

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
COROWA BRANCH MARCH 1947-----JUNE 2008.

The Corowa Branch of the Catholic Women's League, originally known as the Catholic Women's Social Guild was opened on March 10th 1947 and has functioned continuously until this point in time June 2008. This is a brief resume of the work and activities carried out over this period.

Anniversaries have been celebrated with a luncheon and get together on the first birthday of the branch in 1948 and thereafter on the 25th anniversary in 1972---the 40th anniversary in 1987 and the 50th anniversary in 1997 and the 60th in 2007..

Our inaugural Spiritual Director, Rev. Mons. M.F. Lane celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 1979, this function was catered for by the Catholic Women's League of Corowa,
The League also presented him with a crystal rose bowl on the occasion of his proclamation as Monsignor.

On July 17th 1980 a luncheon was held to honour Miss May O'Brien, a branch member who was elected the first Diocesan President of the Wagga Wagga Diocesan Committee in 1952.

When Fr. J.A. McGrath was the branch Spiritual Director in 1984 he wished to begin a pre-Lenten luncheon for 20-30 Priests, he approached the branch to undertake the project, which they did and this luncheon is still being provided for the current Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul Hart.

For 15 years in recent times the branch held a Christmas party for the residents of Karinya House (the local elderly citizen's home) and the elderly of the parish in St. Mary's Hall.

Currently members are providing morning tea after the monthly Anointing Mass celebrated for parishioners, particularly the elderly and residents of Karinya House.

In May 1979 monthly Masses for the Parish deceased began being offered and prior to that a Mass had been offered at the time of decease of Parishioners

In 1978 the League attended the Annual Prayer Day at the Carmel Monastery in Wagga Wagga and continued these visits for 10 years.

For a number of years members took part in reciting the Rosary continuously on Our Lady's Feast Day.

The Gospel discussion from the Horizon has been used, at our monthly meeting, for reflection since its inception and the yearly Mass Crusade week allocated to the Branch has been observed by as many members as possible.

Since 1975 some members have been Catechists bringing the Word of God to pupils in the Public Schools, but at the present time the format for R.E. has been changed and we are no longer required. Over the years many donations have been made towards the purchase of material for teaching.

As well as the many works performed, the Catholic Women League has always made themselves aware of injustices and moral concerns and have acted to try and alleviate them.

DONATIONS

Over a period of sixty years the Branch has assisted with the finance of many ventures.

In the early years groceries and household essentials were donated to the Sisters of Mercy, who were in charge of St. Mary's School.

Linen, blankets and curtains purchased for the Presbytery.

A vacuum cleaner purchased for the Church.

Altar Linen has been purchased and sewn by Members.

Baptismal Parcels and Baptismal Gowns and Sashes have been made.

Over the years crockery, cutlery, urns and tablecloths have been purchased for use at the Hall.

For a period of time subscriptions to the Majellan and then Home Blessings Plaques were presented to newly weds.

This year 2008, a sum of \$3000.00 was given to the Parish to modernise the kitchen in St. Mary's Hall.

Donations over the years and still being made today are---The Catholic Enquiry Centre, Diocesan Media Scholarship, Caritas, Guadalupe House, the purchase of Mary Glowery House and the Santa Casa Home.

MEANS OF RAISING OUR FINANCES.

With the exception of the years 1967—1969 the annual Catholic Ball supper has been catered for by members---in the early years on a grand scale---sit down supper of poultry, ham etc and sweets---

Fruit salad and trifle and fruit jellies. In later years --sandwiches, slices and finger food.

From 1947 to 1980 annual street stalls were held with the usual raffles.

This year 2008 there was no Catholic Ball.

In 1961 and 1972 comprehensive flower shows were held and garden parties enjoyed at "Barondale" in 1964, "Woodlawn" in 1965 and "Quat Quatta" in 1975.

For a number of years in the 1950's catering was carried out at the Corowa Race Meetings and in 1975 and 1976 a private luncheon was catered for at the Corowa Picnic Races.

A wedding was catered for in 1963 and in 1972 a baby show was held.

Refreshments after Funerals was commenced in and continues today.

In the early years Holy Name Dinners were catered for.

In 1965 a combined day for all Church Guilds was held in St. Mary's Hall---items being performed by the different Church Guilds including St. Mary's.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

In the early years Migrants to the area were welcomed and contact with newcomers to the area has been made until recent times.

We have had members on the Pastoral Council from 1970 to 2006. Our members have been on most avenues of Parish work at all times.

IN the period of 1970 to 1980 monthly meetings were made to the Milpara Day Care Centre providing entertainment and afternoon tea.

When the units in St. Mary's Court were being built funds were donated to assist in the project which was Blessed and opened by Bishop Brennan in 1984.

Branch members began sewing Baptismal Robes/Sashes in 1980 and this is still being carried out today.

In the Year of the Disabled—1981—the Branch joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society in financing construction of ramps at the side door of the Church.

When the Corowa Hospital was being upgraded a room in the Bunge Wing was furnished with funding by the C.W.L. over a period of three years and was in use by 1991.

In 1990 ceiling fans were installed in St. Mary's Hall, this project being funded by C.W.L.

Some members were active in the tree planting scheme being develop0ed in 2000.

Bequests from Mrs. Flo.Papworth and Mrs.Molly Boxall were invested and the Interest used towards a bursary to a student from St. Mary's School. In 2001 the monies were withdrawn and a trophy cabinet, suitably inscribed, was purchased for the school.

The knitting of wool squares to be sewn together into rugs was a project began by the C.W.L. Executive in 1992. The rugs have been sent to countries in many parts of the world and distributed to the needy in those countries---The project is called "Wrap with Love". The Corowa Branch was been part of the project since its inception and many hundreds of rugs have been knitted, sewn together and forwarded for distribution.

Members have taken part in "Meals on Wheels" delivery from 1969 to 2003.

The Branch has assisted in hosting World Day of Prayer with local Churches since this service began.

C. B. Hanrahan
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