



Sr Anne Proudly Calls Australia Home

Sr Anne Hulme can now call Australia home after becoming an Australian Citizen in July this year. She was delighted to attend the inspiring ceremony at the Ballarat Town Hall and feels that now she really 'belongs'.

Along with twenty other candidates, Sr Anne pronounced the Pledge before the Mayor, with hand on the Bible, "From this day forward, under God, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey."

Sr Anne (Una) was born in Kent England in 1924 of an Irish mother and English father. She was one of two children – Alicia being the first-born. Her mother trained as a nurse in England and served in France during the 1st World War, where she received a Mons medal for her service. In late 1924 the family emigrated from England to Australia and set up home in Launceston, Tasmania. Her father died in 1928 of pneumonia and her mother took up nursing again to support the family. Alicia and Una were put into boarding school in a Mercy convent in Deloraine – mother driving them to and fro in a motor bike and side car! Una remembers feeding her with Australian 'Minties' on these journeys!



Above: Anne (Una) Hulme, aged 6, pictured on her mother's motorbike (seated in front).

In 1931 two of Mrs Hulme's brothers who had emigrated from Ireland to Rhodesia, invited her to come with her family to Rhodesia. It was boarding school again for the two sisters, this time with the German Dominican Sisters in Gwelo and later Salisbury.

In 1938, on a business trip to Cape Town, Mrs Hulme took a wrong bus and instead found herself in front of Loreto Convent School in Sea Point. Here she was greeted by an Irish Sister, who instead of just giving her the directions, invited her in for a cup of tea. The Sister, Dolours Berney, must have been so impressed by this tall Irish woman because she apparently prayed all year that this lady's daughter would come to school at Loreto.

A year after this chance encounter, Una was taken ill and doctors recommended she go to school at the coast – so of course it was to Loreto Convent that she went! However, before a consultation with Cape Town doctors took place, the symptoms disappeared! There followed three years of schooling and one year of music study. After getting to know and love the Loreto Sisters, Una entered the Loreto convent in Pretoria in November 1942.

As Sr Anne, she worked in Loreto schools in South Africa, mostly as a music teacher, and later as a community leader in various communities. From 1980 – 86 she worked in Rome on the General Council. In 1992 she became Provincial Secretary in Pretoria until 2002, when after sixty years as a religious sister, she decided to change provinces and come to Australia to be near her family who had emigrated here from Zimbabwe in the 1980s. She received a warm welcome when she arrived in February 2003 and was happy to receive Australian citizenship in July this year.

She is currently in Ballarat enjoying a quiet retirement, relishing the opportunities it offers like piano playing (she has a music pupil too!), taking quiet walks, enjoying the beauties of the nearby lake and gardens, reading, collecting stamps for Loreto missions and occasionally visiting her family in Bundaberg.

To read about more Loreto Sisters please visit “What we do page” on our website www.loreto.org.au