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NEWSLETTER NO. 3 – DECEMBER, 2007 **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

As I prepare this newsletter, I am conscious of the fact that for most of you, MU activities will have started to wind down for 2007, however I wanted to include some information from Australian Council with this newsletter, so my apologies for being so late.

THE MARRIAGE KIT

The Marriage Kit update is still continuing, with some work being done to include a CD in the folder. Once it is prepared, this CD will be trialled and feedback is requested. If you have any information that you would like included in the Marriage Kit update, please forward it on to me, thanks.

PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Australian Council unanimously agreed that the PEP programme would come under the umbrella of the Education Department. PEP has been in operation now for three years and strategies had to be put in place to keep the good work going. Also the original financial allocation has been used up and a further amount of \$30,000 has been added to the PEP budget to enable this work to continue for the next two years; however Dioceses are encouraged to assist financially where possible, as this is a great programme that will assist in the training and equipping of our membership.

Kate and Ian Pearse will continue to train facilitators for the work of PEP on a 'request basis' from Dioceses, also the following information will be prepared by Kate and Ian:-

- A regular newsletter will be published titled 'Facilitators' Forum' to keep the trained facilitators informed and for the sharing of ideas.
- a DVD will be prepared to assist dioceses to promote PEP
- Post workshops will be prepared to be used as a yearly follow-up for those who take part in the PEP programme, on topics that are relevant to the needs of the parents who attend the PEP courses.

Please continue to pray for Kate and Ian and continue to promote PEP in your particular diocese and also to encourage people to train as PEP facilitators.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WORK

Programme Planning Book

Please continue to promote the use of this book, which was prepared by Judith Nichols. The information contained in this book is very useful for the training and education of Branch Presidents, Office bearers and members and for encouraging your membership to be creative in their programme planning. Your Publication Department has plenty of stock, so could you please promote this book to your MU groups.

'Commando style hit squads!'

There is much great work and training done at Australian Council, State and Diocesan Conferences and we need to continue this work after conference delegates return home. The training and equipping of our membership at the grass roots level is vitally important. Please use the Australian Heads of Departments and/or Diocesan Departmental Heads to train and equip the membership of your Diocese.

HOW TO RUN A PLAYGROUP

I would like to prepare a PowerPoint presentation of 'how to set up and run a playgroup'. If there are any groups in your Diocese who could help me with photos and/or information of

how their playgroup was set up and is now functioning, could you please ask them to send the information on to me? My email address is muaseducation@bigpond.com

YEARLY REPORTING

Education Department heads, it is also time for you to prepare a yearly report on the work of the Education Department for your Diocese. Could you please forward your report to me by the end of January, thanks?

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We are flying to Brisbane, after Don has finished services on Christmas Day, to spend a week or so with our daughter, her husband and our four precious granddaughters. This will be a special family time for us and I pray that you can have some time to spend with your family and friends, as we celebrate the wonderful gift God has given to us, in His Son Jesus Christ. I also pray that you can get some time of rest and relaxation after the rush and busyness of 2007.

All God's blessings for the Christmas Celebrations and a wonderful year ahead for 2008, as we Share Christ's Love with others,

Thanks.

With my love and prayers

Carolynn

Education Department