

President's Circular No 1, 2010.

The theme for Australia Council meeting in October is *Journeying Together*.

Bronwyn and Carolynn have already written to you on the theme in relation to Lent. I hope that you are taking up the challenge of the journey in your Diocese, examining it in detail so that you can respond with knowledge at our gathering in October.

In my last Circular I gave some direction for research and I will repeat the questions that you will be asked to answer:

1. **Who travels with us?**
2. **Who would you like on board?**
3. **How could you achieve your goals?**

The last question will also be part of a group discussion and feedback.

Our North Queensland Diocese has extended the theme to read, Journeying Together in Faith, Hope and Joy with Justice.

I have begun to read, **A History of the MOTHERS' UNION, Women, Anglicanism and Globalisation from 1876 – 2008**. It is written by Cordelia Moyse. A review will be included in the next Mia Mia. This history relates to and places the journey of Mothers' Union, in the context of other womens' organisations, within an historical and political context.

I do not find the book a "quick read". There is much to absorb. My reading so far leads me to believe that all Diocesan Leaders and Executive Members should read this book. It will help us to understand our journey so far, encourage us to look to the future and not live in the past.

We have been able to finalise our grants for the Northern Outreach Fund. Monies will be distributed from 1st March 2010. I am disappointed that once again, some Dioceses have not replied. You will have noted that contact has been made with Papua New Guinea but the progress is slow. I still have had no replies from Melanesia.

Please pray that suitable candidates will answer the call to fill positions that will become vacant on Australia Council this year. **Are you that person?**

Here in the north we are having an old fashioned "wet season" – so far without a cyclone. My brothers on the cane farm just outside Sarina have measured over 1,100 mms since 1st January. In town we have not had that much, though during king tides on 30 January, we were concerned about local flooding as they coincided with a period of very heavy rainfall. According to the Bureau of Meteorology, we could be in for a repeat performance this week end. The rains forecast for the Northern Territory and Central Queensland over the next 2 to3 days, will hopefully bring further flows to the Darling River system, and so augment the falls from a few weeks ago. We pray for a regeneration of the river systems and the land.

May God bless you, your members and the work you do in 2010.

Deane.

26 February, 2010.