many lives. The day concluded with a Thanksgiving Service conducted by the children of All Saints.
- Continuation of The Fellowship Weekend at Cool Waters with the theme of “Come to the Waters”, held at the end of the year as a time of reflection and renewal.
- The support given to the two World Projects – The Gospel for PNG (the preparation of a three year Sunday school program and training in its use) and the Korean project to support refugee women from North Korea and to encourage the growth of GFS in Asian countries.

Challenges:

- The ageing membership, at both national and diocesan level and indeed world wide in western countries. As the membership ages and decreases there is a noticeable decrease in the ability to support GFS projects. This has been

obvious in Rockhampton with the current membership now unable to continue with the annual Cent Sale, the major funding source for GFS projects.

- Participation in the rewriting of the national constitution and structure, both of which will be presented at the June mid term national conference. There is a need to simplify the structure and to balance the needs of both adult and child members.
- The lack of interest in children's ministry at diocesan and parish level.

Annslie Stovell
(GFS Coordinator, 2009)