

MU on the move! Changes at the shop/ office for 2018

As mentioned at the AGM, we are having to move out of the City as soon as possible - for a variety of reasons. The most important ones being the increase in the rental of 5/5 Swanston Street and the upheaval caused by the construction around the new station being built in Swanston Street.

The executive have been actively pursuing possibilities and have been negotiating with a parish for use of space within their facilities. Bearing in mind that most of the sales from the shop over the past few years have been through the very active members who take the travelling suitcase to area meetings and branches, it is not absolutely necessary for the office to be based in the City. As long as we have reasonable access to public transport and internet connections, life will go on as 'normal'.

We have been in negotiations with St Paul's Frankston and can now say that we will be using two rooms in their vacant Vicarage at **22 High Street, Frankston**

from the beginning of January. We are anticipating that we will be moving out of Swanston Street over January to commence operations in February. We will need to organize redirection of mail and opening a Post Office box at the nearest post office. We will also have to arrange phone and internet connections.

We do have quite a number of current and past members living in the area and anticipate that they will appreciate having the stock and contact in their vicinity.

The Vicarage is currently being used by children's playgroups on Monday and Tuesday mornings - and the fact that we are renting has enabled them to stay at the Vicarage. One important factor in using the rooms at the same time as the children are present is that all members working in the office/shop **will HAVE to have a current working with children card**. This can be arranged either online or at the post office. This is one of the strict conditions of our use of the house.

We look forward to a very congenial arrangement with the local parish and hope members feel the same! [visit the shop and picnic at the beach!]
Every blessing, Elaine



Melbourne Diocesan Newsletter December 2017
Theme for 2017: Faith in action

Contact: Diocesan President Elaine Longford
MU Office ph. 9650 1282 email: mumelb@tpg.com.au

Sharing
Christ's
love
by
encouraging,
strengthening
and
supporting
marriage
and
family
Life



Two new members [Bhagya Fernando and Niluka Tennakoon] were admitted to Mothers' Union and Margaret Holt [third from left] was presented with her 50 year badge at St Matthew's, Ashburton during the morning service on Sunday 8th October.

It was a very colourful service with a youth choir in red and white robes - and the Rev. Anne Kennedy just happened to be the locum for the day!

STOP PRESS:
MU on the
move
See back page

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2017

BREAK the silence



LIFT the shame

SHIFT the blame



of gender-based violence

25th November-10th December

From Mary Sumner House

This year we are focusing on the issue of stigma, where society responds negatively to, or by blaming those who are, victims of gender-based violence.

Sharing the MU story - learning with our members on Torres Strait

In response to specific requests from AMUA members on the Torres Strait, a series of trainings facilitated by Mrs Salu Blanco (Vice President Cape and Torres region), Mrs Deane Bray (Vice President Dry Tropics) and Mrs Robin Ray (Overseas and Northern Outreach Diocese NQ), were held on three islands.

Members from Bamaga close to the tip of Cape York, but considered Torres Strait territory, could travel by ferry to Thursday Island where the first training was held in the hall associated with All Souls and St Batholomew's church. Seven ladies attended the training which was designed around their specific requests for information and questions about significant MU occasions and processes. Members shared their own Mothers Union story and how MU had influenced their lives. Many issues were discussed during the afternoon as we learned from each other. The afternoon was concluded with a bible study considering how Naomi and Ruth's journey spoke to our journey and Mothers Union.

The next day after a ferry trip from Thursday Island to Horn Island (the local airport) we caught the plane to Mer Island, the most easterly of the Torres Strait islands (see map). We were warmly welcomed by old friends and met new members - 14 MU and GFS in all. The session began with the Bible study and included ideas for conducting a MU lead study. The afternoon was spent addressing members' unique questions and a mutual sharing of information, strategies for living out the objects in our lives. Time was also devoted to the next stage of planning ways forward in the development of a positive parenting program. Four members took responsibility for developing the program to suit the needs of Torres Strait families.

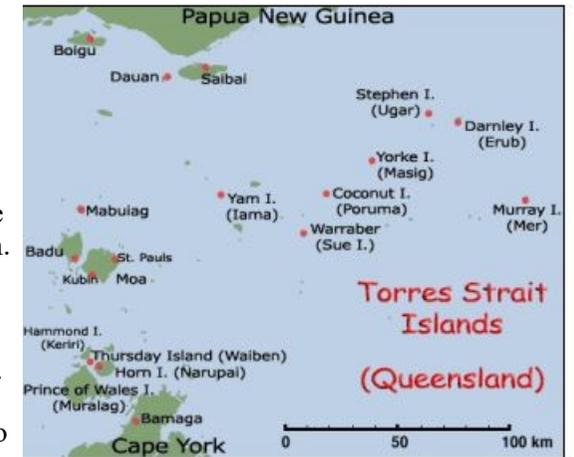
On Tuesday we flew from Mer Island to Horn Island via Erub (where the first missionaries brought the gospel to the Torres Strait - celebrated each year on 1st July as the Coming of the Light). After changing planes at Horn Island we flew on to Mabuiag Island via Kubin on Moa Island (see map). At Mabuiag, we met with three very enthusiastic members who showed us around the two villages on Mabuiag before we once again signed in at the local council.

The afternoon began with a delicious lunch prepared by members. During the afternoon we all participated in a wonderful sharing of stories and discussion around the objects MU especially nurturing children in the faith and support for families in this vibrant Christian community. The Bible study concluded our formal time together. We all found new insights from this study and the messages for our life and MU membership.

These ladies expressed their faith and commitment in amazing ways, they were our teachers. In the evening members with their families invited us to join them in a meal, sitting by the sea outside their newly refurbished church.

Overseas and Northern Outreach funding enabled this training program to take place.

Thank you to all members who contribute to this fund.



Whilst Lee Thorn was volunteering in the shop, we had a visit of MU Member from Zimbabwe. She came with her husband and daughter. Her name is Mrs Victoria Kambasha and she donated this lovely cloth. Her daughter is nursing at Monash Medical Centre.