

Jean Crewther

Born 27 October 1917 Kyneton, Victoria

Died 14 October 2011

Education Melbourne Teachers College
Academic achievements:
Honours Mathematics, Physics in year 12
Primary Teacher's Certificate
Pure Mathematics I and II
Science Degree, French

Family Married Bill Mee January 1943



There are many words to describe Jean Crewther without capturing the whole woman. She was determined, energetic, proud, a fighter for justice, a theologian, a Christian lay preacher, a continual learner and student, an educator.

Jean was born into a Christian family and was nurtured into the faith from birth. From an early age she questioned the concept of God as Father. The God presented to her from the pulpit and in life was a God who related to the culture of 2,000 years ago and confused her. She read the Bible from cover to cover and finally found that she was particularly attracted to the Gospels. The fact that Jesus spoke to women of all races and classes with love and understanding set him apart.

Jean's career encompassed:

Student Teacher to the small country town of Lancefield at age 17

Student Teacher, Kyneton High School age 18

Teacher at Boort Higher Elementary School (years 7-10)

Leongatha High School (although once Jean married she had to resign from the department and work as a temporary teacher on four-fifths of a male salary)

Director of Portland Kindergarten and following a long struggle for equality in the education field Jean became Principal of the Greenwood High School in 1976. This was a huge step forward personally and for female teachers in particular. Jean Crewther became a major player in the Victorian Teachers Union and the Victorian Secondary Teachers Union.

In 1996 Jean Crewther wrote and published *My God is Logical*, a book about her life.

Jean Crewther's involvement with ACW:

- elected Committee Member ACW Victorian Unit 1993-94
- Social Justice Convener 1995-2000; Jean was forceful in making known the plight of exploited migrant clothing workers who were sewing for a pittance in their own homes for extremely long hours whilst supplying their own sewing machine and cottons. Public demonstrations and continual writing to clothing firms was a hallmark of her work within ACW.
- Treasurer 2005/7
- ACW Rep to NCW 1997

In our 58th Annual Report, President, Barbara Lacy said "Mrs Jean Crewther, our first Social Justice Convener, has retired after five years in this position. Jean has kept us up to date with justice issues, and we have welcomed the opportunity to work ecumenically in these areas. We are pleased we will still have Jean's energy, push and vision as she continues as one of our delegates to the National Council of Women Victoria."

Victorian State Unit ACW