



Poinsettia Post

Anglican Mothers Union Australia
Brisbane



AUTUMN 2023



16 Days of Activism

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A Message from our President

Hello everyone

Welcome to 2023. It seems that with the help of the Lord we can look forward to a year with new energy and optimism and without cancellations and postponements. All branches in the Diocese have made their plans and have held first meetings.

I hope that you are remembering our theme, 'Transformation NOW', and plotting new strategies to increase your membership base. That is our challenge for 2023!!



I have been officially appointed as Diocesan President – I was acting last year – and my diary is already filling up. The very best part of my role is visiting branches and meeting all of the members. Please invite me along when appropriate so you can share your plans and we can enjoy fellowship.

I visited the Jimboomba Aged Care Facility in early February to present a 60 year badge and scroll to Kay Turnbull. The morning was organised by the Logan Branch and Kay's husband, Rev'd Ian Turnbull. Everyone enjoyed the occasion, especially Kay. (See Page 4)

The usual AMUA events will take place again this year and it would be wonderful to see many of you in attendance. Our AGM is scheduled for 14th March at St Barnabas' Church at Sunnybank and Lady Day will be celebrated again at St John's Cathedral on Wednesday 22 March.



Our first Country Council will be hosted by the branch at St James Biggera Waters on the Gold Coast on 23 May.

Then as a special privilege we are invited to the Queensland Provincial Conference which will be held in

Mackay from 16 to 19 May. Each branch should have received details about the Conference by now but please contact me or our Secretary if you have any problems. I hope that our Diocese will be very well represented at this event.

With God and our new Australian President, Dr Robin Ray, all things are possible. Let us strive and make 2023 a very good year indeed for AMUA in the Brisbane Diocese.

Jenny Bullock
Diocesan President

Long Service Awards - North East Deanery

On 19 December 2022 Diocesan President Jenny presented a 60 year badge to Joan Kruger of Hendra/Clayfield Branch at Clifford House at Woolloowin. Three of Joan's daughters joined us and many stories were shared over a welcome cup of tea and sweet pastries.

Margaret Coombs



A delightful morning was spent at St Martin's Nursing Home for the presentation of a 60 year badge and scroll to Joyce Clifton of Zillmere by Diocesan President Jenny. Joyce recalled her early days with MU and her joy at being a member.

Noelene Thomas



Congratulations Kay Turnbull - 60 years



Kathleen (Kay) Turnbull, celebrating 60 years membership in Mothers Union with a morning tea at her nursing home with her husband Ian, the members of Logan branch, Jenny Bullock, Marilyn Dunning and Narelle Blunt.

Kay was presented with her 60 years badge and her scroll, by the diocesan president, Jenny Bullock. Kay has had a long and illustrious

career in Mothers Union spanning 60 years. She was admitted to Mothers Union on 2 February 1963, when she married Ian. Her mother admitted her at the time of her wedding, so Kay and Ian were also celebrating their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

Kay became a lone member in Longreach, as there was no Mothers Union branch. When they returned to Brisbane, Kay was a member of YMD at St Matthias, Zillmere. She attended all Diocesan Council meetings, and was elected Country Vice President when Marilyn Dunning was President. During this time, she visited many of the country branches. After Ian was ordained, and posted to Bundaberg, Kay was elected president of that branch. When Ian was posted to Gayndah as Priest in Charge, Kay served as Deanery President Wide Bay.

On their return to Brisbane, Kay attended Enoggera Branch and became president. When Ian and Kay moved to the Logan parish, Kay held the position of president for 6 years ending on 28 April 2018. She worked tirelessly to grow the branch and bring meaning to the meetings.

Although because of illness, Kay doesn't attend meeting now, Ian has faithfully paid her fees, so her involvement in Mother's Union continues.

*Judy Chevis
Secretary Logan Branch*

Hendra/Clayfield AMUA - Faith, Fellowship and Farewell



The members of Hendra/Clayfield gathered on 26 Oct 2022 for Holy Communion and a service of Thanksgiving for our much-loved member Brenda Shearer who has moved to Symes

Grove Branch. We thanked Brenda for her gifts of prayer, her faith, love, service to our branch and her unfaltering peaceful and loving presence. Brenda was joined by her husband Alex(see above), special friend Helene Baker-Daines from Caloundra AMUA.

It was a joy to welcome back Frances Clark to our worship service. We were joined by Father Iain Moore, a AMUA member who supported our branch. We wish him well in his ministry at St Matthew's Sherwood. Father Michael Faragher, Locum celebrated Holy Communion and joined us for morning tea at a coffee shop in Nundah. It was a wonderful time to enjoy fellowship and friendship.

Mary Edwards



16 Days of Activism



Against Gender Based Violence

Each year, from 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to 10 December, World Human Rights Day, people around the world unite to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenge discriminatory attitudes and call for improved laws and services to end violence against women for good. This campaign was marked around the diocese. **For more information see Mia Mia Autumn 2023.**

Front Cover:- Top Left: Members from St Luke's Toowoomba displayed empty shoes to remember victims. Top Right: AMUA Australian President Dr Robin Ray joins the protest at St John's Cathedral Brisbane. Bottom: AMUA Members at St John's Cathedral.

Gold Coast Deanery

Gold Coast Deanery marked 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence at St. John's Burleigh Heads.

Our Chaplain Fr Peter Uther celebrated a liturgy. His sermon focussed on the Christian response to the prevalence of domestic violence in our society today and how we can be a positive influence in the campaign against gender based violence.

During the service candles were lit and prayers said to remember victims of the previous year. Attendees were encouraged to wear purple

as this colour represents our ongoing support. *L. - R. Jenny Hughes, Elizabeth Uther (Deanery President), Lea Carmichael. Lea represents the Parish ministry by distributing furniture and other goods for those in need.*



Bundaberg AMUA

This was the fourth year Bundaberg AMUA held events in support of the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based violence. Each year we have seen this campaign grow, from small beginnings in 2019 to an effective, wide spreading campaign in 2022.

Bundaberg AMUA are very grateful for the partnership that has developed with Zonta Club Bundaberg and for their support and commitment. By working together with local organisations we create a greater impact and improve our understanding of the impact of Gender Based Violence has across our society.

Bev Perry



St John's Cathedral AMUA Branch

The president of the Cathedral AMUA branch, the Rev'd Eleanor Mancini and members joined with the Cathedral Domestic Abuse Action Group, Gwenneth Roberts and members on 26 November for MU World Global Day. Representatives from Caloundra, Cooparoo and Lone Members joined the event which started with bell ringing representing the number of women killed by a current or former intimate partner each year.

A service of prayers was held and 3 minutes silence was observed before a closing prayer.

Eleanor Mancini

Photo Credit: Dean, the Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt



New Member - Buderim

The new 2023 committee for Buderim AMUA were commissioned and Rev'd Lucy Morris, our new Priest was admitted as a member of AMUA on 5 Feb. Rev'd Theo Woods led the prayers and also spoke very eloquently about the work of Mothers Union worldwide.

Rev'd Lucy wore the Diocesan stole that was presented to her at her parish commissioning.



Photo: Sue Milwright, Rev'd Lucy and Jenny Duckworth, Branch President

February AMUA Diocesan Council

Right: Jenny Bullock with CPE recipients: (L) Courtney Smith and (R) Kate Littmannn-Kelly. Third recipient Sara Hansen was not able to attend



Below Left: Marilyn Dunning with Gill Bust displayed the Memorial Book

Below Right: Narelle Blunt and Binnie set up the AMUA shop at the Council Meeting at St John's Cathedral.





UNITED IN PRAYER

A PERSONAL STORY

MARGARET DIXON

Following many family discussions and much research, Amos [Mos] and I left our home of nearly 40 years in late 2019, to reside in Regis Parkland Care Home, still in Ferny Grove.

I had been unable to attend Church or AMUA for some years due to caring for Mos who cannot walk unaided. I settled in easily. Mos did not find it so easy. We are fortunate we still can think and make decisions for ourselves.

I was pleased to see the activities included a fortnightly ecumenical Prayer Service or Bible Study run by a trio of Church Women from Samford. I offered to help with services. All was going well until COVID19. All our volunteers left, leaving us without Church activities. We became accustomed to being confirmed to the buildings and quite often to our rooms.

At Easter 2020, one of our Life Style staff approached me with a view to arranging a service. After much prayer and meditation, we decided to use copies of services from 2019. This was well received by residents, so we continued for the rest of the year.

At the end of 2020, the staff member left to do further study. COVID did not look like leaving any time soon. More prayer and discussion, until I was convinced I could compile and present a service, with the help of a Life Style member who is musical and can use the TV for Hymn Music. Never having done anything like this before, I felt very nervous.

Each service has a theme. The first was *The Feast of the Epiphany*; the

next *1st and 2nd Commandments* and so on. The service has a set form which is changed if the need arises eg Easter and Christmas. We have 4 hymns as our residents love to sing. Some prayers are set but most change to fit the theme. There is a prayer for our carers which I found in the MU Book.

Lord God, we pray for carers. When carers can only see pain and death, give them strength to carry on. When carers are overworked, tired and stressed; give them a friend to lean on. When carers listen with patience, with loving eyes and open hands; may they be blessed for their healing presence. When carers bring dignity to those they help; may they find peace in your name. When carers witness to your Gospel, Lord; may their faith be on fire, When carers laugh and weep; may they know you are standing close. When carers pray, may they remember your kingdom is here. Amen

As I gave away most of my resources when we sold the house, I have had to build up a new set. I find ideas in Mia Mia and other AMUA publications. Some years ago, I bought a book 'Exalting Holiness' for my own use. It contains services for every day of the year; very useful. My friendly Spirit helps me, and Google is another friend. I concentrate on themes which assist in our biblical understanding.

So far in 2023, only one service has been held. We are shut down due to Covid cases and another nasty virus, but should be open again soon.

I find this outreach to my fellow residents very satisfying. We have kept copies of the services so they can be used again if needed. This is my third year, my ninety-first. I thank God for blessing me in this way.

Happy Birthday Donalda!

Congratulations to our Lone Member Donalda Rogers from Crows Nest who recently celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends. She has given so much to Mothers Union over many years. Well Done Donalda.

Jennifer Murray



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



VALE: NOELEEN MARJORY BALL 4.1.1931 – 29.12.2022.

Noeleen was a member of Stafford Branch AMUA for 20 years where I am also a member. Noeleen was born in Alderley and was first introduced to MU by her Mother-in-law who took her and her 2 year old son Owen to a Meeting in Grovely in early 1950s. She joined Stafford branch on 21 April 1999. Noeleen had four children, Owen, Ann, Bruce and Rhonda. After being widowed in 1990 she lost her eldest son Owen in 2009 and eldest daughter Ann in 2019 both by cancer. Noeleen was a faithful and active member of Stafford Branch, always ready to participate in branch activities including many concerts on Deanery days. *Lesley Ridings*

VALE: ELIZABETH GUEST 21-08-1930 to 10-01-2023.

Elizabeth joined Mother's Union at St Martins, Killara NSW in May, 1991. Elizabeth attended Sunday School, was confirmed and married at this Church. She was Treasurer of this MU Branch as well as a Maternity Hospital visitor for several years. Elizabeth moved to the Gold Coast in 2001 to be nearer to her family, where she joined the Mothers Union Branch at St Peters, Southport. Elizabeth was Branch Secretary for nine years. She was also Link Secretary to a Branch in Devon, UK. When the Branch in Southport closed in 2014, Elizabeth became a Lone Member. Elizabeth received her 25 year Badge and Scroll at Southport in 2016. May you Rest In Peace, Elizabeth. *Marjory Fieldus*

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: Shirley Patricia Beale

23/11/1941 - 21/11/2022

Very sadly, Shirley passed away in November 2022 after a short battle with terminal colon cancer, just nine months after her diagnosis.

Shirley was known to most MU members throughout the diocese, having served as the Brisbane Diocesan President for six years, 2006-2012. She was admitted to MU in 1996 into the Cleveland Branch and became a vibrant and dedicated member of the Branch over the following twenty seven years. She held the positions of Branch Secretary, Treasurer and President each two or three times and was still active as the Branch Secretary almost up to her death.

At the Diocesan level, she held the positions of Moreton Deanery President, Southern Region Vice-President, Diocesan President and then Diocesan Secretary. She was very honoured and proud to have been appointed as a Diocesan Life Vice-President early in 2022, sadly only holding that role for a few months. There was no year in her twenty seven years of membership that she did not hold one office or another! Shirley also served as the Cleveland Parish's Ambassador to Anglicare SQ and did much to strengthen the ties between MU and Anglicare.

Shirley was highly respected by all who knew her and worked with her. She was a person of many gifts and talents, an excellent organiser within the MU and also in the Cleveland Parish where she even ran the Parish Thrift Shop for a number of years. Her computer skills were amazing and very creative. She was also very gifted in her personal life such as playing the harp and in playing in competitive tennis matches in her local area. And of course, she was well known for her variety of hats worn on special occasions! Members were always very impressed when she sometimes delivered MU reports and speeches in verse – it was a special ability she had to express her thoughts and feelings in that way.

As Diocesan President, she travelled widely across the region meeting members and presenting scrolls and badges to many. She was instrumental in directing the Diocesan MU into the age of technology thus making

communication within MU so much quicker and easier.

Her family were of paramount importance to her. Her mother, Phyllis Shannon, was a well known long-time MU member in the Toowoomba area and elsewhere. Her husband, Ray, and her son and daughter and their four grand-daughters were always supportive of her work. Sadly she was heart-broken by the sudden death of their only grand-son in 2021 in a car accident.

Shirley was an absolutely dedicated MU member and excelled in all areas in which she became involved, totally loyal and devoted to her Church life and to MU. We do indeed give thanks to God for Shirley and for her life of service. Her son, Philip, concluded the eulogy at the Memorial Service following her death, with Shirley's own words: 'None of us know what the future holds but we can be grateful for the life we have lived, the friends we have made and the wonderful family we have cherished and will love forever.'

Rest in Peace, dear Shirley.

Eve Knott

TRANSFORMATION NOW -

The Richmond Birdwing Butterfly

Why was a picture of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly used on the Transformation Now prayer card?

This butterfly, the largest subtropical butterfly in Australia is endemic to Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales. It was once abundant but populations declined following the loss of habitat and the vine which provided the sole source of food for the caterpillars of the butterfly. The butterflies are unable to distinguish between this vine and the invasive Dutchman's pipe which is toxic to the larvae if they feed on it.

Concerned gardeners and admirers of the butterfly took action! They raised awareness of the dire situation and lobbied the Government. The sale of Dutchman's pipe was restricted, and butterfly vine plants were made available. Captive breeding programs were initiated, and butterfly sanctuaries were set up. There have been significant increases in the butterfly population.

People who care, who speak out and take action can make a difference!



A Reflection from our Chaplain

AUTUMN AND TRANSFORMATION.



I grew up in Hobart where the four seasons of the year are very distinctive. I had the privilege of walking up an avenue of oak trees to go to and from school and in autumn the colour of the leaves and the pathway covered in leaves was a regular occurrence. It was not till I moved away that I realised how much I missed the beauty of this yearly event: the variety of colours in the leaves; the magnificence of the bare, spreading branches of a tree in winter and the delight in the new shoots and foliage in spring.

As I write this, I am pondering the relationship between autumn and transformation. The deciduous tree goes through an annual time of transformation and yet, at the core, it is still the same tree. It has a time when it loses the old foliage, the old covering; a time when it centres on nourishing the core of its being and then it produces fresh, new foliage showing the world it is still alive and ready to share its assets, its shade and its beauty, with all.

The times of transformation in my life have been similar. I have had to lose the out-of-date, used by elements I have hung on to; allow myself time to nourish myself afresh and then take up new aspects and properties for the new phase of my life. Has your life been a bit like that?

Transformation can be challenging, releasing, nourishing, and renewing. One thing is certain in all this and that is the love and strength of God to sustain us whilst we open ourselves to transformation ... God's transformation.



May God bless each of you and especially those who sense they are experiencing, or headed for, a period of transformation.

Jane

Contacting your Member of Parliament

AMUA members are encouraged to contact local members of parliament and relevant political leaders to let them know what you care about and what action you would like to see. Much can be achieved if individual members take the time to advocate for change. MPs are there to represent you in Parliament. The more people who contact their local MP on a given topic, the more likely this matter will be raised. Letters are one of the most effective ways to engage your MP. While it is most effective to contact your local MP, you could also consider contacting your state's Senators and/or the federal Minister whose portfolio relates to your topic.

Some points to remember:

Keep it brief

Letters should be no longer than one page and should be about one issue only. Be as concise as possible. Politicians receive hundreds of letters from constituents every day. A lengthy message that covers lots of unrelated topics is more likely to be overlooked. In contrast; a concise and focused letter can be a powerful one.

Express your own thoughts

Politicians are not mugs! They can spot a copy of a proforma letter from 'Get Up' a mile away, and are likely to ignore it.

Be passionate and polite

MPs are likely to be more receptive to a polite letter, and more engaged based on the passion of your writing. Remember that your MP is a human, not just a name on paper.

Make your letter stand out!

Your goal is to make your letter stand out and be noticeable. This can be achieved by referring to a recent related news story.

Finish the letter by saying you look forward to their reply. Be patient as you wait for a reply. If you don't hear back from them, try again. Be both persistent and polite.

Susan Skowronski
Social Issues And Action Coordinator



Poinsettia Post

The quarterly newsletter of
AMUA Brisbane Diocese

Calendar 2023

- 3 March World Day of Prayer
- 14 March AGM St Barnabas Sunnybank 10am
- 19 March Mothering Sunday
- 22 March Lady Day at St John's Cathedral 10am
- 23-25 March Wave of Prayer
- 7 April Good Friday
- 7 May Mothers' Day
- 16 -19 May Conference – Mackay
- 23 May Country Council Gold Coast (Biggera Waters) 10.30am
- 6 August Retiring Collection Anglicare
- 9 August Mary Sumner Day
- 15 August Country Council Maryborough 10.30am
- 3 September Fathers' Day
- 21 November Council St John's Cathedral 10am
- 25 November 16 Days of Activism starts
- 10 December International Human Rights Day

Closing date for the next issue 30th April 2023

Editor - Susan Skowronski

