

MARY SUMNER DAY CELEBRATED AT WANGARATTA 2022



Caption: Welcome by Nagambie Mothers' Union members Diane Grant, Margaret Hurren and Marlene Brew to Provincial President (National) of the Mothers' Union of Australia, Rev. Anne Kennedy and the new Wangaratta Diocesan Branch President Jan Craig.

146 years ago in a small town in England, Mary Sumner began a young mothers support group when she was a grandmother.

From those humble beginnings Mothers' Union groups spread across the globe over many years.

Many cities and country towns formed a branch that spread throughout Church of England then Anglican churches.

Now there are over 4 million members around the world. It is called in some sectors MU.

In Australia it began in Tasmania 130 years ago, and in the Diocese of Wangaratta 83 years ago.

On August 9, members from across the Diocese of Wangaratta branches ranging from Albury, Bright, Corryong, Nagambie, Seymour, Wangaratta and Wodonga, and lone members from across the Diocese happily gathered to celebrate Mary Sumner Day at Holy Trinity Cathedral Wangaratta.

A Eucharist was led by Reverend Richard Pennington, with assistance by Mothers' Union Chaplain Sue Hall, with the sermon being preached by Reverend David Holloway who spoke on the work of Mary Sumner in her early years striving to gain support for young mothers and grandmothers.

Prayers, hymns of praise and Holy Communion were shared during the service.

Special guest for the gathering was the Australian Provincial (National) President of the Mothers' Union (MU) the Rev. Anne Kennedy and husband Rob, who were made very welcome by all present.

The members enjoyed lunch in Purbrick hall and then new MU Diocesan President Jan Craig welcomed the special guest to the assembly.

The members and guests listened with much interest when Anne Kennedy spoke on the work of the MU across the countries of the world and what it is doing in our far north and in various dioceses.

Rev. Kennedy spoke on many subjects and endeavours that the members of the MU continue to achieve every year.

The MU goal for 2022 is “Transformation Now” and “Climate change-environment and Disaster Risk Reduction” the project for the next two years.

She congratulated the branches on their continuing good work and encouraged them to try their best to introduce young members to join this worthwhile organisation to continue on Mary Sumner’s vision.

Report by Diane Grant with editing by Website Admin for AMUA website