

Diocese of The Murray, South Australia.

**THE MURRAY
CON-TRIBUTARY
NEWSLETTER**



Transformation - Now!

March 2024

Dear Friends,

Christmas seems so long ago and now Lent has commenced.

I have just finished a fairly detailed Diocesan AMUA report for the Australian Council of Mothers Union in May. I write a shorter one for our Synod and shorter again for our own Annual Report Book which also includes reports from other members of our executive. Some of you may not get to read these reports and as I was so impressed with what we had achieved in the 18 months since the last AC I have decided to produce it here for you. You should all be proud of your part in all of this. Thank God for you and your involvement.

I wish you all a Holy and Blessed Easter. Love Jocelyn

Diary Dates:.

April 8th Lady Day (Monday).....To be held at St Nicholas Anglican Church, 97 Main Road, Seaford. 10.30am cuppa and service at 11am. The cafe is closed on Mondays so lunch will be BYO. NOTE.. the date for Lady Day celebrations has been changed for 2024. Rev Carol Cornwall will take our service and after lunch she will tell us about her life.

April 12th (Friday) State Meeting ...at St Barnabas building North Adelaide. All welcome.

Our World Wide President Sheran Harper will be coming to Australia in May 2024. Perth 13th May, 18th May in Brisbane and 22nd May will be open day with Sheran during A C in Sydney. She will not be making a stop in South Australia but if your holiday plans could fit with any of the above you would be able to meet her and hear from her.

May 27th (Monday)... Exec meeting & A Day with a Difference.. to be held at my home at Meadows 10.30. I will have just returned from AC and heard lots from Sheran Harper. After lunch from 1pm till 3pm I will hold an informal time of discussion about the AC meeting and I am sure I will have much to share from Sheran herself. Please feel free to come along. All exec meetings are open to you all to attend (you cannot vote though). This means that you can come from 10.30am or come about 12.30pm with BYO lunch and stay on. Please let me know if you are interested in attending so I can keep an eye on numbers.

August 9th (Friday).. Mary Sumner Day & A G M.... to be held at Strathalbyn.

Report for Australian Council 2024 Diocese of The Murray

When looking through notes to compile this report I realised just how much our small Diocese has achieved since the last Australian Council. We have 5 branches and where branches recently closed several members became Diocesan Members which brings a total of 16 Diocesan members who keep in touch this way. We have 83 members and although we lost some members in the past year or so we have also had 5 new members which indicates small growth and interest.

Lady Day and Mary Sumner Day are still held in different locations each year. We also have a special service and council meeting in November which for the past few years has been themed on Thanksgiving. Our Chaplain Fr Daniel joins us when he is free from his teaching employment and he is always a bright and informative addition to our services, and gives such thought provoking sermons. In 2023 Robin Ray was able to join us which was just so inspiring. We thank her for her time and effort and the feedback from members has shown that it was all worthwhile.

In South Australia we have state meetings 2 or 3 times a year. The number attending is only small but each president and secretary takes away information to their own diocese. The sharing of ideas and news is always welcome.

The Transformation -Now theme has been taken up in many forms across the branches. Every little and large difference we can make to someone or a community may result in transformation of some kind even if we cannot see it at the time. Listed are some of the many and varied ways in which our 83 members instigated, have participated in or have achieved results in increasing our MU knowledge, spreading information about MU, deepened our prayer time and reached out in love to others. The prayer input into our get-togethers and meetings is very committed and essential, as are the prayer chains. Bible studies are included in nearly every branch yearly plan. We are grateful for the overseas MU news that we learn during the year and this widens our appreciation of all things MU and also allows other topics for prayer. Several branches have mentioned that they have had discussions resulting from articles in the Mia Mia.

Our special outreach this past year or so has occurred within our own Diocese. We have collected large quantities of goods and cash to help the victims of the flooding of The River Murray which was very close to home in our Diocese. Cleaning (household and personal), insect repellent and toiletries were the main items.

Clothing and household items are still donated to A C Care, Anglicare, Quickest Warmth and Genesis and local spots where the need arises. Getting our name out into the community as a caring group pays dividends when others know to call on us or donate goods that we can find a home for elsewhere. eg: boxes of fabric from one home went to the branch who have a member who makes large numbers of curtains for Quickest Warmth who distribute them to the needy. Wool is always knitted up into clothing or beanies to go to the Missions for Seamen.

A visit to a child care centre, early learning centre and Genesis have resulted in members being more informed about what is happening in the community and in turn they have learnt about Mothers Union. Zonta's 'Expect Respect' program in primary schools has been supported. One branch makes sure that at every MU or parish function especially those involving the wider community there is a display of gender based/domestic violence brochures from a variety of outlets. Meals are provided

regularly for the homeless and needy by several branches. Contact with and working with the school (CPSW) pastoral support workers has given us ideas to help in a very local way.

Informative talks have raised awareness on the life of missionaries, eg; Chile, Syria and several members discussed their life in other countries before they lived in Australia and the comparisons were amazing. One parish managed to obtain a grant from the Local Council and their Mothers Union members will benefit from this with a parish BBQ and shelter and also first aid training.

Late in the year all branches reported that they observed the Wave of Prayer in more detail on the days that we are included. Our ONO rep researches our linked diocese and gets many interesting prayer points for us all. 16 Days of Activism is similarly noted & prayed about. Quiet days are popular and some branches make sure they hold one each year.

Mary, Joseph and the Donkey make their journey around some parishes and communities and are popular each year and they also visit interesting places as well as private homes to create discussions. We hope to knit sets to donate and get the idea rolling in parishes where there is no MU. A great idea to spread the Christmas story, visit people who we may not now to drop them off and share Christmas love with others. Hundreds of Angels have been knitted, some to decorate and bring attention to Christmas and some are hung on fences for the neighbourhood people to take one together with a printed Christmas message. Mothering Sunday and Baptism have been acknowledged in some form for many years and continue to be so. Some branches are also celebrating the commercial Mothers/Fathers day so we like Robin's suggestion and hope to widen this idea.

We had a Families Equip information table at a school open evening which created great conversations but this year did not result in courses being held.

Holding our get-togethers and meetings in various spots enhances our time together and allows a wider outreach.

I have attended several DP Zoom meetings and always find it useful and interesting and try to pass on the information that I learn.

All this from only 83 members!!!!

With God's loving guidance we hope to continue along the same path for years to come.

President: Jocelyn Williamson