



Anglican Mothers' Union Australia

Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening, and supporting marriage and family life in all its forms

Canberra & Goulburn Diocese – Synod Report 2021

Ongoing theme in 2021: Building Hope and confidence

Mothers' Union Branch groups were able to resume face to face meetings in June 2020 with an **Overseas and Northern Outreach Day** at Holy Cross Anglican, Hackett. Rev'd Anne Ranse preached and following communion spoke of her ministry work, with an emphasis on her early ministry work as a nurse in Outback Central Australia. Donations for lunch went to our Positive Parenting Program and Gender-based Violence project in Papua New Guinea.

In November, it was possible to join with the St James, Holt Fellowship Group for an Advent service and Christmas Lunch. Many thanks to Rev'd Judy Douglas, and Mrs Roberta Woods for making us so welcome. Judy preached and delighted us with her singing of "Mary, did you know?"

Our membership is stable with approximately 60 financial members with two significant things that have occurred in early 2021 that must be recorded:

The death of Rev'd Mary Thorn in early May was a great sadness to members as in early 2020 we were unable to present her with her 60 years of membership Badge due to COVID 19 restrictions. It was with delight that we were able to spend time with her and her daughter, Debra, at our Lady Day Communion Service and AGM in March this year, where she enjoyed lunch, fellowship and then announced with great humour that she was too old to sit through the AGM.

The second event that must be mentioned is that after many, many years of service to MU as Diocesan Treasurer, Mrs Helen Lloyd has handed over to task to Mrs Patricia Stoddart. Helen came to Canberra in 1974 and became the Australian Commonwealth Treasurer in 1981. (Now known as the Australian Council of AMUA) She was elected as Canberra's MU Diocesan Treasurer in 1986 and has served almost continuously since then. It is with gratitude that we recorded her amazing record of service to MU and made a presentation to her in appreciation of her commitment and meticulous record keeping; 'well done good and faithful servant.'

We have been busy planning the MU NSW State Conference for 1st -3rd April 2022 which will be held at the Australian Centre for Culture and Christianity with an Open Forum on Saturday, 2nd of April. The theme is **Intergenerational Faith**: Sharing our faith, from generation to generation. Psalm 71:18 "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation." Our key note speaker is Dr Ruth Lukabyo – the Dean of women at Youthworks College. She is passionate about God's work amongst young people and intergenerational ministry. She has recently published the book "From a ministry for youth to a ministry of youth: Aspects of Protestant Ministry in Sydney 1920-1959". A brochure and postcard will soon be released with details and also the conference will be advertised on the diocesan website and Mothers Union Australia website. The

NSW State President is Rev'd Dr Tim Watson and Secretary, Joan Eberlé. We welcome your comments and enquiries.

Our diocesan Executive Committee has intentionally planned to gather at many parish churches for our special days. Our next Overseas & Northern Outreach Day is planned on 29th June, at All Saints, Anglican, Ainslie. Following a Communion Service with Rev'd Linda McMinn and parishioners we will have a guest speaker talk to us about PNG, its challenges and the impact global warming in our Pacific Nation neighbours. In August, we will join with the Parish of St Albans, Woden to celebrate Mary Summer Day.

It has been a privilege to assist our MU Patron Monica Short with Spouse's Events for 2021. Our members delight in assisting with hospitality and we love to cook for these events, demonstrating Christ's love through service. During the winter of 2020 while isolating members were able to sew and assemble 40 toilet bags for men, women and children experiencing hardship. Some were distributed by the Early Morning Centre in Civic for homeless and those experiencing hardship, to Mary Mackillop House for women and children and also to St John's Care, Reid.

Goulburn Cathedral Branch, Holy Cross Hackett Branch and our Correspondence members continue to be prayer warriors for our diocese, the nation and worldwide; praying for people affected by the pandemic, victims of domestic violence, the homeless, reconciliation with our Indigenous First Nations People and closer to home our clergy and their families.

“Our hope is in you because you gave your Son Jesus to reconcile the world to you.

We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another, as you love us and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your Son.

May your power and love be the foundations on which we build our families, our communities and our Nation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen

(Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group 13 March 1997 Brisbane)

Diocesan President: Mrs Joan Eberlé

Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change. Why not put your faith into action by joining us as we work together for a better world?

AMUA: www.muaustralia.org.au

The Mothers' Union UK: www.mothersunion.org.