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Kids Plus +

**NETWORKING**

**GIPPSLAND DIOCESE**

**Report to Synod 2017**

The Gippsland GFS Kidsplus+ network exists to provide a tool through which we (as a diocesan body) can exchange ideas, encourage, enable or provide activities which supplement parish based ministries. Many Gippsland parishes have developed diverse models of ministry, meeting local needs. Together we try to develop meaningful, relevant, achievable goals, and importantly aim to encourage and support the leaders of parish and diocesan ministries.

Within Gippsland ‘s GFS Kidsplus+ Network the” GFS Executive “acts as a conduit through our membership of the world-wide Girl’s Friendly Society and also our National GFS Australian body which has adapted for both male and female participation, children’s and adult ministries. Such membership offers resources, training, exposure and communication which all challenge us to keep abreast of current issues and ministry opportunities. Despite these diverse global perspectives,***GFS in a diocese operates with permission from and entirely under the jurisdiction of its local diocese. This has been the case here in Gippsland as our diocese has supported such ministry for over 130 years.***

At our **130th celebration & State Day at the Summit,** Trafalgar we welcomed representatives from Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne & Ballarat dioceses. As we celebrated the old, we were delighted with the participation of members of emerging new ministries with affiliated parish groups which also gave them the opportunity to experience the wider GFS community.

We thank Bishop Kay for the opportunity to hold our **World Day of Prayer service and Olde Time** **Rally** in the perfect setting of Bishopscourt. This also provided a unique experience for our teenage and young adult participants, and brought back many happy memories for our more senior guests.

3 adults and two 16 year olds were privileged to attend **GFS midterm conference in Adelaide.** Worship services, Keynote speakers, leader development workshops provided exposure to many new models of ministry being offered throughout Australia. These broader opportunities, together with our more local events, are examples of how we believe the GFS Kids Plus+ structure can support, nourish, equip and encourage us in our Christian lives and ministry

Our afternoon at Stratford and day at Bishopscourt were opportunities to focus on our **adult** **ministries for reunion and outreach and fellowship purposes.**

Ministry to and with adults includes our annual **Thanksgiving service** and we thank Reverend David Head and the Morwell Parish for their hospitality in 2016. Regular outings occur throughout the year.

**Monthly prayer diaries** are available and through these groups members and affiliates can be informed of ongoing GFS projects and mission work, both at Australian and World levels.

We thank the Diocese for very generous financial support towards the 130th celebrations and the forthcoming **GFS World Council, being held in Perth WA July 2017.** This support enabled us to cover the cost of “The Summit” and subsidised other associated activities.

It is a pleasure and an honour that Gippsland member **Abuok Majuk was selected as the Australian Junior delegate** to this conference and she currently holds a position on the GFS Australian Executive.

CHAIRMAN: CAROL JOHNSTONE