

Diocese of The Murray, South Australia.

**THE MURRAY
CON-TRIBUTARY
NEWSLETTER**



June 2020

"Building Hope and Confidence"

Dear friends,

Who would have thought that since our last newsletter the world and life in general would have been through so much turmoil. I do pray often that you are keeping safe and not finding life too stressful. There are so many challenges to be met by so many people that it is hard to contemplate it all. Our membership is largely in the over 65 age bracket so do take good care of yourselves to avoid the virus. Recently the reduction of restrictions has begun but I feel it is up to each of us to take things slowly.

I used my time that was free of usual commitments to do a lot of gardening but now that the cold wet weather has begun I have gone through my book shelf for extra reading material. I found 2 books that I thought I would tell you about. "The Little Brown Book" Mary Mackillop's Spirituality in Our Everyday Lives. There are 74 comments taken from her diaries with modern day thoughts and bible reading to go with each. What struck me in this current upheaval was the consistent advise to take time out with God, relax and listen to God etc and right now I have more time than ever to find a quiet moment, a timely reminder to us all.

The other book is "Silver Boxes" The Gift of Encouragement by Florence Littauer. She encourages people to give out loving comments, compliments, thanks, words of hope etc in the form of a written note. Either in a silver box or use a silver box on your shelf at home as an inspiration to send these notes. Another reminder for us of something that can easily and quickly be done while at home which could make a huge difference to the person who receives it. At present keeping touch is so important.

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Obviously there have been no Mothers Union meetings for you to contribute information about but I have had a report from Caroline Earl telling us that our project for 2020, the Parenting Project in PNG, had commenced planning with the Melanesian programme being studied to make it suitable for PNG. I presume this is on hold now but please pray for those involved that they can restart their work.

Another point of prayer is for East Africa countries, where we have many MU members, that not only have they the trauma of COVID19 to content with but there has been plagues of locusts devastating their crops and livelihoods.

Some of you may already be aware via email or the MU website that there has been an appeal for financial help for Mary Sumner House so that their world wide work can continue. Staff numbers have been cut but income due to COVID 19 has plummeted. If you would like to donate through our Diocese contact myself or our treasurer for banking details.

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Let us put our 2020 theme to the test and pray with Hope and Confidence that we really are on track to have this difficult time behind us and those that are suffering in any way feel uplifted from knowing they are prayed for.

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Keep knitting and crocheting, there may be lots of need of our items in the future. Just because restrictions are reducing does not mean that problems either financial, emotional or physical are reducing.

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I have been advised recently of the death of several Mothers Union members who have given time, love and commitment to our organisation for many years in the past.....

Connie Brand who was a member in the Victor Harbor branch. Margaret Williams in the Millicent branch and Margaret Waldon who was at Murray Bridge branch when her husband was bishop of the Diocese of The Murray. All of these ladies were branch presidents or deanery presidents and their commitment was a blessing to those who knew them. Margaret Waldon moved to Dubbo where there was no MU and has been a Diocesan Member ever since keeping in touch with us in The Murray Diocese and staying up to date with MU activities worldwide.

Along with other women who I have not been given names these members shared their gifts and love with us in Mothers Union and they will be missed very much by those who knew them and Mothers Union is a richer organisation for their dedication and leadership.

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I read the following on the M U website recently.....

"Blessed are those who stay indoors for they have protected others"

Love and blessings for good health to you all

Jocelyn

Diary Dates:- There are no planned activities for the near future. Mary Sumner Day , 9th August, falls on a Sunday this year and the exec members have decided not to hold a Diocesan service but I suggest that each Branch president organise something special for the Parish/Pastoral district services and news sheets for that day. Hopefully later in the year we can have a Diocesan service, council meeting and shared meal together.