

MU Australia
Social Responsibility Department

Welcome to **enews No 3** for 2008.

SEPTEMBER

Dear Friends,

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

This coming week, 7th – 14th September is National Child Protection Week. Activities celebrating the week are being held in venues throughout Australia. While I am very late in advising you of this, my reason for doing so is that the press in all its forms will no doubt pick up on some of these events and cover the week with a range of well researched articles. Please try and make use of this information and perhaps use what you have gathered as the start of discussions within branches of what perhaps MU Australia can do to foster the protection of children. Remember one of the best places to find resources is **NAPCAN**, www.napcan.org.au

It was my very great privilege to spend Mary Sumner Day with almost 100 MU members from the Province of South Australia in Adelaide. It was a very cold day, but the warmth of the welcome and the enthusiasm of members to share with each other, made the day memorable. I hope I was able to share with them my enthusiasm for what I believe is the heart of MU, our Social Responsibility, as members as and good citizens.

I will be away on holidays from Monday, 8th September until Monday, 6th October. I begin my holidays with a talk at the MU Diocesan Conference for Bathurst Diocese in West Wyalong on Tuesday, with members from Canberra and Goulburn and Riverina dioceses. Then it is to Canberra for a few days to be Grannie and to India for nearly 3 weeks.

It has been a real privilege this year to have visited and met members from so many dioceses. My emphasis has been on the fourth object. As I have traveled and talked I have become aware that members and branches in many various ways uphold the fifth very well. But I believe we need to be more aware how we can uphold our fourth object, particularly in an age when communication is so easy.

Below you will find information that has come from many sources, and I am grateful that members are beginning to see that SR enews is a resource we can all contribute to.

Every blessing in your work and witness to your faith and the upholding of the aims and objects of MUA,

Libbie Crossman

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Google Street View

Google Street View was launched in Australia earlier this month. It is a popular Google Maps tool that allows people to view and navigate 360 degree street-level imagery of cities and towns. Street View enables users to see a location as they would if they were standing on the street.

Google Street View has many benefits for local communities, including that:

- * school students will be able to study urban and regional environments;
- * those looking for homes to rent or buy will be able to preview locations; and
- * locals visiting a new area will be able to preview the area they are going to.

Google is taking a number of steps to protect people's privacy.

What is Google doing to protect privacy?

Street View only contains imagery from public roads, no different than what you might see driving down the street. Details such as license plates are not legible. Street View does not identify the owner or occupier of a house. Google also uses face blurring technology to protect Australians' privacy.

What can I do if I still have concerns with an image?

Google respects the fact that people may not want imagery they feel is inappropriate featured on Street View. Google provides easily accessible tools for flagging inappropriate or sensitive imagery for blurring or removal. If you've found an image that you believe contains objectionable content, just follow these steps:

1. Locate the image on Street View (www.maps.google.com).
2. Click "Street View Help" in the top-right corner of the image window.
3. Click "Report inappropriate image."
4. Complete the form, and click "Submit. That's it. Google works quickly to action image removal requests.

The Street View Australia webpage at <http://maps.google.com.au/streetview> contains a short YouTube video that includes a description of how to use the image removal tool, it also contains a link to Frequently Asked Questions including the Q+A: 'How can I report a StreetView image?'. If you would like more information on Street View, visit <http://maps.google.com.au/streetview>.

Items of concern from members:

1. Concerns have been expressed about comments in the media about the selection of "Requiem for a Beast" by Matt Ottley as the winner of the Book of the Year by Children's Book Club of Australia. According to the media it has unseemly language - a dark unsavoury plot and therefore is unsuitable for kids.
2. "Sexploitation" of children - particularly young girls. There have been several articles recently, including July/August 2008 issue of "Quadrant", *The Pornification of Girls* by Melinda Tankard Reist, an article *Toxic society eroding childhood*. by Roland Ashby. Apparently Archbishop Philip Freier (Archbishop of Melbourne) and Noni Hazelhurst were interviewed on the subject in June and made their feelings felt about this serious matter. The latter paper can be down loaded from the internet.
3. The deaths of underweight twins in Brisbane highlights the concerns about the abuse of children, even in their own homes. In the past few years people have seemed reluctant to become involved, hence tragedies such as this occur. Please, if you do have concerns, contact either the police, or your state Department of Family services. It is **not** appropriate for these issues to be matters of gossip. If you are unsure of where to go, please talk to your parish priest.

If you would like to express your concern about these or other issues, please do so. Remember: it is more effective for many people to write than just one from an organization. Write on your own behalf, not MU

The how to and where to write to can all be found in *Straight Talking* which is on the MUA website. Please send me a copy of your letter, so that I am aware of issues that members are concerned with.

Small Screen:

Latest edition will be found at: www.youngmedia.org.au/pdf/smallscreen/ss-244-Jul.pdf .

The password is: trukuju2

In this edition there are items include :Parents wanting less violence; web filter trial; privacy law and practice and kidsTV.