



Living the faith of our mothers

Catholic Women's League Australia Inc.

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3, SEPTEMBER 2007

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CWLA Across Australia



President's Report



'CWLA across Australia' celebrates what is happening in the 7 Member Organisations: South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Wagga Wagga, Queensland, CWLA-New South Wales and the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, each Incorporated.

'Mothers and Daughters in Action 2007' united members in a shared cause to assist, through MaterCare International, mothers-sisters-daughters like us in undeveloped areas, to give birth in conditions medically safe for mothers and babies, to help families enjoy life services we take for granted. Many more women now realize that this is not so for all women in our world and they have responded generously.

At the same time CWL members continue in their branches, parishes and communities to follow the Objects of the League "in working for and building the Kingdom of God" in ways closer to home. They are active in assisting priests in spiritual and pastoral ministry, in promoting and supporting vocations to priesthood, religious life, single life, Christian marriage and family. Ecumenically, Inter-Faith and communally involved, caring and responsible.

CWLA is an organization in which every woman can play a significant part. St Paul writing to the Corinthians 12: 4,5 confirms this: " Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." We share the same Faith, the same Objects but We are different and bring different

Gifts, to praying and working, advocating and voicing concerns, in Faith and Love. These differences enrich and strengthen Catholic Women's League and the Church.

In his Encyclical "Deus Caritas Est" Pope Benedict XVI brings light to the role of members of organizations such as ours, especially in modern Western societies where many of the needs of people are met by large scale Government and Church Welfare programs. " Love - Caritas - will always prove necessary, even in the most just society. There is no ordering of the State so just that it can eliminate the need for the service of love. ----- There will always be suffering which cries out for consolation and help. -----There will always be situations of material need where help in the form of concrete love of neighbour is indispensable. -----there will never be a situation where the charity of each individual Christian is unnecessary, because in addition to justice man needs, and will always need, love. I must be personally present in my gift. ----- Prayer as a means of drawing ever new strength from Christ, is concretely and urgently needed."

This Newsletter, Issue 3 2007, maps and captures in photographs, members gathering together at National Project events and other varied CWL activities across Australia, connecting with and inspiring one another, a reminder of John Paul II in 'Centesimus Annus': "Today more than ever the Word of God will be unable to be proclaimed and heard unless it is accompanied by the witness of the power of the Holy Spirit, working within the actions of Christians in the service of their brothers and sisters, at the points in which their existence and their future are at stake."

In 5 days CWLA will be in Conference in Adelaide, SA; in 10 months the World Day of Youth 08 will be in Sydney. We pray that the Holy Spirit will be with us and guide us throughout our 43rd National Biennial Conference and we encourage members to become involved in prayer, preparations and celebrations for WYD08 with theme chosen by the Holy Father: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.'

Come Holy Spirit!

Mary Schultz,
National President CWLA Inc.

Editorial Panel

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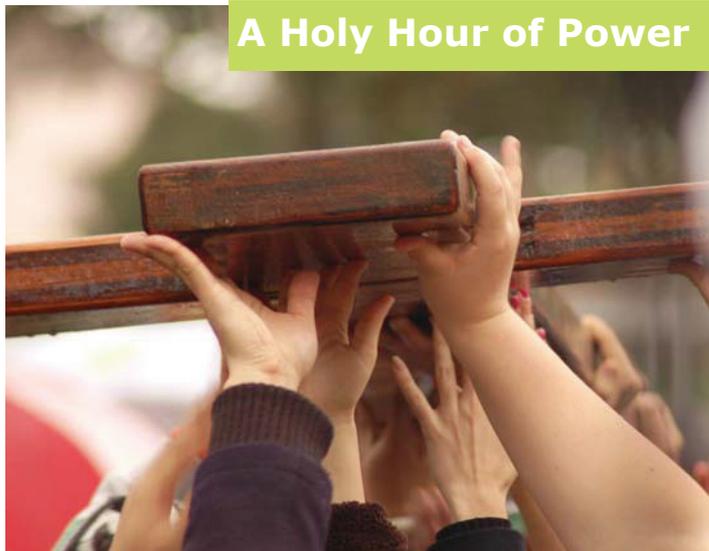
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Social Issues—Betty Roberts

A Holy Hour of Power



Benedict XVI wants to make the 2008 World Youth Day a great proclamation to young people of God's love. The WYD cross is already on pilgrimage in Australia a symbol of the spiritual journey of conversion and commitment as young people of the world prepare for a meeting of celebration of the faith with the Pope. Prayer is playing a vital role in the variety of preparatory activities occurring throughout Sydney and other national diocese.

On July 20, a year from the day of the final papal mass in 2008, young and old united in St. Patrick's one of the oldest churches in Sydney, for what Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Fisher, dubbed "A Holy Hour of Power".

Following song, Scripture and a personal testimony from Steve Lawrence, ex-professional footballer player - turned WYD director of evangelisation and catechesis, it was Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament who took centre stage

Bishop Fisher recounted the history of St. Patrick's church dating back to the early 1800's when the first Catholics in the nation tried to obtain a grant of land for a church and the government refused the request. When the only priest was expelled by British authorities, he left just one consecrated Host before whom persecuted Catholics gathered secretly for prayer.

"The lay faithful continued to guard and adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for an entire year until another French priest arrived to offer Mass for them again". Bishop Fisher encouraged Australians to tap into that dedication of our forefathers and revive devotion to God's truth and will.

Benedict XVI's message for World Youth Day appeals to the world's youth "not to forget the great



Photos by Annie Carrett, Broken Bay News

ness of God's gifts that are the fruits of the Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control.

As Benedict XVI said "We can only be Christ's missionaries if we allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit". The Holy Father has requested that we help launch a new Pentecost for the church and humanity in the third millennium.

Betty Roberts, OAM
National Social Issues Convenor

The CWLA National Executive of 2008/09

In photo below L—R:

Barbara Paterniti – Vice President, **Maria Parkinson** – Secretary, **Anne Power** – Vice President, **Noelle Guidera** – Treasurer, **Karyn Kammann** – President and **Anne O'Neill** – Public Officer. Not in the photo is **Father Laurence Murphy** – Chaplain and yet to be announced the Publicity Officer.



Bioethics—Margo Nancarrow

About immunisations

Some people have recently raised questions about the manufacture indeed the whole issue of immunisation/vaccination.

It is true that some vaccines have been developed from a cell line obtained from an aborted foetus. "Three vaccines are grown in commercially available human cell lines that were initially derived from the tissue of two human fetuses who died over 30 years ago in surgical abortions". "The occurrence of these abortions is deeply regrettable. Church teaching would affirm that even though useful vaccines have been developed in cell lines from aborted fetal tissue, this good end can never justify the wrongfulness of the two intentional abortions" (Life Office, Sydney)

Rome has offered advice about the use of these vaccines. (Vatican Pontifical Academy for Life, The Academy urges Catholics and other citizens of upright conscience to use alternate vaccines if these are available or to put pressure on political authorities and health systems so that other vaccines without moral problems become available. If there are no alternative vaccines which are available and ethically acceptable, it is right to abstain from using these vaccines if it can be done without causing children, and indirectly the population as a whole, to undergo significant risks to their health. Morally problematic vaccines may, however, be used ... if not using them would expose others to considerable dangers to their health. This is particularly true in the case of vaccination against German measles.



The Academy states that "...there remains a moral duty to continue to fight and to employ every lawful means in order to make life difficult for the pharmaceutical industries which act unscrupulously and unethically. However the burden of this important battle cannot and must not fall on innocent children and on the health situation of the population – especially with regard to pregnant women."

The Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales dealt with this issue in their 2004 document *Cherishing Life*. An excerpt from part 2 - **Not doing harm, says, (168)**

People also risk causing ill health in others if they carry a disease which could be passed on. There is a common duty to take reasonable precautions not to spread infectious diseases such as measles, chicken pox or influenza. In this context, immunising children against infectious diseases is important not only for their sake, but also to protect other children who would otherwise be at more risk of infection. Vaccination has sometimes been controversial because of a real or perceived danger of side-effects, or because the production of certain particular vaccines has involved the use of tissue taken from aborted foetuses. Parents will want to consider the best evidence available and make a prudent decision on how best to protect their child. Some parents may feel called, on reflection, to boycott vaccines that are linked to abortion, so as to bear witness to the injustice of abortion and to the lack of respect shown to the child's remains. Such actions are neither required nor excluded by justice, but are matters of practical wisdom and personal vocation.

A research paper from Mater Pharmacy Services in Brisbane Misericordiae Hospital, says, regarding use of human cell lines, "This has raised concerns, with reports of some individuals with religious objections to abortion refusing vaccination because they feel this makes them complicit with the original act of abortion. Patients should be aware that cell lines are self-sustaining and additional abortions are not needed to sustain vaccine manufacture. No human cells are actually present in the vaccine, and no abortions are conducted specifically for the purpose of harvesting cell lines. Ethicists at the US National Catholic Bioethics Center have concluded that the association between certain vaccines and abortion was noncomplicit, and thus use of these vaccines is not contrary to a religious opposition to abortion.

Remember that Australia has an effective system for monitoring vaccine safety. Serious adverse events following vaccination are rare, and the risk of morbidity associated with these adverse events is generally far less than the risk from catching a vaccine-preventable disease. Nevertheless, it is extremely important to have in place adequate surveillance for adverse events associated with vaccines. Both the public and health care professionals need to feel confident of vaccine safety.

Margo Nancarrow
National Bioethics Convenor

Mothers and Daughters in Action

The **Diocese of Broken Bay** members are so proud to enclose our cheque for \$1300 for the "Mothers and Daughters in Action 2007 Project – MaterCare International" National Project.

Congratulations in launching this project. No work could be more vital when you consider the pain and humiliation that some women and young girls suffer if they do not have proper care during labour and childbirth.



CWL Members in Terrigal, NSW

From **Unanderra, NSW**

It was a very enjoyable afternoon with many mothers and their daughters and grand-daughters attending and in one instance we even had 4 generations.

Our guest speaker was a nursing sister who deals with very young women and their pregnancies ranging from age 12 and upwards.



Gwynneville Branch of the CWL

As one of our members, Maureen Anderson, is a local convenor for "Wraps with Love" and our members are actively involved in this very worthy cause, we organized a display of approximately one hundred rugs and welcomed our guests with a delicious Devonshire Tea. The afternoon was a wonderful social occasion and we are very pleased with the proceeds we are able to give to MaterCare.

North Mackay in the Diocese of Rockhampton



The Parish Priest, Fr Don White, gave his full support to this function and spoke briefly to the congregation on the CWL project to support the MaterCare work in the area of helping women and their unborn children in developing countries. Although not all stayed for a "cuppa", many gave generous donations to the cause. A "donation cup" was passed around at another Church in that Parish, resulting in a total collection of almost \$1500. What a wonderful result.



Barossa Valley, SA

CWL in action across Australia

Western Australia

Albany, Applecross, Attadale, Bedford, Bunbury, Busselton, Dianella, Esperance, Geraldton, Highgate, Katanning, Kojonup Leschenault (Eaton), Manjimup, Margaret River, Morley, Mount Barker, Nedlands, Victoria Park, Wagin.

South Australia

Aberfoyle Park, Alberton, Barmera, Barossa Valley, Berri, Birdwood, Bordertown, Brighton, Brooklyn Park, Burra, Clare, Carrieton, City Branch, Clearview, Cummins, Gawler, Glenelg, Hawker, Hectorville, Henley Beach, Jamestown, Kadina, Kapunda, Kingswood, Lameroo, Lock, Lockleys, Loxton, Minlaton, Morphett Vale, Mount Gambier, Murray Town, Naracoorte, Para Hills, Plympton, Poochera, Port Augusta, Port Broughton, Port Lincoln, Snowtown, Stirling, Tea Tree Gully, Tranmere, Virginia, Victor Harbor, Waikerie, Whyalla.



Busselton, WA



Berri, SA



Surfers, QLD



Queen Victoria Tea Rooms, Sydney



Aileen & Talia



CWL with Dr Thomas

Queensland

Ayr, Beaudesert, Booval, Bowen, Bribie Island, Brisbane, Burleigh Heads, Cairns, Charters Towers, Childers, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Kawana Waters, North Mackay, Prosperine, Roma, Runaway Bay, Surfers Paradise, Townsville.

New South Wales

Archdiocese of Sydney, Armidale, Armidale Diocese, Broken Bay, Lithgow, Maitland—Newcastle, Milton—Ulladulla, Oberon, Port Macquarie, Terrigal.

Canberra & Goulburn

Combined

Vic. Wagga Wagga

Bairnsdale, Cowwarr, Drouin, Fish Creek, Inverloch, Iona/Maryknoll, Leongatha, Maffra, Mirboo North, Morwell, Trafalgar, Warragul, Numurkah, Mansfield, Werribere, Benalla, Burwood, Manifold, Bundoora, Epping, Croydon, Warburton, Ballarat, Barooga, Lockhart, Yanco, Albury, Chiltern, Echuca, St Killian's Branch, Bendigo, Nathalia, Myrtleford, Wagga Wagga Diocese.

Tasmania

CWL Tasmania, Circular Head, Devonport, Georgetown, Kingborough Launceston, Lindisfarne/Risdon Vale, Oatlands, Richmond, Sandy Bay, Sorell, Ulverstone.

Tasmania



Around the States

Western Australia

CWL WA Executive members are the masters (mistresses) of multi tasking – but then that is something probably very typical of any CWL member!!

As we look to taking on National 2008-2009 and the preparatory work involved, and continue with the investigation and information gathering for decisions relating to our beloved Downey House and whilst also discussing aspects of our State Constitution, many of our State Councillors could be excused for having split personality traits. It has at times seemed a relentless effort, but we can say with confidence that we have all done our best – and will continue to do so.

Downey House has posed many challenges in decision making and whilst white ant activity is still evident no immediate steps can be taken. Several options for the future have been posed and from these, the Downey House committee will organize a questionnaire and information data to assist with the ultimate decision.

A comment sheet was handed to all State Councillors to assist with the updating of sections of the State Constitution dealing with Life Membership and Diocesan Membership. A motion has now been formulated with the agreed wording and this will go to the State AGM which will take place at the Redemptorist Monastery on 19 October.

Perth Archdiocesan President, Dorothy Beyer, reported on the activities of the Archdiocese in recent months. Dorothy is a representative on the Archdiocesan Committee for Family and for Life. This committee is preparing for a conference named CELEBRATE LIFE – FAMILY – JOURNEY and will include keynote speakers Karen and Jonathan Doyle and Byron and Francine Pirola and also workshops on such topics as Family Communication, Drug Awareness, Teaching Sexuality and Family Liturgy. Due to the closure of some of the "older" branches in the archdiocese the remaining members (sometimes only 1 or 2) have become Diocesan Members. It is interesting to note that many of these members have accepted executive roles on the Archdiocesan council which has in turn enabled them to maintain an active hands-on involvement with the League.

The Archdiocesan AGM was held on Wednesday 22 August in Downey House. A wonderful atmosphere was created by the best turn out of members for several years, many of whom only meet once a year at the AGM. The talk given by Fr Joe Parkinson from

the L J Goody Bioethics Centre on the Surrogacy issue currently before Parliament, was extremely well received, and (although given after lunch) all present responded with interesting and relevant questions.

In the Bunbury Diocese, Diocesan President, Gemma Greaves (with husband, Peter) is travelling her way through the southwest in a newly acquired camper van. First port of call was Manjimup where she attended the Western Zone meeting on 15 August. Members present enjoyed hearing Brigid Mills (Bunbury Diocesan representative on the World Youth Day Committee) speak about World Youth Day and how members throughout the diocese can be involved in the "days in the diocese" and the welcoming of the cross. Of course, the catering for the day was second to none and we thank, President, Connie Femia and Manjimup members for hosting this event.



Rosemary and Helena from Manjimup, WA

From Manjimup, Gemma continued her journey which ended at the Saturday night Mass in Margaret River where she attended the blessing of the branch's newly made Banner and also welcomed two new members to the branch.



Josie, Espie, Pearl and Gemma (L-R)

Geraldton branch reported on activities there. They provided morning tea for the opening of a Centre for Aboriginal folk at the Cathedral centre. Sister Val Deakin SGS, the co-ordinator, has given the branch a candle and prayer to say at meetings. The Centre may provide CWL members with opportunities to interact with Aboriginal women.

On the Social Issues front, Margaret Ker continues to amaze with her "finger on the pulse" approach. In recent times Margaret has made a submission to the Cannabis Control Act Review, attended the Human Rights Act Consultation and prepared letters to the Archbishop of Perth and Amnesty International

Australia regarding our concerns at Amnesty International accepting Abortion as a human right.

The election has taken place for the establishment of the Executive for CWLA National 2008-2009. We are grateful to all the wonderful members who took that leap of faith and accepted nomination and then ultimately the further leap taken by those who in acknowledging the membership vote have accepted the positions on council. The Executive of CWLA National 2008-2009 will be formally announced in Adelaide at the conclusion of the conference.

Victoria/Wagga Wagga

CONFERENCE NEWS

The 91st Annual General Conference of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga held recently in Fairfield, Melbourne was hosted by the Melbourne Archdiocesan Committee. The theme being 'Peace.'

The atmosphere was warm, friendly and very 'chatty' as friendships were renewed.

From the opening Eucharist, Chief Celebrant Bishop Christopher Prowse, representing Archbishop Denis Hart D.D., and concelebrants Fr. Werner Utri, P.P of St. Anthony's Alphington and Fr. Pat. Harvey, Archdiocesan Chaplain, to the closing prayers of the second day, the time spent was informative and rewarding.

During the homily Bishop Prowse drew attention to Mary, Queen and Mother as a role model. Mary praised God in the Magnificat and pondered and treasured things in her heart.

The conference, dinner with entertainment provided by Peter Roberts playing beautiful music on the Harp and a very amusing short play was most enjoyable.

Invited guests present at the dinner were student members from the Victorian Catholic Universities Association.

The conference Guest Speakers were outstanding:

Fr Daniel Benedetti. MGL. [Missionary of God's Love], told a little about his life, then spoke so unassumingly of the wonderful work two Priests and himself are doing with young men, not only spiritually but through sport, discussions, retreats, etc. in the parish where they are working. At present 14 students are studying for the Priesthood.

Sr Michele Toussaint, Congregational Leader of the Family Care Sisters spoke of the value of family life and of the care and wonderful support they offer to families requiring assistance. Generous volunteers help with this work.

Leonie Rastus from Parish Nurse Ministries, told of assisting parishioners achieve higher levels of wellness physically and spiritually; advising on health and the need for early response to small problems, encouraging healthy lifestyles, making known healthcare and social services in the community.

Brenda Finalyson. Vice-President General of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and editor of the magazine Women's Voice, told of the need to be constantly vigilant, especially where the written word may be falsely represented. Brenda's life is extremely full.

Carmel Eccles. A very caring, young nurse working at the Alfred Hospital who has spent holiday time working in Vietnam. Carmel told of schools visited; and two orphanages where approximately 200 children are being cared for by only 6 carers. The poverty and lack of funds needed for medical and school requirements greatly restricts the wonderful work being done by so few.

John Rheinhardt, passed on information about World Youth Day and of 'Days in the Diocese' as overseas visitors arrive. He suggested hospitality as a possible way the Catholic Women's League members may be involved.

Anna Krohn, spoke on the Anima Women's Network Inc. This voluntary support network of women enjoy a Memorandum of Understanding with the Catholic Women's League. Their aim is to enrich the lives of women by addressing the issues faced by women in their faith, families, relationships, workplaces and society.

Several Resolutions were passed requesting:
Funding for Pastoral Care,
Funding for Pregnancy Support.
Affordable rental housing to be made available.
More affordable housing to be made available for purchase (With good financial counselling accessible)

Fairer costing for gas supplied and individual metres fitted to high rise residences.

Members are asked to write to Members of Parliament requesting suitable action be taken on these resolutions.

The Archdiocese is to be congratulated on a successful conference. Much hard work and preparation is involved both before and during the two days, to ensure the time table is pleasantly adhered to and the conference enjoyed by all.

Please pray continually for respect for life. Bishop Prowse said in his homily the most dangerous place for a person to be today is in the womb.

Pat Stanhope
Liaison Officer
Victoria / Wagga Wagga

Around the States

Queensland

Greetings to all from Queensland.

Members of CWL in Queensland have been working hard for the Mater Care Project.

Functions such as morning teas, book sales, fashion parades, bingo and cent auctions, card days and many more have been organized throughout the dioceses to raise funds for this very worthy project.

I recently joined the President and Secretary of the Townsville diocese on a "Safari" to Mt Isa in the west where there is a CWL Branch. On our return journey we visited Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Richmond, Hughenden and Charters Towers with the hope that if we planted the seed maybe in the not too distant future some of the ladies' in these areas may come together to form a branch. Listening to the ladies whom we met was a very humbling experience. Most of the areas are without a resident priest and these ladies involvement in the church is amazing.

As the Queensland State theme for our term is "Sow Seeds of Love to Multiply" we feel that we have now planted the seeds and hopefully will see at least one seed grow.

We are looking forward to meeting up with many friends and hopefully new friends at the conference in September.

Joan Armstrong
Queensland State President

News South Wales

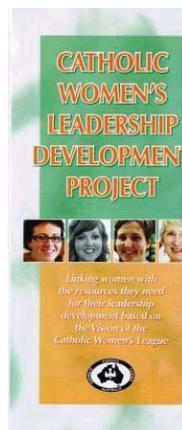
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The CWLD Project of CWLA-NSW Inc. which offers Workshops, Scholarships and Mentoring opportunities to women to develop their leadership skills is up and running. The first Workshop held in the Broken Bay Diocese entitled "Leading Meetings and Committees" was presented by Beth Gilligan and with her many qualifications and background in education and overseas development was an excellent choice for the Workshop. She led the group through a most interesting and informative session and the interaction within the group was lively and productive.

The first session of the morning "Leading and Chairing Meetings" established the actual needs of the participants for the type and range of meetings they anticipated leading and many aspects of the preparations required for such meetings were all covered as was the role of the Chairperson. The second session dealt with the unanticipated, difficult participants, unexpected questions and responses and other issues which surface along the way. Members then discussed their own particular issues and gave an evaluation of the morning which will be helpful for other Workshops.

The second Workshop will be held in the Wollongong Diocese entitled "Leading People with Creativity and Grace" and will be presented by Maureen Cleary who has been leading CWLA-NSW Inc. through their program to discern a new direction for the League into the future and increase membership. Maureen has been extremely helpful to CWLA-NSW in developing this project and has shown great interest in our organization as seen in this quote from her "The most exciting thing about working with the Catholic Women's League NSW has been their courage to name the problems they have with the sustainability of the Catholic Women's League in NSW and to take steps to find creative solutions. While deeply respecting the history of the CWL A in NSW they have recognised that the future depends on finding a new "face" which is interesting to younger women. Let's hope that the Catholic Women's Leadership Development Project can do just that". Maureen with her qualifications and interest in CWLA will be an excellent Presenter for this second Workshop.

Two further Workshops will be held in 2008 in other locations in the state, Newcastle and Parramatta and again will be held on Saturday mornings. Scholarships and Mentoring for recipients of the scholarships are part of the project and there will be more about them as the Project progresses.



For further information on this project
Phone: (02) 4861 7048
Email: jpcvmcgrath@bigpond.com
Web: <http://cwlansw.wordpress.com>

Brochures available.

Doreen Ford
Communications Officer

Canberra/Goulburn

This month saw a disaster for our Archdiocese and especially the O'Connor Branch of Catholic Women's League and other parishioners, with the burning of St. Joseph's Church O'Connor, ACT and the destruction of the Parish Centre. But the Miracle of the saving of the Altar and its Cloth, the Tabernacle, and the Picture of Blessed Mary McKillop, and the Irish stained glass, among other things, were a blessing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Father Kennedy, who is the Spiritual Director of Catholic Women's League in the Archdiocese, and to all St. Joseph's Church Parishioners.

We were fortunate in that the Catholic Women's League Archdiocesan Records for the last sixty two years were also saved.

Central Region held a Mid Winter Luncheon at Yowani Country Club Canberra which was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The Archdiocesan Executive was granted permission to add a cake to this function to celebrate Thora receiving the AM and for Joyce Purcell, OAM for receiving Honorary Life Membership.

Members are thinking of ways to contribute towards World Youth Day and are busy with functions in their parishes and are working towards ecumenism. The coming National Conference and its motions and recommendations are being worked on, as is the Australian Church Women's Conference a fortnight later in Geelong Victoria to which some of our members are attending. The incoming Australian Church Women's Executive, hosted by the ACT Unit will include three Catholic Women's League members. Angela Devlin - National Minute Secretary, Judith-Anne Sjostedt - Social Issues Convenor and Jacqueline Hipwell - 1st Vice President.

Jacqueline Hipwell
Archdiocesan President
Canberra/Goulburn

Tasmania

Mothers and Daughters Project resulted in a total of \$1372, raised by holding cake stalls, a large raffle, morning teas, a trade table and a trivia day, with some branches sending monetary donations. Our thanks go to all concerned with their help in this wonderful cause.

We have other practical projects at the moment, such as cotton bonnets for a commemoration of our early women convicts, needlecases for Australian Church Women Conference, vests, beanies and socks for AIDS babies, knitted slippers for nursing home residents, jumpers for refugees and knitted squares for "Wrap with Love Inc.", which are sent to keep people warm in 21 countries.

I congratulate Launceston member, Senator Helen Polley, for her stand against importing sex selection

kits. Also for her firm stance on other socio/moral issues.

A political agenda of homosexual activists is revealed with the statement that school curriculum 'has an obligation to interrupt heteronormative thinking', as well as plans to move into the elementary curriculum and the various curricula in secondary schools.

We congratulate our Social Issues Convenor, Betty Roberts, on being appointed a Director of "Drug Free Australia". Members have been asked to register their moral support. For information email: admin@drugfree.org.au

On the Feast of St. Thomas, I was at Mass in Surfers' Paradise. The priest began his homily with "Do you have faith?" Murmurs of "yes". "It's now 18 minutes to 11." We all looked at our watches. Father laughed. "You all doubted." At the end of the homily on faith and doubting he said: "It's now 12 minutes to 11." Nobody looked at a watch. The CWL had organised transport of the sick to this Anointing Mass and luncheon afterwards. I was very pleased to be able to attend the meeting of their Branch, which followed. I was impressed with the work they are doing and the efficient running of the meeting. The President, said (vis a vis inviting women to a luncheon they were holding) "everyone knows at least one person." Thank you, ladies, for making me so welcome.

Bernice McKenna
CWL Tasmania State President

South Australia

The 2006-07 CWLA National Project MaterCare has proved very popular with the community and all CWL branches in SA supported it by having functions or by giving donations.

Several branches organized Mannequin Parades. Other events included "Bubbles at Sunset" which was particularly enjoyed by the men; sausage sizzles; and cups of tea with refreshments. Trading tables and cake stalls after Sunday Masses were popular with parishioners.

An original idea was a four-course meal cooked by the Parish Priest (who was no stranger to cooking) for 50 people.

An Italian lunch was also catered for by branch members; and a Fellowship day with other denominations and guests, where the members brought along a favourite dish their mothers used to make.

Other functions organized by CWL branches were: two Chamber Music Concerts with afternoon tea; a St. Patrick's Day concert; a bingo afternoon; and a morning garden/tea-party.

All these events have raised awareness and financial help for MaterCare...

"WOMEN HELPING WOMEN."

CWLA's National Project: 'Mothers and Daughters in Action 2007'

was supported wholeheartedly by members and friends across Australia and we appreciated the assistance of Dr Elvis Seman during the term of the project. A cheque for \$75,280 was presented to Dr Adrian Thomas, Chairman MaterCare Australia and MaterCare International (as pictured below). We were privileged that Dr Adrian was able to be present at CWLA's 43rd National Biennial Conference. In his address, reported here by Pat Walker: he told us that MaterCare and CWL can achieve a lot. The solution to safe motherhood is not abortion but trying to breathe life back into motherhood in countries where women still die in child-birth. MaterCare focuses on hospitals and emergency transport service to get women there. Some governments think that abortion and sterilisation is the help needed but the people don't want this. East Timor is desperately short of everything and in Africa many refugees are not receiving help. In war and conflict women and children suffer the most.



...and from Dr Rob Walley, Executive Director, MCI: Mothers and women throughout the world are suffering from violence from commission, e.g. abortion, genital mutilation, sexual assault but also from violence from omission, e.g. the failure to provide adequate care especially during pregnancy and child-birth, care for those with obstetric or traumatic gynaecological fistulae (arising from gang rape and physical torture in conflict situations e.g. in Rwanda 1994 and presently in Darfur and the Democratic Republic of Congo); and also from omission when information is kept from women and they make the wrong decision about continuing their pregnancy. The solution offered by the international health community known as reproductive health (the euphemism for abortion and birth control) dominates international women's health care. If I may put aside for the sake of argument, these are irrelevant when a mother is dying from obstructed labour or post-partum haemorrhage or is incontinent due to fistulae. The Millennium Development Goals especially No 5 concerning improving maternal health by reducing maternal mortality and morbidity are not being met. A recent article in the British medical Journal (July 14th 2007), points out that "at the present rate of progress No 5 will take 275 years to be reached! MCI's position is that these problems related to women's health will only be solved one woman at a time. Women in rich countries have access to the best of care. MCI, working with the bishops in Africa is trying to provide some sort of care for very poor mothers. However, we also must be there for the mothers in distress in our own countries to provide them with care based on life and hope.