



ANGLICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA

Christian Care for Families

From the President's Desk - February 2020

Dear MU Members and Friends,

Greetings as you begin your prayerful work for 2020! The Christmas and New Year period has been a busy one for many of those of you caught up in bushfires, floods, dust storms and hail storms. You have been upheld in prayer by members all over the country, and all over the world. As you help to rebuild your towns and communities, we pray that you will feel God's love surrounding you. Through the AMUA Disaster Relief Fund, we were able to offer financial grants to eight Dioceses (as advised by Diocesan Presidents) affected by Bushfires. So far, these Dioceses are: The Murray, Canberra & Goulburn, Sydney, Wangaratta, Willochra, Adelaide, Gippsland and Armidale. Bishop Mark Short from C&G was encouraging people to send greetings to fire-hit areas – perhaps your diocese could do this?

Do you value the AMUA Publications Department? Have you or your diocese or your group considered accepting the ministry of Publications Manager? Narelle definitely finishes at the end of March. The Department has been reduced to MU material only – no books – so storing and sourcing new stock is minimal. Please consider this prayerfully and seriously, and contact Narelle or me with any questions.

Our Theme for this year – *Building Hope and Confidence* – is very relevant in view of the natural disasters we have had, and will continue to experience. It's also relevant in our Dioceses and in our groups – falling numbers sometimes leave us feeling deflated, and unable to plan much for the future. But I'm reminded of the prophet Micah's words as the people ask what can they give to God who has given so much to them – "(God) has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." *Micah 6:8*

Building hope and confidence in PNG through the Parenting Program is our special project for this year. When I was a new mum, I found myself suddenly responsible for the Life and Survival of a tiny child, but I was helped and supported and my confidence grew. That's what we are going to do for the mothers of Papua New Guinea, so I hope you will take this project to heart and work and pray for its success. You will hear more about this from Dr Robin Ray, our Overseas and Northern Outreach Convenor, during the year.

As you begin to plan for 2020, in dioceses and in groups, I encourage you to keep the theme in mind, as well as the MULO principles we learned over the last year or so - listening, observing and acting.

Love and peace,
Anne