

THE MU CARAVAN

For many years, MU members in the Diocese of Bunbury have had a caravan at the Anglican Campsite in Siesta Park, just south of Busselton. We are most grateful to the dedicated MU members who have cared for it in that time.

In recent times it became apparent that our van had outlived its usefulness and a decision had to be made about replacing it or winding up this outreach to families. In addition, the local Busselton Shire had put in place more rigorous standards.



So in 2012 we stepped out in faith and decided to buy a replacement van and, when one became available in our price range, it was purchased.

The purchase of the replacement caravan could not have taken place unless we had been able to afford it. Much of the money for the caravan came via the sale of the MU Book Van so we would like to pay a special tribute to Judy Rule. Judy was instrumental in setting up the Book Van and, when it was sold, the money was put aside for another MU endeavour and this turned out to be the caravan. Thank you Judy.

Well purchasing the caravan was the easy part!! The van was transported from Bunbury to the campsite. Then we discovered the cement pad on which the old van had sat for many years was in a state of disrepair, so a bobcat was hired, the old cement pad was dug up, and a brand new pad, big enough for the van and an annex, was put down.

Next task was to have a new annex made, then the purchase of new furnishings and other necessary items and before long (in just over two months) the van was ready for hire. In order to purchase the annex, we needed to take out a loan of \$3,000 which was generously offered to us free of interest. We would encourage all branches and individual members to help us pay off this loan as soon as possible.

Luckily for us, our MU Promotion and Development Coordinator, Eleanor Lewin, lives in Busselton and she managed to co-opt her husband, John to help us with the logistics of finding the necessary personnel to carry out all the preparatory work that needed to be done to get the caravan to its final stage, as well as doing a lot of the work himself.



In addition, the manager of the campsite, Eric van der Wacht, was ever so helpful in assisting us with the multitude of tasks that needed to be done on site. As previously stated, the actual purchase of the caravan was the easy part – it was all the other work that presented us with many challenges. If it hadn't been for the assistance of John and Eric we probably would still be floundering in the wilderness!!

So our outreach to families and travellers is a reality. We hope to subsidise the cost of the accommodation for

families who otherwise cannot afford a holiday by the sea. However, the van is available to all. It sleeps 4-5 comfortably, is fully equipped apart from linen and towels and is situated right on Geographe Bay in a campsite so well looked after by the resident manager.

We hope that MU members from other Dioceses will take advantage of our caravan and enjoy their holiday in this beautiful part of the world.

Cost to rent the van will be \$10.00 per adult and \$7.00 per child each night.

An email will be sent to all branches when the van is available for rental, all bookings and payment will be direct with the campsite manager.

Should you be able to assist in any way financially or perhaps by donating goods please contact our Diocesan President bunbury@muaustralia.org.au



Bookings can be made through the caretakers as follows:

Eric and Samantha van der Wacht

Anglican Campsite

Email: angcampsite@westnet.com.au