

## Tricia Graham's Story - October 2009



Mission for Tricia Graham is essentially helping other people who are less fortunate. She feels that ABM looks after the whole person, "feeding the body and soul" with their community development and church programs. Tricia has been the President of ABM's National Auxiliary since July 2006 and will be finishing her term next year when the Auxiliary celebrates its centenary. She first started at ABM in 1992 as the Auxiliary's National Secretary, a position which she held until 1997. In 2002 she was appointed President of the Sydney Auxiliary. Tricia is currently a member of the Sydney Committee and has attended St James' Church, King St Sydney since 1974.

She was born in Burwood, New South Wales. During WWII, her father served in the army so Tricia, her mother and brother lived with her Grandparents in Auburn until the end of the war. This was where they grew up and attended St Thomas' Church. Her sister was born after her father returned from the war.

After Tricia got married, she and Howard relocated to Canberra where they settled into Belconnen for five and a half years. It was a new area. When they returned to Sydney, the local population had grown from 3,000 to 33,000. As the church was new, Anglican services were held in the Aranda School Hall with other church groups meeting in classrooms. Everyone got together at morning tea. The Catholics had built their own school but initially they still participated in the combined church activities, so it became a real community of church goers.

Whilst living in Canberra, Tricia and Howard had two daughters, Maureen and Suzanne. After returning to Sydney, they had Benjamin and Stephen. They now have one grandson with their daughter Maureen, expecting another baby in December.

Tricia and Howard spent several years abroad, working for the United Church of the Solomon Islands on behalf of the National Council of Churches in Australia in 1998. Howard was appointed the General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea from 1999 to 2002. Tricia describes these experiences as different but interesting, especially seeing the results of ABM projects such as water and literacy.

During her years in the Auxiliary, Tricia has seen many changes. Technological advances have improved and made communication easier. Computers replaced typewriters, emails replaced letters and now teleconferences mean not having to fly people out for the Executive meetings.

However, Tricia derives the most satisfaction in meeting up with other National Council members, getting to know one another, and having the opportunity to meet with representatives from local and overseas churches.

Tricia will miss the position of Auxiliary President but she will continue to be part of the Auxiliary although in a somewhat more relaxed mode! She thinks that its members have been wonderful, going about raising money and still quietly supporting the organisation for the last 100 years. She feels that the members are passionate, prayerful and want to see ABM continue working for love, hope and justice for the next 100 years (at least!).