

*Dawn Keath*

**Leitchville Caritas** cont.

Cohuna MU/Leitchville Caritas and other parish guests enjoyed their annual get together recently by having a coffee and cake evening. The evening commenced with a service from the Mother's Union Prayer Book and it was conducted by President, Rita Craddock with Faye Lyons as the organist. Our guest speaker was Robert Waterson, and he spoke to us about his and the Cohuna Fire Brigade members involvement at the Black Saturday fires at Redesdale, Bendigo, and the Marysville/Kinglake fires. Robert gave us very sound advice regarding fire prevention and insight into fire trauma. Robert was presented with a gift from MU members at the close of the evening. They are a wonderful group of men at our fire station and are mostly volunteers. They even find lost MU members!!!!

*Dawn Hewitt*

Leitchville

*To all of our Friends and Members of  
MU/Caritas.*

*May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a  
very Happy, Holy and Safe Christmas and  
hoping the New Year finds you happy and sur-  
rounded by the love of family and friends.*



*From Your MU/Caritas Executive 2009*

Contributions from branches and others are warmly welcomed and can be sent to:

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**LINKED TOGETHER**

November 2009



Our theme for 2009

*Faith Mission Action*

**DIOCESE OF BENDIGO**

Dear friends in MU and Caritas...

It seems ages since I wrote to you, for so much has happened in MU and life...John and I are back on an "even keel" so to speak but there are still a few hurdles to face up to ...I realise that we are not alone in this as no doubt many members are facing challenges, whether it be with their own health or that of family members or dear friends. How fortunate we are that we can seek comfort from Our Lord and recognise that we are not alone...ever...and if we take time to 'talk' with the Lord we will find comfort, assurance and strength to deal with whatever life has served up to us. We also have a Christian family out there ready to hold us up in prayer ...this doesn't mean that illness or injury will be healed but that we know that we are not walking along the sand on our own...although there may be only one set of footprints ...the Lord is carrying us on His shoulders....until he sees that we are able once more to set off by His side....May the Lord who is always with us continue to carry you when you need it and comfort you throughout the challenges you face.

In this my final letter to Linked Together for 2009 ....may I emphasise how much we are ..as a group of people ...Linked Together...distance may separate us but the web of MU/Caritas links us all together and when we chance to meet, the connection is strongly felt. Just like a family...no matter where we are around the world....we are Linked Together....which is why whomever named our communication magazine did such a marvellous job. We are



heading quickly for the Advent season...the shopping centres will tell us that..although they will be trumpeting 'Christmas'.. a time for us to pause...in the hurly burly of 'shopping' and worry about 'gifts' and 'arrangements' and re focus on what this season means to us...as individuals...as Christians. I don't need to tell you! Maybe we should form an intention of somehow this season, sharing the actual meaning of Christmas with just one person who may not understand the Christian perspective ...maybe at the local shops...or on the train or bus...on talkback radio...to a grandchild maybe....and play a positive part in acknowledging what we know...that we cele-

preparation and partaking of delicious food which we cooked at the table. Over the cold winter months we meet in member's homes where we take pleasure in combining pizza and a DVD and also a casserole tea on another occasion.

Other events to take place over the coming months are a visit from June of "Linked Together" as well as a visit to Kyabram's new Literary and Historical Library.

Prior to Christmas and our AGM, we visit senior parishioners where we have a short chat and leave a small gift and details of church Christmas events.

Our year winds up with more food (-we seem to do a lot of that!) as our Christmas breakup to finish another happy year where we have reached out and involved a wide variety of people.

After the Christmas break we look forward to 2010 with refreshed enthusiasm.

*Lorraine Doherty*

Secretary.

### Leitchville Caritas

Rochester get together was a very enjoyable evening, although only Rochester and Kyabram branches were represented. I felt this was to be expected as winter nights are not the best for travelling long distances. However, MU Executive and Caritas members sang to the music of Faye and Di. And shared experiences with Margaret's presentation. Many thanks Faye, Di. And Margaret.

Thank you to all MU executive members for their input. Thanks to June & Hilary for the publication table. Hope you made some good sales girls, really appreciated all of the work you put in.

I have an invitation to Y.M.D. Caritas 60 year celebration at Holy Trinity S.E. Bendigo on November 1st, 2009.

**Closing date for next issue February 1, 2010**

**We are looking forward to hearing from;**

**Kerang MU  
Maryborough MU**

**Sth. East Bendigo Caritas  
Nyah West MU**

Some of our members attended Lady Day at Holy Trinity where two of our ladies received their 50year scrolls, and others who attended the Day of Refreshment also at Holy Trinity S.E. Bendigo. Members have also helped out serving morning or afternoon teas at "OUR PLACE" supporting Tracey and her team in various ways.

After our winter recess we had a visit from Jenni and Erin from Righteous Pups with two of their trainee pups, who are trained to help children with various forms of autism, its quite amazing how they calm the children down when they get upset giving the whole family much improved and less stressful life. We fired many questions which Jenni eagerly answered.

Two car loads of members enjoyed a great day out, helping Maryborough MU branch celebrate their centenary.

We have invited the Aids and Appliances department from Anne Caudle to our October meeting for them to talk to us and show us the appliances that are available to us as we age, for use both inside and outside the home. We will end the year with a lunch out and AGM. Wishing everyone a joyful and safe Christmas and New Year,

*Nal Foghill*

President

### **Kyabram Caritas**

Another year seems to be getting away from us as we endeavour to carry out our theme of Faith! Mission! Action!

So far we have had a Pot Luck Tea where members bring whatever they like to share for a meal and it always turns out with a good mix of main and dessert. We shared this evening with our now past rector Andrew as a thanks and farewell.

This was followed the next month with a guest speaker school chaplain which was most informative and enjoyable.

Other meetings have included a talk by a local policewoman, Outreach night where we send out invitations to those we think may enjoy a social coffee & dessert as well as guest speaker Rev. Glenda Templer MU Chaplain.

Steamboat Cooking was another meal we enjoyed instruction,

brate at this time the birth of the Son of God who came to earth to save sinners and fulfil His destiny and open the gates of Heaven to those who know and accept Him. Let's not stress about the gifts we select but continue to share the gift of Love...whenever, and wherever, we have the opportunity. Share a smile, a hello. Let us take time to think about those who may be feeling sad at this time for many reasons....and not assume that everyone is thrilled about Christmas....be alert for those in our congregation or community who may be alone...let's have a spare seat at the table on Christmas Day 'just in case'.



*Christmas Baby*

I look forward to catching up with you at the Annual General Meeting when as sisters and brothers in Christ we will look forward to 2010 and continue positive action of MU/Caritas to assist families and share Christian love by quietly continuing our ongoing programs, reaching out to our communities and individuals and looking for other ways we may be of service.

May God Bless you and your families in this Advent and Christmas season....and keep you safe

*Ronda G.* President

### *Linklets*

At our church in Nyah West, we have recently put in a ramp. To our surprise, it has enhanced the look of the church!!

### **What religion is your bra??**

There is the Catholic type ... that supports the masses

The Salvation Army ..... lifts the fallen

The Presbyterian type ... KEEPS THEM STAUNCH AND UPRIGHT

AND THE BAPTIST TYPE ..... MAKES MOUNTAINS OUT OF MOLEHILLS

## Greetings All,

At the evening on Friday 31st July we held our Diocesan get together for Caritas. Although slightly chilly outside, inside there was a warm and friendly atmosphere of fellowship. Holy Trinity Rochester was the venue, with Faye and Di playing keyboard and guitar for us to sing some uplifting hymns.

Margaret Bradley lead us through an activity called " God's Story My Story" with a small workshop which gave us all an opportunity to interact and share experiences. Kyabram and Rochester were the only branches to be represented but many apologies were received.

I am looking forward to celebrating with S.E Bendigo Caritas on the 1st November for their 60 years of Y.M.D- Caritas in their parish. I know by the time you read this the event will have passed but I will take the opportunity through Linked Together to congratulate them and offer my best wishes. This milestone gives encouragement to us all to keep on going into the future and by the grace of God grow in number through our outreach and love.

Yours in Christ ,

*Dawn Keath*, Caritas Leader

*Linklets*

Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out!!

Ears that hear and eyes that see— The Lord made them both!!

Give someone a piece of your time, wrapped with understanding and compassion. These are gifts money can't buy!!

thoughts had been quite negative, but now they had a totally different viewpoint. Others expressed their satisfaction with the day on a spiritual level. A postcard depicting a man in a prayerful pose, 'paying respect to the life giving spirit of the spring at Pura Batukau' was given to each person, with a discussion about that.

For the conclusion, Fr Ken gave us three homework tasks. 1.We are to look for offerings to put in the offering plate from time to time, other than money, something interesting and meaningful.

2.Look at what we can do creatively, consciously using our creative abilities.

3.Honour earth and nature. MU members were challenged to practice a Rain Dance, somewhat as pictured in one of the Balinese pictures and when the weather was warmer to go into the streets of Bendigo and perform. A suggestion of the Fountain as a venue was made. Perhaps even a way to raise money for the Cathedral Restoration?

'Father we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice.'

*Anne Roberts*

Secretary

## Eaglehawk MU

We have had a very happy time this year with an average attendance of 13-15 members attending our meetings we have another 5 members who can no longer get to meetings because of failing health. We sadly lost one of our members who celebrated her 90th birthday earlier this year.

We have had various speakers and welcomed our new Priest and family Andrew, Kim and Hayley Plant. Andrew joins us when he is able, he led our Day Apart focusing on the MU service on our Five Objects which was very thought provoking.

Our year began with a luncheon, our members continue to knit comfort teddies and squares for the blankets for the homeless, and it was with great pleasure that we put together the kitchen packs for those who had lost their homes in the fires.

grant offering and sacrifice to God'. was quoted, We then broke into groups and discussed the idea of 'offerings'. Following the feedback discussion Fr Ken asked us to go for a 'wander', anywhere, up the street, in and around the surrounds and see if we could find something as an offering that we could put in the basket provided, for the offerings during the Eucharist. He did point out that the 'offerings' would be returned, as in the Balinese custom.

At 12.30 p. m. the group reassembled for Eucharist in the Hall. The items in the offering basket were shown at strategic places during the service and each person was asked the significance of the offering to them. A loaf of bread, a jar of coffee, cumquat jam, poems that 'lived' in handbags, were shown, just to name a few. This sharing of the Eucharist was followed by a B.Y.O. shared lunch. It had been arranged that two men from the parish, Alan East and Noel Smith, would do all the setting up, preparation of tea and coffee, including all the dishes, so participants could all sit back and enjoy each other's company, with plenty of 'food' for discussion.

By the time the afternoon session came along we all felt that we had been spiritually filled, but there was room for more. This time it was about our creativity. As a child Fr. Ken had been somewhat discouraged from expressing himself artistically by a criticism of his art work, so it was with a bit of trepidation that he had begun to draw and paint on his visits to Bali and we were able to see the result of some lovely expressions of the scenery that he so much enjoyed. This was an example of how we could all benefit from expressing ourselves in a creative manner. Another small group discussion led to talking about our own creative abilities. The feedback listed things such as, writing poetry, cooking, journaling, gardening and the list goes on. Marion Smith was able to tell us the story of her pet lamb Baa whose wool she had spun, dyed and made into the beautifully knitted purple cardigan that she was wearing.

Fr Ken posed the question about what we thought we had received from the day. Several replied that they had definitely changed what their thoughts had been about Bali. Previously their

## *Chaplain's reflection*

### *Faith! Mission! Action!*

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. John 1:3b-4

I have just returned from retreat. One of many delights there was to be exposed to a misty fog, bracing wind and sleeting rain. I love winter and have felt its absence keenly over the past twelve years of reduced rainfall and fewer 'real' winter months. I am delighting in winter moistness and green shoots. A little of what, for me, is the 'way life should be' has been restored - life as it used to be, with heavy rain that we used to complain about, unrationed water, and a garden where flowers and fruit grew rampantly.

But, of course, one or two wet months do not turn around the changes seen in our climate. We have only just scraped above average rainfall for a couple of months, water restrictions are an ongoing reality, the fire season is predicted to be of significant concern.

Many in Bendigo Diocese are facing continuing change. The prospect of walking off a farm which has been in the family for generations, townships where there are many vacant houses because families have already left as a result of the financial downturn and drought - these are realities in the life of many people we know or associate with. It may well be ourselves, other MU members, our neighbour or people in our parish who are so affected.

How do we live, how do we find hope in changed and changing circumstances? How do we meet our own and others' despair and sense of hopelessness when confronted by changed and difficult circumstances?

The new wording used by Mary Sumner House for MU's vision, aim and purpose are both challenging and inspirational.

The vision: of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

The aim and purpose: to demonstrate the Christian faith in action

by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of family in its many forms.

Some issues can concern us greatly, but are too big for us as individuals or small groups to affect directly. Other issues we can name, and in naming, raise awareness and acceptance of them as issues of genuine and immediate concern that need to be addressed. And there are issues that we can take on, where we can make a difference. These may be only a small part of a much larger issue, but it is better to do something, than to remain frozen, or to stagnate, afraid and worried.

A story I heard tells of a person walking along the beach. The beach was littered with star fish, washed up on the sand. In the distance, he saw a man walking towards him throwing star fish back into the sea. As he approached, he said to the man, "Why bother throwing the star fish back. There are thousands of them. You will never throw them all back." The man, throwing another back into the ocean, commented. "Made a difference to that one, didn't it".

'The light of Christ has come into the world', we sing. A question forms - What difference does this make to us and to how we live? How do we live out of this light that has been given to us? The light of Christ is seen today in the world in many guises, in many places, hidden, familiar, distant, near at hand. In response to the life giving light come into the world, we live out *Missio Dei*, God's mission in the world. Allowing ourselves to be shaped by a routine of prayer and scripture, we are honed and, if this is our calling, led into action. It is the outpouring of the love we are given. As MU members, we look to live out our mission in service to families and in our community life. How will your branch move forward, in faith, in 2010?

Each little action we make joins together into something greater. As local branches and as individuals, we often think that what we do doesn't matter, doesn't make a difference. As you think and plan what your branch will do next year, consider what small action might make a difference and in some way bring into being the

those of us who did not know him, and he gave a background story of himself. He then asked each person to do the same. This gave the thirty people present a feeling of knowing a little bit more about each other. This set the scene for a day, not only of quietness of spirit, but also peacefulness, serenity and a time set apart from the everyday worldly worries.

Fr Ken had recently returned from a trip to Bali. He was keen to share his reasons for making Bali a favourite place that he liked to visit. He showed some paintings that had been done by various Balinese artists and these were passed around. Fr Ken asked for comments about what we learned about the Balinese people from the paintings. 'Busy', 'a lot of detail', 'a lot of activity', depicting culture', were some of the replies. Fr Ken then went on to describe how he found the Balinese people to be. He said that they were mainly Hindu, which they practiced rather than preached. He said that they were community minded, worked co-operatively, were welcoming and sharing. If there was a festival or family occasion, there was no question that time would be taken off work and the family or festival occasion would come first. He depicted a simple lifestyle lived with much joy and happiness.

Fr Ken told the story of the offerings made to the priests. A grass basket with food offerings or some treasures that were significant to their life, beautifully decorative, were taken by family members for the special occasions. Once the offering was made, some of the food was given to the priest, but then the family might take the remainder and go for a picnic. This differed from the usual offerings made by our culture of monetary offerings. We then talked about the 'Harvest Festival' type of offerings, customary of days past, when produce from farms or gardens decorated the church and offered, to be used by the less fortunate. The idea that was used in St Paul's this year, as a type of Harvest festival, was of offerings of our talents or hobbies. A wonderful display of needlework, knitting, and various arts and crafts, also achievements in fields of endeavour, decorated the Hall so we could admire and respect the work of others and give thanks to God for this creativity.

The verse from Ephesians: 5. 2. 'Christ gave himself up as a fra-

*Jenny Rainsford*  
**Branch News**

**BENDIGO NORTH**

The winter months are often quiet, with people away for various reasons, but a small group of MU members and other Wednesday worshippers gathered at St. Luke's White Hills on 29th July to participate in, and to pray for our Linked Dioceses during the Wave of Prayer.

'Show and Tell' is not just for the littlies at school! A group of those who were not holidaying, or had not succumbed to winter ills brought along some memorabilia to the August gathering and shared what their 'treasure' meant to them. Some fascinating objects appeared!

Another memorable occasion in September, was meeting with link members from Sunbury at the beautiful Macedon church and hearing how the worship centre for the area 'arose from the ashes' of the 1983 fires.

Fund-raising for our MU Australia Project was the purpose of the luncheon in October with Jenny and Barry Rainsford giving us a glimpse of places and events in Singapore, the UK and the Rhine River. They were also able to meet with MU members in Burbage (near Salisbury) to personally thank them for their donation for the fire-affected, raised from a coffee morning.

*Jenny Rainsford*

**ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL MU**  
**A QUIET DAY WITH FR. KEN PARKER.**

An enjoyable Quiet Day with Dean Peta last year, saw the inclusion of another Quiet Day in the program for MU at St Paul's this year. At the invitation of our now past President, Beth Austin, Fr. Ken Parker accepted the invitation to lead our day for this year. It was held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> August, commencing at 11 a. m. and concluding at 3 p. m. Other Parishes from the Bendigo region had been invited to attend and it was very pleasing that other parishes responded and came.

The day began with Fr. Ken introducing himself, for the benefit of

MU vision of transformed communities, renewed relationships.

MU executive, in discerning what could translate the vision, aim and purpose of MU locally into action in the world, has resolved to find out more about the experience of those affected by drought and to see if this is an area where, on a Diocesan level, MU could live out its vision and its aims.

Blessings to all as you continue to engage in Faith! Mission! and Action!,

*Glenda Templer*  
MU Chaplain

**St Luke's Day and MU outreach**

I am writing this on the eve of the Feast of St Luke, October 18th. A snippet of 'Anglican trivia' which I remember from my schooldays is that on October 18, 1544, the first published service in the English language was said, for the first time in language 'understand of the people'. (It was the Litany, developed from the Latin by Cranmer and urgently offered in the face of a likely French invasion of England). 465 years is indeed 'ages', yet somehow it does not seem so very long as a fraction of the life of the English speaking church, for Christians to have had some chance of understanding what is going on in worship! October 18 marks, for me, the awesome beginning of all the different versions of worship we have experienced in English and later, in countless other languages and dialects across the world, as missionary work developed and as overseas churches became themselves the local guardians of the Christian message. It marks the beginning of the average person being able to join in and participate with meaning.

What a good day, then to remember the work of our MU workers in Melanesia and Papua New Guinea (and indeed, all 150 MU workers across the world). They are local women who teach literacy and other practical skills, and promote Bible knowledge and Christian worship in the local language, not English. Their special knowledge of local culture and customs means that they can communicate their faith and knowledge in a way no visiting outsider could.

The experience of Melanesian women newly able to read the Bible in their own language and to lead worship must be as enlightening as it would have been for English people in the 1540's, suddenly hearing an English Bible and later Prayer Book. Until then, not much would have been grasped if you didn't happen to know Latin.

Add to this October 18 theme that Luke, healer and evangelist, wrote in Greek (the 'vernacular' - widely spoken language - of his time) a gospel for Gentiles rather than Jews, for 'outsiders' rather than insiders. He was a missionary who had not seen Jesus himself, but who took time and care to learn much about him. Luke's gospel is marked by compassion and understanding, particularly for the marginalised, the lost and ignored. It presents women as proactive and critical participants in the Christian story. (I'm beginning to think that October 18 might be the runner up to Lady Day in the MU calendar!! It has much for us to ponder).

PNG and Melanesian MU workers and the women they work with are encouraged and financed by our Special Project this year. Do continue to remember them in your prayers and your giving. This is the last time I shall write as O&NO coordinator for our diocese; I have held the position for more than 6 years and it is someone else's turn. The task deals with issues close to MU's heart and mine. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet so many of you, and also, as it were, to get to know some of these inspiring MU workers overseas whom we know and love in the Communion of Saints, though we are unlikely to meet them in person.

*Julia Cutting*

Overseas and Northern Outreach coordinator

*Linklets*

Humans are the only species that allow their children to come back home!!

We enjoyed our shared lunch in September and welcomed June Prior to speak to us about our Linked together magazine.



*A Celebration of Three Lives*



Two members, and also a supporter, of the Bendigo North branch of MU died recently.

JEAN KNIGHT was one of the very early members of the MU at St. John's North Bendigo.

She had been a financial member for many years and was in her 90's when she died. A much younger member, Carol Fenselau, remembers her mother, Audrey Robbins speaking often of 'Jean'. One of Jean's activities each year was to organise a Christmas 'round robin'. Jean also worked at Robbins Nursery as an employee of Alan and Shirley Wakefield.

EVELYN BROWN was a more recent member of the branch. Evelyn, although a keen member of the Uniting Church, was a close friend of the late Nell Caelli who probably introduced Evelyn to MU. Evelyn, visually impaired, enjoyed receiving and listening to, Mia on Tape.

Evelyn, in her 81<sup>st</sup> year, was still a regular attendee at the branch meetings in spite of her failing health.

She very faithfully filled (and re-filled) her little film canister with twenty cent pieces for the work of Northern Outreach and Overseas. Evelyn was keen to help spread the Gospel, and was, for very many years the Secretary of the Leprosy Mission for the Bendigo area. The large gatherings at these meetings are in part, a tribute to her faithfulness in promoting the work of overseas and national mission.

DOUG WEIR, although not a member, very keenly supported, over many years, the aims and objectives and the Purpose of MU. Doug's wife Betty was Diocesan Treasurer of MU in the 1980's and Betty is still a very keen member of the branch.

Doug, in retirement, was a very active believer, a deep thinker, and a man of action, and was widely appreciated in the parish and the diocese for his many involvements in the life of the Church as he exercised his gifts of ministry .

ginning in 1909. Parish member Olive McKay entertained us with two delightful recitations, from last century . 'The Tale of Albert & the Lion' and the 'Australian Poem, The Fire at Ross' Farm.' Father Cliff and Bishop Andrew offered congratulations , some presentations were made and the afternoon concluded with the lighting of the candles and cutting of the celebration cake, by our 50 year member, Lesley Boxall, assisted by Una. The cake was made by parish member Dianne Hooper and all present were able to enjoy a slice with their final cuppa. Hilary Hunt did a fabulous job in managing the preparations for this event as did our Treasurer who looked after the catering arrangements.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

*Ronda Gault*

#### **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Each meeting I try to present issues I feel we should be concerned about. We can't change the world but we can be concerned, voice our concerns and pray.

One issue we discussed was that of some very offensive slogans printed on toddlers T shirts, eg "The Condom Broke" and "I'm a tits man" available in Cotton On shops.

We were so pleased to read a report in The Weekend Australian 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2009 informing the public that Cotton On had apologized and withdrawn the t shirts.

This came about because people emailed, sent messages and expressed their concerns SO folk like us can make a difference.

*Verna Doak*

*Linklets*

Bendigo North branch decided to hold its June meeting at a public restaurant. An ideal social setting—but terribly difficult for the guest speaker

#### **EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION DEPARTMENT**

Do you love or hate the word “**challenge**”?

It's a word that has become so overused. It can grate somehow with one's inner self and being and rouse negative feelings.

Alternately, it's a word that can stir up, rouse out of comfort and complacency and energise into determined and focused action.

The article by Marjorie Voss (Australian MU Caritas leader / Promotion and Development Coordinator) in the Spring edition of Mia Mia gave me much food for thought.

Marjorie writes, “I strongly believe the Mothers Union has so much to give to people in need. Unfortunately many people do not know that we exist, or do not see us for what we are.”

The following sets out her article In point format:

#### **PROMOTE:**

What we do  
What we are willing to do.

#### **WHY:**

To change how people see us.

#### **CHANGE:**

Seek people who need help – not wait for them to come to us.  
Seek community needs. Program! Pray!

#### **HOW:**

Start a new group. MU or Caritas - whichever suits the need!

#### **WHERE:**

Local coffee shop.  
Face book or other internet web site.

Please don't scoff at or dismiss such ideas.

In today's 21<sup>st</sup> century world the “world wide web” is becoming **THE** way people communicate and relate to one another.

Branch members would do well to both ask and answer the following two questions.

1. Are Bendigo MU branch members prepared to move with the times and get out of the comfort zone and into today's fastest growing community?

Are we prepared to show that we are ready for the challenges that lie ahead and willing to change the way we do things to help people in need.

#### **SOME CHALLENGES:**

1. Think of the young mother of young children who would like some escape.

2. The carer who would like someone to talk to.

3. The newly retired women who need stimulation.

The person who has been retrenched or the newly bereaved.

The list goes on and on.

*Margaret Bradley*

### **Farewell to Claire Smith from Kyabram MU**

Claire was born on October 5, 1921 at Mooroopna. She moved in her early years to Kyabram, where her parents ran an orchard. After finishing school she went to work at the cannery until the start of World War 2. Claire enlisted in the W.A.F and was sent to Melbourne to do her basic training. She was then transferred to Bairnsdale, Sale and Adelaide. It was in Adelaide that she met and married her husband who was also in the Air Force.

They made their home in Adelaide, and were the happy parents to 6 children, 1 boy and 5 girls. Claire was widowed in 1953 when her youngest was still very small, she struggled to bring up the children on her own but in 1985 she decided to come back to Kyabram, where she felt at home again. This was the year that Claire joined Mothers Union at St. Andrew's Anglican Church and she was admitted as a member in 1986. Claire attended St. Andrew's regularly for many years, until failing health forced her to stay at home more,

Social Responsibility areas in which MU works across the world . These included promoting Fair Trade products and looking at the suitability of media programming for young people, lobbying if it offends or does not promote good values.

Further luncheons are planned for the future when other MU work will be explored. Thanks to Irene Labbert for her contribution to this article.

*Val McKenzie*

### **Maryborough Branch Celebrates 100 years of MU**

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 was a joyful celebration of the centenary of our branch with a service conducted by Father Cliff Greaves with Bishop Andrew assisting. Appropriately there were just 100 guests who shared the day, being members and friends, representatives of the parish, other branches in the diocese, and of the community, former leaders, Faye Beatty and Wendy Leaver, and former rectors Canon John Leaver & Rev'd Hedley Jones. Following the celebration service at which beautifully crafted steps to the pulpit, made by local identity, Tom Davies, were dedicated to commemorate this momentous occasion, everyone moved to the hall to share a



beautifully prepared luncheon. President Una Dawson presented some snippets from minutes in the years which had gone before, Diocesan President Ronda, assisted by Una lit the remembrance candle as we remembered all of

those wonderful women who had sustained this branch from its be-

## Showing That We Care.

The Mother's Union Group here in Kyabram decided there were 3 good reasons for doing something practical for their fellow members of St. Andrews, especially the younger families who attend the later service. Firstly to bring the younger and older generations within our church together more often. Secondly to build some practical relationships between an individual member and a younger family and thirdly, to show that MU didn't just meet for a social gathering and a scrumptious afternoon tea, but actively supported families in many areas including social responsibility.

MU members are now allocated a younger family to regularly pray for, the two groups then decide between themselves how much other interaction they wished to enjoy. Many of our younger families are self sufficient and have their own extended families to care for them, and likewise many of the MU members have their own families to care for them, but as a church,



*June Orr with her "Adopt-A-Family"*

we are called to support and pray for each other at all times and by having a specific family to pray for gives focus to the prayers and an opportunity to get to know and understand each other a little more.

Recently a shared luncheon was hosted by MU members following both services, the second since the "Adopt-A-Family" program began. During lunch President Ev. Cunningham, told those present that she wanted them to know that MU members cared for them and were there for them if needed.

The Aims and Objectives of MU were explained, also some of the

She then became a regular in our Home Communion round on the first Sunday of each month.

Claire loved coming to MU when she could manage it, and she also loved selling Poppies and Badges for the local R.S.L. Sub Branch, where she also attended meetings whenever she was able.

Claire was a real animal lover and always had one or more kittens around the place.

Our dear Claire has finally decided to pack up and go back to Adelaide to be closer to her family. St Andrew's MU was happy to host an afternoon tea/farewell for Claire on September 23, 2009 where 35—40 people attended to say goodbye.

We presented her with a framed photo of St. Andrew's, which brought tears to her eyes and also to ours. The local RSL also made a presentation to Claire, likewise a couple of Fellowship Groups that she had attended over many years.



Judy Binion concluded the afternoon with prayers wishing Claire all the best for her new home and life in Adelaide with her family.

*Evelyn Cunningham*

President/Leader

*"A budget helps us live below our Earnings"*

## *Christmas Island: no place to detain children*

Did you know that despite the Federal Government's 'new direction' in detention policy, children and unaccompanied minors remain in immigration detention arrangements on Christmas Island? 86 children, including 51 unaccompanied minors, are currently being held there. 68 of them are in a former 'construction camp' consisting mostly of metal, concrete and gravel, with small claustrophobic rooms and no way to communicate with the outside world – inappropriate for even a brief period. 18 minors are in community detention.

The Government has committed to no longer keeping children in detention centres, and Christmas Island is technically not such a centre. But the restrictive conditions and lack of services have similar psychological impact on children. While this is the case, the Government has not completed its aim of creating a more humane refugee system and is in fact violating its international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (to which we have long been a signatory).

The Religious Network of Amnesty International supplied this information and asks that congregations pray for these young people. You could also write to Senator Chris Evans, Immigration Minister, or to our local member, asking that children, especially those who are unaccompanied, be moved from Christmas Island to the mainland (where they can more easily be visited by local churches and other groups, have better medical care, or be 'phoned, even visited, by relatives already settled in Australia whom a few of them have).

*Julia Nutting*

### *Linklets*

Mosquitoes are like small children, the minute they stop making a noise, you know they are up to something.

Thank you Lord; For my life with many thrills and spills  
From which, I pray, I've gained some skills. Di.

## **MOTHERS' UNION RIGHTEOUS PUPS - SEPT. 2009**

Eaglehawk Parish members were treated to a pleasant visit following their September meeting at St. Peters', with the arrival of two "Righteous Pups – Cuddles and Bart", together with Jenny and Erin. Cuddles was the pup recently in the news that had been lost. As it costs \$29 000 to train each one, folk at Righteous Pups Australia (Bendigo) were relieved at his return. Jenny addressed us to explain how the concept was formed and came into being – an initiative of Bendigo. It was established with a mission to raise, socialize and train assistance dogs for children and adults with disabilities, a service not available anywhere else in A u s t r a l i a .

Her quiet, positive manner was well accepted by all. Erin demonstrated the response the pups gave to instruction – receiving a reward after each success. The dogs are also trained for search and rescue should the need arise. There is a magical relationship that exists between the child and their dog. An autistic child has a developmental delay in communication, and experiences behavioral meltdown, which is often over stimulated by noise. The trained Assistance dogs gently and lovingly interrupt these behaviours. The arrival of a Pup to a family helps give some normality. One parent was overcome when her "Child on the Spectrum" came across the room and gave her a kiss. The first time in 14 years that any emotion had been displayed, and only after the arrival of a Righteous Pup" into the household, indicating that they can transform not only a child's life, but that of a l l t h e f a m i l y . Righteous Pups Australia is based at St Joseph's Wing at Bethlehem Home for the Aged, Taylor Street in Golden Square. Any financial assistance or in housing the pups prior to training would be most appreciated.

*Kaye Trimble*

Eaglehawk MU

### *Linklets*

My name is Joyce Robinson and I sell beautiful cards at the MU meetings. This enables money to be used within the church