

Congratulations Annie!!!

Many MU members actively involved in Mae La Refugee Camp now live in the Werribee - Hoppers Crossing area, or Greater Geelong. Most notably Malakoh (Annie) Naw Nyo, who during Refugee Week this year received a Refugee Recognition Award. Annie received her award from Nicholas Kotsiras, Multicultural Affairs Minister. Annie was employed as a multi-cultural education aide at the Geelong Language Centre & Corio South Primary School within a year of arriving in Australia with her husband and five children. In this position she plays a crucial role in opening communication between local families and school, churches and Centrelink staff.

Annie's citation described her as **“a great networker, who likes to raise the profile of her community by ensuring their involvement in local events”**.



St James' Ivanhoe MU

They meet on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month and quarterly they have a communion service as part of their meeting. Activities during the year have included turning shirts into art smocks for Charles Latrobe College, making Palm Crosses for their congregation to be given out on Palm Sunday, a luncheon outing and visit to Bundoora Homestead and the Count your Blessings Lenten project for the Malawi2Melbourne appeal.

Three of their members help with St James' Mainly Music programme and one member is part of a group teaching women to sew at Olympic Village Primary School (*photo*).



Celebrating St Aidan's Noble Park MU 50 Years



On 12th October, 80 people attended a celebration for 50 years of Mothers' Union at St Aidan's, Noble Park. The celebration began with a Communion Service of Thanksgiving jointly led by the Rev'd Stephen Morris (Preacher) and the Rev'd Norma Leveridge (Celebrant), branch members and Mrs Joy Venville.

After an enjoyable lunch, Mrs Joy Freier, our Guest Speaker, asked people to look back 50 years – What were you doing? How old were you? After time for thinking she then asked people to share the memories with someone they did not know. These shared experiences underlined the truth that sharing our stories is important – to be listened to and to listen.

Joy then shared something of her story growing up in Queensland among indigenous and non-indigenous people, an experience which was the foundation of a life-time interest in and commitment to indigenous people and the nurturing of mixed communities and shared learning and teaching.

The celebration cake was cut by Bette who is the only surviving founder member of the St Aidan's MU branch.



Box Hill Deanery's 40th Anniversary was celebrated at their AGM on September 7th.

They enjoyed a BYO lunch supplemented by soup, slices and a beautifully decorated anniversary cake which were generously supplied by their hosts, All Saints, Mitcham. The meeting was followed by a guided tour of the new facilities and a performance of the Mary Sumner themed play "For Home and Family" – which was written and performed by 'All Saints' members.



Nancye Crawford - current Deanery Pres. and two former Deanery Presidents Joy Venville and Anne Kennedy.



Julia as Mary Sumner

Report on Karen MU Camp

On Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th July, the Karen MU held their annual camp. This year, sessions were held at St Thomas' Werribee from 9.00am. to 4.30pm. The theme was 'Prayer'.

Maree N'Diaye, Bronwen Scott-Branagan and Georgina Shillito were invited to participate on Thursday morning. After Maree led everyone in singing 'Amen', we divided the group into 3. Each of us (with Baby, Annie and Zion interpreting) gave our talk 3 times. After some appropriate Bible passages, Maree gave everyone an outline of a hand. Each finger reminded the members of a prayer point. Bronwen used knots on a piece of string as a visual aid, and she listed some helpful hymns.

Georgina's topic being 'Praying with Children', she gave suggestions for family prayer times, gave teaching on 'Teaching children to pray', and taught some simple English choruses.

We were treated as honoured guests, and given carry bags embroidered with the MU logo; these had been sent over from the refugee camps.

Jan Lee and Pat Baines attended on the Thursday morning, and Jan and Georgina on the Friday morning. The keynote speaker on Friday was Bishop Philip Huggins. He taught the members about meditation using the 'Jesus Prayer'. He also asked the members about their concerns.

Georgina also attended on the Saturday afternoon. 'Competitions' are an important part of Lady Day and other celebrations in the Karen MU branches. The 3 groups each sang a song, and were judged on it. They then each performed an original sketch, based on a Bible theme, and followed it with an appropriate song. Baby (Karen MU President) interpreted for Georgina. There was plenty of humour in the sketches. After the judging of the sketches and the totalling of points, Georgina was asked to make the presentation. (Each group received a packet of biscuits). After that, there was a time for feedback; we posed for photos; and we finished with afternoon tea.

The Karen MU members' commitment is inspiring, and it is a privilege for other MU members to have been a part of their 2011 Camp.

The Last Word from the Editor

Dear MU/Caritas friends,

As I reflect on this year, one of the highlights for our local branch at St Peter's, Mornington, was the visit of the Rev'd Bobbie Moore to celebrate Mary Sumner Day. On this occasion we were joined by members from St Paul's Frankston MU and Caritas.

The Rev'd Bobbie Moore and her husband Ray, have been working in parishes in this diocese for the past two years. She shared her MU journey with us, being involved with MU in three continents: UK, Africa and Australia. We wish her well as she returns to Northern Ireland at the end of November. There will be an article about her MU journey in the next edition of Mia Mia. We thank Bobbie for sharing her faith journey with us. Like her, we all have our own story to share.



The Rev'd Bobbie Moore & the Rev'd Ray Moore (centre) at St Peter's Mornington

I give thanks to the many MU members who have inspired me over the past 36 years. Many of you will remember Mary Britten, Diocesan President (1967-1973), who passed away in September this year. There are a number of tributes to her on p.3. We give thanks for her faith and commitment to MU in this diocese.

Next year we will celebrate 120 years of MU in Australia. MU commenced in Cullenswood (Tasmania) in 1892 (see article).

As we enter the season of Advent I would like to share the following prayer.

'At Advent we should try the key to our heart's door. It may have gathered rust. If so, this is the time to oil it, in order that the heart's door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmas time! Lord, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors that they may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.' (*Prayer of a New Guinea Christian.*)

May you experience the peace and love of Christ in your hearts at this Christmastide.

With my love and prayers.



Lee

St Matthew's Cheltenham MU members decided to all wear a hat to a weekly Service before their meeting and this caused merriment with the other parishioners. One hat was over 40 years old, another 25 years (a wedding hat) and they then discussed the history of their hats at the meeting that followed.



Oldest hat: front 2nd left. Wedding hat: back 2nd left



St Paul's Geelong members celebrated 'High Tea' at their September meeting, complete with hats and gloves. Members brought their own cup / saucer and shared the story connected to it. While they enjoyed a luscious morning tea, one member shared highlights of her recent overseas holiday. A fun time was had by all.

Please note: MU Shop closed on Wednesdays, Lady Day, MU Council Days,
Monday 5th Nov 2012 & days when temperature is predicted to be 36 deg. and over.



MU SHOP CLOSSES Thursday 15th December 2011 and RE-OPENS January 16th 2012

St David's Moorabbin MU
'The Symbols of Advent'
Saturday November 26th
2.00pm.
RSVP Esther 9555 2961



Box Hill Deanery Advent Service
St Edward's, Blackburn South
Tuesday November 29th
7.30pm.
All Welcome



MU Melbourne 2012 theme

"FOR IT IS GOD WHO WORKS IN YOU"

Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

Love, Forgiveness, Giving, Strengths, Serving, Christian Examples.

Council Meeting 2012

Monday 27th February

10.00am. Morning tea

10.30am. Meeting

St Peter's Eastern Hill

Guest Speaker:

Anglican Chaplain to the Defence Force

Lady Day 2012

Monday 26th March

10.30am.

St Paul's Cathedral

Celebrant & Preacher:

Bishop Paul White

Do you have skills for being an editor and / or publishing the Newsletter???

The current editorial team's 6-year term concludes at the end of 2012 .

Work solo or as a team member. You can bring fresh ideas and layouts or use what we have developed.

You will have the opportunity during 2012 to work alongside Lee and Kaylene in preparation to take over in 2013. If interested, we would like to hear from you.

Editor

Mrs Lee Thorn

Layout

Mrs Kaylene Vlasveld

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<http://hightechprinting.com.au/>



This newsletter is published
three times per year.
(March, July, November)



Please let us know what has been happening or what is going to happen in your Branch. Please send a short report and / or photos via snail mail or email to the editor.

Deadline for next newsletter: March 7th

Mia Mia deadline: 31st December