



MOTHERS UNION NEWCASTLE

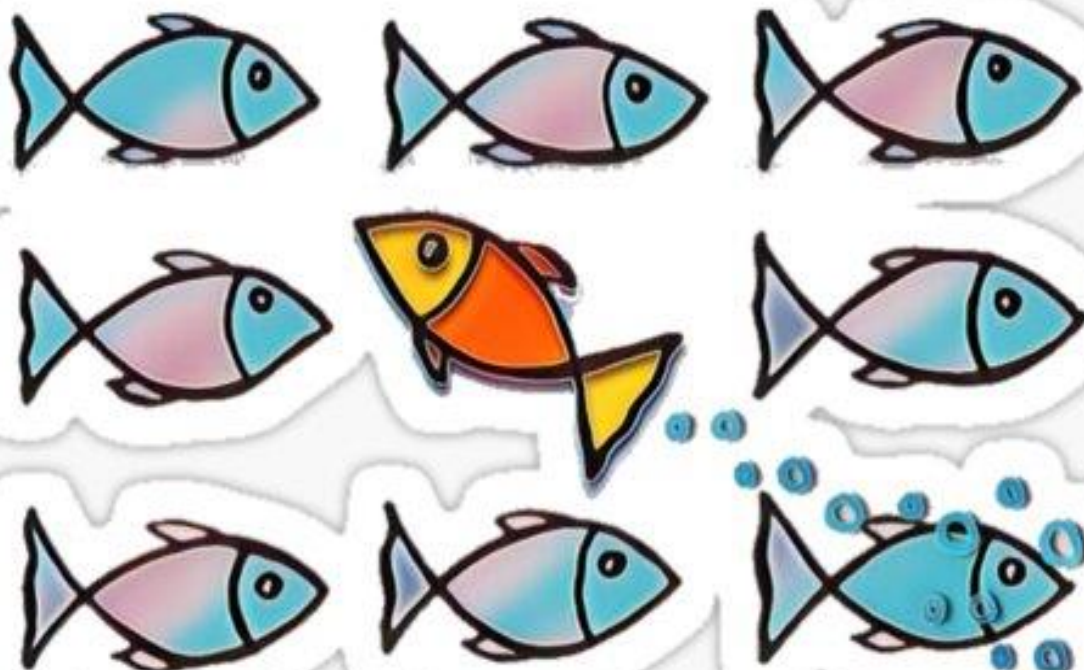
JUNE NEWSLETTER 2023

*Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening
and supporting marriage and family life.*

Theme for 2023

RENEW & TRANSFORM

BE DIFFERENT



ROMANS 12:2

Mothers Union Diocesan Executive 2023

Elizabeth Bissaker, President

Barbara Warland, Vice President

Gail Iles, Vice President

Laurel Brook, Secretary

Jan Garrard, Treasurer

Reverend Nicole Baldwin, Chaplain

Departmental Coordinators

Denise Brown, Promotion

Noelene Lentfer,

Overseas and Northern Outreach/Links

Rhonda Morse, Prayer & Spirituality

Barb Hayes, Publications

Lorraine Phillips, Social Issues & Action

Branch Liaison Contact

Noeline Darcy

Committee Members

Leonie Benson, Lone Members

Diane Kenchington, Magazines

Lynn Mulley, Newsletter Editor

Lyn Wickham, Coffee & Care

Denise Hird, New Born Baby Ministry

Beth Weeks, Birthday Cards

Kim Bussey, Website Administrator

Immediate Past President

Denise Brown

Life Members

Noelle Freeman & Robyn Southerden

Our Vision:

*Our vision is of a world where
God's love is shown through
loving, respectful,
and flourishing relationships.*

Our Objectives:

- To promote and support marriage and family life.
- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children.
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

*In Jesus' name. **Amen***



FROM OUR DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Bissaker

Dear MU friends and supporter,

Our theme for 2023 is Renew and Transform and I love finding these words in our everyday life. I saw an advertisement from Bunnings that caught my attention which said - "Transform your lawn on a budget – expert advice you can't miss – repair, fertilize, prune, attract and prepare." Isn't this a great message for our Christian lives? Luckily we don't have a budget

for what it costs to renew and transform our lives – it is freely given to us. All the advice we need is in the Bible. We quite often need to repair and mend our ways and this can only come about by asking for forgiveness and help. We can then fertilise our souls and bodies by studying the Bible and then we can prune by identifying our faults and getting rid of the dead parts. We can work on trying to attract people to turn to Christ by what we do and say and we can prepare for eternal life with our Christ in glory.

The beginning of the year has been a big learning curve for me and as I look back I know that God was with me during this time and I also felt supported by words of encouragement and prayer from so many of you.

In February the Executive met at Cessnock and thank you to Rev'd Nicole for the hospitality of the Parish and for leading us in our Eucharist Service before our meeting. There was much to be discussed at the meeting - finalising Council Meeting and Lady Day and discussion on other special events to be held during the year, as well as getting to know each other.

In March we had our 1st Council Meeting at St Thomas', Cardiff and our guest speaker was Trish Stevenson from Oz Harvest. The members present were touched by the work Oz Harvest is doing and a donation was sent off to assist with their work in helping to relieve food waste in our society and helping to feed those in need.

**'All the advice we need
is in the Bible.'**

**Stay
in the
Word**



On the 25th March Bishop Peter and Dean Katherine welcomed us for our Lady Day Service in the Cathedral. Unfortunately we still couldn't process our branch banners but it was encouraging to see some of the branch banners on display with our Diocesan and Lone Members banners.

Following the service Kylie Harrod, Project Officer, Newcastle Anglican's Domestic and Family Abuse Project spoke to us on what the Diocese is doing by making us aware of the signs of abuse and what we can do to assist with this growing problem in our communities. Thank you to the MU Branches who have invited me to visit (Cessnock, Belmont, Merewether, Boolaroo, Taree and Lambton) and some also asked me to present years of membership badges and certificates, celebrate in special birthdays of members, acknowledge anniversaries of their branches and to share time with members. It is a blessing to attend and especially to hear about what their Branches are doing. I am expanding my knowledge of the internet and now communicate with other Diocesan Presidents in our Province by ZOOM and recently connected to Mary Sumner House through MU Live. It did take a while for MSH to work out that we were Newcastle Diocese Australia not Newcastle Diocese UK. I do encourage you all who have internet access to login to the Australian MU and our Newcastle Diocese websites. The web address for MU Australia is www.muaustralia.org.au and for our Diocese www.munewcastle.org.au. Both sites are regularly updated and there are resources that can be used in Branch meetings.

What a wonderful celebration for the coronation of King Charles. It was a moving service and, as always, the English seem to be pretty good at organising and carrying out such events. By the time you receive this newsletter you will have enjoyed the Wave of Prayer within your branches. Please note in your diaries the O&NO lunches at New Lambton and Kincumber being held on the 7th and 8th August and Women Celebrating our Faith on the 9th September.

May you all be blessed in this winter season and enjoy snuggling up with a good book on the lounge in front of the fire.

May you all be richly blessed.

Elizabeth



CHAPLAINS CHATTER

Reverend Nicole Baldwin

Dear friends in Christ,
By the time you read this reflection, we will be in the Sundays after Pentecost. We will have been reminded at the end of Matthew's Gospel (28.16-20) that Jesus



said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' And we will be living into this once again, pondering all that we are called to do, and perhaps wondering how we might carry out this Great Commission in a world that is indifferent or actively resistant to faith in God. Our response needs to be one of being the hands and feet, the ears and eyes, the arms and voice, of Jesus in the world. If we listen deeply, respond in obedience, and act with love, God will open the hearts of those he is calling us to minister to and be companions of.

As we seek renewal and transformation in our lives and in the life of the Church it is so important to remember that Jesus promises to be with us always. The Holy Spirit will teach us all that we need to know and will equip us for ministry. As we discern the gifts that we have been given, we are to use these for the building of God's kingdom in the places that we live and move and have our being.

The National Church Lifestyle Survey tells us that approximately 40% of people are open to an invitation to engage in faith-based activities. This is probably not coming to Church in the first instance, but there is a willingness in the communities that we live in to accept an invitation to be part of something the church is doing. So, when was the last time that you invited a friend to something your church is doing? Personal invitations convey a level of commitment that we do not get with general invitations.

Being personally invited can be very reassuring that the person being invited won't be left to fend for themselves, that they will have someone who can introduce them to the people that they do not know, and that they will have a companion at the event. Many of us enjoy doing things with our friends and sharing experiences, feeling included and welcomed is one of the steps to feeling a sense of belonging. What better way to welcome someone than to offer a personal invitation and to be a companion to the event!

Renewal and transformation also call us to take a stand against injustice, violence, and discrimination in all their forms. The things we walk past are the things that we accept. We might be surprised if we consider and reflect on this deeply. Mark Link wrote the following short but powerful reflection:

A woman saw a little girl in the street playing with filthy trash. The child was poorly dressed and ill-nourished. The woman became angry and said to God, 'Why do you let a thing like that happen in the world you created? Why don't you do something about it?'

God replied, 'I did do something about it. I created you.'

I invite you to ponder this deeply. God created each one of us in his image, you, me, the woman in this reflection, and the little girl.

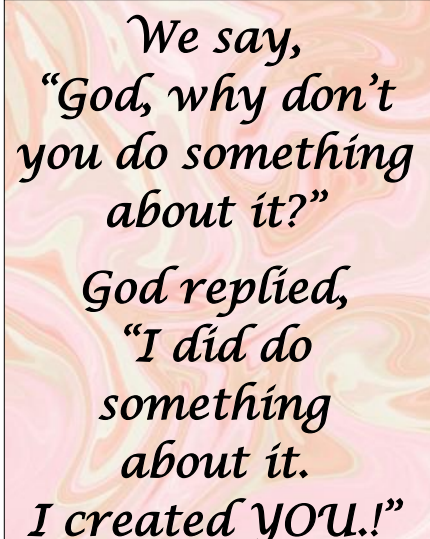
Remembering that we are the hands and feet, the eyes and ears, the arms and voice of Jesus in the world today, how will we respond to the needs of others that we see around us. When we ask 'Why?' how will we respond to God's answer, 'I did do something about it. I created you.'

May we do all we can to challenge the injustice, violence, and discrimination that we see, that the world may be transformed and renewed so that all people are treated with respect and dignity. We are all brothers and sisters. We are all entrusted with the precious gift of life. What will you do with yours?

May the blessings of God give us courage for all that God calls us to.

Prayerful love and blessings

Reverend Nicole



*We say,
“God, why don’t
you do something
about it?”
God replied,
“I did do
something
about it.
I created YOU!!”*

OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH LUNCHEONS



ANGLICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA
DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

1\ **Monday 7th August 2023**

@ All Saints ANEW Anglican Church - 33 Regents Street, New Lambton

2\ **Tuesday 8th August 2023**

@ The Anglican Community Church - 167 Avoca Drive, Kincumber

The days will commence at 9.30 am with morning tea followed by the service at 10.00am

Guest Speaker: Dr Monica Short

Monica is the wife of the Bishop of Canberra/Goulburn
and Lecturer at Charles Sturt University.



LOIS ALLANSON receiving her
50 year badge.

MEREWETHER MU

Merewether AMUA enjoyed a special visit from our new Diocesan President, Elizabeth, in March; when she presented Nancy Stone with her 70 year badge, and Lois Allanson with her 50 year badge. Following

these awards she also presented several

members with their 30, 20, and 10 year certificates. Elizabeth then spoke to the meeting about her life. How she came to Australia by ship, aged four years, with her parents from England. How she has spent many years working for the Scouts and Girl Guide movements. Then later in other religious movements and offices; including time spent in Papua New Guinea.

This was a very special afternoon for Merewether Branch, and we all wish Elizabeth much success and happiness during her time as our president.

Anne Clarke



Nancy receiving her
70 year badge. ↑

↓ NANCY cutting her
70 year cake.





LADY DAY

25th March 2023



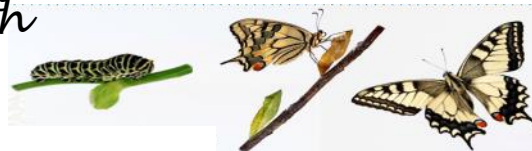
A very big thank you to all who attended the Lady Service and especially to those who had jobs to do.

You were all great and made my day easy and enjoyable for all those who attended.

We were certainly blessed to have Bishop Peter as our presider and preacher, Rev'd Nicole as Deacon, Rev'd Jan Deaves as Sub-Deacon, Dean Katherine, Organist David, Verger Matthew and Crucifer David all being part of our Lady Day Service.

Our guest speaker, Kylie, alerted us all to the extent of Domestic and Family Abuse around us in our communities including maybe within our own families and what the different types of abuse were. She also spoke on the Ten Commitments for Prevention and Response to Domestic and Family Violence developed by the Anglican Church of Australia. (See page 16)

Elizabeth





LADY DAY





Jean



Jan



Jean and Jan

happy
Birthday

Cessnock MU High Tea

Cessnock MU celebrated 280 years of life love and faith with a High Tea. The lovely birthday

ladies Jean Lang, 100 years Jan Crosdale, 90 years and Jeanette Williams, 90 years—with over 40 guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of love

friendship and laughter. Unfortunately Jeanette was unable to attend but was there in Spirit.

Jeanette's birthday will be celebrated at a later date. Lyn



High Tea

Colleen, Judy and Jean



Liz, Lorraine and Jan



Lynn and Jackie



Jackie



Elizabeth,
Lyn and
Rhonda

Lorraine,
Jan and
Deanne





BETH & ELIZABETH

Monumental Achievements Celebrated at Taree

On April 13th we celebrated Beth Weeks' 90th Birthday, Jeanette Holland's 60 years and Leonie Benson's 25 years of membership.

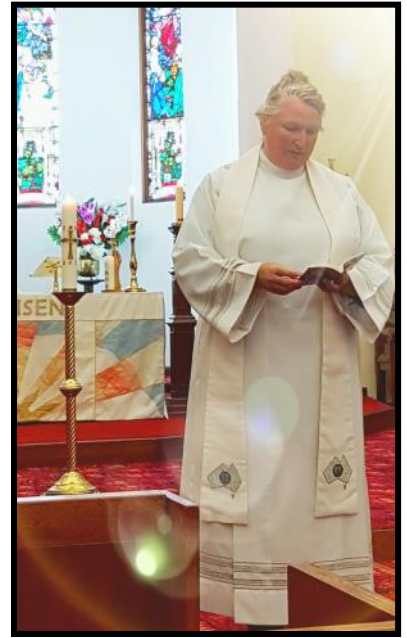
With Elizabeth Bissaker, our Diocesan President, Denise Brown, our immediate Past President, Laurel Brook, Jan Garrard, friends and family we began the day with a Holy Eucharist presided by Reverend Nicole, Mothers Union Chaplain.

Elizabeth presented badges and certificates to Jeanette and Leonie, and a 90th birthday card to Beth which everyone was able to sign.

We celebrated with party hats, whistles and party food.

Beth blew out her candles and cut her birthday cake. It was a wonderful day of celebration for dedicated lives and service to our Lord Jesus.

Regards Kim



Leonie & Elizabeth



Jeanette & Elizabeth

**Age is a quality of mind
if we've left our dreams behind,
if hope is cold,
if we no longer look ahead,
if our ambitions fires are dead
then we are old.
But... if in life we do our best,
if in life we keep the zest,
If LOVE we hold,
no matter how the years go by,
no matter how the birthdays fly.....
We are not old.**



The Mysterious Refinding of a Lambton Treasure.

On May 2 **Lambton MU** celebrated our 94th anniversary. Reverend Nicole officiated at the Eucharist, Allan Proud told of his experience as a Vietnam veteran and its impact on his life and the story was told of the miracle of finding our members' embroidered tablecloth. It had been lost for about eight years, thought to be gone forever and despite the Great Hall Cleanout and it being subconsciously moved to various places in the process, Daphney Whelan suddenly found it recently. What a surprise when about 90% of the hall contents were disposed of. The Lord moves in mysterious ways unbeknownst to us mere mortals. Gail Iles (I love stories like this! 😊😊😊)



I have the most wonderful, inspiring story about a lost TABLECLOTH.



If you would like to read it you can contact me (Lynn) and I will be more than happy to email or snail mail it to you.





News from Anglican Women

Just a quick note to let you know what has been happening within the Diocese for Anglican Women.

In February we held our annual silent Lenten Retreat at Catalina Conference Centre Rathmines. The retreat conductor was Rev Angela Peverell from Muswellbrook Parish.

12 women attended this wonderful spiritual, prayerful weekend coming away feeling ready as though they were prepared for Lent and Easter.

During Holy week we held a Quiet day led by Rev Michelle at Singleton Parish 13 women from across the diocese attended to hear reflections and prayers by Rev Michelle. It was a lovely day of reflection leading us into Easter Celebrations.

We are looking forward to our Spring Celebration on 5th September at St Peters East Maitland. The guest speaker will be Kylie Harrod, you might remember her from Lady Day where she was our guest speaker. Our Thank You Box project for 2023/24 will be the Diocesan Domestic and Family abuse project. More information to come soon.

Continued over page



(Cont'd from previous page) **On the 9th September**, Cursillo, MU and AW will be holding **Women Celebrating our Faith at All Saints Anew New Lambton**. (See page 21) This has been a popular event over the last two years where women from all over the Diocese can come to celebrate their faith and fellowship with all women across the Diocese.

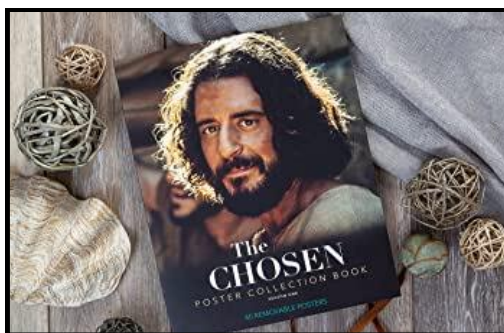
Blessings—Lorraine Phillips

AW Diocesan President.

ANGLICAN WOMEN SPRING CELEBRATIONS.

5th SEPTEMBER @ ST PETERS EAST MAITLAND.

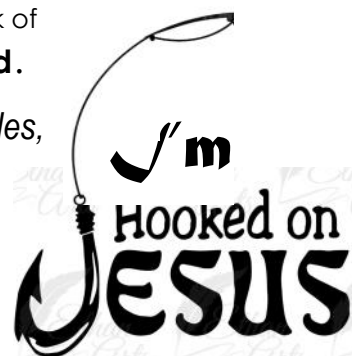
GUEST SPEAKER—KYLIE HARROD.



THE CHOSEN. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHOSEN?

*'Being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications—although it says even more about the Chooser than the choosees. We are loved because He is love. We are saved because He is merciful. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, **making the Bible and all it's promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation.**' St Johns R.T. Bible Study group are doing The Chosen as a Bible Study this year. (Above words from back of study book) **I'm loving it! You can watch on NETFLIX. Highly recommended.***

***The Chosen**, a multi season look at the life of Christ through the eyes of his disciples, has garnered more than 50 million fans in 180 countries with its engaging and affecting storytelling, according to producers. Even viewers initially sceptical that anything good could come out of the Nazareth of Christian entertainment have found themselves hooked by The Chosen's imaginative scripts and high production value. (Words from Web)*



ONLY DEAD
FISH
GO WITH
THE FLOW

The only thing that casts doubt on the miracles of Jesus is that they were all witnessed by fishermen. 😊 😊 😊

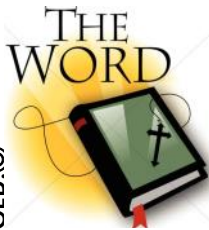


A story to share.

I'm a WHOSOEVER!—Got the T-Shirt to prove it now! ☺
Tom's brother owns Twin Rivers Workwear & Uniforms in R.T
(advertisement☺) - they do all kinds of embroidery/vinyls
etc so I ordered my T-shirt from him. Went to pick it up on
Friday (3/3), not ready. Went back on Saturday (4/3) -
T-shirt was ready and then I had a very interesting
discussion with someone in shop. (God's timing) ☺. Went
to pay for shirt on leaving and Tom's brother said 'Don't
worry about paying' —(It's not what you know☺)
Wore T-Shirt to church on Sunday 5/3—Gospel reading for
day was **John 3.1-17**. It was during Fr Steve's sermon when
he mentioned 'Free gift from God' that I thought of my
T-Shirt being free—bit slow sometimes but don't you think
that's neat? It made me smile. ☺☺☺
I really like the word WHOSOEVER—why did the 'powers
to be' have to change it in today's translation of Bible?



As Fr Steve often says: IF IT AINT
BROKEN WHY FIX IT? ☺☺☺



*'Now the Bible's so old-fashioned' said Elizabeth pointing to a page,
(she didn't really say that!!!)☺☺☺
'So we'll need to change the message so it's suited to this age.
If we're really wanting people to be interested today.
We shall need to make some changes in the things we have to say.'*

*'Change the methods not the message' said Reverend Nicole, 'for its true.
That God's words are everlasting and we don't need something new.
For the message of the Bible is so relevant today,
People still must learn that Jesus is the true and living way.'*

*'We must talk of God's great mercy, of his grace and love' said 'nise,
'But as for sin and judgement, these things we will not speak,
If we want to interest people in the things God has to say
Then we must adjust the message so it's suited for today.'*

*'Change the methods not the message'
Reverend Nicole repeated for she knew
That the message of the Bible is inspired by God and true,
If we tamper with that message, if we change what God has given,
Then we'll have no real assurance of salvation nor of heaven.*

**"WE DON'T CHANGE GOD'S MESSAGE—
HIS MESSAGE CHANGES US"**



**Find your strength
in the ONE who**

**NEVER
CHANGES!**

**JESUS is the
same
yesterday,
today and
forever.**

THE BIBLE: UNDER SAME MANAGEMENT FOR OVER 2000 YEARS!

10 commitments for preventing and responding to domestic and family violence.

1. Our church acknowledges and laments the violence which has been suffered by some of our members and repents of the part we have played in allowing an environment where violence went unaddressed.
2. Our church leaders commit to ensure conditions that support the prevention of violence, a church culture that promotes equality and support for those who experience violence.
3. Our Church consistently teaches about equality, freedom from violence, respectful relationships and the honour/value of every person.
4. Our Church affirms that human relationships are to be based on respect and mutuality.
5. Our church acknowledges the different experiences of all people and that these have played a part in whether they have been treated with respect and equality.
6. Our Church actions are directed by the gospel of love, peace and justice, and are informed and engaged with local, state and national government initiatives as appropriate.
7. Our church supports cultural change in our communities by communicating effectively to our members.
8. Our church trains our leaders, pastoral staff and parish councils to understand and be equipped to respond in ways that prevent and address domestic and family violence.
9. Our leaders and pastoral staff hold themselves to account and are guided by the Anglican Church's Code of Conduct. Faithfulness in Service.
10. These commitments are regularly reviewed and improved.



At any given moment you have the power to say this is not how the story is going to end. Christine Mason Miller on Domestic Violence.

FROM THE TREASURER

Our new Diocesan MU Treasurer, Jan Garrard, would like Branches (Branch Treasurers and members) to help make her life easier with a few suggestions when sending a cheque or direct depositing into our MU Account.

If paying by direct deposit on behalf of an MU Branch please email Jan after you have made the payment [\[link\]](#) with name of MU Branch

The amount being paid

Invoice No. if appropriate or what you are paying for

If paying by direct deposit for yourself please follow the instructions above but replace with your name and your MU Branch.

If paying by cheque please ensure you have identified who has sent it

Name of MU Branch or person sending cheque

Invoice No. if appropriate or items purchased

If you want a receipt please include a stamped self addressed envelope otherwise receipts for Branches will be included in Branch bags available at Council Meetings.

Thank you for your assistance.

"I welcome change, as long as nothing is altered or different."

WHO AM I? Continued.....

I AM A
Child
of
God



I think maybe some people should know a little more about me, seeing I am looking after their money that I am not a 'blow in' I began attending MU meetings at a very early date, with my maternal grandmother, who was a member and as I was one of four --- my mother often needed some time out, so I spent a good part of my time with Gran.

I joined young wives when I married in 1968 ---- then because John was called up for National

Service and completed an Officers Training Course --- most of those men if they were married went to capital cities where they could be housed. We went to Head Office in Canberra. When we moved back into civilian life we moved to Sydney and brought a home in Berowra. So I was a young mum with no support as our family lived in Orange, so I went along to MU, where there were a wonderful group of helpful grandmothers and mothers.

I belonged to this group for 14 years before I became a member, when our president went on a 'blitz' and some 10 or 12 women became members.

Since then I have held the position of treasurer numerous times, President and in the Brisbane Diocese I was a Deanery President. I found my time in that position very rewarding as one saw so many different branches working together.

It was an honour to be asked to consider the position of Treasurer and I hope I am of help to everyone.

'It was an honour to be asked to consider the position of Treasurer.'



COUNT ON SOMEONE WHO COUNTS!



**CHRIST
IS
COUNTING
ON YOU.....**



**(AND I
AM
COUNTING
ON
HIM! 😊)**



Denise Hird

New Born Ministry

I joined Cardiff MU in 2015 and have been a member of Cardiff Parish, now Cardiff Boolaroo parish since 1979. I am a Lay Liturgical Assistant and the Parish Secretary.

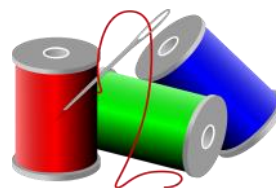
I am fortunate to have a son Simon married to Peta and a daughter Paea whose partner is Ben and 3 grandsons and 1 granddaughter who are absolute delights. I also belong to a quilting group.

My favourite Bible verse is Corinthians 13:4-7

My favourite Hymn: I like many hymns both traditional and modern. How Great Thou Art is a special one.

My favourite Book: I do enjoy reading but can't say I have a favourite book.

My favourites meal is a roast lamb dinner followed by pavlova.



In The Quilt Of Life, friends are the stitches that hold it together.

Count your blessings/ Stitch them one by one.



My name is **Diane Kenchington** and I am the Diocesan Magazine Contact.

I grew up in Sydney. I was involved in GFS in both Sydney and Newcastle for a number of years.

I joined MU at Belmont North/Redhead in 2015 both our centres have been sold so I attend Windale MU.

Favourite Hymn:

Come as you are.

Favourite Dinner:

I enjoy all sorts of seafood.

Favourite Writings:

I like Biographies

Come as you are

A Josh Niland speciality! ☺





Noeline Darcy, born in Fiji.

I had beautiful parents and had four younger brothers.

I was married to John and came to Australia in July 1985. I lived and worked in Sydney from 1985 to 2003, and then moved to the Central Coast in December 2003. In the middle of moving to the Central Coast my husband John passed away.

In January 2004 I joined Lakes Anglican, Church of The Holy Spirit and am still

worshipping there.

I joined MU at Lakes Anglican in April 2004. In June 2004 I was invited to be their treasurer, and I accepted the role. I am still their treasurer, a job I thoroughly enjoy. In October 2022 I joined the Diocesan MU as a Liaison Officer. I thank God for the gifts that he has given me and I want to use them wisely to his Glory.

1. What is your favourite, or a favourite, Bible verse?

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ~ John 3:16 (😊😊😊)

2. What is your favourite (or a favourite) hymn?

Here I Am Lord

3. What is your favourite book/Author (beside the Bible)

Danielle Steel

4. What is your all time favourite dinner and dessert foods?

CLASSIC CHICKEN LAKSA

What is your all time favourite chocolates/lollies?

Cadbury Chocolate

HERE I AM
Lord



GOD STILL ASKS 'WHOM SHALL I SEND?'

The use of "Here I am Lord" reveals purpose. Isaiah was saying

he was here on earth for a specific purpose and he wanted that purpose to be the Lord's. As he immediately followed it with "**send me**," he didn't wait to hear what the Lord would say but wrote a blank check to the Lord, a universal yes to God's plan for him.

ARE WE WILLING TO ANSWER?

Words copied from old papers—from Web. Author unknown.





Barb Warland – Brief Profile

I am definitely not 'new' – recycled Executive Member – yes !

I AM WITH
you
ALWAYS
-Matthew 28:20-

I'm a "bush" girl who was blessed with an amazing mother who witnessed Christian love into her hundredth year! I met my wonderful Jim when I came to Newcastle to study and then teach. Three great kids, 6 amazing grand-kids and one great grandie followed.

God has been good and I am fortunate to be able to play tennis, walk in Blackbutt and garden. My Christian journey has been enriched by all I have met through involvement in Church, MU and Cursillo.

As I age I am more and more aware of my failures and my need of a loving Saviour.

Favourite Bible passages -Isaiah 49:16 "I have engraved you on the palm of my hand" and Matthew 28:20 "...I am with you always" and Psalm 103

Favourite hymns - To God be the Glory & Father I place into your hands.

Favourite Food – Seafood

Favourite author – Ken Follett & Jane Harper



BARB HAYES



Mother's Union was my mothers thing and she received her 50 pin.

I joined MU when at New Lambton after moving to Newcastle. I have 1 son and 1 grandson.

My favourite verse

1 Cor. 13:13—The greatest of these is LOVE ✓

My favourite Hymn Father I place into your hands - MP 133

My favourite Author I'm not much of a reader but enjoy a 'who dunnit'

My favourite Dinner Seafood, lobster, oysters, yum

My favourite Sweet Chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate (☺)

Blessings—Barb

(That's it for the Profiles—THANK YOU EVERYONE. ☺☺☺)



GOD is my STRENGTH—JESUS is my HELP.

Leader - Cheryl Cooper



Ephesians 5:19

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Guest Speaker, music and singing and more singing and closure.

[illegible]

For online banking details and postal address for registration forms and cheques, please email newsletter@muaustralia.org.au

An amusing story to share

A few weeks ago I was looking through *Alex's life story albums. Almost 18 years of photos, stories, cards, achievements etc. I came across a copy of a story (printed below) that I had written to his teacher when he was in Kindergarten. She told me at the time she was just thrilled to read story and she shared it at a whole school staff meeting, which caused much enjoyment.

Alex and mum were having breakfast, The Morning Show was on TV but neither were actually watching it. Mum was aware that there was a story on about a large bike race taking place somewhere in the world. She heard the word 'cycle' mentioned—it sounded louder than other words being spoken. Alex picked up on it too, his head jerked up and he excitedly said:

'Mum—they said cycle.'

Mum: 'Hmmm I heard'

Alex: 'Cycle means friends you know.'

Mum: 'No, cycle doesn't mean friends.'

Alex: voice raised, **'Yes it does!'**

Mum: 'No, Alex, cycle does not mean friends, it means..... (explanation)

Does so! Does not! We had a little argument that's what we had! 😊😊😊

Alex: shouting voice, **'Nah! Cycle means friends 'cause my teacher told me Jesus had lots of cycles and they were his friends!'** (Teacher said it—it's gospel!) 😊



JESUS & his 'CYCLES!' 😊😊😊

Transformation—being different, always on my mind, not only while typing this MU magazine! Our cute, funny, delightful, happy, little boy has been

transformed into a (so many different adjectives

I could use here! 😊) suffice to say he

has transformed into

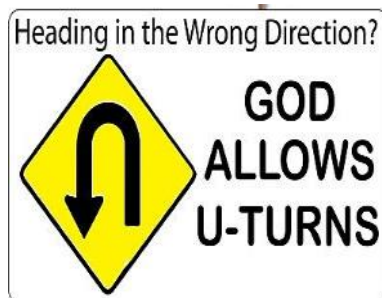
a.....TEENAGER!

We need to do a U-turn!



(regardless)

*name changed. Used with 'Alex's' permission!



I must always remember not to let my circumstances change my view of God.
I must let God change my view of my circumstances.



"God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we cry out to You for the renewing of our minds. We have so often gone along with the ways of the world, without even noticing. Forgive us for our sins of commission and omission. Wake us up to the transforming power of Christ's work on the cross for us Amen

A day without laughter is a day wasted.



(My jokes are all old (like me!) but we can still get a smile and a message from them.) ☺

Far away in the tropical waters of the Caribbean, two prawns were swimming around in the sea - one called Justin and the other called Christian.

The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that patrolled the area. Finally one day Justin said to Christian, "I'm bored and frustrated at being a prawn, I wish I was a shark, then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten..." As Justin had his mind firmly on becoming a predator, a mysterious cod appears and says, "Your wish is granted", and lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark. Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate. Time went on (as it invariably does...) and Justin found himself becoming bored and lonely as a shark. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin didn't realize that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight. While out swimming alone one day he sees the mysterious cod again and can't believe his luck. Justin figured that the fish could change him back into a prawn. He begs the cod to change him back so, lo and behold, he is turned back into a prawn. With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes, Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail. Looking around the gathering at the reef, he searched for his old pal.

"Where's Christian?" he asked. "He's at home, distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy and became a shark", came the reply. Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian's house. As he opened the coral gate the memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, "It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again. Christian replied "No way man, you'll eat me. You're a shark, the enemy, and I'll not be tricked." Justin cried back "No, I'm not. That was the old me. I've changed"... ... "I've found Cod, I'm a prawn again Christian"



THE GRASS ISN'T ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE. IT'S GREENER WHERE YOU WATER IT.

Two university students in Moorhead, Minnesota, painted a mural on the wall outside their dormitory room. According to USA Today, it showed a school of fish all swimming in the same direction except for a single fish heading the opposite way.

The one fish was intended to be the age-old symbol for Christ. Printed on the picture were the words, 'Go against the flow.' University officials, arguing that the mural might offend non-Christian, ordered the students to paint over it.

In obedience to our Master, we must be willing to go against the flow of society. As we follow Jesus, our motives, values, and habits are bound to be different from those who are not Christians. That's the way it was in the first century when the pagans were puzzled and convicted by the lifestyle of Christians. Peter wrote, 'They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.' (1 Pet. 4:4).

When we are marching to the beat of a different drummer, of course we will be out of step with people around us. This takes conviction, courage, and courtesy. But by God's enabling grace we can be disturbingly different—and effectively different too.

(Vernon Grounds. Used with permission. Our Daily Bread readings.)

GOD made **YOU** different so you could make a difference.

Why fit in
when you were born to

STAND OUT!

--Dr. Seuss

YOU were born with all the unique abilities, knowledge and talents you need for your mission in life. YOU don't need to compare yourself to anyone else. Just be yourself and start shining.

Whatever you do,
do it all for the.....

Glory of God

Love

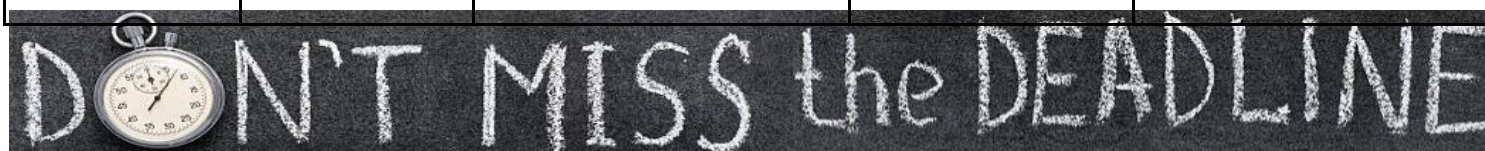
Faith ✦ Hope ✦ Love





AMUA NEWCASTLE DIARY DATES for 2023

<u>June</u>	11 th -13 th 23 rd	Diocesan Wave of Prayer 2 nd Council Meeting	10.00am	Raymond Terrace
July				
<u>August</u>	7 th 8 th 9 th 21 st	O/NO Luncheon O/NO Luncheon Mary Sumner Day Executive Meeting	9.30-10.00am 9.30-10.00am 9.30am	New Lambton Kincumber Lambton
September	5 th 9 th	Anglican Women Annual Service Women Celebrating our Faith	10.30am 10am start	St Peter's East Maitland All Saints Lambton
October	16 th	Executive Meeting Diocesan Quiet Day	9.30am Morn. Tea 10.00am	Boolaroo
November	17 th	Annual General Meeting	10.00am	Merewether



DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 17th October 2023

Please send your Mothers Union News/Photos etc
to: **Lynn Mulley**

lynmulley@munewcastle.org.au

*I will acknowledge your email when received.
If no acknowledgement your email may have gone astray
so please contact me ' ' or re-send. **Thank you.***

WEBSITE: www.munewcastle.org.au