



Doreen Hall Australian Social Responsibility Co-ordinator
E-mail socresp@mu.org.au

9th November 2011

Dear Friends,

In our part of Australia we are grateful for a wonderful winter and growing season; we look forward to a great harvest. Lambs have been plentiful – changing from fluffy white to dirty white as they grow and move around. Many dams have been filled for the first time in a few years; most farm dams are still full between Bunbury and Katanning (240 km east). Farmers and towns people are all in a more positive frames of mind and thankful for a good year whilst praying for a good harvest. At the end of this month Kevin will complete 9 months as locum priest and we look forward to the new priest's recognition of ministry on December 1st at Katanning/Kojonup, and some free time for a few weeks leading to Christmas.

I have had correspondence from Bendigo MU who have written letters to State and Federal Parliamentarians and the Australian Corporation responsible for the manufacture and marketing of Libra products protesting :-

1. The degrading of women and men in the advertisements by Libra Sanitary Pads depicting a man covered in sanitary napkins.
2. The exploitation of children by so called "beauty pageants" and the like for children under 14 years.

Well done Bendigo! Perhaps others will be encouraged to follow their example.

Other areas which may concern you are the current discussion on the "Marriage Act". If you wish it to stay as it is then write to members of parliament in your State as well as Federal members. It is quite difficult to do any one project across Australia as we are all different and some issues are more relevant in different states.

I received a copy of "small screen" 279 September 2011. Some topics covered were:-

1. Exposing kids to porn is now the norm
2. UK parents in a cycle of guilty giving
3. Diva, an Australian fashion jewellery chain now stock Playboy Brand stock
4. Coles in a row over school stunts e.g. shopping-to gain school equipment for schools, sing jingles
5. Cereals dangerous for children
6. Mobile phones, internet, iPads and computer games without supervision.
7. Parents using TV as a baby sitter.

I recommend branches obtain copies of these regular resources – they could be discussed at Branch and Diocesan level and action can be taken. All these topics are important, some more relevant than others. Mother Teresa once said "*We can't all do great things, but we can all do small things with great love*". What a challenge for MU.

I believe we can all do things in our own way in our own branch and community. Seek information and assistance where possible and let us all share our knowledge and information across our large and wonderful Country

Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas. Doreen
