**Edition 12** 06/17

# **GFS WORLD NEWSLETTER**



# From the World President

Dear Friends

Our last newsletter. The three years seem to have gone so quickly. We have

managed to keep to our commitment of four newsletters a year and I thank everyone for their contributions. Our newsletter is sent to so many countries and I know that so many people send it on to others. Our ministry for Our Lord through GFS is now so varied and we should feel proud of all that is done through GFS around the world.



We don't always receive acknowledgement, particularly from some of our Bishops and Clergy but we know what we have done and are doing to bring others to Christ and to serve others through our motto.

I will be seeing so many of you next month as we gather in Perth, Western Australia, for our 22<sup>nd</sup> World Council. We were to welcome four new countries and their delegates but sadly visas have been refused for two of these African countries and we are waiting for the delegate from the third country to receive a decision on her visa application. Our fourth country in Latin America will be represented. It will be my intention to propose that the four countries are admitted as full members of the World Council even if their delegates are not present.

Thank you all for your support during my three years as World President. The time has gone so quickly. It has been a privilege for me to serve GFS in this way. I have received so many blessings through visits to a number of countries and to your regular communication to and from.

So now I hand over to Thembeka Pama of South Africa. We will all be praying for her as she is commissioned at the end of World Council together with a number of her team. A new World team, a new Theme, a new Logo, how exciting. Thembeka will advise you of the timeframes for her newsletter.

So much tragedy has occurred in our world since the last newsletter. May we continue to support each other and to pray for an end to the violence that seems to be engulfing our world.

May God bless each of you in Our Lord's ministry. You will all continue to be in my prayers.

# Val



#### FROM THE WORLD CHAPLAIN

#### CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Last month (April), I was physically confronted and discouraged by some of my parishioners from my outstation Chapel centre from celebrating a funeral Service for a youth who was chopped to death by some angry family members of whose daughter was believed to have been raped by the deceased.

Before vesting myself, I calmly explained and encouraged everyone present there that I was there present as a friend and a pastor to everyone and not as an enemy. And that I was there present among them only to do my duty as an Ordained man of God for what God would require of me regarding the "soul" of every person. That it is my responsibility to make sure that every human soul that departs- both from the good and bad person alike is reverently presented to God the creator because the soul is a precious gift from God which He had given to all mankind and it was for these very souls that He (God) sent His Son to redeem it from every sin and bandage of this world.

Though some of those present for the Service were still bogged down with anger and frustration, I courageously went ahead and celebrated the funeral Service.

After a very quiet funeral Service, frustration and anger gave way and the fellowship aftermath was an overwhelming one as many who had witnessed it had afterward expressed with great sympathy.

In different life situations and in every individual walk of life, so many people look upon those who are in trouble as a burden that is irksome but as Christians we are encouraged to believe that it is a privilege to be able to help those less fortunate than ourselves. It is a privilege because our Lord himself told us that when we help those who are in trouble or in need, then we are really helping and serving Him

We also believe that what we give away we keep but that we really lose the things we keep ourselves. Because of this, Christians of all ages have been really grateful when they were allowed the opportunity and the privilege of helping others.

And the Girls Friendly Society Ministry throughout the World over the many years is no exception among all other Christian Ministry Organizations and Individuals grasping these opportunities and privileges of Serving others and God in our world.

However, at this time of the year, I would like to thank the GFS in general for allowing me to be part of you in the World Team contributing in a very little way I could in "Serving through GFS" in fulfilling the Motto of our Organization.

And finally, I also thank all our GFS World Team members at this time of the year too for working together and for all their individual commitments in this our term. We all look forward to meeting each other in our soon coming World Council in Perth where we will share our achievements, joys, difficulties and look forward into the future for new and God driven opportunities for our Ministry through the GFS in the years to come.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon and with much love and prayers

Fr Isaiah Masida (World Chaplain)



# FROM THE ASSISTANT WORLD CHAPLAIN

#### And the Spirit moves......

We're almost there, well it's almost about to begin. I know some have already begun their travel to be at World Council and others who are still working desperately with Government officials to get delegates and members here. What a fitting time to be on the cusp of all this.

Pentecost marks the end of the fifty days of Easter and what is often thought of as the Birthday of the Church. I hope all of you are feeling the movement of the Spirit which Jesus promised to his disciples when He was preparing to return to his Father.

We are those disciples too, promised the presence of the Holy Spirit with us, when, through the waters of Baptism, we are made one in Christ. When I come to a GFS World Council it is a strong and blessed reminder for me of the World Wide Church to which I belong. I hope it is for you also. When I am at World Council it is easy for me to connect with my sisters and brothers in Christ and be aware of the gift we share, regardless of our ethnicity, language, or even skin colour. Pentecost is a powerful reminder that all Christians are united in their faith and a great time to reflect on what might move us in serving God.

I have been in contact with some of you about assisting with leading Bible Study groups or worship services at the Council. I trust and pray you have felt stirred by the Spirit to bring inspiration to all those who will attend.

I am excited, ready to be transformed with you, as we share World Council in 2017 in Perth, Australia. I give thanks for all who have been working so hard to make all the preparations come together and I pray God will watch over each of us as we travel to this event, then I pray the Holy Spirit will fill us, as we move and breath and interact with each other as children of Christ in GFS.

See you in Perth!

Love and prayers,

Cheryl

(The Rev'd Canon Cheryl Selvage)

Assistant World Chaplain.



# **NEWS ABOUT WORLD COUNCIL 2017**

# **Last minute reminders!!!!**

- Bring your country banners
- Bring your traditional outfits
- Bring an umbrella
- Bring your Bible
- Bring your medical information form in a sealed named envelope
- Bring your country report (if you are presenting power point or other media) on a USB stick.
- Remember you have 10 minutes for your report.
- Do read all the documents that have been sent to your country delegates for the business sessions.
- Clergy bring your alb and stole please.

The weather is forecast to be

On most days a minimum of 9-10 c to maximum of 17-20c Or 48-50 f to maximum of 63-68 f

To me that is COLD as it will be for those from the tropical countries.

Sadly nine people from African countries may not be able to attend because of visa problems. This is so disappointing to us, particularly as three of those countries are new countries since last council.

# Australia is looking forward to welcoming you!





### WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND OUR GFS WORLD?

### **GFS NEW ZEALAND**

Hello from New Zealand. At this time of the year autumn is upon us and we are preparing ourselves for winter. Our new scholarship students have settled into their chosen study courses and our older scholarship recipients are either continuing with their studies or graduating from the various universities having completed their study. This year we are looking after 18 students at various Universities in New Zealand.

I had the privilege of attending the graduation ceremony of one of our students who I have been looking after for the past 2 years of her study. Eseta came from a very broken family background and in her younger days was under the care of NZ Social Services. It was through our relationship with Social Services that we met Eseta and chose her as a person who could benefit greatly from receiving a GFS Scholarship. Eseta didn't let us down, she studied hard and graduated with a Batchelor of Arts in Sport and Health Sciences. She would like to use her degree to teach, and has been accepted into Teachers College to study and gain a teacher's certificate.

To attend Eseta's graduation ceremony I drove to Palmerston North, which is a 2 hour drive from Wellington. I met her adopted whanau (family) and it was clear to me that she was much loved and respected by them. She came to this family when a younger member of the family brought her home from school one day. At the time Eseta was much troubled and not getting on with her foster parents, and after some negotiation with Social Services, it was decided to leave her with the new family. She was 15 at the time, and in New Zealand a child who is taken into care by Social Services is under their care until the age of 17 years. The ceremony in the town hall was a happy and noisy event and afterwards the hundreds of students and their lecturers paraded down the Main Street of Palmerston North for afternoon tea in the town square.

I have included a photo of a very happy Eseta and her adopted family.

Helen Allen (President of GFS NZ)



# SERVING THROUGH

# **GFS JAPAN**

#### Greetings from Japan GFS



First of all we would like to inform you about our dear president of Japan GFS ,Ayumi got married on 13 May .They had a wedding party at the Arima onsen hotel where is very famous onsen(hot spring)in Japan.

• Ayumi's wedding picture is here.

On Easter Asako , former president of Japan GFS came to Tokyo from Okinawa.

After the holy misa we had a party and she sang a beautiful Okinawa folk song.

Asako's singing.



Junko and Chizuko visited Korean GFS to celebrate the new Bishop of Korean Anglican Church. They got together with old and new friends of Korea GFS. The first row, the middle is Akiko and next is Mayu. Both are going to attend the coming World Council in Perth. Mayu is the junior delegate of Japan GFS, and Akiko is a high school student. They

really want to have a good friendship with other juniors from other countries. We wish they will have a good day in Perth.

Mayu, Yuka and Haruko joined the bazaar at the church on May 20. accessories were made by junior members for themselves to earn money to go to Australia.

#### **About World Project**

We have something important to tell you about the part of major project of world project.

'Odattebaride' was closed on 31th March 2017. So our sewing machine project in Ishinomaki was over.

We managed to help them but there were only three people remained.

They could not maintain their working group for themselves.

It is because six years had passed from the Tsunami and big earthquakes, and they have less time for getting together.

We believe that they are now deeply involved in their work and/or family matters.

They really thanked GFS World and we promised to keep in touch.

I will explain more about 'Odattebaride in Ishinomaki in my World Project reporting.



We have decided to help the group which spin off from 'Odattebaride' members.

They are planning to have kids camp in Nagano in this summer, so we hopefully can joined and co-work with them. (Ayumi wrote)

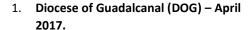
#### **GFS MELANESIA**

The Spirit of GFS Melanesia still hovers daily in the vast waters of the South Pacific inspiring both young and old people, females and males of all walks of life to join or support the work of GFS in Melanesia.

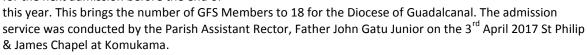
It is therefore the duty of men (GFS Members) to follow up the work of the Holy Spirit and harness the Spiritual Seeds that had been sown and make them become members of GFS. The law of Christ can only be fulfilled by people reaching out to help address the issues that are affecting God's people where they live and to alleviate the poor situation in life by directing/linking help with the relevant authorities and organizations.

GFS Melanesia is indeed growing, may be slowly but steadily, waiting for the right time when all will be well for it to gain its autonomy. I have no doubt and if God, willing it shall be sooner than later, it is something GFS Melanesia looks forward to and Let us keep praying about it.

We have some newly admitted GFS members this year from the following Dioceses.



There were more than 30 candidates of which15 got admitted the rest were not quite ready, preparation would continue for the next admission before the end of





Yandina in the Russell Islands (Lawe Region) is part of the Diocese of Ysabel and there are 34 members already admitted some years ago and I have just managed to get some records. I am to get some photos of the members. There are still some candidates to be admitted and I am liaising closely with Anne Sade who is currently the Regional Leader for more information and photos of the existing members.

# 3. Diocese of Vanuatu and New Caledonia (DOVNC).

There were 17 GFS members admitted in ......this year and according to Edith Willie (MU Worker) there are more wanting to join GFS. I plan to visit them sometimes in the future if all goes well.

#### 4. Diocese of Temuto (DOT).

SERVING THROUGH





In the Diocese of Temotu there are 54 candidates waiting to be admitted. I have sent training materials to the leaders to help them in their training and preparation for admission. I am also sending them a sewing machine and some materials kindly donated by Bev Hendly of St.Mark Casino Parish to help them in their fund raising activities and perhaps sew some uniform for GFS Members. I plan to visit them towards the end of this year to organise their admission.

Betty Kesaka (GFS Coordinator)

# **GFS WALES**

Greetings from a hot and sunny Wales! Summer has arrived - at least for a few days.

I am pleased to report news of two of our young women. Felinfoel branch has had a change of leadership recently. Glenys has taken a step back and Carly-Jo Dawney has taken over as branch leader. Carly-Jo has been a member here since the early days of the branch and went on to help at branch meetings.

Bethan from Penllergaer branch has successfully gained the young leaders qualification. Both have had the support and encouragement of experienced leaders who are willing to help the next generation.

Our branches will be finishing soon for the summer holidays. Before they do two branches will be enjoying a day out at Folly Farm - we hope the weather will be kind to us!

Soon it will be time for the six members from Wales to pack our bags and make the journey to Australia for World Council. We are looking forward to catching up with friends and making new ones. We are holding the World Team in our prayers as they make the final arrangements and prepare to welcome the world.

Catriona (Welsh President)

# **GFS KENYA**

The first photo is for GFS Senior members , being confirmed as GFS Trainers trainers for Malindi Diocese. In the photo at far end on right is the leader Mrs Timina Muoki for Malindi Diocese and at right side is Veronica Mutua GFS - Chairlady ,



The other two photos are junior GFS members who have been confirmed in GFS family. The two members in photo with our Bishop -( The Right Rev. Bishop Kalu ) are - on right Mrs Isabella Mwamburi - Trainer and left Mrs Veronica Mutua - GFS Chairlady.

Malindi is a new Diocese and this is their first time to have their confirmation





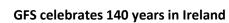
### **GFS USA**

The 140th celebration of GFS in USA and 110rh celebration of GFS in Los Angeles was a beautiful day! We celebrated on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at St. John's Pro-Cathedral in Los Angeles with bishop coadjutor elect John Taylor celebrating. Girls, leaders and parents from Hesperia, Upland, Beaumont, Whittier, Los Angeles, Gardena, Costa Mesa, Buena Park, Glendora, and Covina had a grand time together!



GFS celebrates anniversary at festive Eucharist
The Girls Friendly Society of the Diocese of Los Angeles celebrated the international organization's 140th
year of ministry (and 110th year in the diocese) at a service and luncheon at St. John's ProCathedral in Los
Angeles on May 20. Clockwise from top left: GFS members wait to process into the procathedral; Bishop
Coadjutor-elect John Taylor celebrates the Eucharist, assisted by Deacon Jamie Hammons and Dean Mark
Kowalewski; A leader helps girls with crafts during the luncheon; GFS members take part in a reading. Girls,
leaders and parents attended from congregations in Beaumont, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Covina, Gardena,
Glendora, Hesperia, Los Angeles, Upland and Whittier.

# **GFS IRELAND**





Branches and Dioceses mark the occasion in various ways and it will be nice to accumulate information on these festivities in time.

At All-Ireland level a Service of Celebration was held in Christ Church, Bray, Co Wicklow on 21<sup>st</sup> May; Bray being the place where GFS laid its roots in 1877. The Service was compiled and conducted by our Central Chaplain Rev'd Tanya Woods, assisted by Rev'd Martin O'Kelly, Curate of Christ Church. Rev'd Janice Aiton, our former Chaplain, was the special Preacher. She spoke about good and bad decisions and with props made her topic very real for youngsters and indeed for older folk.

The Banner procession was a sight to beholden. Bray Banner carried by Ann Mulligan, led all the banners.

Bray branch has been closed for some time and Ann organized this piece of history. Emila Corrigan, well known to us all carried the All-Ireland Banner, followed by ladies with their Diocesan Banners. These were displayed within the Chancel. The branch Banners completed



the procession and were arrayed elsewhere in the church.

During the Service Rev'd Tanya commissioned Tamara McKenzie as Junior Delegate to the 2017 World Council in Australia and me as Senior Delegate. Girls and Leaders led the congregation in prayer, read the Lessons, lifted the collection and helped with other duties. Music was by Belturbet Praise Band, the hymns were lively and the service was uplifting. Archbishop Michael Jackson spoke encouragingly about the mission of GFS and wished the Society God's blessing. I as Central President gave a short appreciation. Refreshments followed the service. It was lovely to speak with Guests, Clergy, Members, Past Officers and Friends.

Each member is being given a Celebration Card to have as a 'keep-sake' for time to come. The theme for this wonderful occasion was "Yesterday, Today and Forever". We have had 140 fruitful years of "Yesterday" and with God's help "Today and Forever" will be equally fruitful.

My message to Members: "Appreciate our inheritance
Remain focused in our Ministry
Pray that we may lead together
By Friendship, Respect and Faith"

The story of GFS in Ireland officially began on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1877 when Viscountess Powerscourt, Viscountess Monck, Mrs La Touche, Rev'd J.A. Cross (Secretary) and Rev'd J.G. Scott, Rector met in the Royal Marine Hotel, Bray. Seventeen Working Associates were appointed with five more Associates added at a later date. GFS here soon became a respected Society, greatly supported by Bishops and Clergy, with families appreciating the fact that GFS was a guiding factor in the lives of females of all ages. The first Central President was Countess of Meath from Killruddery



Estate, Bray. We must be forever grateful to the Countess and the people involved at the time for investing so much time, energy and indeed finance to get the Society up and running.

#### Sylvia Quinn.

Photo No. 1 = includes the Banner Procession

No 2 = After Commissioning - Tamara McKenzie Junior Delegate, with her Central, Diocesan + Branch Presidents; Sylvia Quinn (Sen. Del), Jennifer Norris + Irene Walker.

### **GFS SRI LANKA**





GFS Sri Lanka Executive Council with GFS World President

<u>Visit of GFS World President</u> - May 3-9, 2017

Our GFS was happy and proud to receive a short visit (5 full days!) from the World President, a historic one indeed. We thank her for coming all the way to our tiny island, in spite of her work in preparation for the World Council.

Our GFS arranged a special welcome with traditional dancers and drummer ceremonially leading her into the GFS Hall. Ven. Chrisantha Mendis our Chaplain, Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, former Chaplain and Rev. Sr. Chandrani

Peiris, Sister Superior of the Sisters of St.

Margaret, Sri Lanka were present.

Mrs. Gribble addressed the gathering of members and guests and cut the Welcome cake. She then presented the winners of our Craft Competition with their prizes. Three past GFS hostellers voiced their gratitude to the GFS for providing them with a safe haven when they first came to the city for work and for the opportunities to build their careers and go up in life. The programme ended with cultural dance items and a song by the *Pink Pearls*.

We were glad to take Mrs Gribble to the central hills and show her our world-famous scenery and of course, the making of the world's best tea! She visited a model village in Colombo, laid out with traditionally built houses displaying the living style of villagers and was able to sample some of our traditional sweetmeats.

She met the Bishop of our Diocese, visited our Cathedral and attended Sunday service at St. Michael's Church. One

afternoon, Executive Council members had an opportunity to meet and talk to her over High Tea at a colonial style Hotel. We also showed her around the city of Colombo.

It was a thrill to conduct our World President around our 94 year old headquarters and especially our wonderful Hall! She also visited our Hostel which is now 60 years and in need of repair. We expressed our hope of extending the present facilities and putting up a new building, due to increasing demand for such accommodation. She met with the ladies of our craft class too.

#### Craft Competition for Sunday School girls - March 11, 2017

20 teams of 5 girls each were given a variety of items to be used creatively to illustrate a particular Bible story. Within the hour, beautiful creations began emerging from the odds and ends, bits and pieces.

Through this craft competition, the GFS placed emphasis on the value of recycling - using ordinary everyday items and transforming them into beautiful and useful creations. This was The Pink Pearls at the Welcome to the GFS World compared to the manner in which God transforms us.

President

100 girls from several churches in the Colombo Diocese (Senior and Junior categories) participated. The three judges had a hard time selecting the winners.

#### Flood and landslides - May 2017

As of 4 June, a total of 717,622 people have been affected and over 200 have died, according to the Disaster Management Centre. Thank you to friends worldwide for your love, concern and prayers.

From Val: Thank you Sri Lanka for hosting me for a five day visit. I was able to see so much of GFS in action in Sri Lanka. They have a very proud history and they are working hard to build up their membership again. It was good to see the GFS Hall – we all know so much about it and to meet the staff. A group of ladies were working hard on beautiful craft on my first visit. A elderly GFS member comes to the Hall every week to teach interested ladies some very beautiful handwork.

I visited the Hostel which is about to celebrate 60 years. So many young women have stayed here – young women from the country who are provided with safe accommodation when they have work in Colombo.

We remember the people of Sri Lanka as they once again face the tragedy of flooding with so many deaths and so many affected.

As my last overseas visit as World President it was like all the others, so full of friendship and action, such a strong commitment to GFS and all it means to us.



**Craft Morning in GFS Hall** 



Drinking Ceylon Tea together on our day out to Kandy

# Prayer thoughts for June 2017

# Week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

We give thanks for the recent celebrations of 140 years of GFS in the Diocese of Los Angeles in USA and 160 years in Ireland. We celebrate the founders of GFS in these countries and the many women who have inspired generations of girls and women to further develop their faith and relationship with God. We remember Mary Elizabeth Townsend's vision as she started off our organisation in 1875.

# Week beginning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June

We pray for the World Team who are busy working on the planning and last-minute organisation. We ask you to pray for clarity of thought and smooth operations as these final details are considered. Please pray especially for Father Isaiah who has had some sad news in his family with the passing of a close family member. We send our condolences at this sad time.

# Week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June

We pray for those still seeking visas for travel to our World Council. We pray for a smooth clearing of the way to have visas issued in time for travel. We give thanks for those visas already organised and for those who have helped to make sure we can have many countries represented. We pray for those making their first visit to a World council and that they will be looking forward to their time with excited anticipation.

# Week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June

We pray for the many Delegates who will represent their country during the World Council. We especially pray for the Junior Delegates who bring a hope for the future on their shoulders. We

pray for clear thinking as they make their preparations and for the discussions that will be held during the business sessions.





# Prayer thoughts for July 2017

# Week beginning Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

As many people make their final preparations to travel to Perth in Australia, we pray for their safety in travel. We pray for flights that arrive safely and on time. We pray for those who will meet and greet the visitors who arrive wearily on our shores. We pray for families left at home as we leave and for those who continue to care for their needs.

# Week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July

We pray for the very beginning of our World Council. We pray that we will be truly aware of God's Holy Spirit moving amongst the group to unite us with a spirit of love and friendship, casting aside our differences and worries. We pray for a covering of safety and good health and determination to succeed in our care of each other. We pray that we might use Val's theme to serve each other with humility and love through service in GFS.

## Week beginning Monday 17th July

We pray for a time to develop new friendships, to renew old ones and to strengthen our resolve to grow GFS in our many countries. As we reflect upon our time together may we remember the times of laughter and prayers, worship and wonder, trials, and successes to share with our GFS in our home countries. We pray for all our endings and new beginnings knowing that this is God's way for our lives.

# Week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July

We pray for a bountiful and loving support to surround our new World President, Thembeka, as she commences her term of office. We pray for the new team who are working with Thembeka in South African GFS and for a united group to share her vision for the next three years.





# Prayer thoughts for August 2017

# Week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August

We pray for the GFS in Southern Africa. We ask that this three years ahead may see a time of growth, of unity, of love for each other as GFS is thrust into the spotlight. We ask for everyone who meets a GFS member to want to live like them as they live out their motto to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

# Week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August

As we welcomed the opportunity to support the GFS in Japan who assisted the Tsunami victims, we pray that we will once again put our wholehearted support behind the next World Project. We pray for an abundance of funding, a greater knowledge of the needs represented through the project. We pray for those who will work in their country to ensure that project will flourish.

# Week beginning Monday 21st August

We look further ahead from World Council in 2020 to the next country offering to host the World Council and provide a woman ready to lead this organisation as its President. We thank God for those willing to commit to this role and for God's equipping of them in this task.

# Week beginning Monday 28th August

We pray for God's richest blessing on ordinary GFS members – our friends and family who meet week by week, faithfully fulfilling their call to be leaders, helpers, friends, and supporters. We give thanks for their dedication, their example to inspire and encourage each of us. For our wonderful GFS we give you thanks O Lord.



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Please note this is a different address

and mobile

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GFS World theme Prayer 2014-2017

Gracious Lord, guide our footsteps of faith that we might walk in your grace and wisdom as we act to serve you. Rekindle afresh in us our spiritual gifts that we might transform ourselves and others, serving the whole body of Christ through GFS. Make us worthy of our calling to service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Donations, Gifts or payment of fees, etc., can be made by telegraphic transfer to:

**Account Name: GFS World Account** 

ANZ Bank, Shop 67 Whitfords City

**Cnr Marmion & Whitford Aves** 

Hillarys WA 6025 BSB 016 494

Account Number 392526836

Swift Number: ANZBAU3M

Email Roslyn with the details:

<kevinroslyn58@optusnet.com.au>