



Anne, Ronda, Joy, Kaylene



**Damage to interior of church
...water knocked pews over.**



Flood damage to Bluestone foundations, St Paul's Anglican Church, Carisbrook

**MU
visits
Carisbrook
..... five
weeks
after
the
floods.**



Anne looking at water mark on font.

Earlier this year, Anne Kennedy (Junior Vice President, MU Australia), Joy Venville (Melbourne Diocesan President), Kaylene Vlasveld (Melbourne Executive) and Ian Vlasveld (Co-driver) travelled to Maryborough to deliver a bootful of new clothes which we had been given for the flood victims. We met the Bendigo Diocesan President (Ronda Gault) at the Anglican Church in Carisbrook which had suffered massive damage during the floods. (high water mark on font).

We then spoke to a lady (Robyn) and she told us her story of how she had 10 minutes notice to evacuate and only took her keys!!! The flood waters were 18" deep inside her house (and she is on stumps), how pillows on her bed floated to the kitchen and how the clothes dryer with clothes in it filled with the dirty water. Her request was for a sewing kit so she could sew on a button!!...that has now been given to her. Apparently 3 minutes after we left, a 5 foot brown snake was lying where we had been standing!!! Ronda then showed us her son-in-law's parents' home which again had water through it for about 6 hours. The brown muddy water (plus sewerage which entered homes via the showers and toilets) made such a mess and has destabilised a lot of homes. We left Carisbrook unsure of our feelings but amazed at the courage of the townspeople in the face of such devastation.

Talking to Ronda and her husband, we discovered how the people are in need of all kinds of help and also because the floodwaters have caused an increase in the mosquito population which now raises the risk of serious mosquito-borne diseases. They are desperate for good mosquito repellent. This was a really important trip - both for us to see what was happening, and for Ronda to let people know that we really do care.