

Dates for your Diary 2023

July	26 th	Council Meeting @ Holy Cross, 56 McLean St, Melville 6156. (9.30 for 10am start)
August	9 th	Mary Summer Day and 125 th Anniversary Celebration. Dalkeith
September	13 th	Country Festival Wongan Hills

MU Supplies

For all MU Supplies; stationary, cards, towels and other supplies.
Please contact Karen Severin Publications Convener

Karen is also happy to attend Branches and Diocesan events whenever possible.

Please send your articles and pictures to Denise Elvish

Deadline for next issue 14 August

On Farming Land

Rocky outcrops

On farming land

Cattle breathing

Termination planned.

While living is plentiful

It remains to be seen

What damage occur

On the land to be turned.

Bushland and scrub

On paddocks out West

Reveal a hidden vision

For hikers on a mission.

Ann Gliddon Como

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

Do you want to know more about your MU Executive Committee?
Presently MU Executive is looking for two members to take on the roles of:

Northern Outreach and Overseas

Southern Area President

For further information: email Lois McGrath pthmusec@pthmusec

Grapevine

Theme for 2023

'Reflecting on the Past - going forward'

Official publication

Perth Council of MU Australia Inc.
Part of the Worldwide Mothers Union

June 2023

News from the President

Lent

Prior to Easter, Many of our branches undertook Lenten studies within their churches or gave their time to help others in their communities. My Lenten study led me to a time of reflection with questions asked: "*Who most helped my faith grow, how has this grown significantly throughout my lifetime and is there still room to grow in faith*" I think these are questions that we need to continually ask ourselves

"Therefore since we are justified by faith
We have peace with God through our Lord
Jesus Christ" Roman 5:1

CHRIST is RISEN Alleluia!

I am sure many of you spent time with your families over the Easter period. . Again during this period it allowed us to continue looking at our faith and celebrate new life. As we look at the world around us, it is hard to see joy. God always finds a way to show us a new way of life in whatever difficulties we face.

I really enjoyed reading the "Connecting with Kids" story by Rev. Suzannah Daniels in the latest Mia Mia. She showed us how we could easily connect with our younger members about the death of Jesus and his resurrection and what it all means.

Lady Day Festival

Lady Day this year was one of great celebration, being this year of our 125 Year Anniversary. We remembered on this day the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin. In attendance and presiding over our Eucharist was our Archbishop The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO. Thank you to the Sudanese and Shona ladies who sang for us during the giving of the Communion and to you all for attending this day held at St. Mathew's Guildford. A thank you to the Guildford MU ladies who set up the morning tea. It was pleasing to see a good many of you staying for lunch and to hear Guest Speaker Christine Brain speak about the Mia Mia magazine and MU Promotions

Branch Visits

Thank you to all the ladies in the MU Branches of St. Augustine Lynwood/Langford/Ferndale, St. Brendan's Warnbro and Holy Trinity East Vic Park for the most enjoyable visits.

To be part of their services, to meet ladies whom I have never met, join meetings and learn about the service which they give to their communities was most interesting. St. Andrew's Rossmoyne/Riverton/ Shelley MU gave service to St. Bart's Women's Refuge during Lent.

Australian Zoom Meeting

This meeting was held on 8th March, for Diocesan Presidents across Australia and largely held because there would not be another face to face meeting until next year. The Diocesan Presidents learn't that there would be a new way to report and this new system had its own worldwide dedicated platform which was built exclusively for MU. It insures that all information is secure and can only be accessed by registered users. So it can't be found on the internet . A new and interesting concept.

Easter remains with us for 50 days before there is a change in the Church Calendar. Jesus appeared too many of his follower's, my mind goes back to Doubting Thomas and on the Road to Emmaus. I wonder where our road can lead us in our communities to further our service.

“Without God it is utterly impossible
But with God everything is possible”

Mark10:27

A Happy Easter to you all with many blessings.

Jan

MU – why bother?

As Mothers Union members we agree to uphold the five ‘Objectives’, which are:

To uphold **Christ's** teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.

To encourage parents to bring up their children in the **faith and life of the Church.**

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

There are lots of groups also interested in family-related issues. (A quick Google search revealed that there are 111 agencies in WA interested in supporting families.) Are we just another group of people interested primarily in children, such as Headspace, or schools? Are we just another group of people interested in people from other countries and cultures? Are we just another lobby group seeking to influence government policies, or just another group of people such as Red Shield or Street Friends WA with a heart to help and support the homeless?

No, we are much more than all of these. Not numerically, not financially, but as an organisation which offers *Christian care* to families, we bring something special to the table:

Some of the other members were Ruby Bleechmore (treasurer) Pauline Catlin, Doreen Barrow, Meg Lucas. Jo Anderson, and Eileen Fenning.

The care and support over more than 50 years has been very much appreciated. Many interesting speakers, conferences, and happy social times with shared meals has been wonderful. The current members are very supportive and we enjoy very happy meetings.”

Glen was our branch treasurer for more than 10 years.

Glen died 10 March 2023 after suffering serious illness for many years.

...cont. from Pg3 Colossians 1:9-14; 2 Peter 1:5-8

Our special Funds (NO, Overseas Target Fund and Disaster Relief Funds) give us wonderful opportunities to fulfil our Objectives. Do you have a ‘giving portfolio’, by which you apportion your personal giving between local, national and global entities, including MU?

So, why bother with MU?

We can be unashamed about approaching all we do as followers of Jesus in a way that is often not possible in secular organisations.

We are unique in our focus on the whole family.

MU gives an opportunity to put legs on our faith through personal action and in partnership with others.

We have opportunity to act locally and globally, which multiplies our effectiveness and draws on the expertise of others.

As a grass-roots movement we are able to ‘scratch where people are itching’ by listening to others and providing the help they ask for, not what we think they should have.

We can partner with others directly through our giving and indirectly our prayers.

Christine Brain

This is an abridged version of a talk given at Dalkeith MU. Christine is happy to visit branches to give the full version of the talk.

Don't forget the OS & NO Challenge

If 100 of our Members took up the challenge we would raise an extra \$5200 to help the three northern Dioceses of Australia. It would be wonderful if many of you could find a small jar or container and pop \$1:00 into it for each week of the year. If we add this ‘extra’ to the money that branches normally give to the OS & NO funds then we will make a real difference.

Let's make a real effort to assist those areas of our country where Ministry is a bit harder than in our capital city.

\$1:00 x 52 = \$52.00

\$1: 00 x 52 x 10 =\$520.00

\$1:00 x 52 x 100 = \$5200.00

Out and About in Branches

MU Woodlands Wembley Downs

Our group gathered for an outing in April at a Local Park and Lake

The sun shone kindly on the April St Paul's Woodlands/Wembley Downs Mothers' Union meeting at the picturesque Jackadder Lake in Woodlands. Members took their own lunch and celebrated Gloria's 98th birthday sharing in her birthday cake. Norma also had her birthday the next day. Following prayers and thanksgiving some members chose to walk around the lake counting the variety of birds. Coots dominated with Willy wagtails being the most entertaining. Rain sprinkled upon us as we returned to the others sending us off to our cars and home - a memorable day.



Top left facing us Rosemary Waters, Merle Manea, Julie Simpson Lorna Hinton, Diana Rice, Anne Crevold (Holding dog), Norma Elphic
Seated Ruth Grindrod, Gloria Lygne (Birthday Girl) Jenny Warner.
Photo taken by our president Dawn Bartley (inset)

On Monday 8th May members and friends gathered for a very interesting and informative talk given by Susan Wilson, the chair of Amana Living Board

Amana Living offers a wide range of services and accommodation choices for older people. It is a WA organisation established in 1962 and continues to be one of the largest providers of aged care services and retirement living for West Australians.

This presentation was very well received as many of our members felt the need to be better informed on this subject both for themselves and close family members.



A Report on Social Issues and Action

Dear MU Friends,

I have recently returned from a week in Newman visiting our family and it was such a joy to be present at the school assembly where all three school aged grandchildren were awarded Merit Certificates, without any collusion on behalf of their teachers. However, I witnessed an incident while out shopping which caused me great sadness which I would like to share with you all and would appreciate any feedback you may have. I was doing some grocery shopping when a young teenage girl next to me unwrapped the winter jacket she was carrying and proceeded to remove three aerosol spray cans from the shelf and place them inside her jacket, which she then re-wrapped. I questioned her, not unkindly and she replied before hurrying from the store, with the items still in her jacket.

I went to the front counter and explained the situation but was told by the staff that there was 'nothing' they could do. I found this to be seriously tragic and while walking the dog each evening with my grandchildren observed multiple empty aerosol cans lying around the streets. I returned to the store the following day to speak to the Manager, but although they were paged, no-one appeared.

Thankfully, I was able to gain the email address of the local Volatile Substance Use Prevention Coordinator to express my concern. **Be still and know that I am God** is a line from Psalm 46, which many of us are familiar with through song. God is our refuge and strength- we may not know the answers to problems we face, but we will have God's deep strength to deal with them. Please pray for this girl and the teenagers who feel they have no other solution but to sniff aerosol spray.

May I also refer you all to the May issue of the Anglican Messenger and the article relating to the Purple Bench Project in WA. In a number of our parishes, existing benches are being painted purple in honour of all victims of domestic homicide in WA and then placed in the grounds of their churches. Please have a discussion with your Parish Council or Wardens and check out your neighbourhood to see if any already exist. I found one at a park in Newman. This project was brought to our attention by our Archbishop who discovered one such bench while out walking in Esperance.

May God continue to bless you all,

Helen Krynen

ANGLICAN MESSENGER

MU has a page in the Messenger. If you are having difficulties in logging on to the Anglican Messenger website to download and read you can contact Susan Harvey Church Office Susan.Harvey@perth.anglican.org or phone: 9425 7200. She will send back to you the down load of the Messenger to your phone, computer or iPad (you nominate). You can then click on the down load and read the messenger. This is a much easier access than having to look up the Anglican Messenger website and you can read at your leisure.

If no computer, get a member in your church to run off a hard copy from the website and leave in the church foyer for members to read.

Prayers are asked for.....

all those caring for a loved one who is ill, and for those who are sick, or lonely that they be comforted. We send our love and prayers to all those mourning the death of a loved one.



Father hold them in your loving embrace and comfort them

VALE

Joy Costello October 1934- February 2023

Joy's mother was a member of Mothers Union in England when Joy was born in October 1934. Joy's family came out from England by ship in December 1949. Joy joined MU in 1960 at All Saints Church Gosnells and was previously a member of the Ladies Guild.

Joy was very involved in the church fundraising and anything musical. Joy had a beautiful singing voice.

She raised three girls and continued her involvement with service organisations when her husband Vince and herself brought a business and moved to Parburdoo.

Between 1986 and 1996 Joy was a member of the Parburdoo Lioness Club, and when she returned to Perth in 1996, reconnected with Mothers Union through St Pauls Woodlands /Wembley Downs.

Joy's interests have included sewing, knitting, and music. She joined a choir when they lived in Parburdoo and later joined Churchlands Choir. Joy said that she has enjoyed being part of musicals and attending many music events. Joy's recent funeral had many beautiful musical recordings that were made when she was in choirs.

Vince and Joy have enjoyed being able to travel widely, worldwide, and have met many people and formed friendships along the way.

When we presented Joy with her 60 year MU Membership badge in 2022 Joy said that "Mothers Union has provided me with Christian fellowship and the opportunity to meet other women in the local community".

Unfortunately, Joy endured ill health for the last few years of her life but always remained positive and immaculately dressed and ready for whatever challenge came her way.

Glenys Pickford November 1942 - March 2023

Reflection on the Mothers Union from Glenys Pickford written in May 2022 for our Branch 60th Celebrations

"I always knew I was going to join the Mothers Union as I knew how valuable it had been for my mum.

After marriage and moving into a new home in a new area it was great to join MU.

Church in Woodlands was being held in the Primary School but other parishioners in Wembley Downs were also meeting at their school but they started a Mother's Union Branch that initially met in homes and then in the United Church in Brix Street. I was invited to join them. It was the start of many lovely friendships. I was made a member on

21.5.1968. The enrolling member at that time was Irene Feakes.



(i) our conviction that God made and loves each individual and that every individual matters to Him. (Psalm 139:13-16; John 3:16)

(ii) our belief that marriage and family life God's way (ie, husbands loving their wives with the same kind of self-giving love that Jesus showed for us, wives giving their husbands respect and honour so that they can take responsibility for the family in ways which foster unity and mutual care) makes for strong, long-lasting marriages.

(iv) our belief that family life is enhanced and strengthened when parents treat their children gently, not provoking them to anger but training and instructing them in God's ways, and when children honour their parents. (Ephesians 5:22-6:4)

(v) we show that we belong to Jesus by having a global outlook and by offering help to anyone who needs it, not just our friends or those who belong to 'our group'. (Luke 10:25-36-Good Samaritan).

(vii) Primarily though, and underpinning all we do, is **our relationship with Christ Jesus**. His death on the cross, which brought us into relationship with God the Father, shows us what sacrificial living looks like and enables us to follow his example.

Without this, we run the risk of becoming just another helping agency, no different from the many others in our community

Sometimes we might be tempted to fly under the radar; to keep quiet about our commitment to Christ because we fear that we will be ridiculed, or worse. For example, our 1st Objective is very provocative in Australian society and even our church. It's very tempting to ignore it and focus instead on the 4th and 5th Objectives in our public activity and the 2nd and 3rd in our church life.

However, to be authentic to all our Objectives we need to work out ways of fulfilling 'our 1st Objective so that married couples can 'live their best life.'

To do this we must be **faithful in prayer for married couples** (how about dividing up the parish roll between the MU members for prayer?) **and in prayer for each other** as we interact with our families and others in the community, (perhaps by forming 'prayer triplets' to pray for our families, by taking neighbourhood 'prayer walks' or by being ready to give our personal testimony of how God has enabled us to honour him in our marriages and families).

Secondly, we must take our responsibility, as expressed in our other Objectives, seriously.

What are you, as an individual and a group, doing to encourage parents to bring up their children in the life and faith of the church? Is there more that you can do? Why not brainstorm at an upcoming meeting and commit yourselves to some action? (eg, offer to take turns in the creche or assist in Sunday school, become a prayer-partner to an individual youth or children's ministry leader, learn the names of the children in the church so you can pray for them, write thank-you notes to youth and children's leaders and/or parents).

How seriously do you pray for other MU members around the world? Do you keep abreast of world affairs so you know what's going on in places where it's difficult to be a Christian, or where poverty or natural disasters impact negatively on family life? How about taking turns to research the dioceses/countries we are linked with in the MU Wave of Prayer and spend 5 minutes in each meeting sharing and praying for them?

Why not write some prayers for our linked dioceses based on Ephesians 1:17-19; Ephesians 4:1-2; Ephesians 6:10-18; Philippians 1:9-11; Philippians 4:4-9; (..cont. Pg7)