



## THE MUSTARD TREE

Quarterly Booklet of  
AMUA  
Diocese of Bunbury  
Distributed as a Supplement to  
the “Mia Mia” Magazine  
Autumn 2020



Building Hope & Confidence

### PRESIDENT Wendy's report

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn..."*

These words, part of a poem written by Laurence Binyon, and first published in 1914, are no doubt familiar to most of us. Did you know that in Binyon's original draft manuscript, the second line began 'Age shall not wither them'?

Such fascinating images came to my mind as I contemplated these two different sets of words. At times I feel, and I am sure I look, wearied. To my young grandchildren no doubt I am old but to you I may, in comparison, be young. Am I withered? Perhaps, a little. The backs of my hands are certainly taking on some of the markings and characteristics I, as a much younger person, thought were the markings of old age, markings which I despaired of ever displaying.

And yet, despite being a little withered, despite at times being wearied, I have accepted the role of Diocesan President of our Mothers' Union. I take great comfort that Mary Sumner was 57, the same age as me, when 'she set to work in earnest upon the vast enterprise of forming Mothers' Union throughout the world.' I can't help but think that, as Mary embarked on a mission to create an organisation that would win the hearts of the nation for Christ, she was seeking to build hope and confidence in those who the organisation touched. I know that I will constantly refer back to Mary and her leadership as I seek to further our work, our mission, within our diocese.

Since first reading them in 2018 I have been drawn to Mary's views with regard to the value of all our members, now matter their age, no matter how old their bodies may make them feel. In response to a suggestion that an upper age limit be applied to membership of Mothers' Union, Mary had this to say:

*"I am afraid ... that you have hardly realised the double basis of our Mothers' Union, Prayer and Work. The grandmothers and great grandmothers who you mention have more time in their old age to pray for children and children's children, and we have always felt that these prayers uphold and strengthen the younger mothers in their anxious work of training their little ones, and that they bring untold blessing on the whole of society... Mothers of all ages are needed to raise the spiritual life of the country, and of course our motherhood does not cease with age... The grand work of intercession can be better carried out in the quiet of old age than in the rush of youth."*

The historical documents of Mothers' Union are perhaps one of the few times in our church history where gender bias in language is in the feminine. As I share this message from Mary I am mindful that, if written today, it would speak of grandparents and great grandparents and of parents and parenting. Yet, even in its language, it is a message I want us all to embrace. No matter our age, no matter our infirmities, we all do matter, we are all valued members.



One of the great joys of our organisation is that it is not a case of 'one size fits all'. Our branches do not need to be mirror images of each other. We are able, while never losing sight of the aims and objectives of Mothers' Union, to fashion our branch life and our activities to the needs of our members and the communities in which we exist.

In conclusion, let me share a few more words of wisdom from Mary:

*"let no one despise middle or old age.... It has a beauty and an influence all of its own."*

Bunbury Diocese  
**LADY DAY FESTIVAL**  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

MORNING TEA  
From 9.15am Chapter Room, St Boniface

EUCCHARIST  
10.30am St Boniface Cathedral  
Celebrant Bishop Ian Coutts

LUNCHEON 12.15pm for 12.30pm  
Parade Hotel on the Water (Function Room)  
1 Austral Parade, Bunbury

Cost of Luncheon: \$35 (tea & coffee included)

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Mrs Wendy Mabey**  
(2020-2022 Diocesan President)



Looking forward to catching up with everyone at Lady Day.

This is the most important day on the MU calendar so, hopefully, you will make the effort to attend should that be possible.

We realise that many of you live some distance from Bunbury (such as Albany and Denmark and Katanning) but it would be wonderful to see representative from these far-flung parishes.

Those of you who live within striking distance of Bunbury, please join us on the day. Such a lot of planning and effort goes into making the day a success. Don't forget your branch banner!

Later in the year we will be travelling to Donnybrook (see notice below) and then in October we'll be off to Mandurah for the Country Rally.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE from our Diocesan President, Wendy.

### MULOA—MU Listening, Observing, Acting

### MULOA – So What?

Now that the international consultation process is complete, and a new Mothers' Union Global Framework has been released, what now?

**Your Diocesan Executive is hosting a workshop and information session to provide you with up-to-date information on how you can engage with the Framework within your own branch, parish and community.**

- When: 30 June 2020
- Where: All Saints' Anglican Church,  
South Western Highway, Donnybrook
- Time: 10am – 2.30pm
- What to Bring: Bible, pen, notebook, Mothers' Union Service Book  
lunch, water bottle (if desired)
- RSVP: We will be asking branches to give an indication of  
numbers attending closer to the date

Please accept our invitation to join us on this day. We would love to see every branch represented if possible.



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO BETTY KNAPP**

AMUA Boyup Brook branch member, Betty Knapp, was awarded the Shire Citizen of the Year at the recent 2020 Australia Day celebrations in Boyup Brook.

Betty has been an active member of the Boyup Brook Parish and MU for many years. She has just stepped down from being secretary/treasurer of MU and is currently a Parish Councillor.

Other community activities include Betty being a member of the Upper Blackwood Agricultural Society and the CWA for over fifty years. As a representative on the South West Zone Agricultural Society, Betty has helped arrange the zone display at the Perth Royal Show.

A keen promoter of Boyup Brook, Betty also volunteers at the local visitor centre. The popular Bicentennial Walk Trail was constructed from an idea that she put forward.

With all these groups, Betty has always been prepared to serve on the executive committee.

Currently Betty is writing a history of small schools in the area after helping to identify and place plaques at 21 sites.



*Editor's Note: Thank you Jan Ritson for alerting us to this wonderful news. I lived in Boyup Brook for many years and it is a pleasure to be able to acknowledge Betty's work. A quiet achiever! I look forward to the publication of her book about the long-gone small schools in the Boyup Brook Shire.*

## THIS IS A PHOTO OF OUR NEW AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL (AC) EXECUTIVE



Shown with Bishop Graeme Rutherford are:  
L-R: Rev Anne Kennedy—President  
Christine Jensen OAM—Vice President (Senior)  
Elaine Longford—Vice President (Junior)  
Marilyn Robey—Treasurer  
Dr Robin Ray—Overseas & Northern Outreach  
Dr Lesley McLean—Prayer & Spirituality  
Susan Skowronski—Social Issues & Action  
Christine Brain—Mia Mia Editor  
Denise Lay—Promotion & Development

### **HERE ARE THE MEMBERS FOR THE BUNBURY EXECUTIVE**

Wendy Mabey—President  
Janet Yoxall—Vice President  
Sylvia Spicer—Vice President  
Diane Hill—Treasurer  
Ann Busch—Overseas & Northern Outreach  
Lynda Howe—Prayer & Spirituality  
Sylvia Spicer—Social Issues & Action  
Tom Spicer—Publications  
Margaret Rennick—Magazine Editor & Mia Mia Correspondent  
Jean Beard—Immediate Past President  
Vacant—Promotion & Development  
Vacant—Diocesan Secretary

### **DEVASTATING FIRES** *(from the editor)*

We have looked on with horror at the devastation caused by the fires in many parts of Australia. Just this week, as I am writing this piece, fires have broken out in many parts of WA and loss of homes and habitat have occurred in Katanning where we have a MU branch.

Our Diocesan Treasurer, Diane Hill, has informed me that she has sent a cheque for \$4,000.00 to Australian Council to be used to relieve some of the stress in the most-affected areas. This money comes from your annual subs and is kept in a special account to be used when it is required. Well it is certainly required now so thank you for your contribution.

*This photo shows the damage caused to a home in Katanning.*



## **CHAPLAIN'S REPORT– Reverend Cathie Broome**

Blessings to you all, my MU brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese.

Well another year is over and another one begun, before we know it we find ourselves in February. I don't know about you but it is usually around now with the AMP's, the meetings and the activity within the parish and diocese that I start to think about a break, often only just having returned from one.

Well this year I thought that I would share with you all a vision; an idea; a direction that I believed is profoundly important for us all and our wellbeing in this ever busy and demanding world. **FINDING BALANCE**. Two simple words but words that are very profound in our Christian journeys and for our parish and community.

**Ephesians 5:15 - "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,"**

"Walking," this means abiding or remaining in Jesus. Looking carefully at our spiritual walk is considered "wise." This wisdom comes from God (Ephesians 1:8), who gives believers the Spirit of wisdom (Ephesians 1:17). God gives wisdom to the church, making it known to others (Ephesians 3:10)".

Now I think that it is fair to say that many of us in Mothers' Union are mature in age and others, like our Archdeacon, are just mature with wisdom. When we explore and reflect on passages such as this from Ephesians it does make you think about our own maturity, wisdom and journeys. Many people refer to this as— well I have had this role and I have done that, but is that what maturity and wisdom really means? Let's face it we all know people who have done every job and task possible but that has not necessarily meant that they are mature or wise.

Over the coming year I would like to encourage you to join with me as I explore, reflect and seek to grow in maturity. Our maturity is important for reaching additional people for Christ, because our example is a powerful method of evangelism. We all know how important it is that our Actions match what we say and how we behave. The two great commandments are something for us to strive to live out every day of our lives.

With this in mind we need to be looking at BALANCE in our everyday lives. Perhaps this may mean not rushing around putting your hand up for every job, it may mean that you need to find quite time every day to sit and be still..... and just listen.

It is a privilege to share ministry with you all and I look forward to catching up with you throughout the coming year.

With every blessing,

Cathie

*Editor's note: Cathie is more than willing to visit branches, just give her a call.*



## **BRANCH NEWS**

### **KATANNING BRANCH NEWS** *(Contributed by Sylvia Spicer)*

Katanning Branch will hold its first meeting for the year on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. We will meet at the Church and hold an MU Service prior to the meeting. During the meeting we will discuss the Program for the year. During the year we will visit our other Church Centres, St Elizabeth's Broomehill, St Peter's Pindellup, and St Peter's Badgebup. On these occasions we will then meet for either morning tea or a lunch at a local Café. At our April meeting we hope to have a Guest Speaker from Anglicare.

This year we hope to have a new member join our group. I will be encouraging as many as possible to come to our Lady Day Service and the Luncheon at the Parade Hotel. We do have some members who are fit and able to travel so we should have a few attend. We will present a further report after our Mothers & Daughters Afternoon Tea held in May. We enjoy receiving our Mustard Tree and Mia Mia magazines and we look forward to the coming year.

### **PINJARRA BRANCH NEWS** *(Contributed by Jean Beard)*

While visiting Busselton Branch on Thursday 21 November, 2019, our MU Chaplain, Rev Cathie Broome, was presented with a Mothers' Union stole made by Margaret Broad of Pinjarra Branch. The stole was blessed by the Venerable David Thornton-Wakeford who was the Locum Tenens at the time. Cathie wore it officially for the first time on that day.



Mothers' Union and St Francis Church had three projects over Christmas. At a stall at the Pinjarra Christmas Festival, we provided free tea, coffee and mince pies to those attending. Most people were surprised to find out they did not have to pay and it took a while to get going. Once people started coming, we were very busy. Two of our members dressed as Mary and Joseph, and a large crib was on show. We were pleasantly surprised how many children dragged their parents up to see the crib. We felt it was a good outreach to the community. We had to put a dish out because people wanted to give us donations. These donations almost covered the cost. God works in wonderful ways. We will be doing this again next year.

Our second project was to be part of Mandurah's Angel Project as referred to in the Summer edition of the Mustard Tree.



Our third project was to support our local drop-in-centre for women in Linkages. We made up pamper hampers for the women and wrapped presents for the children. The lady who runs the centre was overcome by our large number of gifts. We support this organisation throughout the year. Our last effort was our usual supply of food hampers for the needy. We have been lucky over the past few years to be the recipient of a large donation of food from the Western Wanderers' Caravan Club.

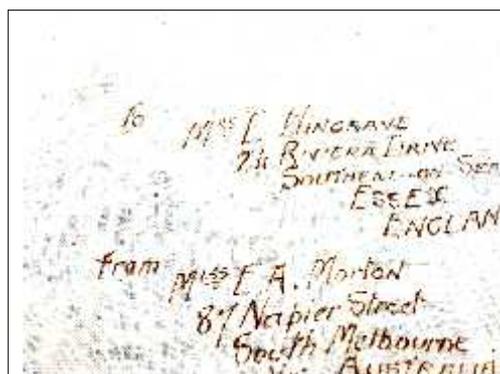
Over all I think our small group of members did an amazing job.

**See more branch reports on pages 12 and 13**

## **HISTORIC MU CALICO** *(Contributed by Lynda Howe)*

At our November meeting in Carey Park we had a surprise visitor. It was Barbara Wingrave from St Mark's Church. Jenny Ward brought her to visit us and with her she brought a large wall hanging Barbara had made. Although it was indeed lovely, it was the backing calico that was the reason for her visit.

The story started in 1947 in Essex, UK. The local Church of England had a new minister from South Melbourne by the name of Rev Phillip Charles Lee. He found that there were many needs in the parish even though the war was over. So he wrote to the local MU in South Melbourne and, as a result, a Miss E.A. Morton from Napier St, South Melbourne, sent a parcel of dried fruits to Barbara's mother, an MU member herself, in Southend-on-Sea in Essex. This happened at least a couple of times and the pieces of calico were kept as a reminder of the love and generosity of MU women in reaching out to their sisters across the world. The fact that the pieces were kept for over 70 years is a miracle in itself and they are immortalized in the wall hanging that now hangs in Barbara's unit in Bunbury. Thank you Barbara, for showing us the enduring love of MU across the miles and across time.



Here is the piece of calico with mailing instructions, and which is now attached to the wall hanging shown to the right.



## **WOOLLEN SQUARES**

When you read the article on page 8 about a young student from the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School and her knitting project, you might be inspired to knit some squares. We are very low on supplies.

If you can't knit, then maybe you know someone who can.

Or, again, if you can't knit, then a donation of 8-ply wool would be appreciated.

Many thanks to the Busselton knitters who keep sending in batches of squares. Your support is appreciated.

Thanks also for the competent people who crochet the edges of the rugs to make them look so professional.

I know that Albany and Denmark branches are involved in this outreach, also Mandurah. Could you let me know what is happening in your part of the world?

In Bunbury the majority of the rugs go to the SW Women's Refuge and, occasionally, to the Mission to Seafarers.



## **A VISIT TO THE BUNBURY CATHEDRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

*(Contributed by Margaret Rennick)*

*In November I was invited to the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School to attend an assembly of the primary school students, the main purpose being to acknowledge the work of Liesl, one of their Year 6 students. Extracts of her story are told below.*

**“In July 2018 I began a Round Square project called “Knitting for the Needy”, where I would get as many people as possible to knit a woollen square. Once at least 35 squares had been knitted I would get someone to stitch them together to make a blanket. I have been doing this project since term 3 in 2018 and it has now come to an end. I managed to create 9 blankets with the help of many people”.**

**At the assembly Liesl thanked all the ladies who had knitted squares, another who had sewn the squares into blankets and another who crocheted beautiful little borders around the blankets.**

**“I started this project because I wanted to help people in need. I think this project is quite unique. Lots of people tend to do projects like a beach cleanup or some sort of environmentally-related activity for the community. But my idea was to do something different, something to help people. We need to remember that, yes, we should help the environment but we also need to help people in need.**

**I hope learning a bit more about my project can inspire you to do something similar to this. Even the smallest things can make a big difference”.**

*Liesl’s blankets will join those prepared by MU members and will go to the SW Women’s Refuge or the Mission to Seafarers in Bunbury and we thank Liesl for her wonderful achievement .*

*Well done!!*



## **THOSE TERRIBLE FIRES**

Our Diocesan President, Wendy, has emailed many dioceses assuring them of our ongoing prayers for the members of their branches who have been impacted in anyway by the bushfires. In part, below, are some of the responses Wendy received:

*Thank you for your message to MU Adelaide and I will pass it on to the affected areas. It has been just terrible. We in MU Adelaide are trying to work out the best way to support and are waiting a little. It will become clearer down the track. I have a priest working out our best response.*  
Marion

*So lovely to hear from you and to know that you are praying for our Diocese. Yes the fires and drought have had a devastating impact on so many parishes in our very large diocese. We are truly blessed that AMUA and Bishop Mark and our Patron, Monica, and leading by example with love, compassion, outreach and prayer. After the bushfire between Canberra and Queanbeyan, which closed the airport for the day, we had a light shower of rain which, while not a lot, keeps on giving us encouragement and hope for the recovery. Thank you for making contact. I will send your message out to our members including Bishop Mark and Monica. United in prayer and love of Jesus, Blessing to all in Bunbury Diocese, Joan x*

*Thanks for your beautiful and encouraging words. We do very much need and value the prayers of Mothers' Union. Mothers' Union is a beautiful organisation and Joan does a wonderful job supporting us all here in our diocese. May God bless you and keep you safe. kind regards* Monica Short

*Thank you so much for your prayerful concern for those impacted by the terrible bushfires in our diocese and beyond. Our rural and coastal communities, together with our poor flora and fauna, will take a long time to recover and rebuild. We know God is in control and we are grateful for his mercy. Many of our members in the Southern Highlands are part of the fire-fighting community and Anglicare and have been volunteering for so many long weeks. We pray for respite particularly for them. It is wonderful to know that we are united in prayer through MU. It is such an encouragement. Glenda McSorley President, MU Sydney*

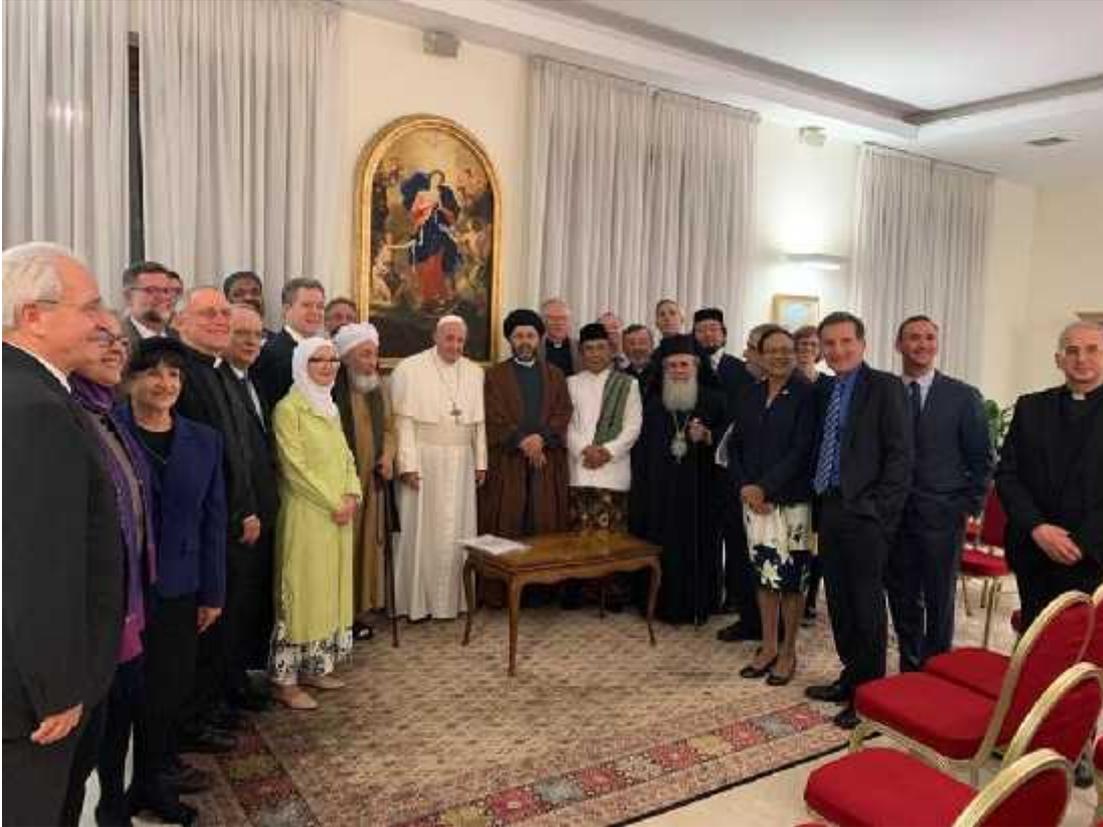
*Thank you for your message of prayer and support which will be much appreciated by all in the Diocese. There were many evacuees from the Corryong area sent to Wodonga and Wangaratta and residents of the Corryong Nursing Home were sent to willing hospitals along the Murray Valley Highway-Nathalia is at least a four hour drive. The parishes cover quite large areas of fire ravaged farms but the Parish priests and others from nearby areas are spending time counselling those who need extra support. Mary Muntz. Wangaratta*

*Thank you for your message of love, support and Prayers for those affected by Bushfires. We have had several large fires in our Diocese with houses, property and livestock impacted but thankfully at this stage none as devastating as other parts of our State and Kangaroo Island and in NSW and Victoria. Some funds are being given to support one of our MU Members near Pt Lincoln who was badly affected by fire in November last year for the second time in a few years. Lynette Pole President, AMUA Diocese of Willochra*

*Thank you for your kind thoughts. There are many for whom this is a devastating time. I was speaking with one of our Branch Presidents who lives in Bairnsdale, itself a large town on the South Western border of the fires that have burnt through East Gippsland. She has been busy hosting evacuees and now some people who are taking part in the clearing up of burnt areas. Such a huge task. Thank you for your prayers and please continue to uphold all those involved. Blessings Maryann Ashton President, AMUA Diocese of Gippsland*

**I emailed the above responses to those of you have access to email but, for those members who do not have email, I have included above some of the responses from AMUA dioceses throughout Australia (Margaret)**





Our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, has recently visited Rome alongside the Abrahamic Faiths Initiative (AFI), with one overarching goal: to advance sustainable peace and mutual respect amongst faiths and around the world.

Sheran said, “It was a deep and profoundly moving experience to sit alongside such diverse faith leaders, completely united in different issues of our time. When we can work together in all our faiths, we have the potential to create real and lasting pathway to peace. With four million members, Mothers’ Union is already leading and delivering impact with women as change and peace makers and I look forward to continuing to bring this learning and sharing to future conversations and action.”

### **FAMILIES WORLDWIDE**

Hopefully, you have read the latest edition of Families Worldwide and noted the different format and where you have been introduced to the eleven Mothers’ Union zones and their trustees.

We, in Australia, are part of Zone C which includes Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea and our trustee is Libbie Crossman. In our zone there are 45,323 members and the main languages are English, Maori, Niven, Solomon Island Pidgin, PNG Pidgin, Motu and over 700 local and island languages.

It is very interesting to read about our zone and the other zones in our wonderful organisation

## FROM THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL'S PRESIDENT'S DESK

February 2020

Dear MU Members and Friends,



Greetings as you begin your prayerful work for 2020! The Christmas and New Year period has been a busy one for many of those of you caught up in bushfires, floods, dust storms and hail storms. You have been upheld in prayer by members all over the country, and all over the world. As you help to rebuild your towns and communities, we pray that you will feel God's love surrounding you. Through the AMUA Disaster Relief Fund, we were able to offer financial grants to eight Dioceses (as advised by Diocesan Presidents) affected by Bushfires. So far, these Dioceses are: The Murray, Canberra & Goulburn, Sydney, Wangaratta, Willochra, Adelaide, Gippsland and Armidale. Bishop Mark Short from C&G was encouraging people to send greetings to fire-hit areas – perhaps your diocese could do this? (*Bunbury Diocese has sent greetings, see page 8 for replies*)

Do you value the AMUA Publications Department? Have you or your diocese or your group considered accepting the ministry of Publications Manager? Narelle definitely finishes at the end of March. The Department has been reduced to MU material only – no books – so storing and sourcing new stock is minimal. Please consider this prayerfully and seriously, and contact Narelle or me with any questions.

Our Theme for this year – *Building Hope and Confidence* – is very relevant in view of the natural disasters we have had, and will continue to experience. It's also relevant in our Dioceses and in our groups – falling numbers sometimes leave us feeling deflated, and unable to plan much for the future. But I'm reminded of the prophet Micah's words as the people ask what can they give to God who has given so much to them – “(God) has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

Building hope and confidence in PNG through the Parenting Program is our special project for this year. When I was a new mum, I found myself suddenly responsible for the Life and Survival of a tiny child, but I was helped and supported and my confidence grew. That's what we are going to do for the mothers of Papua New Guinea, so I hope you will take this project to heart and work and pray for its success. You will hear more about this from Dr Robin Ray, our Overseas and Northern Outreach Convenor, during the year.

As you begin to plan for 2020, in dioceses and in groups, I encourage you to keep the theme in mind, as well as the MULOA principles we learned over the last year or so - listening, observing and acting.

Love and peace, Anne Kennedy



**BOYUP BROOK BRANCH NEWS** *(Contributed by Jan Ritson)*

To finish 2019, we supplied small gifts to be placed in the Christmas hampers that are compiled by the local church groups for people in need in our community.

We have been involved with sorting second-hand books and assisting with the community book stall that has become a regular part of the Country Music Show in February. Our specialty is providing morning tea for all the people manning the stall which is held in the grounds of St. Saviours. Proceeds from the stall always go to charity. We look forward to welcoming our Diocesan president, Wendy, to our June meeting.

**BUNBURY BRANCH NEWS** *(Contributed by Margaret Rennick)*

Well we are back into the swing of things again with our first meeting for 2020 taking place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Commencing with the Eucharist, and following the usual lovely morning tea, we had a PowerPoint presentation which outlined all we had achieved in 2019 and which, perhaps, will give us inspiration to be involved in the various MU activities which will take place during this year.

We were very pleased to welcome Jeannie Cornish as a prospective new member.

MU members were to the fore when, on Sunday 2nd February, four young members from one family were baptised at the Family Service held at St Boniface Cathedral. The family has been attending the Cathedral for some time now and we appreciate their commitment. As well as being baptised, they were admitted to their first communion, as were two other young members of our congregation. Our Sunday School has grown from 3 children to eighteen and all that in just over a year or two. Canon Carol, who is acting as the locum in our parish, also blessed the children (and teachers) as they are about to start a new school year and, in addition, she blessed the children's schoolbags. It was a wonderful service at which MU presented gifts to the six children.

Looking back, I will tell you about an hilarious time we had at our Christmas meeting. Each member had to provide a photo of themselves aged between 6 and 16. This was shown on the PowerPoint as we tried to guess who each person was. Very difficult indeed! The next slide then showed the childhood photo together with a recent photo to see the difference. Lots of Laughter! Four of the photos are shown below. Each is serving, or has served, on Bunbury MU Executive. Can you guess who they are? See page 14.

We are now looking forward to our March meeting when Bishop Ian will be our guest speaker.



## **MANDURAH BRANCH REPORT** *(Contributed by Sally Bone)*

### **Prospective New Members' Morning Tea**

It all started with two women from our worshipping community speaking to two members of our branch, saying that they thought they might like to join Mothers' Union in 2020.

As our committee met to plan our program for the year, we reflected on the busyness of our first meeting last year when members were catching up with each other (we worship across five different services throughout each week), when we were sorting out prayer partners, sorting out annual fees, working through the program and generally making a great deal of enthusiastic noise. We were concerned for how daunting this was to a prospective new member who came along to find out what Mothers' Union was all about.

The idea was born that a morning tea be held prior to our first meeting to share who and what we are in a more intimate and less intimidating setting, with myself as president and the secretary being present to provide information and answer any questions.

When notices were given after our 10am Family Eucharist on the Sunday following the committee meeting, I shared that a new year of Mothers' Union was about to commence and invited anyone who might want to know more about Mothers' Union to speak to me after the service. Seven women approached me and I invited them to come to our morning tea.

Specially prepared invitations with all the details of where and when were printed and given to each of the nine women in the weeks leading up to the morning tea. Current members were all told of the morning tea and invited to put forward names of others they knew who had expressed an interest in Mothers' Union and who could be invited to come along.

After another approach, in the end there were ten women who had expressed an interest in finding out more, *seven* of whom joined us for the morning tea. After all of our conversations, they were invited to come along to our February and March meetings to experience for themselves some of what happens at our branch. It is our hope that at least some, if not all, will decide to join Mothers' Union and will be welcomed as members on Mothering Sunday as part of our Mothers' Union focus week-end in our parish. As for the other three ladies who were unable to join us, we will follow up with them and encourage their interest.

## **BUSSELTON BRANCH REPORT** *(contributed by Mary Watts)*

Busselton branch held their end of year Eucharist in November. We were very fortunate to have the Diocesan Chaplain, Rev Cathie Broome, to celebrate. We also welcomed the Venerable David Thornton-Wakeford with his wife Deborah. David was visiting the parish from Adelaide, as the locum tenens for three months.

The Bunbury Diocesan President, Mrs Jean Beard, took part in the service, presenting new member, Susan Butler, with her membership of MU. Following the service, members and friends adjourned to a beachside restaurant for a most enjoyable 'Christmas' lunch.

To begin the new year of 2020, members gathered for an informal meeting in January to discuss the programme they would like for each month. Using the guideline of the theme for the year of 'Building Hope and Confidence', we formed what is anticipated an encouraging and interesting format, with plenty of member involvement and look forward to inviting some different speakers which hopefully will encourage some new members.



**MUSTARD TREE UPDATE** *(Contributed by Margaret Rennick)*

In January, President Wendy, Beth Wootton and I met to discuss the compilation and distribution of the Mustard Tree and the Mia Mia.

Please note the following:

**As the editor it is my duty to:**

- ) Call for written contributions from executive, branches and members
- ) Compile the newsletter
- ) Arrange printing, which is done at the Diocesan Office
- ) Send an electronic copy for uploading to AMUA website

**As Mia Mia Correspondent it is my duty to:**

Send an electronic copy of the Mustard Tree to the Mia Mia editor who selects articles as relevant for publication in the national magazine

**As Mia Mia Distributor Beth:**

- ) Keeps an up-to-date Diocesan Member Database
- ) Receives boxes of the Mia Mia each issue from Mia Mia editor, delivered to her door by courier
- ) Purchases plastic envelopes and labels as necessary
- ) Prints address labels from database
- ) Packages Mia Mia, Mustard Tree (and twice per year Families Worldwide) - usually with me and one other person assisting
- ) Sorts completed packages into postcodes and delivers completed packages to Australia Post, completes necessary paperwork and pays for postage.

Beth is reimbursed by our Treasurer Diane for postage and the cost of consumables on presentation of receipts.

**Important Dates for Mothers' Union in 2020**

Friday 6th March: World Day of Prayer  
Tuesday 24th March: Executive Meeting, Bunbury  
Wednesday 25th March: Lady Day, Bunbury  
Monday 29th June Executive Meeting: Donnybrook  
Tuesday 30th June MULOA Day: Donnybrook  
Friday 31st July: Fellowship Day  
Sunday 9th August: Mary Sumner Day  
Friday 4th September—Sunday 6th September: State Conference, Perth  
Monday 26th October: Executive Meeting, Mandurah  
Tuesday 27th October: Country Rally, Mandurah  
Friday 30th October: World Community Day

Don't forget to send me your snippets of information especially news from your branch.  
Photos most welcome.

**The closing date** for the next edition of the Mustard Tree is  
**14th May 2020**

**Send your contributions to:**  
Margaret Rennick

*(Contact details removed for Website copy...Assistant Web Administrator)  
If you would like to contact Margaret,  
please email [contact@muaustralia.org.au](mailto:contact@muaustralia.org.au) and we will forward it to her.*

**To help you identify the photos on page12. They are (L-R) Diane Hill (current diocesan treasurer), Margaret Rennick (current Mustard Tree editor), June Francis (past diocesan secretary), Beth Wootton (past diocesan secretary)**