



Living the faith of our mothers

Catholic Womens League Australia Inc.

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1, MARCH 2006

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Report—2

Social Issues—3

Bioethics—3

Future thoughts—7

Around the States—8

CWLA Flyer—12

FEATURES

CWL Centenary—4

Installation Mass Pictorial—6



The Centenary Issue

Centenary message of greeting from the National President of the Catholic Women's League of England and Wales



As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Catholic Women's League of England and Wales we send to you our heartfelt greetings. In this our centenary year, while we remember and honour with joy and thanksgiving those years of history, we send a special message of friendship, peace and love to all of you.

Over the years our members and other like-minded women have taken up the same or similar work throughout the world. Faith, work, dedication, link us in a bond that stretches over oceans and mountains, nationality and language.

As the world struggles in a never ending chain of war, poverty, materialism, and so much destruction, let us offer up together all our work, our struggle for justice, and support for what is right. We do this as the descendants of those women for whom our founder Margaret Fletcher struggled so hard to ensure education. We have that education now and so together we must make our voices heard. Later in the year, some of us will meet together in Arlington, Virginia, for the World Assembly of WUCWO. It is so fitting that the theme of this meeting of Catholic women worldwide is "Women as Peacemakers - United in Faith and Action".

Our good wishes, joy and prayers go out to you all, join us in friendship and happiness and as our motto reads, in Charity, Work and Loyalty.

Sincerely

Sheila Jennings
National President.

Reprinted with the kind permission of CWL Archdiocese of Sydney

President's Report



A Centenary returns our thoughts to the past but also projects them into the future. Aptly then Catholic Women's League Australia's first Newsletter for 2006, reflecting the Centenary of the foundation of CWL in England, features the past present and future.

'Come Holy Spirit, Creator Come' chosen as the Processional Hymn for CWLA's 2006

Installation Mass heralded a spiritual link with the first meeting's opening recitation of 'Veni Creator'. We have now also renewed links with members of CWL England and Wales today.

Our 2006 – 2007 Vision is to the Future and we have been seeking views of 'CWL in the Future' for this edition and will continue the Quest. We would very much welcome your thoughts, hopes, dreams.

National Executive members are preparing for the World Union of Catholic Women's League Organisations' General Assembly in Arlington, Virginia, May/June 2006, with The Theme: Women Peacemakers – United in Faith and Action.

Australia has been asked to lead Morning Prayer on Saturday 3 June, the feast of Saint Charles Lwanga, with a designated theme of the day: 'Women in the Media' and again Fr Maurice Shinnick our National Chaplain has facilitated this preparation.

As well we are working on a requested photo/biographical Poster of a woman from our Organisation/Country who is "distinguished for her commitment to working for peace".

We are honoured that Jan Ruff O'Herne, Papal Dame Commander of the Order of St Sylvester for "Advocacy for women imprisoned and abused in war, and her Christian virtue and faith", recipient of the ANZAC Peace Prize and many international awards, has not only agreed, but is so interested and involved in this planning.

Of serious concern to members and women around the world is prostitution/trafficking being organised on a large scale for the time of the World Cup in Germany. Madge Fahy National International Secretary has signed, for CWLA, the global petition circulated by the Coalition Against Trafficking Women and we are signing as individuals, encouraging Member Organisations and their members to sign, on emailed information, forwarded from WUCWO Secretary General Gillian Badcock www.wucwo.org and others.

With pleasure I report that the National Master Policies for Public Liability and Personal Accident Voluntary Workers Insurance with Catholic Church Insurances Ltd passed at the National Council Meeting in September 2005 in Canberra, is proceeding and participating Member Organisations have been notified accordingly. We have appreciated the continued involvement of Immediate Past President Thora Regan in the negotiations achieving this successful outcome.

Praying today, as I am sure we all are, for the people of Queensland suffering the intense and widespread damage of the devastating Cyclone and seeking ways even those of us at a distance may be able to give practical help - a National Appeal has been mentioned.

'Living the Faith of Our Mothers' leads us to embrace all in pain and need, emulating Jesus: *'How often have I wanted to put my arms around all – as a hen gathers her brood under her wings'* Matthew 23:37

Mary Schultz

National President CWLA Inc.

Editorial Panel

Editorial Team

Mary Schultz, Pat Madigan, Marie Lally, Maureen Clark, Helen Rodriguez, Pauline Victory, Helen Keogh.

Contributions for the National Newsletter Issue 2, 2006 close on 29.5.06.

Are you moving? Let us know your new address to ensure you get every issue.

Communications Officer

Favier House,
1 Ballumbir St
BRADDON 2612 ACT
Phone:(02) 6201 9825
Fax: (02) 6230 6070
Email:cwlanational@bigpond.com
Web:www.cwla.org.au

Subscribe to the CWLA Newsletter.

Send your one year subscription of **\$10.00** to your State Treasurer.

Portfolio Reports

Social Issues

Affordable Housing

Could the waiting list for public Housing in Australia be a contributing factor to the low birthrate? It is shameful to see government housing sold and not replaced when there are so many couples financially unable to purchase a home.

Banks are making it easier to borrow money for a mortgage and because of house prices young people are borrowing more than they can afford. The now well established practice of employing people 'on contract' for set periods of time without prospect of continuing employment makes a mortgage difficult to maintain. One wonders whether banks have become complacent about approving mortgages because they can simply claim the real-estate in lieu of default of payment and the mortgagors lose their hard won deposit.

Affordable Housing Coalition members say private rents are out of reach for many low-income earners, The picture is very grim for sole parents who are often reduced to living in a caravan. Centacare Tasmania Director Georgina McLagan said the findings emphasise the need for immediate investment in public housing.

Until recently, having children under school age was a key factor in women deciding to stay at home. But that is not the case anymore. In June 2003, 52 per cent of two parent families with children aged under five in NSW had a working mother. This is higher than the national average and a sign that Sydney's high mortgages are having an impact. Married couples require a space to rear their children, a home where their mutual love and generosity can serve life fully.

Sydney University anthropologist Dr. Stephen Juan said "The housing problems, particularly in Sydney, are going to have an impact on family life.

Betty Roberts, OAM
National Social Issues Convenor

Bioethics

Many members were disappointed with the results of the voting on the recent Private Members Bill, (Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for ap-

proval of RU486) Bill 2005. As you know, there were over 4000 submissions received by the Senate Community Affairs Committee. We should be rightly proud of the number of submissions and the quality of the submissions from CWLA members. I firmly believe we must continue to pray for women who find themselves in such circumstances to need to consider not just the use of this drug, but abortion generally and offer support where we can.

Also out of the USA comes disquieting news about pharmaceutical companies that failed last year to conduct almost 70 per cent of the drug safety trials they were required to undertake. This concerns us because US pharmaceutical companies develop many of the drugs used in Australia, therefore failure to conduct trials could place consumers' health at risk. Clara Pirani (Australian 20 March 06), quoted Professor David Henry from University of Newcastle, "It's a serious problem if the US companies are not doing the post-marketing studies because they are really important to detect serious adverse reactions", he said.

Back to Australia

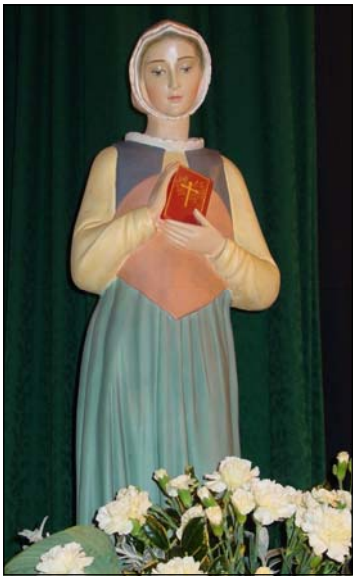
The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) are inviting submissions on the ethical issues of organ and tissue donation after death.

The consultation documents are available at www.nhmrc.gov.au/consult/index.htm if you want to view them. This issue is also in the news in New Zealand. The major concern is centred on discussion of the diagnosis of death following cessation of all brain function. There are different views in the community but there is a legal consensus in relation to irreversible loss of all function of the brain and the practice in Australia is varied. This time there is a section on obtaining organs from people whose heart stops beating after withdrawal of ventilation. This is called Donation after Cardiac Death in controlled circumstances. It is important that there be careful consideration on these topics related to the definition of death.

I am planning to put together some comments on these documents; so that if any of you wish to contribute can you contact me as soon as possible.

Margo Nancarrow
Bioethics Convenor

The Centenary Issue



The Pearl of York

Born in 1556, Margaret (her name means Pearl) was the daughter of a prosperous candle-maker, Thomas Middleton, who later became Sheriff of York, England, but who died when she was about nine. In 1571, Margaret married John Clitherow, a prosperous grazier and butcher, and they lived above his shop in a narrow street in the city of York, known as the Little Shambles. They had three

children, Henry who was expected to follow his father's trade, Anne and another little boy.

Margaret had been brought up to practise the new Protestant religion. From her earliest childhood, Margaret spent much time in prayer and had thought upon God with profound love and great reverence. Honestly, and without any consideration of worldly advantage, she had prayed for light, that she might be able to distinguish which faith was the true one. When she felt sure that she knew this, she acted without fear or wavering. Three years after her marriage she became a Catholic

Margaret was so outspoken and active in the practice of her Catholic Faith that for not attending the parish church she was imprisoned for two years. Here no-one could be inconvenienced by her fasting and austerities! Nevertheless, her husband stood by her for she was "a good wife, a tender mother, a kind mistress, loving God above all things and her neighbour as herself. By the sweetness of her nature, she bore witness to the charm of piety."

While in prison she learned to read and after her release, she organised, in her house a small school for her children and her neighbours' children.

Though John Clitherow belonged to the Established Church, he had a brother who was a Jesuit priest, and Margaret provided two rooms, one adjoining her house and a second in another part of the city, where she kept priests hidden and had Mass continually cele-

brated through the thick of the persecutions against Catholics. Her husband remained silent about her activities, but he was summoned before the court in 1586 to give an account of why his son Henry, who was attending a Catholic college in Douai, was abroad. While he was thus occupied, his house was raided, but no trace of priests or sacred vessels could be found. His children were interrogated and gave nothing away, but a Flemish student staying with the family, broke down under threats, and revealed the secret room. Vessels and books for celebrating Mass were discovered, and Margaret was accused of hiding priests, a capital offence, and again imprisoned.

When called before the judge in the Guildhall of York, Margaret said, "I know of no offence whereof I should confess myself guilty." If you say I have offended, I will be tried by none but by God and your own conscience."

She was not allowed to see her children at all and she saw her husband once.

On the eve of her death, 25 March, 1586, Margaret knelt for hours in prayer, becoming radiantly calm. On reaching the vaulted cellar where she was to die, she prayed for the Catholic clergy, and for Queen Elizabeth, that God would change her faith and save her soul.

Her last words were, "Jesu, Jesu, Jesu, have mercy on me."

The 'Pearl of York', St Margaret Clitherow, mother and martyr, was beatified by Pius XI in 1929 and was adopted by the Catholic Women's League of England and Wales as their "Pattern of womanhood" in 1943. She was eventually canonised in 1970, by Pope Paul VI, as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales and her feast day is August 30th.

Catholic Women's League Prayer

O God who didst raise up the glorious Martyr Saint Margaret Clitherow to be a pattern of womanhood, mercifully grant us the grace to walk in her ways and win the crown of the blessed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Saint Margaret Clitherow and her fellow martyrs, pray for us.

Barbara Stitt
Public Relations Officer
CWL England and Wales.



Abigail McMahon Glynn

First President of Catholic Women's League South Australia, Australia, Abigail Dynon was born in Melbourne in 1867 and grew up in a wealthy family. She travelled extensively - her husband said "she had been round Europe several times and spoke French to

the Pope for half an hour" - but she was said to be "gentle, devout and unspoiled by wealth and travel".

Patrick McMahon Glynn had met her once, some years earlier, but it was in 1897, while he was helping to draft the Federal Constitution (he is credited with the inclusion of the reference to Almighty God) that he took time to write her a letter proposing marriage. She accepted on Wednesday, he travelled to Melbourne on Thursday night, they were married on Saturday and he was back at work in Sydney on Monday!

Eventually they made their home in Adelaide, but as an MP and Federal Minister he spent much time in Melbourne so that she must have been largely responsible for bringing up

their six surviving children.

When she became foundation President of CWL in 1914 they were still quite young so she was carrying heavy domestic and social responsibilities. Nevertheless she held office for 13 years, as well as engaging in many other charitable activities including Presidency of St Vincent de Paul Society.

On visits to England, where she was presented at Court, she made contact with the English CWL and brought back authorization to use their badge.

When she died in 1930 her colleagues praised "her tactful and gentle manner" and her charity - "no one ever heard her say an unkind word about anyone" - but, looking back, it is her energy, her generosity and her courage that inspire us.

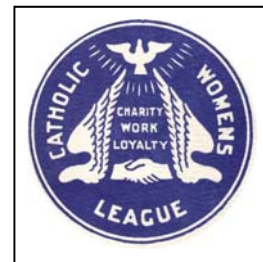
Tess Donnellan

Main sources

Gerald O'Collins: "Patrick McMahon Glynn: a Founder of Australian Federation" (MUP 1965)

Patrick McMahon Glynn, letters to his family (1874 - 1927) ed. Gerald O'Collins (Polding Press, 1974)

Obit., "Southern Cross"



Into the future - Members thoughts and ideas on the future of CWL

Following are some of the ideas CWL members had for strengthening and progressing CWL. If you have any great ideas or thoughts send them in and share them with other members through this column!

- Catholic Women's League in the future might become modelled along the lines such as the Adelaide Archdiocesan City Branch. Perhaps also 'Happy Hour', 'Wine and Cheese' gatherings, encouraging interactions and opinions.
- There could be CWL social community groups focusing on discussions centred around social justice issues, the environment, global issues, social and moral issues, and communal support for members' faith journeys.
- Support and service will always be key words in the working of the League. The Supper Club model might also be a way of promoting the League and its ideals, as well as, building community. Participation and involvement at all levels is important. Membership is the strength of the organisation.
- CWLA website shows what all of our members are doing now and what's relevant in the future.
- CWL could become more involved in liturgy groups in their dioceses.
- As CWL and other organisations like Parish Pastoral Councils work towards similar purposes it would be beneficial to us all to work more closely together.

Pictorial Feature—Installation Mass



Left: Commissioning of National Executive in St Francis Xavier Cathedral.

Below: Margaret Cappo (SA) and Maria Parkinson (WA).



Peg McEntee (NSW) and Madge Fahy, National International Secretary.



Pauline Walker (SA) with Eileen Hogg former Publicity Officer.



Left: Archbishop Philip Wilson and National Chaplain Fr Maurice Shinnick with new National Executive.

Below: Margo Nancarrow Bioethics Convenor with her husband John.



Future thoughts

One hundred Years into the Future

By Fr Maurice Shinnick OAM National Chaplain CWLA

When we celebrate significant anniversaries in our lives or in the community, we tend to look back at what has transpired in the past – successes and failures – and usually it is ultimately with a sense of pride and thanksgiving. But anniversaries are also an opportunity to refocus on the ideals of the beginnings and to look to the future with optimism and determination.

The centenary of the Catholic Women's League will bring forth many tributes of so much achieved from humble beginnings. And that is as it should be. But for some it will be a time of nostalgia, of remembering times when the League was larger, stronger, and more influential in the life of the Church and community, and now lamenting that those days have gone.

Women for the future

The League is much bigger than its past, and its future is secure because it forms part of the Church's mission in the world. Although many of its members are what we can call *Seniors*, it has a role which is forever youthful. Its work is that of the Spirit who moves among Christ's faithful with amazing insight and energy, with tranquillity and wisdom.

Pope Benedict XVI, speaking recently to the priests of his Diocese of Rome, praised the contribution women are constantly giving to the Church, and he expressed his desire to find new ways in which they can enrich the life of the Church.

Women for change

Across our Australian Church we are experiencing a huge upheaval. The decline in the number, and the aging of priests, have forced changes we never dreamt of fifteen years ago. Changes we never thought possible. This is a new age for lay leadership in the Church to

For the future

On the back page of this issue are 2 copies of a promotional flyer for CWLA. If you are having a stall or a meeting or anything where you think CWL could be promoted, simply photocopy the flyers to hand out on the day or leave them at your local school, Church or library notice boards or pamphlet racks.

shoulder the load alongside their priests, to be excited about new possibilities, to dream and to have visions of what might be possible, to bring Christ to a world hungering for belief and purpose.

The Catholic Women's League in Australia might well have to reinvent itself for a new century, not in order to survive, but in order to be an ever more effective instrument of Christ's peace and unity. Its role for forming a new generation of Catholic women leaders for the Church and for the world in education, health care, welfare, politics, law, industry, the arts, the media and numerous other vocations is critical and exciting.

Women for mission

The League will find in the Gospel the means to provide opportunities for women to be nourished, formed, and animated by that word of Christ. In a society where people live in such loneliness, the League can restore to communities the gift of friendship. As each generation emerges more distant from the faith-roots of their families, the League can embrace a spirit of evangelisation in its second century and this new millennium.

Prophets of a Future Not our Own

We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
Knowing that they hold future promise.

Nothing we do is complete,
Which is another way of saying
That the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way,
An opportunity for God's grace to enter
and do the rest.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
Amen.

Archbishop Oscar Romero

(prayed at the CWLA Inc.
Transfer Meeting, 20 February 2006)

Around the States

South Australia

In memory of Pat Mahar

The death of Pat Mahar has brought to a close a committed and loyal membership of Catholic Women's League over a great number of years.

President of her Walkerville Parish Branch then to Archdiocesan Treasurer and President.

For some 20 years she held the position of State Secretary, many of those years her office being her home where all State Executive meetings were held.

Her two years as National Secretary were held with pride and commitment. She was given an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her commitment.

Pat was a member of National Council of Women becoming Secretary; she was held in high esteem and made many friends.

She was well respected in her local community and within all aspects of community as was demonstrated by the attendance of people from all walks of life on the day of her Requiem Mass.

A Papal Honor, for her local Church Community involvement and her Catholic Women's League work, was bestowed upon her, a worthy recipient, a gesture she was proud of.

She will be missed by many but not forgotten. Her hours of voluntary work given to Catholic Women's League will always be remembered by those with her over so many fruitful and happy years.

Pat Fitzpatrick

Canberra/Goulburn

Saint Christopher's Branch of CWL celebrated its Diamond Anniversary with a concelebrated Mass at St. Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla on the 14th March, 06. The main celebrant being Archbishop Francis Carroll, along with Fathers Brannelly, Kennedy, Armstrong, Woods and Roberts.

A luncheon organised by branch secretary, Jacqueline Hipwell, was attended by Archdioc-

esan president, Judith-Ann Sjostedt, former CWLA Inc. President, Thora Regan, newly elected branch president, Angela Devlin along with many country and city branch members and representatives from a number of women's organisations.

The Anniversary cake was cut by Joyce Purcell, O.A.M. who celebrated her 90th birthday the following day and Molly Driver, branch life member, who is 91 years old.

Entertainment was provided by Year 12 Marist Brothers Student, Tim Dal Cortivo who sang a selection of popular songs. A most memorable day was had by all.

Queensland

Sacred Heart Branch Ayr - North QLD

In Ayr the Catholic Women's League look for opportunities to celebrate especially with young people and young families. We believe this is important if we are to promote CWL.

On 28th February we invited all people – young and old, (and families too) to join us for Breakfast at McDonalds between 7am and 8am. We asked McDonalds Family Restaurant to donate 50cents to Burdekin Blue Care for every Pancake serve sold. We advertised in School Bulletins and delivered brochures to many business houses suggesting work coll-



Presenting a cheque for \$64 to Director of Nursing Burdekin Blue Care Margaret Cumes and our Branch President Gert Drain is the the owner of McDonalds Ayr, Paul Reissman

eagues have a Pancake Morning Tea to support a very worthy cause. McDonalds sold 128 pancake serves between 6am and 10.30am and were happy to give \$64 to Blue Care - this organisation has been a part of the Burdekin for 40 years and has provided a wonderful service to our community.

On **St. Paddy's Day** we held a **Family Fun Evening**. About 40 families (70 people in all) came along and enjoyed a competition, a game and then some first class entertainment followed by supper. Entrance was by donation to Project Compassion and we raised almost \$200.



Our St Patrick's Day entertainers

Jim McKinnon sang some Irish Ballads, McKenzie Holmes (5 year old) imitated the Wiggles and even got us doing the actions and some of the Burdekin Singers (mostly young ones from 10 to 17) sang songs from various Productions the Singers have performed over the years. Our community is so blessed to have such talent. Pat Nuttall (far right in the photo) has produced many Shows in the Burdekin and is one of the few producers who loves working with children. She gives freely of her time to encourage and train the young ones who show any signs of talent for singing or acting. We are very proud of our Burdekin Singers and many of them are from our Catholic community.

On **April 7** we will have a Movie Morning and proceeds will be given to a needy cause in the Cyclone Disaster area of the Innisfail District.

Tasmania

Tasmania Branch members send greetings to all other CWL members in Australia. This is a time for reflection on our Christian faith with Lent upon us and the approach to Easter. We can reflect upon the past years and look forward to the future in the sure knowledge that 'God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners' (St.Paul) and the glorious Resurrection.

Tasmanian CWL members were very supportive in our attempt to have the RU486 Bill defeated in the Federal Parliament. Letters were sent to Politicians, and special prayer services arranged to ask for guidance for our country leaders.

Well researched and informative submissions were sent to the Senate Committee. Five of the Tasmanian Senators voted against the Bill and two of the five House of Representative Members from Tasmania also voted against the Bill. Sadly the Bill was supported by a majority in both Houses of the Federal Parliament.

However the fight to save the lives of the unborn babies is not over. We must all continue to pray that pro-life and family groups will be successful in persuading women to turn away from all thoughts of abortions and give their babies the opportunity to live a happy life. While there are so many women who would love to have a child, it is tragic to think that we hear so much about 'unwanted pregnancies'. It is in the life of each new child that the hopes of mankind are renewed.

The next matter of concern to us all is the Lockhart Report which is to be considered by the - Council of Australian Governments. This report contains recommendations on the Prohibition of Human Cloning Act 2002 and the Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002. The Lockhart Report contains recommendations permitting the creation of human embryos for the purpose of research and the testing of drugs as well as other manipulations resulting in hybrid embryos and chimerical embryos. All these procedures were outlawed by the 2002 legislation.

I was honoured to have the opportunity of representing our CWL members at the special Mass in Adelaide on 19th February to mark the Commissioning of the National Executive of Catholic Women's League Australia Inc. and to celebrate the Centenary Celebration of the foundation of Catholic Women's League in

England. It was a magnificent Mass in the beautiful, surroundings of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. The serving of refreshments on the lawns of the Cathedral following the Mass gave me the opportunity of meeting with many of the CWL members whom I had met at the National Conference in Canberra last year.

At present we are preparing for the Half-Yearly Meeting of CWL to be held in Launceston on 21st March. We are also planning our State Conference in Launceston also, on 27th, 28th and 29th September.

Kath Venn, OAM.

JP State President.

Queensland

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it" [Psalm 118:24]

Hello everyone from all your friends in "sunny" Queensland, we are so glad to be able to greet you in joy on behalf of everyone. I imagine that to proclaim that portion of Psalm has taken an enormous decision of the will in some places of late, but I have no doubt that it was still done. At this point may I send our best prayers and hopes for a speedy return, to some form of normality, to our friends and relatives in Innisfail and surrounding areas. We are so grateful to God for the safe keeping of so many regardless of their trauma and trials. Even for those who have experienced the ferocity of cyclones in the past each new one punishes and traumatises the fields, forests, coastlines, habitation and humanity as it wreaks its venom in any place. Who can know the hearts and minds of the people caught within? We are with you my friends in prayer and spirit even without the knowledge and experience you have attained. Let us as one remember the traumas that have caused havoc anywhere in our country this year already, and pray with one heart and mind that God will release the healing balm of His Spirit that will make the difference. And for this I thank you in advance.

Congratulations to Mary Schultz and her wonderful team for such a beautiful day in Adelaide at the installation and blessing of our new National Executive. We from Queensland salute you and encourage you to find us willing when you desire our assistance in any way.

Our members in all five Dioceses are looking forward to our State Conference in September



Top from the left: Joyce Hughes & Bev Hohn (Cairns), Rita Brennan (Toowoomba), Doris McSherry (R'ton), Heather Gall (Toowoomba), Tess Uriarte (State Treasurer), Maureen Perry & Carmel Sayers (Townsville), Joan Armstrong (Brisbane), Yvonne Lofthouse (in pink Brisbane), Myself, Shirley Johnstone (State Sec), Jan Webb (Black top, Rockhampton), Therese (State Bioethics) and Leila Dawson (State Patroness). Carmel Baretta (absent).

2006 in Mackay. It seems to come round so quickly, but the good news is we will soon be together again in one place to share our friendship, skills and laughter and so give evidence to the general public on who these wonderful women are. Sometimes we might miss some little things, but let me share a handy hint with you. I had the pleasure of meeting with a class of year seven in one of our Catholic Schools here a few weeks ago and during question time one little fellow said " I asked my mother about you the other day and she had not heard of you what about that?" So having admitted that problem is around I asked them what suggestions could they give me to help solve the problem! I haven't got enough room here to give you all the suggestions but I urge you to get in there and ask the same question. The most popular one was that "we should advertise in lots of newsletters especially the school ones in case kids want to show their mums or even save up and get in when they leave school". How's that for out of the mouths of babes? Oh they did ask was there one for boys?

I bring you the hope of abundant blessings in this coming Easter Season and may the new light shine on all of us, encouraging and filling us with new delight. God Bless all of you from us at the top end.

Joy Gray

QLD State President

New South Wales

Welcome to Mary Harrold our State President for 2006. The Installation Mass for Mary and her Committee, celebrated by Rev. Father Martin Maunsell our new State Chaplain, was held in the beautiful chapel at Mt. St. Benedict's Centre, Pennant Hills, at the beginning of the State Council Meeting in February.

Armidale Diocese: A long serving life member of the Armidale Branch of CWL, Tess Schmude, celebrated her 100th birthday on 10th March. This wonderful event was celebrated twice in the parish, first at a morning tea hosted by Catholic Women's League and again at a Thanksgiving Mass held in the Armidale Cathedral.

Morning tea was a very special occasion because as well as celebrating one hundred wonderful years lived by Tess it was also the occasion of celebrating seventy years as a religious Sister with the Ursulines of the Roman Union (OSU) for Sister Mary Rose O'Dwyer, another very loyal member of the Armidale Branch.

Following the Thanksgiving Mass, which was concelebrated by three priests who were her special friends, Tess was joined for lunch in the Parish Centre by more than 70 friends, including Bishop Luc Matthys and family members, many travelling from distant locations.

Another member of Armidale Branch, Anne Bacigalupo, was receiving congratulations in the same week as she was the recipient of a Papal Honour from Pope Benedict XVI the *Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice*. Anne received this award for distinguished service to the Catholic Church for her work with Catholic Mission and the Marriage Tribunal.

Can you help

Catholic Youth Services, Sydney, are producing a book of true stories of Australian Women and want to include a story published on page 6 of CWLA's publication "Tell us Your Story" 2003 entitled "A Tribute to my Mother – Margaret Bowen – a woman who inspires others" (contributed by "an inspired daughter").

CYS need to obtain permission from the author to reprint the story. If anyone knows the whereabouts and contact details of Margaret Bowen's daughter could they contact:

CYS – Mrs Linda Cox, 1 Bishops Avenue, Randwick 2031.

Bathurst: One of CWLA's treasures, Pat Okon from Lithgow Branch, was nominated by Gerard Martin, the State Member for Bathurst, for the NSW Woman of the Year Award 2006. The award recognises women's contributions to their local, state or regional communities. Mr. Martin said "I am proud to announce Pat Okon as my nominee for the 2006 NSW Woman of the Year Award. Pat Okon has displayed her commitment for decades working on a voluntary basis for organizations such as Meals on Wheels and St. Vincent de Paul. During this time she has raised eight children and operated a TAB Agency".

It must have been an exciting day for Pat on International Women's Day, 8th March, as she was interviewed during the morning live on radio by 2LT Lithgow and 2AS

Bathurst and then later she attended the Premier's Reception at Government House, Sydney. Congratulations to Pat on this nomination – CWLA members are proud of her.

(Professor Sandra Eades, the first Aboriginal medical doctor to be awarded a PhD, was named as the winner of the award by the Premier, Morris Iemma.)

Doreen Ford
Communications Officer

NSW STATE CONFERENCE

Opening Mass:
Tuesday 15 August, 5.30pm
St Mary's Cathedral

Cocktail Party
following Opening Mass
6.30 - 8.30pm
St Mary's College Hall
Finger food and drinks
Transport back to Y-On The Park and Travelodge provided.

The Conference will be held at the Avillion Hotel, 389 Pitt Street, Sydney, Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 August 2006 from 8.30am - 5pm daily. Morning and Afternoon tea and a buffet lunch will be provided at the Hotel.

The Harbour Lights Conference Dinner will be held at the WatersEdge Restaurant in Hickson Road, Walsh Bay. Transport will be provided to and from the Y-On The Park and the Travelodge for the dinner. From this venue there is a lovely view of the Harbour, the Bridge and Luna Park.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- ✦ **JANINE SHEPHERD** - This extraordinary woman survived horrific injuries, overcame having no feeling in her legs, became an aerobatic daredevil pilot and wrote two best-selling books" - "Never tell me never" and "Dare to Fly".
- ✦ **DR ANN VILLIERS** - Australia's only Mental Nutritionist specializing in taking understanding between peoples to higher levels of skill, elegance and effectiveness.
- ✦ **DR SOPHIE MCGRATH RSM** - A Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic University - her address is titled 'The Evolution of Catholic Women - an historical perspective'.

PLUS - major raffle draw at the Conference Dinner, fabulous dailyaffles, wonderful trading table items, surprise entertainment and so much more!!

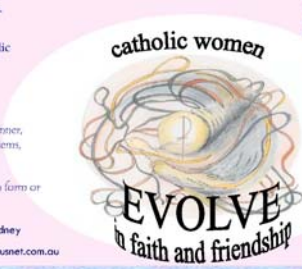
See your local CWL President for a Registration form or contact the Sydney office - details below.

Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney
Level 8, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Phone: 9390 5153; Email: cwlsydney@optusnet.com.au

Guest Speakers:

- ✦ **Fr Chris Riley** - Youth Off The Streets - needs no introduction! His work speaks for itself.
- ✦ **Bruce Leonard** - Radio Historian - a little light relief with a live presentation "When Radio Was Television Without Pictures"

Catholic Women's League



Living the faith of our mothers

Catholic Women's League Australia Inc

Friendship, support, involvement and participation in the issues that make a difference to our world at a local, national and global level are just some of the reasons women join Catholic Women's League Australia Inc.

Joining CWLA offers a wide spectrum of activities — social, political and spiritual — to meet the needs of all our members. Whether you want to find new friendships and be part of a group of supportive women or raise money at a local level for Pink Ribbon Day (and have fun in the process) or you want to be part of the international campaign to end human trafficking — CWLA offers something for all women of all ages.

CWLA is a national non-government and non-profit organisation, whose aim is to uphold the dignity of women and promote the spiritual, cultural, intellectual and social interests of women.

To find out more about the CWLA and the activities our members are involved in visit us at our website at <http://www.cwla.org.au/>

Our site also has contact details for membership in each State.



'How often have I wanted to put my arms around all – as a hen gathers her brood under her wings' Matthew 23:37

Living the faith of our mothers

Catholic Women's League Australia Inc

Friendship, support, involvement and participation in the issues that make a difference to our world at a local, national and global level are just some of the reasons women join Catholic Women's League Australia Inc.

Joining CWLA offers a wide spectrum of activities — social, political and spiritual — to meet the needs of all our members. Whether you want to find new friendships and be part of a group of supportive women or raise money at a local level for Pink Ribbon Day (and have fun in the process) or you want to be part of the international campaign to end human trafficking — CWLA offers something for all women of all ages.

CWLA is a national non-government and non-profit organisation, whose aim is to uphold the dignity of women and promote the spiritual, cultural, intellectual and social interests of women.

To find out more about the CWLA and the activities our members are involved in visit us at our website at <http://www.cwla.org.au/>

Our site also has contact details for membership in each State.



'How often have I wanted to put my arms around all – as a hen gathers her brood under her wings' Matthew 23:37

