



Social Responsibility Department

Welcome to **enews No 4** for 2009.

Dear Friends,

As the year rapidly draws to an end may I wish you all a holy and blessed Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

My sincere apologies for the lack of contact this year, it was meant to have been far better. In my Christmas letter to family I said that as usual, the Crossmans had tried to pack far too much into this year, and some things just didn't quite get squeezed in! But 2 house moves, 2 new grandchildren and 2 new parishes has been quite a handful before anything else is added to the list. I am now happily ensconced in my new parish of Freshwater which covers the northern Brisbane suburbs of Deception Bay, Burpengary and Narangba. And it has an active MU Branch – I am delighted! Both Bill and I didn't realize how unsettled we would be in temporary accommodation and both of us are achieving much more now we have settled. We hope and pray this will be our last move prior to retirement in 4 years.

With all this going on my intention to have the **Relationships CD-ROM** completed by the middle of the year went awry. I am glad to say that it is now completed and those who have asked for it should receive it in the next couple of weeks. If you have asked for one and have not received it, please let me know.

Thank you to those diocesan SR reps that have sent annual reports. So many of you are doing a marvelous job and I give thanks to God for all you do.

Social Responsibility Matters

Social Responsibility and Prayer and Spirituality

In my last enews I mentioned that Bronwyn and I had committed ourselves to a month of prayer as we considered how our two departments could work together. I also mentioned that the MU Handbook was being revised. When it is distributed you will see that we have come together as the Faith in Action Unit. Still the same 2 departments, but a closer linking chiefly as a reminder to us all that we are not carrying out our objects if we do one without the other.

Lobbying, Negotiating and Media Skills Seminar

Last week I was fortunate to attend, with Marjorie Voss this training seminar organized by the Australian women's Coalition and funded by the AMA in Brisbane. It was a valuable day and I came away with new ideas on how we may be able to be more effective in our social responsibility role. If you would like to learn more please contact me. As a result of contacts made at the seminar next year's articles in *MiaMia* will cover women and children's health issues and needs.

Faith and Policy Unit – Mary Sumner House

I can't stress enough the importance of keeping a regular check on the Faith and Policy Unit at Mary Sumner house via the website: www.themothersunion.org. There is a wealth of information available. The only caution I would suggest is to check and make sure how relevant it is for Australian society.

Small Screen

258 October 2009

**Now available from the Young Media Australia website at
<http://www.youngmedia.org.au/pdf/smallscreen/ss-258-Oct.pdf>**

Your password is chU7r8st

Topics this month include:

- ***Video gamers and attention***
- ***Editorial: ACCM's views on the Free TV Code review***
- ***Adelaide seminars***
- ***US children watching more TV***
- ***Smart Choices for your health?***

As an alternative, click on the link <http://www.youngmedia.org.au>

1 From the menu select 'YMA publications'

2 Select '*small screen*'

3 Select '*Online small screen*' and *small screen* No. 258 October 09. You will be asked for a password.

4 Type in the password

Also from the publishers of Small Screen.

Preliminary notice. Save this date: Sydney, March 19, 2010

The Australian Council on Children and the Media

***Growing up fast and furious:
Reviewing the impacts of violent and sexualised media on children***

**Saturday 19 March 2010, 9am - 5pm
NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre
37 Reservoir Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010**

An Australian Conference on Children and the Media, with international researchers, Prof Rowell Huesmann (long term impacts of violent media) , Prof Ed Donnerstein (Internet violence and cyber-bullying) , Distinguished Prof Craig Anderson (violent video games), and Prof Louise Newman (Victoria, sexualisation of children), Dr Wayne Warburton (NSW, violent music videos), Dr Cordelia Fine (Victoria, advertising) and Prof Elizabeth Handsley (SA, regulation and classification).

In this important and timely conference leading researchers will review the evidence related to children's experiences with a range of violent and sexualised media, examine their marketing, and discuss appropriate regulatory responses, including how well our classification systems reflect current research.

Don't miss this unprecedented opportunity to see several of the world's leading researchers on children and the media speaking together in Australia.

Please reply to this email with your name and contact details if you would like to receive further information about this event.

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Anglicare Australia

Our membership of Anglicare Australia is a valuable one – on our side it gives us access to a great deal of the events occurring with relevance to all those in need.

The address for the Anglicare enews is www.anglicare.asn.au/documents/E-News .

and finally.....

I have tried to limit the attachments in this email, but I attach, just for your interest the results of a survey conducted in the UK by MSH. It was to be forwarded to the Church of England following a private members bill in the UK parliament. I am very aware of the amazing amount of media awareness in MU Australia, I see evidence of it very, very frequently. In fact at almost every branch and deanery meeting I attend. While this is marvellous, as SR coordinators it sometimes is good to remind members that there is a great deal more to Social Responsibility that individual members can be involved in.

Once again thank you all so much for all you do in God's service.

God bless,

Libbie Crossman