



MU Australia
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union



Message from the Diocesan President

Theme for this year: *Faith in Action*

Thank you for making the effort to get here today!

We have had our first Executive meeting and we welcomed

The Rev. Judith Lake as Chaplain,

Suzanne Seager as Minute Secretary,

Lynette Oates who has offered to take on the Social Issues and Action department [used to be called Social Responsibilities]. We look forward to working with Lynette.

Rosemary Hicks has offered to be the Eastern Region Coordinator and we thank her for taking on this role.

Thank you to those who are returning to start their second three year term. All of the Executive members will be commissioned or recommissioned at Lady Day.

For those members who regularly come into the shop, you will notice changes. At the end of last year the landlord advised that our rent would be rising very considerably, so as of the end of this month, [tomorrow] we have relinquished the room which was being used as the shop and retained the office and tearoom – this will be the shop and the stock is still available for visitors. Hostesses will still be in the shop and you will still be able to have a cup of tea and/or lunch! Most of the sales over the past few years have been either at Council meetings or through taking the suitcase out to branches. We thank all those who have helped in this way. I also thank those who have helped in clearing the shop.

As part of the sorting out for the changes in the MU rooms, we have been organising the archives. Our records go back to 1895 in Melbourne so are very precious. So far, eight archive boxes have been deposited at the new purpose built Anglican Diocesan Archives in Scotchmer Street, Fitzroy. They will be securely and safely housed but still accessible by appointment. There are at least another eight boxes to be sorted and deposited.

We were saddened [to learn of the recent death of three of our very longstanding MU members - Pat Hegarty,

Joan Dennis and

Florence Cullen [from All Saint's Preston].

There is a write up about Pat in this month's TMA. All of them will be remembered as very loyal and hardworking members and supporters of Mothers' Union in the Melbourne Diocese.

MU Australia Council has reported that funds for the Northern Outreach are urgently needed. Can I ask that if you are sending donations in, that you consider nominating Northern Outreach. The Lady Day collection [after expenses] will go to Northern Outreach. There are other projects, of course, but at this time we have been asked to seriously address this ministry.

Lady Day services are:
10 30am Monday 27th March at St Peter's, Eastern Hill – Bishop Genieve will be preaching and presiding at this service.

The Geelong Region Service will be:
10.30am Saturday 8th April at St Andrew's 104 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio [? BYO lunch]

I hope you are all refreshed and looking forward to working together. Thank you for all you do.

Elaine Longford
MU Diocesan President - Diocese of Melbourne
27th February, 2017