



Rev. Jackie Stoneman,
Director of Studies

a word from Jackie

Dear Friend,

Sometimes I can't believe that God has allowed me the privilege of ministering at Mary Andrews College.

Each year I meet women who are responding to the love that God has shown to them in Jesus by wanting to be equipped to share that love with others in the best way possible.

I meet people who have decided to take the risk of coming and using the grey cells again and look at God's word in a deeper way. There are people like Ann, whose inspirational story you can read on page 1, who want to learn more about listening to others and what it means to really care in situations that are difficult.

There are people who are intentional about making their lives available for God to use to bring the Gospel to others in word and deed. You will meet two such people in this newsletter. Their life circumstances are very different but their heart's motivation is the same – to serve Jesus and His world.

In October our new Course Brochure will be available for courses for next year, and I want to encourage you to think and pray seriously about whether God wants you to do a subject in one of our flexible and supportive courses.

Perhaps there are women in your life or your church who you think would benefit from some time to develop their knowledge and skills. When we send you the new Course Brochure next month we will be including two brochures, and it is our hope and prayer that you would invite a loved one in your life to do a course with you in 2012.

Of course, it's not long now until Christmas. You could always ask for a Mary Andrews College subject for Christmas or give one to someone else! Maybe you or one of your friends will be one of the women that I will meet who will again make me thank God for the work that He is doing in and through His people.

As always, thank you for your enduring faithfulness to support Mary Andrews College through your gifts and prayers. God is using you to help so many women become women of influence.

May He bless you!

Jackie Stoneman

Rev. Jackie Stoneman
Director of Studies
Mary Andrews College

Come and see us!

Our popular Open Days are back! Over the summer we will be holding three Open Days at our city campus, 10am to 1pm on Wednesday 2nd Nov and Thursday 17th Nov, and the Tuesday 17th January 2012.

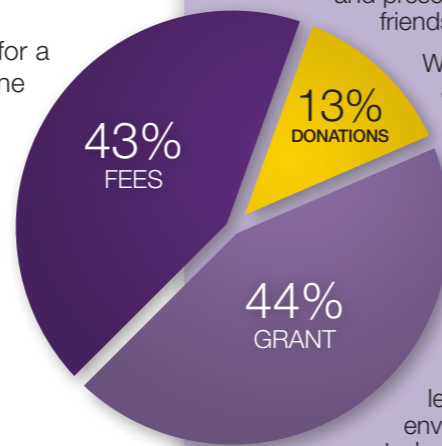
But wait, there's more! This year, we are taking our Open Day show on the road to Emu Plains. Come and ask all the questions you want about the College and its courses at St Paul's Anglican Church, Short St, Emu Plains, 10am to 1pm, Mon 14th Nov.

Please RSVP on (02) 9284 1470 to register for these free, fun events!

How is Mary Andrews College Funded?

People often ask us how the College is funded. We are always happy to talk about these things when people enquire, but we thought it would be a good idea to let everyone know!

The College is funded from three sources: course fees, a grant and your donations. The course fees are the money our students pay to do each course. The grant comes from our generous parent organisation Anglican Deaconess Ministries. Finally, our donations come from you, our students past and present, and other good friends of the College.



We are always humbled and grateful for the generous way in which you support us and want to thank you for recently helping us to complete the funding for Jill McGillvray's position.

We want to continue to provide the best possible teachers, learning tools and environment for all our students so that our task of equipping women to serve Christ may go ahead unhindered. It is due to your continued generosity, encouragement and support that, with God's help, we can do so.



in

Touch

Spring 2011

women of influence through a ministry of care



“We can still be of great use, no matter how old we are”

How your support is helping women like Ann impact others

Most 79-year-olds who have led an active and productive life might be tempted to sit down, rest their feet and let everyone else get on with it. But not Ann Walker. This spry 79-year-old has found a new outlet for her desire to serve God right under her nose... the retirement village where she now lives!

After completing some short courses with Mary Andrews College 12 years ago, Ann decided the time was right to take another look at study. “I wanted some stimulation for myself, brain-wise, but also I was really interested in what was going on in the church and felt that there was a great need, particularly for pastoral

“
... I was really interested in what was going on in the church and felt that there was a great need, particularly for pastoral care, but also for women in the church to be educated.”
”

care, but also for women in the church to be educated.” So Ann signed up for the Ministry with Seniors course at Mary Andrews College. She recently shared...

“I've learned three things. I have learned a lot about what God says about ageing. It's made me very aware of what the Bible says about ageing and how we can still be of great use, no matter how old we are. The second thing is that it's made me look at my stage of life and what I need to do to put my own life in order.

“Finally, it's made me aware of what I hope to be able to do in the retirement village where I live now. There are 33 people in the ...

continued on page 2

Mary Andrews College
Level 1 St Andrew's House
464-480 Kent St
Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: (02) 9284 1470
Fax: (02) 9261 2864
www.mac.edu.au

in this issue

Open Day opens ministry door for busy mum of two

Oasis Conference 2011 feeds women spiritually and mentally

A word from Jackie



Ann's witness in her village is a testament to her desire to serve God at her age and stage of life.

“We can still be of great use, no matter how old we are”

continued from page 1

...village, and there's also a hostel attached with about 50 residents.

“The chaplain at the village said he had found little response from the independent living people at all. He made contact with people, but I've got to know them. The people have got to know me first as a person. They all know I'm a Christian, that I go to church, and where I'm coming from. That's made it possible to talk to people and to ask if they would like to have some Christian fellowship.

**“
We have now got nine people who will come to a Christian fellowship once a week!
”**

“There are some people who have been very hurt by the church at different times, and also, there are people who really have never had any contact with any religion at all. We have now got nine people who will come to a Christian fellowship once a week!”

Ann's witness in her village is a testament to her desire to serve God at her age and stage of life. And it's a testimony of how God uses your support of Mary Andrews College to equip women of all ages and stages to do just what Ann is doing... to proclaim Christ's love to all our neighbours. Thank you for your ongoing gifts and prayers to equip women of influence like Ann!

Oasis Conference 2011 feeds women spiritually and mentally



What a special weekend Oasis 2011 was! Nearly 350 women gathered together to reflect on *Who Cares? Pastoral Care...* It's not just a bandaid solution. The feedback has been fantastic. One new person to Oasis summed it up perfectly:

“I had no idea what to expect at the conference, but I was really impressed by the professional organisation, the Christ-centred music, the availability of prayer sessions and the quality of the speakers (both the main talks

and the workshops). I felt welcomed and included. I was spiritually fed and inspired for the pastoral care sector of my church. The opportunity to delve in to the book of Ephesians and explore a topic that affects every person in a supportive environment was truly life-changing.”

Attendees appreciated the uniqueness of this weekend – a chance to really have an ‘oasis’ and build the weekend to be as busy or relaxing as they needed.

There were 14 workshops to choose from, studies in Ephesians from the perspective of God's care, a concert by singer/songwriter Nicky Chiswell and a chance to support other people in need in the Northern Territory and Myanmar.

We collected clothes for an Op Shop in the Northern Territory and \$8,500 was given to

sponsor Christian women in Myanmar to be able to go on their own Oasis conference later in the year and learn more of God's word.

Next year (22-24 June), Oasis will have Dr Sharon Morris May as the main speaker. Sharon is the daughter of Arch Hart who is well known to many Sydney clergy and people for his helpful seminars and books.

Sharon has a doctorate in marriage and family counselling and has written “Safe Haven Marriage” and “How to argue so your spouse will listen”. Sharon will speak on relationships generally next year and it will be another opportunity for us to reflect on how God's word applies to something that is relevant to all of us – whether we are married or single.

CD's from this year's conference are available for \$25. Just give us a ring on (02) 9284 1470 to place an order or tick the box on the reply form. Thank you for helping make this year's Oasis such a success through your gifts and prayers!

**“
I had no idea what to expect at the conference, but I was really impressed...
”**

Open Day opens ministry door for busy mum of two

It was a conversation with her physiotherapist that led Karen Lee, a busy mother of two from the beautiful town of Blaxland, to the Mary Andrews College website. And it took only a short time to decide that the Advanced Diploma of Theology was just the sort of qualification she was looking for! A visit to the College Open Day only confirmed her impression.

“Lots of College people were there, and it was clear that they were very keen on developing women,” Karen recently shared. “It came across strongly that it was going to be a supportive study environment, and that they understood the needs of women.”

One of those needs is to fit in with family lifestyle. Karen continued, “It is great that the lectures are held between ten and one o'clock. I can get from Penrith into the city and be in time for the lectures, and make it back in time to collect the children from school.” Karen hopes to use her Advanced Diploma to find paid ministry work with women or children.

With more Open Days coming up at College (see dates on page 4), it is a good time to think about someone amongst your friends who – like Karen – will only benefit from everything Mary Andrews College has to offer. Perhaps there's a course offering for you as well!



Karen is enjoying the supportive and flexible study environment at Mary Andrews College.



Conference attendees gave \$8,500 to sponsor Christian women in Myanmar to be able to go on their own 'Oasis' conference later in the year.