



Poinsettia Post

Anglican Mothers Union Australia
Brisbane



SPRING 2023

Red bench at Banyo -

see Page 3



A Message from our President

Hello everyone

It should be considerably warmer by the time you receive this edition of Poinsettia Post. I hope that you did not suffer too much from flu, Covid or bad colds during the long winter months.

I had some very good news in June. The AMUA Brisbane Diocese can still boast over seven hundred members, 736 in fact. That means that 736 individuals are willing to pay \$35.00 each to continue to belong to our fine organisation. Wow!



This year I have encouraged you to seek new members and while I believe that should be our priority, today I would like to recognise and thank our present, signed-up members. I wish to thank you for your hard work and service to the communities in which you live and for your concern shown for people all over the world. During Covid we learnt to take care of and support each other in very effective ways and now in 2023 we are using these skills and ideas to strengthen our communities just as Mary Sumner did so long ago.

I often hear that branches have undertaken new projects and activities when a need has been recognised. For example, thank you to the members in Coorparoo who are making prayer cushions for the students at Cannon Hill Anglican College.

Change in our branches is inevitable. Our Mothers' Union Meeting days might not look exactly as they did in the past. Each branch might not have a President, Secretary or Treasurer but that should not deter us from meeting. Perhaps a 'Contact Person' for MU is all we need and a group of members to organise our activities but we should continue to meet, to be a visible Christian presence in our communities. At these gatherings we might develop more skills in areas such as leadership or learn more about the different roles in AMUA or we might connect with the local Council or another like-minded organisation to improve the lot of children and

families in our area.

Of course prayer has been and must remain at the centre of all that we do. Regardless of our individual circumstances, we can all pray to our Lord Jesus Christ. Christine Jensen, the Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator for the Australian Council, refers in a recent email to a short passage in the Bible - 2 Corinthians 1: 10-11.

10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, 11 as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

She explains that “Paul is saying that the prayers of the Corinthians are used by God. Like us, they probably felt their prayers were not really significant, and yet God used their prayers in sustaining Paul. What an encouragement it is to keep praying as we see God using our prayers for His purposes.”

As one of the 736 members of AMUA I encourage you to keep praying and searching for the best ways to serve our God and I thank you all for what you have already done.

Jenny Bullock

Red Bench at Banyo (See Front Cover)

We have a newly installed Red Bench at St Oswald's Banyo. This project was supported by Councillor Adam Allan & the Lord Mayor's Community Fund, the Anglican Church Banyo and our Banyo Caritas/MU branch.

We collectively acknowledged the courage and strength of those who are taking a stand and leading the way in shedding light to change the ending for those affected by Domestic and Family Violence.

Lyn Northfield

Stafford AMUA Long Service Awards

Stafford MU group recently had two presentations in a week! We welcomed Diocesan President Jenny and NW Deanery President, Helen, at both events. Jenny has a gracious way of making events very warm and personal in the way she connects with everyone.



The first a joyful gathering overlooking the Brisbane River for a 60 year badge presentation to Archdeacon Heather Toon. Heathers' daughters, and grandchildren were there to celebrate. It was also Heather's 86th birthday!

Above (L to R) : Rose Mowat, DP Jenny, Anne Bignold, Helen Zappala

Below: Archdeacon Heather Toon

In the same week we acknowledged 50 years of faithful service of Rosaleen Mowat and Lesley Ridings. Both quiet behind the scenes workers, as well as leading lights in the famous Stafford MU acting “presentations”. Anne Bignold, a valued newer member received a 10 year scroll. We celebrate the way these members have touched the lives of their families, parishes and friends as they lived the meaning of MU.



Bronwyn Fryar

North Pine AMUA Celebrates 70 years

On 19 July 2023, North Pine Mothers Union Branch celebrated its 70th Birthday. Members from branches in the Redcliffe Deanery gathered for a Communion Service followed by a morning tea party. 48 members and friends gathered along with our Australian President Dr Robin Ray who presented Long Service Awards for 10 years to Jean Beattie and Margaret Jacob.

All priests from the past 20 years attended and spoke rewardingly of our helpfulness in the parish. The beautifully decorated cake was cut by 4 past presidents, Glenda Ebert, Penny Smith, Judy Tainton and Joan Bird. This year's memories were enhanced by the knowledge that we had provided a Red Bench in a nearby park and beanies and rugs that have been accepted thankfully by Mission to Seafarers and local hospitals.

Joan Bird
President North Pine

Right: Four Past Presidents (L-R) Joan Bird; Penny Smith; Judy Tainton and Glenda Ebert.



Presentation of 10yr Long Service Scrolls by Dr Robin Ray to Jean Beattie and Margaret Jacob with Ven David Ruthwen





AMUA Queensland Provincial Conference 2023

From 16 -19 May, 72 AMUA members converged at beautiful St Charles's Church, Mackay, for the Queensland and Northern Territory Conference, hosted by the Diocese of North Queensland (NQ), to explore the theme of Unity in Diversity. Each evening, guest speakers entertained and inspired us, including the Rt Rev Dr Keith Joseph, who, after warmly welcoming



attendees, spoke about some of his life experiences in the Army Medical Corp. The Rev'd Nikki Vella Power, a Mackay Street Chaplain, encouraged us to listen to the "Voice of God" and to be Christlike in whom we are. Ms Jules Thomson, founder of Broken Ballerina, a domestic violence victim support agency, bravely shared her personal story of DV trauma survival.



After sharing cultural insights the beautiful voices of our sisters from our First Nations people and neighbours from Melanesia would lead us into Compline. Highlights included praise in Language and original song compositions as well as singing and dancing to the song "We are all one big happy family-God's family".



During the opening service, the Very Rev'd Dr Kenneth Lay reminded us not to confuse unity with conformity. He reflected that tolerance of differences should give way to acceptance, as through the acceptance of the beautiful array of customs, traditions and people that we are in Mothers Union, unity can be achieved.



Attendees participated in a series of four workshops exploring Unity



in Diversity of Worship, Service, Prayer, and Love. These were interspersed by sessions, led by our Australian Overseas and Northern Outreach Coordinator Wendy Mabey, who applied each theme to a world context. Facilitators challenged us with interesting questions such as: If you have experienced worship in a different context, did anything challenge, bewilder or enrich you and why? How might we incorporate people of diverse cultures into worship? Do we know of, and work with other like-minded community agencies in meeting needs? Do we advocate for others? How can each of our five senses be used creatively to enrich both our personal and corporate prayer life? If sharing is loving and sharing is caring, how does your branch show God's love in action?

In response to the challenges highlighted by Wendy, it was agreed to distribute \$7000 from the Provincial Conference Account, with \$5000 divided equally between Northern and Overseas Outreach via Mary Sumner House. Our Australian Overseas Target project is to receive \$2500.

In her President's address Dr Robin Ray highlighted that AMUA was

at a crossroads. She encouraged us to prepare a statement of what we would say to someone, if asked to explain Mothers Union in Australia; to question all that we do- How does this fit with our mission for God and our MU Objectives? She reminded us that our inwardly nurturing activities such as prayer, bible study, fellowship served as the foundation that enabled us to focus outwardly. She challenged us to become visible. In closing she posed the questions “Where is the Spirit inviting you? Do you have the courage to go forward to write yourself into a new MU story or will you turn away in dread, with a feeling of weakness and with a sigh of relief return to life as normal”?

All left Mackay, conscious of the challenges, full of joy and thankfulness and enthused with new ideas, eagerly looking forward to the next Conference, to be hosted by the Brisbane Diocese.

Leanne Ferguson
Vice President/Sec
Ipswich AMUA



Algester AMUA Happenings



Algester branch of Mothers Union decided to join in the red bench project. We are pictured above with the finished project. Unfortunately we were missing our President, Jenny Bullock and a number of members for various reasons. The plaque held by Rev'd Chris Bate, will be attached to the side of the bench and will provide an ideal space to spread the message on ending domestic violence. The bench sits next to a pathway, well used by the public, so it's a lovely spot for anyone to view the gardens.



Flowers given to Joy Young by Algester branch in celebration of Mr. Ron Young and Joy's 70th wedding anniversary on 11 July 2023. Joy is pictured with Rev'd Chris Bate (Top Right)

Jenny Bullock and Kay O'Brien (pictured bottom right) attended Service of Thanksgiving for the Coronation of King Charles at St Johns Cathedral, Brisbane on 7 May 2023

Jan Codd

Sustainability Roadmap - A Call to Action

The Dean, the Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt sent links for the Sustainability Roadmap 2013-2030 for us to take part.

Vision: We actively participate in the flourishing of God's creation by working deliberately, urgently, creatively to limit and reduce human-induced warming and the resultant effects of climate change.



Goals: to be achieved by 2030.

- 1). Innovate – Institutional responsibility
- 2). Encourage – Personal responsibility
- 3). Advocate – We will stand with those most affected by climate change

Bishop Administrator Cam Venables reflected in his sermon 2020 Australia bushfires, how the damaged climate amplified the fires and how our faith can orientate us into the future. The report said the fire killed or displaced almost three billion native animals.

The Roadmap can be accessed here: <https://www.anglicanchurchsq.org.au/sustainability>. One of the very useful tools is the audit template. This can be downloaded here: <https://www.anglicanchurchsq.org.au/sustainability/#audit>

It can be adapted to member/household use. The main idea is that members and householders can plan how they will reduce their carbon footprint over a period of seven (7) years. e.g. you can plan ahead to install an electric stove, solar power etc. It makes it more manageable.

Each member and community should consider its own unique situation and need to plan and implement positive changes for creation. Also, to limit sea-level rise and protect the homes and livelihoods of our First Nation people and Torres Strait Islanders, and our Pacific neighbours. The roadmap is one of our Diocese's responses to the General Synod's Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 which says, 'This Church recognises that climate change is a most serious threat to the lives of the present and future generations'.



The Rev'd. Eleanor Mancini
Social Issues and Action Coordinator

Buderim AMUA Quilt Ministry



This is our first quilt from the new quilt ministry at Buderim AMUA. Sponsored by the branch and Heather Creighton and donated to Ian Woodhouse. It was blessed by Rev'd Lucy at the mid week service.

Congratulations Deslie - 60 years



Deslie Jannusch, a Lone Member from Oakey, recently celebrated 60 years membership of AMUA. Her badge and scroll were posted to her.

Narelle Cooke another Lone Member visited Deslie and her husband Max for a short time to chat and present flowers on behalf of Oakey Lone Members and AMUA.

Service Awards St Luke's Toowoomba



At St Luke's Toowoomba in July, Ann Stallman presented awards to three members who attend night meetings.

(L to R): Jill Randall 40 years, Joyce Buckley 20 years and Sandy Martin 40 years

Hope for our Children

Imagine you are all alone, removed from your family, feeling rejection and shame this has happened to you. You still have a connection with home, your possessions in a garbage bag. How demoralising!

St Luke's Toowoomba AMUA had a a speaker from Hope for our Children telling of their role in placing children in foster care. Too many children are still in in care - 2,700 in Toowoomba area alone. They connect with the Mercy Centre and Department of Child Safety in areas of Roma, Ipswich and Toowoomba.

Children are required to attend Court which is very traumatic. A therapy dog can bring comfort. By cuddling and patting the dog the child becomes calmer and gives clearer evidence, resulting in better justice for all concerned. The dog visits paediatric wards, youth mental health wards, local hospice and court house – providing comfort, distraction and peace to our most vulnerable.

Hope for Our Children dream of reunification procedures, stability for children.



Jennifer Murray presented Rachel Carter, from Hope for our Children, with knitted teddies

Jennifer Murray.

St John's Cathedral AMUA

AMUA members stood on the street outside St John's Cathedral to draw attention to Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month in May.

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt, Dean of the Cathedral and Rev'd Dr Gemma Dashwood OAM stood with us as well as some members of the Cathedral Community. This photo was when the sun came out for a minute!



A Reflection from our Chaplain

Last Sunday I had the privilege of participating with some young people in thinking about the pearl of great price and reflecting on what some people may search for as their pearl/s be it a car, house, or their faith in God.

Today as I organised prayers for the AMUA Diocesan Executive I found a number of prayers which may be considered pearls in expressing the Christian faith. One struck me for the simplicity of the words, and for the expression of many of my recent thoughts and prayers as I acknowledge I am no longer in my 20s or 30s or I know there are many of us adjusting to limitations which have come to ourselves and our loved ones. For this reason I have attached this prayer for you to read, reflect on and pray. (I have not changed the language which is a few centuries old as I sense it is so much part of the prayer.)



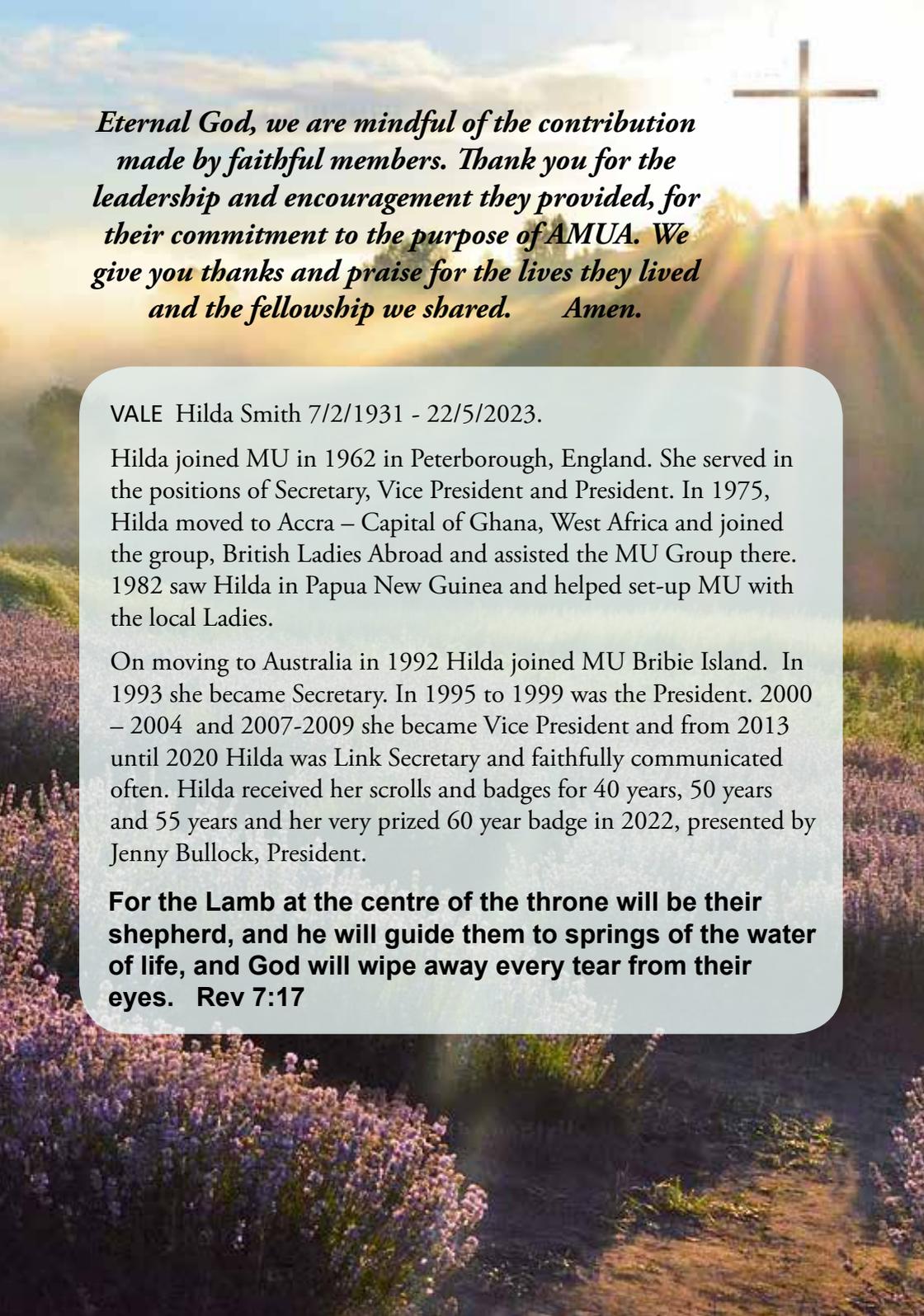
Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am getting older and will someday be older. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everyone's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

(Source unknown, 17th century)



Eternal God, we are mindful of the contribution made by faithful members. Thank you for the leadership and encouragement they provided, for their commitment to the purpose of AMUA. We give you thanks and praise for the lives they lived and the fellowship we shared. Amen.

VALE Hilda Smith 7/2/1931 - 22/5/2023.

Hilda joined MU in 1962 in Peterborough, England. She served in the positions of Secretary, Vice President and President. In 1975, Hilda moved to Accra – Capital of Ghana, West Africa and joined the group, British Ladies Abroad and assisted the MU Group there. 1982 saw Hilda in Papua New Guinea and helped set-up MU with the local Ladies.

On moving to Australia in 1992 Hilda joined MU Bribie Island. In 1993 she became Secretary. In 1995 to 1999 was the President. 2000 – 2004 and 2007-2009 she became Vice President and from 2013 until 2020 Hilda was Link Secretary and faithfully communicated often. Hilda received her scrolls and badges for 40 years, 50 years and 55 years and her very prized 60 year badge in 2022, presented by Jenny Bullock, President.

For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Rev 7:17

Calendar 2023

21 November Council St John's Cathedral 10am

25 November 16 Days of Activism starts

10 December International Human Rights Day

AMUA Bookshop

Narelle Blunt, ably assisted by husband Neville, took part of the Mothers' Union Bookshop to Synod at Brisbane Boys Grammar School.

The shop had a prime location and attracted many visitors. The tea towels on offer proved very popular as always.



ASSISTANCE REQUIRED!

A new Publications Manager and shop location are needed. If you can help, or know someone who can please let us know. It is an important part of our ministry, and a very fulfilling and rewarding role

Closing date for the next issue 15 October 2023

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