

President's Prattle - January 2012

The road out of Bribie Island is closed and the road into my parish from the freeway is closed, so I am having an unexpected day at home, giving me the opportunity to get this "prattle" sent. There are a couple of new Diocesan Presidents this year, welcome to Marilyn Dunning in Brisbane and Sylvia Loader from Grafton Diocese. I try to send "prattle" every month, as long as there is sufficient news to pass on and time allows.

1. Weather extremes

Many of our dioceses at present are suffering from the extremes of weather. If any are aware of an area of need, please let me know so if there are any urgent prayer requests, or areas of practical support which MUA could assist with, please let me know. In my own parish at present several houses have water through them and emergency evacuation centres have been opened, but almost all affected residents are staying with friends or family. I am very aware that at the other end of the scale other places are suffering from long heatwaves, almost more dangerous than flood, both for the health of particularly the very old and very young, and for the danger of bushfires. Please pray for care and safety at this time.

2. Executive and Australia Council

You will have already received your travel and accommodation forms for Executive and AC from Marilyn Robey. Please have them returned as soon as possible. There was one error that we did not pick up until the forms were sent. **Could you please bring a copy of APBA (1995) with you,** not AAPB. Bronwyn Fryar intends to produce a service booklet with the hymns we will be using.

Much planning for the Exec meeting and AC is well under way. The Primate of the Anglican Church, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, will preside and preach at the opening Eucharist, the Worldwide President, Mrs Rosemary Kempzell will be with us for AC and the chaplain will be the Bishop of Wangaratta, Bishop John Parkes. I have invited Mr Stephen Harrison, Director of Mission, Diocese of Brisbane Anglican Schools Commission to present a couple of sessions for us. Stephen spoke at the Queensland Provincial Conference and was very warmly received and the results of his research for his Master's Degree are very apposite for the work of MU, I mentioned some of this in my article in the Spring 2011 *MiaMia*. Thank you to those Diocesan Presidents who responded to my invitation to let me know if there were any things you wish you had known before you began your term. They are being collated and we hope we will be able to cover them in our training sessions.

Amongst the papers Marilyn sent was a timeline for when information will be sent to you, and you will be aware that each diocesan president and each departmental coordinator is required to send a report for inclusion in the meeting documents. Each person will be given a short time to present their report, NOT to read it, but this year I would like to suggest that in speaking to your report you may be able to use the theme for the year, **MU'S GIFTS, DISCOVER AND CELEBRATE**, as the theme. What are the gift's your diocese/department has, or has given in outreach, what gifts has MU given you and/or your members since the last report?

3. MU Worldwide Elections

All Diocesan Presidents should by now have received information from Reg Bailey, Chief Executive at Mary Sumner House regarding elections. If you have not received them could you please let either me or Reg know.

and finally.....

This year looks as if it will be a busy MU year. I have already received invitations to Ballarat and Bendigo Dioceses for Lady Day and also invitations to conferences in Papua New Guinea and Melanesia. It is an exciting time for MU as we look forward to new ways in which we can grow and develop to meet our mission of "sharing Christ's love by the encouraging, strengthening and support of marriage and family life."

Love and prayers,

Libbie Crossman