

THE MURRAY CON- TRIBUTARY NEWSLETTER



March 2019

"Listen, Observe, Act – in step with God"

Dear Friends,

We begin another year, which seems to be going far too quickly already. I do hope you have managed to keep cool in the hot weather we have been having. We may think we have cause to complain but our thoughts should go to the many who are suffering from either drought or fires. We must remember them in our prayers and if you or your branch would like to contribute funds to help in these areas, please send your contribution to Susan Huggins who will make sure it gets to the MU Disaster Fund.

I include in this Con-Tributary some news about the Commissioning of the new Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, and the Trustee Body at Mary Sumner House. In Australia we hold our 3 year elections this year. At the end of the year I will have completed my 6 year term as Diocesan President, so please give thought to The Murray elections for Diocesan President and Trustee Body in August.

During this period of Lent let us in our prayers give thanks to God for all the good things we have in our lives, our family, our homes, our friends and neighbours and all the countryside around us. As we remember the Crucifixion on Good Friday we also look forward to Easter Day and give praise for the glorious Resurrection.

I look forward to seeing you at Murray Bridge on Monday 25th March for our Lady Day service and celebration and leave you with a prayer from Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury:

*'Loving God, we commit this coming season of Lent to you and ask you to show us what we need to turn away from and what we need to turn towards.
Shine your loving light in those dark parts of our hearts and bring new life, new hope and new possibilities.
Help us to walk more closely with Jesus, to know that we are deeply loved and to share his love with others.'*

With my love and prayers,

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 25th March – Lady Day service at Murray Bridge, 10.30am for 11.00am Holy Communion. The after lunch speaker is from AC Care.

Friday 9th August - MU Annual General Meeting and Voting Council. Venue to be advised.

Worldwide President and her Board of Trustees.

The Mothers' Union new Worldwide Board of Trustees have come together at Mary Sumner House for their first meeting with Worldwide President Sheran Harper. They begun their week together with a reflective Eucharist led by our own Trustee Rev. Libbie Crossman. Please pray for their roles over the next three years. May they support and guide each other and our organisation as we seek to do the Lord's work.



The Commissioning service for Sheran and the Trustee body was led by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Southwark Cathedral. "There is only one Mothers' Union!" said Archbishop Welby. "It is the world's best and largest women's movement. It is one of the Anglican Communion's greatest gifts to the worldwide church. What an honour to commission the new Worldwide President. We pray for this exciting new chapter in your ministry. May you continue to flourish as a global movement bringing Christ's healing love where it is most desperately needed"

Sheran replied: "I feel overjoyed and humbled by the outpouring of love and support I have received. I am so very grateful to everyone who travelled far and wide for this special day in the history of Mothers' Union. Thank you to everyone who came and to those who were unable to but were lifting me up in their prayers.



Former Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, opening a new MU Centre in Tukuya, in the Southern Islands of Tanzania, last year.

Queen Elizabeth honours former Mothers' Union Former Worldwide President Lynne Tembey

Lynne Tembey, has been awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE). The award is part of Britain's system of honours and is presented by the Queen or a senior member of the royal family acting in her place. The announcement of the award was one of a number made as part of the annual New Year's Honours list published by the UK government. The award of the OBE has been made in recognition of her "services to Mothers' Union, women and families", the official awards list said.

"When I learned that I was to be awarded with the OBE, I was filled with amazement", Lynne Tembey said. "I feel truly privileged. I have greatly loved my time as Worldwide President. Our members are incredible in all they strive to achieve, changing hearts, minds and lives in wonderful ways.

"To receive the OBE from Her Majesty and the Cross of St Augustine from the Archbishop of Canterbury is so humbling. I accept these awards through God's grace and in recognition of the worldwide members it has been an honour and joy to serve."

Lynne Tembey has been involved with Mothers' Union for almost 40 years. She has served in leadership roles locally as branch leader and deanery leader, as Vice President of the Diocese of Carlisle, Provincial President of York and for the last 6 years as Worldwide President.

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Mount Barker MU members participating in the Wave of Prayer last December in the garden at Auchendarroch.

A rose was placed in a vase after praying for each Diocese.

It was a special time providing a wonderful foundation for our fellowship at lunch.

No longer will we complain about the time of year allotted to us for Wave of Prayer!!

Liz Hampel.

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OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH.

I would like to share with all of you news I have received about our Overseas Projects for 2019-2020.

Following on from our Peace and Reconciliation project, AMUA has accepted the invitation from Mary Sumner House to support the gathering of South Sudanese Bishop's wives for a Peace and Reconciliation Forum to be held shortly in Uganda. This will involve a time of reflection and therapy, primarily through art, to be followed by teaching on how to use these techniques with others. It is hoped that the women who participate will not only be helped to deal with their own traumatic experiences, but be equipped to share what they have learned with other women in their dioceses.

Papua New Guinea and Melanesia Development Fund.

Mothers Union in PNG has long desired to implement the Parenting Program, and has done a lot of work in gathering facilitators willing to be trained to present the program across Papua New Guinea. We have agreed to fund the training of the facilitators. We have also agreed to give a substantial amount to enable delegates from PNG and Melanesia to attend a mini-MULO in their area. Because of the difficulties which MU leaders from PNG and Melanesia experienced in their efforts to attend MULO in Brisbane, this money will enable them to gather in Honiara, where their contributions to the discussions can be shared.

Caroline Earl, Overseas and Northern Outreach Co-ordinator for the Diocese.

The Quickest Warmth Project working with Anglicare.

At the end of last year I received a thank you letter from Rev. Prue O'Donovan, who many of you will have met when she gave a talk and demonstration at our Council meeting. I write below a summary of this letter so you can be assured of the wonderful work being doing in SA and perhaps you in your branch could support them.

Eileen Smith

Dear Friends,

I write a general thank you to all of you who have created, accessed, purchased and donated literally thousands of items which have all gone to support people in South Australia right across the State. You have helped to bring hope, peace, joy and love to many people less fortunate than ourselves. To list those thousands of items it would take at least 2 pages! What you have given to support programs in Foster Care, Aboriginal services, children and youth and tenancy programs is amazing!

Over 200 pairs of curtains have been provided to tenancy and housing programs, baby items and bundles have gone to Aboriginal services programs, the Lyell McEwin Hospital, emergency relief programs and situations of domestic violence. You have donated pillow beds, beautifully handmade quilts, knitted and crocheted rugs and blankets from doll to large single bed size. These have found their way to Teddybear packs, refugee programs, emergency relief, housing and tenancy programs. You have provided wonderful cleaning and kitchen packs and buckets and all go very quickly (and there is a sudden need for more kitchen/cleaning packs). You have refurbished and dressed many, many dolls which have gone to any program that has children involved including pillowbeds and emergency relief packs when families are uprooted for whatever reason. Many go also to the refugee resettlement program along with other balls, toys, books, activity books, school items, teddybear packs to help children of new arrivals feel welcome and have something to do whilst the adults are getting papers and form organised.

YOU have given - beautiful sheet sets, quilt covers and inserts, new pillows, towels and washers, toiletry bundles, beautiful cushion covers and inserts, new underwear for all sizes, new socks, fingerless gloves and mittens, jumpers, children's clothing, warm new pyjamas, sun hats, lunch boxes, backpacks, stationery for the newsletter, beautiful books and activity for children of all ages, knitting yarn, quilting, flannelette and fleecy fabric, food storage boxes and jars, cloth and other reusable bags of all sizes, from little marble bags to giant pillowbed bags ... and the war on plastic is being won!! You have made many teddy bears. You have donated much needed funds for many things including beautiful pamper packs which have cheered up many people.

Truly, you have done an amazing job this past year and this little thank you seems hardly adequate.

Many kind regards and blessings

The Reverend Prue O'Donovan

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63rd United Nations Commission of the Status of Women (UNCSW)

This month, Mothers' Union will attend the 63rd United Nations Commission of the Status of Women (UNCSW) in USA. The theme for this year is on Social Protection, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure. UNCSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Mothers' Union will be attending with a reduced delegation this year in order to scope, gather information, and network to better enable Mothers Union to use this platform more strategically in the years ahead, for members voices to be represented with the fullest potential for positive impact.



United Nations Building in USA