

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2012

February	Wednesday	22nd	Ash Wednesday
	Thursday	17th)	PEP Facilitators
	Sunday	19th)	All Saints, Dianella
	Thursday	23rd	Council Meeting
		10.15a.m	Morning Tea
			St. Nicholas', Rockingham
March	Friday	2nd	World Day of Prayer
	Sunday	18th	Mothering Sunday
	Saturday	17th	Lady Day, Holy Cross, Hamersley
		10.00a.m.	Less formal service
	Monday	26th	Lady Day, St. John the Evangelist
		10.00a.m	Fremantle
April	Sunday	1st	Passion/Palm Sunday
	Friday	6th	Good Friday
	Sunday	8th	Easter Day
May	Wednesday	30th	Quiet Day
		9.30a.m	Redemptorist Retreat House, North Perth
June	Saturday	16th	Southern Area Festival
July	Thursday	26th	Council Meeting at Northam
August	Saturday	11th	Mary Sumner Day Service Holy Trinity , Malaga
		Tuesday 21st /25th	Wave of Prayer
		Thursday	30th
September	Thursday	13th	Central Area Festival
October	Thursday	25th	Annual General Meeting
			Carine/Duncraig



Please send articles to the Editor as soon as possible when the event is planned to advise members, and a report and photographs as soon as possible following the event.

I am happy to type up copy , and print photos.

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*“Wise men seeking Jesus travelled from afar,
Guided on their journey by a beauteous star.
But if we desire Him, He is close at hand;
For our native country is our Holy Land.
Prayerful souls may find Him by our quiet lakes,
Meet Him on our hillsides when the morning breaks.
He is more than near us if we love Him well;
For he seeketh ever in our hearts to dwell.”*



MU Australia
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union
Grapevine



Theme for 2011; Search the New Horizons

Official publication for MU Australia in the Diocese of Perth

December 2011

From the President,

As we enter this time of preparation for Christmas, may we take time to remember in the hype the true reason for the season.

Mary Sumner Day was celebrated by many branches individually but this year on August 13th a service was held at All Saints Dianella to celebrate MSD, but also to share with our Sudanese sisters a brief history of the Mothers' Union. Our time of worship was greatly enhanced by their singing.

I visited the Dalkeith branch and presented three faithful members with their 50 Year Badges and certificates.

The Northern Area Festival was held at St. Cecilia's in Mindarie in September, and hosted by the Quinns/Butler branch. A joyful singing welcome by the Sudanese ladies from several different groups, then four members received their 50 Year Badges and certificates.

A delightful venue with the beautiful ocean in the background. The Revd. Patricia Flenly spoke of her travels and experiences of New Horizons. As usual good food and fellowship was shared following the service.

October was a busy month. At the Planning Meeting "Faith, Hope and Love" was chosen for the theme for 2012 in the Perth Diocese, and more information will be sent to the branches. We have planned for Council meetings to be held in the Southern, Northern and Country Areas next year and hope many members will be able to attend.

At Synod, which several members attended, the display stand was a good advertisement of MU and many information pamphlets about MU and PEP were distributed. At the end of the month our AGM at St. Marks , Bassendean, saw a good turn out of members and the MU shop did a brisk trade. Representatives from several branches shared their experiences of the 2011 Theme "Search for New Horizons". It had proved difficult for many to embrace new technologies but a few brave souls had taken up the challenge and enrolled in computer classes.

The Executive spent a very pleasant morning at the Archbishop's house for our November meeting. Cheryl was a gracious host, and Archbishop Roger being at home with back problems popped in for a chat.

It has been a busy year for myself and the other executive members, a steep learning curve for many of us but a pleasure to meet members at their braches or diocesan events.

I look forward to next year, exploring a new theme, and catching up with more members.

I wish you all *Love to make memories brighter,....Peace to make your heart at rest...*

Joy to make your celebrations.....wonderful and blessed

Merry Christmas Denise

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

St. Stephen's, Toodyay.

Vale ; Members of St. Stephen's were saddened by the death of Mrs. Elsie Wroth who passed away on July 8th. Elsie joined St. Stephen's MU on the 18th June 1957, and very proudly received her 50 year badge and certificate at St. Stephen's MU 80th Birthday celebrations in 2010. Elsie was a loyal and devoted member, and during this time was secretary from 1978 to '84, and President May 1996 to '99. Sympathy is extended to her family, also her sisters –in-law Pam, Yvonne and Natalie who are MU members at St. Stephen's. Roma Heath, Secretary.

From Doreen Howells, Rockingham.

Here is some good news for those of you who, like me, find difficulty in comforting the sick, or grieving. Some years ago I was driving to the local hospital. Two of us from St. Nicholas Church, Rockingham, took it in turn to visit patient there registered as Anglican. As I drove I was telling the Lord how very difficult I found it to talk to strangers in this situation. The Lord spoke to me in a clear voice. He said, "You only have to be there. I'll do the ministering."

What a blessing this has been to me. What a blessing for all of us. You only have to be there.

Loving greetings, Doreen Howells.

From the Editor

Many of our branches go into recess until February next year. We send our loving thoughts and prayers to all members who are ill, awaiting hospital treatment, or mourning the loss of a loved one. May God bless you and comfort you.

Please let me know news of what you are planning for the coming year in your branch for the next Grapevine in February.

JUST SAYINGS

1. People who survive pepper gas and mustard spray are now seasoned veterans!
2. It is almost impossible to do inventories in Afghanistan because of the Tally Ban!
3. The Alpine Skiing Competition started poorly and wend downhill from there!
4. I am reading a book about anti-gravity. It is almost impossible to put down!
5. Atheism is a non-prophet organization!
6. Bakers trade bread recipes on a 'knead to know' basis!
7. I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!
8. A bicycle cannot stand on its own because it is too tired!
9. I dropped out of my communism class because of lousy Marx!

PARENTING ENCOURAGEMENT PROGRAMME (PEP)

Facilitator Training Course

The Weekend 17th to 19th February 2012

Branches are invited to nominate people for the course.

The weekend programme will be:

Weekend 17th to 19th February 2012

All Saints, 420 Grand Promenade, Dianella, 6059

Cost \$100 per couple, included supper Friday night, morning and afternoon teas and lunch on Saturday, and all printed material.

For more information please contact

Lois McGrath. Perth PEP Co-ordinator

10, Bunya Street, Noranda 6062

Phone /Fax 9276 7309 ; Email lemcgra@telstra.com.



**Mount Pleasant
Birthday Gathering
at
At Wireless Hill**



**Dalkeith Branch .
President Denise presents
50 Year Badges to
Barbara Hugall,
Jean Mason
and Muriel Gaston.**



The Theme for the coming year chosen by the President and members of the Executive is

“Peace, Hope and Love”.

This is the prayer for every one of us as we enter the season of Advent and the Christmas celebrations.

We all get caught up in the pre-Christmas season of shopping, cooking and dining-out. Sometimes by the time Christmas Eve,

and Christmas Day arrives we are exhausted and frustrated.

There is a lovely Meditation in our MU Worship and Prayer Book to help us amid all the planning and partying.

“ In the silence of the morning,

broken only by the ticking of the clock,

Somewhere, someone is dying,

a baby is born,

people sleep under comfortable duvets, others wake

stretching cold cramped legs under musty cardboard.

Some will meet the day with joy, others with sadness and mourning.

Some will eat plenty, others have little or nothing.

Some will walk in freedom, children playing without fear, others live with the sound of firing and crying in their ears.

In the silence of early morning I think briefly of our world wide family, but, Lord, you think of us all the time.”

[Inspired by 1 Corinthians 12. v12-20]



Members of the Executive at their meeting at Archbishop’s house, an annual event where they enjoy the gracious hospitality of Mrs. Cheryl Herft.

Left to Right

Michelle, Kaye, Beryl, Alison, Denise, Carol, Faye, Marion, Lois.

Prayer and Spirituality.

Dear Friends,

Early in October I was privileged to be able to attend the Australian Church Women Inc. Conference at the Emmanuel College in Adelaide. Members of A.C.W from all round Australia attended from far afield as Tasmania and the Northern Territory. The fellowship was a wonderful experience as we all came from different denominations and found a level of fellowship we could all enjoy.

Every morning and evening devotions were led by a representative from one of the states with the theme ‘The Light of the World’. Prayers and hymns were all drawn from this source and it was amazing how every service was different but stayed with the theme. Each morning for three mornings The Revd. Joan Riley, rector of a parish, and a highly qualified theology teacher lead us through a study of St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians.

She teased the writings out going into the history of Colossae at the time St. Paul wrote this letter. A very interesting and informative time.

The Headmaster of the Aboriginal College Rostrevor Indigenous Sporting Academy (RISA) spoke of the work being done with aboriginal boys and how they come from all round Australia, and learn to assimilate into the different cultures. They are taught to be fully human and to have the courage to walk in the two cultures. The master takes the boys into the bush and teaches them mathematics using the bush as the teacher. Often the teacher is ‘being taught’ with the interchange of ideas. The boys go on to years 11 and 12 so they are equipped to earn a living taking up apprenticeships and further studies if they have the inclination. One boy is hoping to be picked in the AFL final draft as sport is high on the agenda. The first night a wonderful service was held in the huge Lutheran Chapel on the Campus. The organ music stirred us all to lift our voices in praise to our God. A young soloist sang and lit the candles signifying our journey from ‘darkness into light’.

Time of course was taken for the business side of things with debate about the tidying up of the Incorporation. A bus trip up into the hills to Hahndorf rounded off a wonderful time of getting to know new folk and exchanging ideas. Qantas was very co-operative and did not strike so our journey was very comfortable! A.C.W is short of numbers so I would suggest some of you who are not committed too much may like to attend meetings in the City. I met Margaret Harris as the MU Australia representative which is good to have a face to a name.

Psalm 133: “How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in harmony.” Every blessing, Margaret (Peg) Sanders.

Editor; There is a very happy photo of Peg and Meryon at the Conference in the Summer edition of MiaMia.

When letters do 'Return to Senders'!

A letter from Bethmay Watson-O'Loughlin, of the St. Matthew's Sherwood branch of Mother's Union in Queensland, was to result in the return of early letters between that branch and its then Link branch of St. Matthew's, Guildford, Western Australia. Bethmay, working on archival material for the Sherwood branch, saw that these hand written letters held much history of the Guildford branch and St. Matthews itself. Meg Tanner who received her 50 year badge in 2010, had put much information into her letters, all beautifully hand written, so Bethany asked if Guildford or Meg, or indeed her family, might like to see this early correspondence.

Since Meg is now residing at Greenmount in a nursing home, Bethmay took the initiative, carefully placed all this material into temporary file and it arrived on my doorstep one Monday morning. I delivered it that afternoon to Meg, and as it so happened her son was visiting that day, and he, along with Meg, took part in recalling much that had passed between the Link branches. Also there were letters from Lynn Harris as well, again hand written. Meg's son Stephen intends to contact the Sherwood branch when he next visits Queensland, making yet another link. So with Meg and Lynn both having perused the correspondence it was placed back in an envelope and returned to Sherwood.

I was so pleased to have witnessed the pleasure experienced by Meg at Bethmay's thoughtfulness in returning something of the past. Meg said that in a nursing home it was easy to feel you had lost your past life and for that afternoon at least with Stephen being her eyes and reading the letters to her she could remember her past, and those who know her can say what an active life that has been.

Bethmay pointed out that she had not been a long time member of Mother's Union because of previous work commitments, but she is obviously bringing her skills to this important archival work, and already making a difference to Mother's Union and its links. Faye Davis, Central Area President.

PUBLICATIONS The big move from Law Chambers is taking effect with some of the occupants on other floors already moved to new sites. Our Publication Co-ordinators are clearing stock etc on November 30th.

Jan Duffy wants to emphasize that she and Maureen Mattin are happy to come to visit branches with goods when they meet, other than Thursdays. They will also send goods to a branch for sale at a meeting and in the parish.

Please let your members know this because more and more members are not keen to visit the city for MU material.

A lot of the Archive material is going to be stored at Swanleigh. This is going to be a very busy time for all the Executive as they re-arrange venues to suit their meetings, Council meetings, and special events.. Please make a note of the venue when reading dates for your diary.

Please remember our President Denise, and all the Council members in your prayers as they plan for the coming year.

Northern Area Festival



The Area festival was held at St. Cecilia's Church, Quinns/Mindarie on Saturday September 9th and was enjoyed by members and visitors.

The service began with a joyful song by the Sudanese ladies from Hammersley and then continued with prayer and praise. The Revd. Paul Howells gave a short address linking our theme "Search for New Horizons" to Mary's answer to God's call. Our Guest Speaker The Revd. Patricia Flenley also followed the theme and gave a most interesting talk challenging us to look outward and accept new experiences, illustrating with some of her own new horizons when travelling alone to Assissi and Oberamagau.

Four members receive their 50 Year Badges from President Denise, and Northern Area President Michelle Syzmanski; Pauline Ashton, Jacqueline Bickford, Mary Skinner, Ethel Sladden.

The morning concluded with shared lunch and fellowship.



More Sayings

1. Notice in a restaurant window, "Don't stand there and be hungry, come on in and get fed-up!"
2. At the electric company " We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However if you don't you will be!!"
3. In the vet's waiting room. "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit!!Stay!!"
4. It was an emotional wedding, even the cake was in tiers!!
5. Dead batteries were given out free of charge.
6. Cartoonist found dead at home. Details are sketchy.
7. The guy who invented the door-knocker received the Nobell prize.
8. The primary responsibility for a child's education is apparent.
9. On a Taxidermist window. "We really know our stuff".
10. On a maternity ward door, Push! Push! Push!!