



Living the faith of our mothers

Catholic Women's League Australia Inc.

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1, MARCH 2007

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Looking Forward Issue



President's Report



As National Executive we enter our second year: 'Looking Forward', hence the focus of this newsletter. From MO News-letters and a quick editing browse, the Member Organisations seem to be sharing this with hopes and plans for the future. Maybe there is a new spirit abroad emanating from the UK Celebrations, heralding the 2nd Century of Catholic Women's League. Or from happenings or anticipated happenings in Australia and Worldwide.

Many enjoyable experiences are coming from 'Continuing Closer Links' with members in England and Wales, especially via Helen Rodriguez, CWLA National Treasurer, who represented CWLA at the celebrations. This reconnection is shown here in photos and in quoted highlights. Maureen and I have been fortunate also to meet, with Helen, Dorothea, a member and her husband Ken, visiting from the Plymouth Branch, indicative of our renewed CWL relationship.

Pauline Victory, National Publicity Officer, reports within on other much anticipated happenings: the 'CWLA National Project' and 'World Youth Day, Sydney, 2008', and CWL's potential involvement in it across Australia.

We hope that members all over Australia are looking forward to the 'CWLA 43rd Biennial National Conference' in Adelaide 2007 as much

as we are. Registration forms are out, on the Website and on the back page of this newsletter. Accommodation lists have been circulated. The program is filling with confirmation of interesting, thought provoking Speakers and Panel participants. I'm sure you are aware also of the friendships renewed or made at Conferences. Come for the Opening Mass and stay for the Closing Mass, both to be concelebrated in St Francis Xavier Cathedral, quite near the Adelaide Town Hall venue.

It will be Springtime in Adelaide! Great for al-fresco Coffee and Conversations! With a member of CWL New Zealand, visiting family we sampled the coffee after the recent Archdiocesan Meeting.

In addition to our 'Looking Forward', Catholic Women's League responsibilities are being met. Maureen and Aileen represented CWLA at WomenSpeak in Canberra. Maureen and I at the Shrove Tuesday launch of Caritas Project Compassion by Archbishop Philip Wilson. Vice - President Pat Madigan and Pauline Victory attended the funeral of Nell Bampton, a devoted member of CWL of SA. Nell was State International Secretary for many years, during which time she attended WUCWO Assemblies in London, Mexico, as well as Australia. Many interstate members would remember Nell and share our loss, remembering her in prayer.

We extend prayerful support to Jan Ruff O'Herne, honoured for Peace, who has courageously addressed the US Congress to seek reconciliation and justice for "comfort women" abused in World War II.

Most of us would have been involved in World Day of Prayer on Friday, 2nd March, 2007 when we joined with the women of Paraguay, with women and men worldwide, to pray together ecumenically "United under God's Tent" and to enjoy one another's company.

In our 'Looking Forward' ventures we invite the Prayers of Members,

Mary Schultz,

National President CWLA Inc.

Editorial Panel

Editorial Team

Mary Schultz, Pat Madigan, Marie Lally, Maureen Clark, Helen Rodriguez, Pauline Victory, Aileen Solowiej

Contributions for the National Newsletter Issue 2, 2007 close on **28.05.07**.

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CWL entering the 2nd Century!

From Brighton, England: CWL entering 2nd century!

Helen Rodriquez: wonderfully rewarding - Centenaries only happen once every 100 years!

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor: women - Heart of Church -- in dark times light of Christ brightest, CWL offers Hope on our pilgrimage through history

Margaret Fletcher, founder: "business-like methods, intellectual gifts - excellent weapons in service of God."

See full report by Helen Rodriquez:
www.cwla.org.au

Bishop John Crowley: in fearful world enhance, encourage as St John of the Cross: "If you see a situation in life where there is not love, pour love in and you will get love out".

Bishop John Arnold: What would Margaret Fletcher think if here today -- suggesting proud!

Maureen Anderson: The Mass a great Praise and Thanks to God in the most holy way.

Enthusiasm, keynote of Grand Finale, as CWL National President Sheila Jennings closed AGM: "Celebrate the past and look to the future with enthusiasm!"

Portfolio Reports

Social Issues

The Gravest Social Issue: Forgetfulness of God

"The great problem of the West is forgetfulness of God and this forgetfulness is spreading" Pope Benedict XV1 commented. He said, "The modern spirit has lost its bearings, leaving many people unsure of what norms to transmit to their children.

In many cases we no longer know how to use our freedom correctly, or what is morally right and wrong".

A three-year study of youth spirituality in Australia entitled *The Spirit of Generation Y (2003-2006)* conducted jointly by Monash University, The Australian Catholic University and the Christian Research Association found that in Australia:

- fewer than half those born between 1976-1990 believe in God or identify with traditional religion
- Generation Y relies on family and friends as the sources of its beliefs, values and social support
- an individual's views and preferences should not be questioned or constrained provided they harm no-one else
- spiritual or religious beliefs and practices are purely personal lifestyle choices and in no way necessary

All of which sounds very open minded and reasonable but for the fact that it entirely overlooks the real, personal, conscious, dynamic, necessary and perfecting relationship between us and our creator who calls us "kin".

If young people look to their "family and friends as a source of beliefs and values," they are likely to be disappointed, because people have become unsure of what norms to transmit to their children.

Monash University Professor Gary Bourma who chairs a UNESCO Committee on Inter-religious and Intercultural Relations – and is author of "Australian Soul: Religion and Spirituality in the Twenty-First Century" rejoices that "while its long been assumed that religion is giving way to more scientific beliefs, Australia's soul is in fact alive and kicking, with spiritual life becoming increasingly diverse and less tied to formal organizations". Professor Bourma says that amongst religions on the rise is Buddhism, (up 79% since 1996). Islam (up 40%), Hinduism (up 42%), Pentecostalism (up 11%), nature religions including Paganism and Wicca/witchcraft, (up 130%) and Scientology (up 37%). Bourma says the historic reasons for seeking spirituality are especially relevant post 9/11 and that this event prompted a search for the meaning of life, dissatisfaction with materialism and scientific rationality, and a surge of natural compassion. His inclusion of Paganism and Witchcraft among growth indicators in spirituality, is indicative of the abandonment of a Benign Creator in favour of superhuman malign powers.

Many social ills arise from a forgetfulness of the One True God.

We who take salvation and mission seriously, believing and trusting in God who founded the Church as something necessary to salvation, have been given the task of converting unbelievers.

Betty Roberts, OAM
National Social Issues Convenor

Looking Forward

Mothers and Daughters in Action 2007

MaterCare International – National Project April 2007

In April 2007, every CWL Branch in Australia will be focussing their attention on MaterCare International, a non-government organisation dedicated to promoting safe motherhood through new initiatives of service, research, advocacy and training in accordance with the contemporary teaching contained in the Encyclical 'Evangelium Vitae' (the Gospel of Life).

MaterCare aims to promote long-term assistance for women's and children's health. Maternal mortality in developing countries is more than 100 times that in industrialised countries. Obstetric fistula, the most serious complication of childbirth where the mother survives, virtually disappeared from the developed world early in the 20th Century. But it is still a major problem in the developing world.

Most CWL branches or Member Organisations are holding a Fundraiser of choice – small or large – to promote the work of MaterCare International. A donation to support this care of mothers and their unborn children in developing countries, in accordance with the Gospel of Life, will be presented to a representative of MaterCare International, at the Catholic Women's League Australia National Conference in Adelaide, 12 – 14 September 2007.

CWLA's project is true to our "Living the Faith of Our Mothers" generational theme and scriptural quotation: 'How often have I wanted to put my arms around all – as a hen gathers her brood under her wings' Matthew 23:27.

CWL Branches are invited to send in photos of their 'Mothers and Daughters in Action 2007' function. Send via email (if digital photos) to **bvictory@bigpond.net.au** or to:

Mrs Pauline Victory, CWLA National Publicity Officer, 74 Stuart Rd, South Plympton SA 5038

**Pauline Victory
CWLA National Publicity Officer**

Email from MaterCare International

Dear Mary & Colleagues,

Thankyou for choosing to fundraise for MaterCare International (MCI – website www.matercare.org) in 2007. In so doing the Catholic Women's League of Australia is supporting an honourable and hardworking organisation of voluntary Catholic professionals, inspired by Pope John-Paul II and the Culture of Life. We are an organisation dedicated to the care of mothers and babies, both born and unborn, through new initiatives of service, training, research and advocacy, which are designed to reduce the tragically high rates of maternal mortality, morbidity (obstetric fistula) and abortion.

The work of MCI has been recognized by the United Nations and through peer-reviewed awards. Almost certainly it is the only Non-Government Organization working in the developing world with a commitment to reducing the tragically high rates of abortion, as well as maternal mortality and morbidity.

MCI is a division of the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, and it has branches in many countries including Australia. I am a Melbourne-based obstetrician/gynaecologist and currently chair both MCI and MaterCare Australia. At a recent MCI meeting in Rome your generous offer of support was brought to the International Board's attention and gratefully acknowledged. What follows is an outline of our activities and where any funds raised may be spent.

MCI has just completed its first obstetric fistula hospital in West Africa (Ghana), and plans to replicate this elsewhere, beginning with Rwanda. We are currently also seeking funding for a maternity hospital and essential rural obstetrics project in Isiolo, Kenya. This project will be a tribute to Pope John-Paul II and the late Bishop of Isiolo Diocese, Luigi Locati, who was mediating between tribal groups in the area when he was murdered. It will serve as a stimulus for reconciliation for those involved.

Looking Forward

Photo: courtesy of **MaterCare International**



In East Timor MaterCare Australia has arranged courses on safe motherhood for midwives, we continue to send medical supplies and are trying to provide obstetric staff for St Paul's Hospital in Suai. MaterCare Singapore is rebuilding a maternity hospital destroyed by the 2004 Tsunami in Nias, Indonesia.

As well as promoting safe motherhood, we promote respect for all human life from conception to natural death, especially within the medical community. For example, MaterCare Australia members recently made submissions to the Australian Senate, opposing legislative changes that would facilitate the use of RU 486 as an abortion drug. Worldwide, MCI provides much-needed fellowship and support to all our colleagues who hold similar views and who are experiencing difficulty practising according to those beliefs. Every two years we hold a workshop in Rome to consider these issues and at our inaugural workshop in 2001, we were honoured to be received in private audience with Pope John-Paul II who unequivocally endorsed our work.

On behalf of the mothers and babies we serve I thank you wholeheartedly for your generosity. We look forward to meeting with your members in the New Year and welcome any opportunity to speak about our work.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian K Thomas
Chairman MaterCare Australia &
MaterCare International

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA INC.
 presents...

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS IN ACTION 2007

OVERVIEW

- A 10 month project designed to raise money for MaterCare International
- Each CWL Member Organisation can contribute by encouraging each CWL Branch to organise an event to take place in April 2007
- Photos of events will be collaged on a compact disc and sold
- All funds raised from events will be presented to MaterCare International at the CWLA Conference in September 2007



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA INC.
 is...

Living the faith of our mothers

World Youth Day – Sydney 2008

On the 2nd March 2007, it will be 500 days until the start of World Youth Day 2008!

The WYD Cross and Icon arrive in Australia on July 1, 2007. The Journey of the Cross and Icon is expecting to create enormous pastoral benefits across Australia and Oceania, as well as generating excitement and interest in WYD in the year leading up to the big event.

There is much to be done. The WYD08 Team are motivated and organized, but this is a project in which every Catholic can play a part. Contact your Diocesan Office ASAP to see what your CWL group, or you as an individual can do.

If you haven't done so already, sign up for the WYD pilgrimage by visiting wyd2008 on the Web and click on pilgrimage to subscribe.

Pauline Victory
CWLA National Publicity Officer

Around the States

Victoria/Wagga Wagga Archbishop Denis Hart Recognises 90 Years of Service given by The Catholic Women's League Victoria and Wagga Wagga

In 1916, 90 years ago, the 2nd Archbishop of Melbourne Archbishop Thomas Carr celebrated the inaugural Mass of the "Catholic Women's Social Guild", later to be known as Catholic Women's League. Few people attending that Mass would have imagined in 2006, the 8th Archbishop of Melbourne Archbishop Denis Hart would celebrate the Eucharist on October 15th 2006 thank God for the same continuing apostolate.

Thanks to the foresight of Dr Mary Glowrey, the first President, who was one of a group of ladies inspired by a talk given by Fr Lockington SJ the "Guild" was formed.

Members of Catholic Women's League (CWL), their families and friends, numbers approximately 400 were part of the huge congregation in St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne to celebrate and recognise 90 years of dedicated service given by CWL.

The opening lines of the entrance hymn, "O God our Help in Ages Past", our hope for years to come: seemed to suitably express the wish of every one of the CWL members present, and those unable to attend.

Many ladies had travelled a great distance to thank God, catch up with friends and share a meal together. A tribute to the importance they place on the work of CWL and the friendships they have formed.

At the same Celebration of the Eucharist two young men, Binh Le and Thinh Vu were being presented to the Archbishop as worthy candidates to continue their studies for Ordination to the Diaconate of the Priesthood, described by the Archbishop as 'Called to Prayer and Study, to serve God's People.' Many Seminarians were there to support, relate to and witness the unselfishness of these two young men.

Also present were a husband and wife, celebrating 50 years of married life shared together, along with their family and friends.

Welcoming all present Archbishop Hart said it

was a celebration of Priesthood, Marriage and Community.

The Scripture Readings spoke of the eternal reward we can expect for the service we give. The readings were reverently proclaimed by Therese Tyndall, Shepparton, and Brenda Finlayson, Ballarat.

During the homily the Archbishop reminded all present everything we have is a gift from God, by reaching out into society in so many ways, we are recognising and expressing gratitude to God for those gifts. In following Christ it is all or nothing. Are we vibrant parts of God's plan? Referring to CWL the Archbishop was generous in his praise, thanking God for women who see faith to be 'lived' and added, "No group does it better than the Catholic Women's League."

The reverence and dignity of the Archbishop and the concelebrants Frs Harvey, Plunkett, Larcen and Teal all dedicated and greatly appreciated Chaplains (past or present) to Catholic Women's League and Very Rev Dean Baron the present Chaplain to Victoria Wagga Wagga was awe inspiring; this spiritual guidance has been invaluable. Fr Paddy Bohan who preceded Fr Geoff was unable to attend due to Parish commitments.

The 'Heavenly' Choir singing magnificently in Gregorian Chant, the parts of the Mass and the responses, together with the splendour and décor of the Cathedral, all enhanced a day long to be remembered.

The Communion Hymn "Where there is Charity and Love", and recessional hymn "Be Thou My Vision" related so well to Catholic Women's League in the past, as well as encouraging and challenging the present members as we go forth into the future.

Following the Eucharist Celebration it was time for refreshments with a welcome from Madge Fahy—Victoria Wagga Wagga President. Next stop Mary Glowrey House for the cutting of the cake which was made and beautifully decorated by Betty Christie, Shepparton and thank you to the ever helpful care takers: Leon and Helen Farrell.

Let us offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude for the vision of Dr Mary Glowrey, and the women of 1916 who inspired by the words

of Fr Lockington, set out to further develop authentic Catholic views and opinions, to uphold Catholic values and ethics and to work to improve the conditions of women and children. Doing so by animating from within, not ordering from above. It is now our task, the present members to emulate, let us do so with open hearts and minds, not discriminating against race, colour and creed.

Let us all acknowledge with gratitude the organising committee. Many thanks to each one of you for a most enjoyable and memorable day.

Pat Stanhope
Liaison Officer, CWL Vic Wagga Wagga

New South Wales

Installation Mass for New State Executive

Formal apology to CWLA Parramatta Diocese for misrepresenting them as CWLA Wollongong Diocese in Issue 4, 2006.

Approximately 200 members and friends recently gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas Church Bowral to participate in the Installation Mass of the new State Office Bearers. Bishop Peter Ingham DD was the main celebrant assisted by Fr. Sean Cullen PP of Bowral, the incoming State Chaplain, and Fr. Martin Maunsell of Lane Cove Parish, the outgoing Chaplain.

L –R Patricia Harrison - Secretary, Catherine



McGrath - President, Bishop Peter Ingham - Wollongong Diocese, Rosemary Francis - Treasurer, Fr Sean Cullen - State Chaplain

The church adorned with flowers, the magnifi-

cent sound of the organ, played by Geoff Harvey, and the beautiful voice of the soloist Keve Abotomey, added to the inspiring and joyous Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter, during which the new State Office Bearers were commissioned by him. One highlight was Bishop Peter's homily - a mixture of humour, encouragement and recognition of CWLA and their work and he congratulated the new office bearers on their commitment to their new positions.

The new State positions are held by Catherine McGrath- President, Patricia Harrison- Secretary, Rosemary Francis- Treasurer, Joan Hughes- International Secretary WUCWO, Doreen Ford- Communications, Sue Meehan - Social Responsibilities, Noeline Kelly- Editor "The Vine" Magazine, Irene O'Grady- Public Officer, Peg McEntee OAM- Protocol Officer.

Following the Mass, guests were invited to the Parish Hall for a sit down luncheon beautifully prepared by members of Bowral Branch. Peg McEntee OAM acted as MC and on behalf of Catherine, welcomed Bishop Peter, Fr Sean, local dignitaries, including Mr Alby Schultz Federal MP for Hume, and Mrs Schultz, Ms Peta Seaton, State MP for Southern Highlands, representatives from other local churches, CWLA representatives from all dioceses in NSW and all present.

President Catherine's speech was sincere and challenging and received with great applause. She introduced the theme for CWLA- NSW for the next two years –

"God is Love – Create a New Heart". A very successful and happy day in the true spirit of friendship of CWLA members.

Armidale Diocese

Gunnedah Branch invited the women of all the Churches in Gunnedah to share their annual Advent Prayer and Sharing Morning. Over sixty women gathered in the Convent, shared a delicious morning tea and participated in a trivia quiz "How Well Do I Know My New Testament"? After much searching of minds and even more hilarity, one table of eight from a variety of Christian denominations was awarded the prize. They then gathered in the Convent Chapel for a reflective prayer time on the theme "Scripture Patchwork Quilt from the Advent Readings". This is the part of the morning that most return for every year as they appreciate the opportunity of deepening their spirituality. A great day for bonding with other denominations – well done Gunnedah!

Maitland-Newcastle Diocese

The Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, at the end of 2006, chose to celebrate the foundation of CWL by Margaret Fletcher in the UK by combining it with their Annual Thanksgiving Mass which was celebrated in St. Joseph's Church and hosted by East Maitland CWLA. Bishop Michael Malone celebrated the Mass with Father Brian Mascord, Father Geoff Mulhearn, Father Lex Levey and the much loved Chaplain, Father John Gahan.

Among the 120 women attending were representatives from CWL in the Dioceses of Armidale, Broken Bay, Bathurst, Parramatta and the Archdiocese of Sydney, as well as representatives from other denominations and various local groups. Bishop Michael spoke of the work of Margaret Fletcher in Victorian England and while much has been achieved over the years, there is still much more to be done. He pointed out that even in our society today women are still being discriminated against and victimised on basis of gender, while the condition of women in many underdeveloped countries is unimaginable.

East Maitland chose the FROG as the theme for the luncheon and this provided light hearted fun for the occasion. A display of all sorts of frogs (not living specimens) interested the guests, while Anne Hogan, the Diocesan President explained the significance of the frogs in the celebration extolling the virtues of the FROG as being "Fully Reliant On God", the epitome of change and adaptability, of smiling disposition and the herald of concern for environmental pollution. The Guest Speaker, a comedian Margaret Dunne provided much laughter for the day which was a very happy occasion with everyone updating news and enjoying each others' friendship and love. Isn't that what CWLA is about?

Sydney Archdiocese

Sydney CWLA With the request from CWLA National that all states support the Mothers and Daughters in Action 2007 to raise money for MaterCare International, Sydney CWL have organised the following function:

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS MORNING TEA:

Aim : To raise money for MaterCare International

Date: Thursday 26 April, 2007

Time: 11am

Cost : \$20 per person

Venue: Queen Victoria Tearooms, Queen

Victoria Building, Sydney

Who: Everyone is welcome – we are all "daughters"

RSVP: Wednesday April 4 – Ph: 93905153 (money please)

All CWLA members invited so put this date in your diaries ladies. Sydney branch is hosting this function but all branches in the Archdiocese are asked to organise a small function for MaterCare International.

President Moya Potts recently attended a meeting of the Diocesan and Youth Ministry Committee to discuss World Youth Day 2008 and unexpectedly met with Denise Gersbach, the representative of the Wilcannia/Forbes Diocese.



Denise was very grateful to learn that CWLA Sydney were organising a function with the funds raised to go towards sponsoring youth from her Diocese to attend the WYD08. Denise was a delightful young woman and a wonderful ambassador for Wilcannia/Forbes Diocese and Moya and other members from Sydney CWL were pleased to meet a representative from the Wilcannia/Forbes Diocese and hear about the hopes and aspirations of the young people from that Diocese. The planned function is a "Winter Wonderland" Luncheon to be held at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney on Thursday July 26th at a cost of \$60 per person. The more money raised the more young people can be sponsored. The seating capacity is limited to 130 and bookings are already being made. Put the date in your diaries ladies – all CWLA members and friends are invited – don't miss out!! Monthly raffles are also being held to swell the funds.

Wollongong Diocese

Gwynneville Branch Members of CWLA Gwynneville Branch recently enjoyed a Celebration luncheon with Maureen Anderson on

the occasion of her 80th birthday. Maureen spoke about her first days in Gwynneville in 1966 and how joining the League helped her make the transition to a new school and a new parish. As well as being Convenor of Wrap With Love her interest in floral arrangements has led her to become Co-ordinator of the flower roster at St. Brigid's. Her husband Basil has been a great supporter of her work with Wrap With Love – driving to Sydney to deliver the finished wraps and often having to sit on the bags to close them! Maureen and Basil have delivered thousands of wraps over the years. Gwynneville CWL presented Basil with a Certificate of Appreciation last year in recognition of his work.

Doreen Ford
CWLA NSW Communications Officer

South Australia

Australia Day Mass

A well attended Australia Day Mass, January 26, 2007 was celebrated in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral with Archbishop Philip Wilson the main celebrant, Bishop Greg O'Kelly, Emeritus Archbishop Leonard Faulkner, Monsignor David Cappo, and 4 priests concelebrating, while Fr. Joe Grealy, Archdiocesan CWL Chaplain attended.

The Australia Day Mass has been organized by the Knights of the Southern Cross, Therry Dramatic Society and the Catholic Women's League for many years. This year we were supported by John Luttrill, Coordinator of Archdiocesan Events.

We gave thanks for our Nation and our people and as part of this celebration we congratulated and honoured the Catholic faithful of our Archdiocese who had been recipients of an Order of Australia.

Presentation of National Symbols

Australia is a land of light, colour and rich in symbolism. It is a land of contrasts and vast distances, of deserts and bush growth, mountain ranges and golden beaches. We see the death of Christ in the bushfire and celebrate the resurrection in the growth of life and the hope that follows. Representatives from Therry Society, CWL and Knights of the Southern Cross placed symbols that represented our wonderful country on the sanctuary.

Our National Flag with its Federation Star, reminds us that we are one people.

Our State Flag, with the Piping Shrike speaks

of our pride in our own State of South Australia.

The Aboriginal Flag represents the original owners of this land, their sufferings, and their reverence and care for this land.

Green and Gold are our national colours – the colour of the wattle. We place these coloured cloths on the altar in gratitude for the incredible beauty of our country.

The Opal – a symbol of the many colours of our land, of the creator Rainbow Serpent of the Dreaming and the promise God made through the rainbow to all creation.

The Sturt Desert Pea – our State floral emblem, with its vivid red colouring, growing so close to the soil. It is a symbol of all the flora and fauna that is so unique to our country.

A Painting by Sir Hans Heysen and a book by Colin Thiele: South Australia has always been blessed with creative people – artists, sculptors, writers, musicians and composers. The biennial Festival of Arts epitomized by these two great South Australians, is a celebration of this.

Two Books – one telling the history of South Australia. We pride ourselves in being the only State not founded on the sufferings of the convicts, but our first settlers also suffered and experienced drought, famine, recession and many hardships to make our State what it is today.

Our second book tells the history of our Church in this State, one that has been very dependent on the lay people for its survival, particularly in the years before a priest came to the Colony. The love for God and the faithfulness shown by these early settlers has given us a rich inheritance to treasure and nourish.

Cummins Australia Day Honours

Cummins CWL members participated in the Combined Guilds 40th Christmas Social that was held in the Anglican Church in Cummins on Wednesday, 6 December 2006.

Genny Secker organized the CWL item and Margaret Phelps organized a Christmas Tree competition for the night. The other Guilds also put on a variety of items and competitions that were enjoyed by those present. A collection was taken up on the night and proceeds will be sent to the Royal Flying Doctor Service in appreciation of the service provided to the Cummins and District area.

Supper was served in the hall and a birthday cake made by June Leedham was cut by CWL members, Genny Secker and Shiela Pedler, who are long time supporters of the Combined Guilds Christmas Socials.

It was announced on the night that the **Combined Guilds Christmas Social in its 40th year of existence** was nominated by Genny Secker to the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsular for the **Australia Day Awards 2007 – Event of the Year**, and was accepted for this award by the Council at its meeting in November.

The award was presented to the Guilds at a Public Ceremony held in the Cummins Community Hall on 26 January 2007 at 9am.

Tasmania

The first Fund raiser for the CWLA National "Mothers and Daughters" Project will be a Trivia Day to be run by the Launceston and St. Leonards League Branches. This will be at Holy Cross Church, Ravenswood, commencing at 11a.m. and will include a light lunch and raffle. Members have been asked to bring three grocery items each for the raffle prize - a hamper.

WORLD YOUTH DAY: Tasmania now has three Youth Ministry Co-ordinators. Tom Garnham, Northern co-ordinator, gave a very interesting talk at the Launceston Branch November meeting on the topic of World Youth Day, 2008. Some of the basic tenets are an expression of the universal Church and an instrument of evangelization of the young, besides being a pilgrimage of faith. They have already started their work and have launched "Mission ACT1V8" to reinvigorate the young Church of Tasmania to build towards a future Church with a vibrant, integrated and involved youth culture. They are organising Lenten Retreats. A major event will be a Palm Sunday Pilgrimage from the Richmond Church to the Hobart Cathedral. On Pentecost Sunday 2008 the WYD Cross and Icon will arrive in Tasmania for nine days of travelling around the Archdiocese. In 1984 Pope John Paul II gave the cross to the world's youth, asking that it be "carried throughout the world as a sign of Christ's love for humanity." From 10th-14th July 2008 many young people from around the world are expected to come to Tasmania. In response to questions Tom said we could support them in their fund-raising activities and perhaps pro-

vide billets when the young people are in Tasmania. Several fund-raising events are already being planned. Our members were very impressed to know of all that the youth are doing, and very proud of them also. We felt it provides hope for the future.

Bernice McKenna
CWL Tasmania President

Queensland

Greetings from Queensland as we begin our journey for the next twelve months.

We are currently preparing for our first State Council meeting which is being held on the weekend of 3/4th March 2007 at Indooroopilly. The installation of the new executive will be held on Monday 5th March at Holy Family Church Indooroopilly during the 10.00am Mass which will be celebrated by Bishop Oudeman and concelebrated by Father McCarthy, State CWL Chaplain, Father Harris, Parish Priest Corinda/Graceville, Father Grayson CWL Chaplain Runaway Bay, and Father O'Donoghue from Ashgrove.

The role which I, with my executive, have undertaken, will do to the best of our ability.

We have many wonderful women in our organization within Australia, and indeed throughout the world, who I am sure will guide us if we are heading in the wrong direction.

May God bless you all as we continue on our road to the future.

Joan Armstrong
President CWL State of Queensland Inc.

Western Australia

Activities in Western Australia have begun with much flourish and fanfare. To prepare State Council for the year ahead and also to commence "thinking" about National 2008-2009, State President Karyn, called State Councillors to share in a day of Reflection and Prayer on 4 February. Father Greg, our Chaplain, drew us together with his words of wisdom and his belief in us as women of the Church. Father's enthusiasm for the League is boundless and certainly inspires us all to be able to move forward (and upward!).

Following the Reflection time, the gathering swelled threefold to include members from branches who took the time to join in the discussion on "National 2008-2009 where to from here". It was over-



whelming to sense the spirit of enthusiasm in the room on that day and State Council feels assured of support from branches in all its endeavours.

It was the decision of the meeting to involve ALL members in the nomi-

nation of members for the positions of President, Vice president (x2), Secretary and Treasurer for National 2008-2009. An independent Returning Officer has been appointed and the election of National President will be voted on from the nominations received. The elected President will then be asked to form her executive from the nominations received for those positions.

Discussion of business matters on the following day brought us back to a reality check of the day to day "things" which need doing and unfortunately one priority is the repair of our beloved Headquarters "Downey House". The roof leaks, the white ants have paid a visit to the back porch and other items of maintenance are needed.

The property is included in the Municipal Heritage Inventory and the Downey House Committee have applied for some funding from the Town of Vincent "Heritage Assistance Fund".

Three new members were "commissioned" to State Council – Rosemary Cheg-widden, Barbara Bourhill and Dorothy Beyer.



They have all previously been involved on State Council, but join us in 2007 in different roles. Dorothy, Past State President, now Archdiocesan President; Rosemary, Past President of Geraldton, now Diocesan Rep for the Bunbury Diocese and Barbara rejoins as a Rep for the Perth Archdiocese.

We welcome them aboard.

Coming events include our Annual Presidents Morning Tea to take place on 23 April at Holy Family Church Como, and the Bunbury Diocesan AGM on 26 May at Kojonup.

Canberra/Goulburn

Greetings and Good wishes to League members everywhere for a happy and healthy year ahead in 2007.

CWL in the Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn is gearing up for a busy and productive year. Branch

and Regional AGM's are presently taking place throughout the Archdiocese. Sincere appreciation is expressed to those who have accepted the challenge of office, and our thanks go to retiring office bearers for an outstanding contribution to the League.

The Archdiocesan Council AGM/Conference is scheduled to take place at the Redemptorist's St. Clement's Retreat Centre in Galong NSW on the weekend of 18th, 19th and 20th May, with the theme of "Faith in Our Future". The high light of the occasion will be the Keynote Speaker Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who will also preside at the Conference Mass.

The Annual General Meeting will encompass the presentation and adoption of various annual reports, the election of Office Bearers and the appointment of official delegates to represent the Archdiocese at the forthcoming 43rd CWLA National Conference. Motions and recommendations will also be presented and debated.

Members look forward to travelling to Adelaide to be present at the National Conference in September, and to renew old friendships and make new ones. Also to welcome the Western Australian based incoming National Executive.

Jacqueline Hipwell,
CWL Canberra/Goulburn
Archdiocesan President

Living the faith of our mothers

CWLA National Conference – Adelaide – September 12-14, 2007



Registration Forms are now available for the 43rd Biennial Conference to be held in the Adelaide Town Hall. Full registration is \$225. Programme and Registration Form is available on the CWLA Website.

Banners, Banners, Banners

We're hoping for an impressive and colourful display of CWL Banners for the Opening Mass of the CWLA National Conference at 9am on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.

Banners from States and Parishes are welcome, and will be part of the Entrance Procession.

If your group doesn't have a Banner at this stage, there's plenty of time to get working.

Looking Forward CWLA Newsletter Issue 1, 2007

REGISTRATION FORM

Surname: _____

Preferred name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

CWL Branch: _____

Diocese: _____

Special diet _____

Next of Kin _____

Phone number of Kin _____

Full registration \$225 _____

Three Day registration \$175 _____

Daily registration is \$65 per day
(Includes Conference booklet)

Wednesday
(Morning/afternoon teas, lunch) _____

Thursday
(Morning tea at Town Hall
and lunch at Tandanya) _____

Friday
(Morning tea and lunch) _____

Conference Dinner \$75 _____
(Drinks and entertainment)

Extra dinner tickets
(@ \$75 each) _____

Names for dinner _____

Total \$ _____

Please return this section with cheques/money
orders made **payable to CWLA Inc**
before **1st August 2007** to:

Mrs Helen Rodriguez
15 Crombie Street
HOVE SA 5048
Ph: 08 8296 9988

CWLA 43rd National Biennial Conference

Adelaide Town Hall
King William Street
ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA
12th – 14th September 2007

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Tuesday 11th September 2007

9.00—4.00 pm Nat. Council Meeting of CWLA Inc.
12 pm—5 pm Registrations at Cathedral Hall

Wednesday 12th September 2007

9.00 am **OPENING MASS**
 St Francis Xavier Cathedral
10.30 am Morning tea at Town Hall
11.00 am Official Opening
11.30 am Speaker - Auxiliary Bishop Gregory O'Kelly SJ
 AM DD VG
 Adelaide Archdiocese
12.30 pm Lunch
1.30 pm Speaker
2.15 pm Portfolio Reports
3.00 pm Afternoon Tea
3.30 pm State Reports
4.00 pm Closing Prayer

Thursday 13th September 2007

08.00 am Morning Mass—Cathedral
08.45 am Business Session—Town Hall
10.30 am Morning Tea
11.00 am Business Session
12.30 pm Proceed to Tandanya Aboriginal
 Cultural Institute 253 Grenfell St for lunch
1.00 pm Lunch
2.00 pm Speaker & Video presentation
3.30 pm Close—Aboriginal Prayer
6.30 pm **Conference Dinner**
 Adelaide Town Hall

Friday 14th September 2007

8.00am 2nd National Council meeting if needed
9.00 am Morning Prayer
9.15 am Bishop Eugene Hurley DD
 Port Pirie Diocese
10.00 am MaterCare Presentation
10.30 am Morning Tea
11.00 am National Chaplain
 Panel
12 noon National President CWLA Inc
 International introductions
12.30 pm Lunch
1.30 pm Panel
3.00 pm Introduction of National Executive
 Elect – 2008/2009
3.30 pm **Closing Mass**
 Adelaide Cathedral

Full Registration includes:
Conference Dinner, drinks and entertainment
All Morning Teas and Lunches
Afternoon Tea on Wednesday
Conference booklet

3 Day Registration includes all the above except the Conference Dinner