



# Bare Bones

GFS Australia Inc.

Issue 1, 2015

## Introducing our new Chairman ...

Dear GFS friends in Australia

I must admit now that I have come home from Council and settled into the emails that come across my desk, it is starting to sink in just what I have taken on. I know that God will guide us in everything that we undertake and as such I would ask that we continue to hold GFS both in our own Dioceses, branches and throughout this Country, before Him daily for His guidance. We have an interesting period of time ahead of us in which we would like to see GFS grow in numbers and in the types of ministries undertaken. This was very evident as I listened to the conversations that occurred throughout Council.

Let me first introduce myself to those who do not know me. I was born in Lithgow NSW and as a child spend a number of years moving around the state as my father worked on the railway. I spent most of my primary school years at Tamworth and joined GFS there as a GFS Junior at South Tamworth. I clearly remember some of the activities at these meetings and the fun that we all had and the group of us, including my younger sister, who used to drop in there after school each week.

When my family moved I did not become involved again with GFS until we had moved to Newcastle, although I had taught Sunday School and joined Fellowship in the towns that we had passed through. My renewed involvement in Newcastle, occurred when the Assistant Priest of the parish we were then worshipping at, asked me to lead a GFS group. That was quite a number of years ago now and I am still in the GFS family.

I am a Branch Librarian working for Newcastle Council and as such have the responsibility for the daily routines and 5 staff members permanently at that branch. I have a job that changes daily and is never the same when dealing with the ever changing flow of people through the front doors. My job currently has brought me back to the same suburb that we moved into when we first came to the Newcastle area all those years ago. I daily see people I have known for a couple of decades now.

*Gail*



## Introducing our Theme ...



As I thought about my theme for the forthcoming three years I was conscious of the fact that over recent years we have been on a journey that has led us to consider our diversity both within our branches and dioceses within the Australian church, as well as, the wider family of GFS throughout the world.

As we think of our family and friends we discover the uniqueness of our organisation and what it does for each one of us. We discover that, as this wider family, we share joys and good times with each other along with the not so good times.

We have been encouraged to grow where we are and to consider what we can do to help others along the way. I would like to think that we look at ourselves as individual parts of a unified body that is GFS and that each part is essential for the whole organisation. All parts are needed for the society to function properly.

Any public ministry is only as powerful as its foundation, that is, our prayers. We need to underpin everything we do with prayer, and to allow ourselves to be guided by the responses we receive.

We need each gift for the body of Christ, and in this case, GFS, to function. Our society is very much like a jigsaw with many pieces. Each member of GFS has unique talents, abilities and spiritual gifts. Each one of us is vital to the big picture, to the proper functioning - there are no spares or extras.

I think we should remember that many parts make one body. I would like to think that over the coming term we can work together to form a stronger effective group which welcomes all. I would like to think we are all in this together.

*Gail*

## Our Theme Prayer

*Gracious God, we come to you as members of GFS throughout Australia.*

*We give thanks for the many talents and abilities of your people  
and rejoice in each other's gifts and uniqueness.*

*Take all that we bring, our gifts and talents, our longings and our faith  
and use these to build up our work and witness in everything we do.*

*We ask this in your name.*

*Amen*



## National Council ~ Hobart 2015

The first official day of National Council saw us head up to the top of Mount Wellington before proceeding to the Opening Ceremony at St Clement's Kingston (Julie's parish church). It was at this celebration that June Hillier was presented with her Past Chairman's badge, and Ros Lumsden was commissioned as World Treasurer. During the prayers we were asked to write something that GFS had given each of us. This was attached to a flower which we planted into the florist foam garden. This garden became part of the rest of Council.



Our opening dinner was held at Southern Lights Hotel.



The following two days were a mixture of business sessions, addresses and reports as well as social activities. We heard from our World President, Val Gribble, about the world scene and its relevance to GFS Australia. Val also encouraged us to consider and ponder where GFS Australia is going and how we are to survive if we are not responsive to the need for change. As part of her presentation, Val spoke about World Council in Perth in July 2017. She invited all dioceses to consider how we can help with the running of World Council.

The young people spent part of a day at Orana, which is a Scout campsite on the beach. We heard presentations from Girls Brigade, the Girl Guides Trefoil, Hartz project and Bravehearts. These presentations showed how other organisations work with children and young people and we were encouraged by their enthusiasm and care for those who are a part of their communities.





Our day outing was a visit to the historic town of Richmond, where we were able to wander the streets to visit places of interest and shop to our hearts delight. We then gathered as a community at St Luke's for a thanksgiving service, at which we remembered those members of GFS who had passed through this life to eternal rest during the last three years. We placed a leaf for each person on a beautiful quilt to honour and remember them. This quilt was designed by GFS Melbourne, representing the tree of life.

On our final day of council, we braved the Salamanca Markets on Saturday morning and then together enjoyed an hour and a half cruise on the harbour, in a ferry that originally worked in Lake Macquarie, at Rathmines during WWII.

After the cruise, we went to St David's Cathedral for our closing service. It was at this service that the National Executive was commissioned.

A very big "Thank You" to Julie and her team from GFS Tasmania for such wonderful hospitality and marvellous organisation. We truly enjoyed our time in Tasmania as the GFS family.



### Quote of the day...

As we arrived in Richmond and passed by this sign on the bus it was heard to be said

"we could stop here ..."

## Our GFS World Project ...

We remember the victims of the Tsunami in Japan four years ago.



We remember the souls of the departed, we remember those who still grieve and we remember those who have been displaced and trying to build a new life.

We particularly remember and seek your support for the current GFS World Project which is to support GFS in Japan in their program to assist Tsunami victims.



After careful evaluation of the survivors' needs, GFS Japan launched two projects.

- 1) They provided sewing machines to women's groups in the affected areas.
- 2) They volunteer monthly at the Tsukishima Kids' Day

OBJECTIVES for the next 3 years, 2014-17:

- 1) To evaluate the ongoing needs of the Sewing Machine Project and to supply sewing machines, fabric, thread, and other sewing notions where there is a critical need.
- 2) To assist the women of the Sewing Machine Project to market their handiwork.
- 3) To continue to support the monthly Tsukishima Kids' Day with refreshment and activities.

The projected cost is \$US20,000.

We send our love and prayers to all members of GFS Japan and assure them of our support for their wonderful project.

## Can you design a new World Logo???

Competition participants will submit logo designs to represent GFS worldwide.

The winning design will become the official logo for GFS World activities and events.

The logo should capture the key message:  
**"We are a worldwide Christian organisation."**

For further details, please contact your Diocesan Chairman or visit GFS World website.

## News from GFS Zambia ...

Judith and Beatrice, GFS Zambia, visited Our Rainbow House.

Judith is the National President of GFS Zambia. The school was honoured to have them visit.

Beatrice has accepted an invitation to be a member of the Parents, Guardians and Friends Association and it is hoped that this partnership will be most beneficial for GFS Zambia and Our Rainbow House.

What a wonderful example of community partnership!

## From June Hillier

- ◆ I was really pleased to receive my Australian Chairman's Badge and the recognition of my time as Australian Chairman. However, I need to say a big thank you to everyone who supported me during that time, and bless every one of you for that support. In particular I want to thank and give recognition to Janice Doyle. Jan and I have forged a great friendship over the years mostly through our involvement with GFS. Jan has always supported me, and I am most grateful for that support, and I bless her for all the support she gave me. May the Lord bless you Gail, and may you be blessed with all the support you need as Australian GFS Chairman.
- ◆ I spoke at Australian Council about the visit Michael and I made to Fflad-y-Brenin, during GFS World Council in Wales. The book that I read following up that visit is called '**The Grace Outpouring** -becoming a people of blessing' and was written by Roy Godwin and Dave Roberts. The CD set I referred to that Michael used in our Parish is called 'A Simple Guide to Establishing a Local House of Prayer' by Roy Godwin from the Ffald-Y-Brenin Christian Retreat Centre and House of Prayer. Their website is [www.ffald-y-brenin.org](http://www.ffald-y-brenin.org). As I said this is something that you need to read/listen to, and then sit with and wait for the prompts from the Lord, as to how to use in your situation.



**The Ffald-y-Brenin Retreat Centre**

### Prayer Points ...

- ◆ GFS Solomons and the newly established GFS branches in Vanuatu, as they begin recovering from Cyclone Pam
- ◆ Jacqui Keily, GFS Rockhampton as she continues her recovery (Jacqui send her thanks for the greetings sent home with Pam Guy from Hobart)
- ◆ Val Gribble as she goes to PNG
- ◆ Deb Wadeson as she takes up the position of GFS Melbourne Chairman
- ◆ GFS Japan as they continue to work with the tsunami survivors
- ◆ All GFS members and branches as we begin a new year

## National Executive

Gail Orchard  
Chairman

248 Anderson Drive, Beresfield NSW 2322  
ddglo@bigpond.com  
0413 614 247

Canon Sonia Roulston  
Chaplain  
soniaroulston@bigpond.com

Rev'd Cheryl Selvage  
Vice Chairman  
olytrans@hotmail.com

Noeleen Stewart  
Treasurer  
gfsaust.treasurer@bigpond.com

Val Gribble  
valgribble1@bigpong.com

Helen Petering  
hepeter@tpg.com.au

Marj Wellings  
marjrhys@me.com

Tegan Hudson  
Junior Delegate  
teghuds@gmail.com

Nicole Baldwin  
Secretary  
PO Box 19, Morpeth NSW 2321  
nikalee412@gmail.com  
0488 155 586



*Wishing you all a Blessed,  
Happy and Holy Easter.*



*May God's love surround you and all those  
whom you love this Easter Season  
and throughout the year*

## From the Editor ...

The preferred way of delivering this Newsletter is by email. Please advise Nicole of your correct email address. We will post the Newsletter to all whom we do not have an email address for.

The next Newsletter is due to be published at the end of May. Please send any contributions to Nicole by 15th May for inclusion.

Your feedback on our Newsletter is welcomed and appreciated.