



Poinsettia Post

Anglican Mothers Union Australia
Brisbane



SPRING 2022



Diocesan President Jenny Bullock presented her report at the AGM at St Laurence's Caboolture on 17 May 2022



Back: Pat Keys of Caboolture, seated: Banyo Caritas members Shirley Quinn, Clare Armstrong and Lyn Northfield



Alison Dunstan thanking the guest speakers Tracey Glenbar (L) and Elizabeth Hughes from Anglicare Caboolture



Sue Ross of Grovely and Bev Perry of Bundaberg



Margaret Coombs and Julie Somerville



Kathryn Lum of Grovely and Helen Zappala of Indooroopilly

A Message from our President

Hello everyone.

It has certainly been a cold and damp winter for us. I am sure all of those scarves, beanies and blankets you have knitted over recent times will have been greatly appreciated this year, especially among the homeless and seafarers. COVID and flu are both still with us, but the AMUA endures, with members working and caring for our communities as Christ would have us do.



On a more cheerful note, we have found a new Diocesan Secretary. Marcia Williams from Sunnybank Branch has agreed to take over from Robert Perry after he gives her some training. Both Marcia and I are still on our L plates at the moment, but hopeful we might be able to progress to our Ps in a few months. Thank you Beverley and Robert for enabling a smooth transition for us as we take over these executive positions.

Since my last message to members I have visited several branches



Jenny presents a 60 year badge to Gwen Davenport from Laidley

and presented many long service scrolls and badges. I journeyed to Laidley, Pittsworth, Chermside, Manly, Coorparoo, Maryborough and Caboolture. I have made the acquaintance of many members from these branches and I am always impressed by the warmth and hospitality when I visit. Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome. The morning teas and lunches have also been wonderful and I will have to go on a diet if I continue to attend so many meetings.

It was rather a sad occasion when I visited the Everton Park Branch.

After 43 years the AMUA branch in this parish was closed on 22 June 2022. We came together on that morning to thank God for the years of work and witness of all members, past and present, and for all the happy times together. Members from Stafford and Grovely Branches attended the closure and invited remaining members from Everton Park to join their branches. Others are going to become Lone members. The Service was moving and the morning tea that followed was delicious, especially the Farewell Cake!!



Jenny presented a 60 year badge to Pearl Siebenhausen pictured with her daughter Jenny Harrigan at Pittsworth

Seventy members attended the Country Council Meeting at Caboolture in May, which is a wonderful number. It was an opportunity to socialise and catch up with friends who we haven't seen for so long due to lockdowns and floods. The guest speakers from Anglicare Family Intervention were interesting and challenged us to think again about assisting more community organisations. Thank you to the Caboolture Branch for successfully hosting this meeting. The next Country Council will take place in Gympie on Tuesday 16 August 2022 when the guest speaker will be Rev'd Sue Barker who will be speaking about her prison service. Hopefully I will see you there.

I leave you with these challenging words from St Theresa of Avila:

'Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he is to look with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; and yours the hands with which he is to bless us now. Amen'

Lone Member News

Laidley Gathering, April, 2022

St Paul's AMUA Ipswich Branch joined Laidley Lone Members for the annual Morning Tea at St Saviour's Church in Laidley. We were thrilled our Diocesan President, Jenny Bullock could join us along with some ladies from St Saviour's Church.

Jenny presented Gwen Davenport's with her 60year membership Badge and Scroll (see page 2). Lone Member, Pearl Dennison (pictured at right) celebrated her 90th birthday with a special cake. Diane and Greg Thomson celebrated their 10th Wedding Anniversary. Jenny and I visited Lone IPC Member, Maisie Turnbull in Tabeel Nursing Home.

What a great morning of fellowship and celebrations we all had. Thank you to Diane Thomson for organizing the Gathering.

Marjory Fieldus

Catching up with Mary Mitchell

As an assistant to Marjory Fieldus, Lone Member Correspondent, I keep in touch with the Western Lone members. Recently Mary Mitchell from Cunnamulla was in Toowoomba, caring for her adult granddaughter, after a stay in hospital.



I had not met Mary although we talk frequently by telephone. She is such an inspiration. Now in her eighties, she flies from Cunnamulla to Toowoomba whenever she is needed.

We had lunch with her daughter Dana, my husband Cameron, and Dana's carer. A lovely celebration, which we all enjoyed immensely.

Val Madsen

Pittsworth Friendship Day

Eighty members, families and friends attended the Friendship Day, postponed from 13 May to 27 May because of floods

Jenny Bullock presented Pearl Siebenhausen with her 60 year badge (see Page 3). 25 year badges were presented to Ann Stallman, Anne Scott and Narelle Cook. Narelle is a lone member living in Oakey. Coral Drummond and Sue Dade received 20 year scrolls. Ann Stallman later presented badges to Pam Postle and Marie Gordon who could not attend.



*Narelle Cook, Anne Scott, Ann Stallman,
Coral Drummond and Sue Dade*

Guest speaker Lisa McEwan was born with a rare eye condition and is legally blind. She set out to climb Africa's Mount Kilimanjara as a fundraiser for Guide Dogs but was prevented because of COVID. She was later given the chance to do the Larapinta Trail with her husband Scott and group of other people. Lisa is certainly an inspirational speaker.

Romona Postle

New Member

It's always wonderful to welcome a new member!

At the AGM, our Diocesan Chaplain the Reverend Jane Mitchell was admitted to membership of AMUA, by the Reverend Avriel Green Rector of St Laurence's Caboolture.





Poppies

Sunnybank Brach was alive in the spirit of ANZAC day at our April meeting. There was a lot of fun making the wreath for the church thanks to Lesley Gee who did a lot of cutting for the ladies. Pictured from l to r are: Dawn Evans, Beryl Ellis, Jan Tully, Lesley Gee, Kirsten Harrison, Fran Savill.



A smaller wreath was made for the animals and was placed at the Cenotaph on the 26th April.

Jan Tully

Sunflowers



‘Sunflower’ embroidered squares have been prepared by our St Andrew’s Caloundra/Glasshouse Country Prayers & Squares group which includes several members of Mothers’ Union.



These embroidered squares were sent to the group who are organising for an enormous Prayer Quilt of sunflowers to be sent to the Ukraine - they are hopeful of receiving 1000 sunflower squares from all around the country. The Country Womens Assoc in Scone NSW are co-ordinating the project, which was the brainchild of artist Janno McLaughlin.

Helene Baker-Daines

Teddies Go To School

Teddies knitted by residents of The Village Coorparoo are distributed by Father Mark Vincent of St Paul's Est Brisbane on behalf of AMUA. Some were given to Vanessa Gamack of the Anglican Schools Commission SQ who recorded her thanks to AMUA in the July issue of *The Monday Manuscript*. She writes:



‘We are so very grateful to Rev’d Mark Vincent and to the wonderful knitters of The Mothers’ Union. Some Bears will go to schools and others to our Education and Care Services (ECS).

‘I have been using Prayer Bears in early childhood for many years... I kept the Prayer Bears in my classroom and handed them out at Prayer Time... a part of our Stillness and Silence programme. The students called their Prayer Bears their Breathing Buddies, because we calmed out bodies and minds by focusing on our breathing and watching our Prayers Bears rise and fall on our chests as we breathed. Gradually the students closed their eyes, and our silence began. Sometimes we prayed, sometimes we listened to music and sometimes we remained in silence.

‘We gathered in a circle after our Prayer Bear time and students could share if they wished about their prayers or how they felt. I did not prompt anything but students told stories of feeling or knowing God was with them. It often amazed me that these young people were so open to a spiritual experience. Others just felt calmer, more relaxed and often they said they were happy!

‘Research by Daniel Goleman initially prompted me to use the Breathing Buddies and it was Carolyn Bennett from Clayfield College who introduced me to Prayer Bears in around 2001. I have been using stillness and silence in my classroom since I started teaching in 1984. This is not new, but there is more and more research to support the use of Prayer Bears in the classroom.’

For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Rev 7:17



VALE: MARGARET SOMERS 10.07.41 to 09.03.22.

Mrs Margaret Somers, a member of the Sunnybank Branch, attended Mother's Union with her mother, from when she was a little girl growing up in Gravesend, UK. She migrated to Australia and when she arrived in Sunnybank, she joined MU and had been a member for 45 years. Her mother joined her at Sunnybank after she arrived in Australia. Margaret is remembered as a kind and generous member of MU and is sadly missed by her husband Stan and their daughter Leeanne.

Marcia Williams

VALE: HOPE NITA JANICE CARTER 26.3.1927 to 3.06.2022.
(Lovingly known as Janice).

Janice joined Stafford Branch in November 1980 and was a devoted member and Prayer Department Secretary. In 1993 the Bible Study Prayer Group first met at Janice's home and meetings continued twice monthly and weekly during Lent for over twenty years. All members were blessed with her faithfulness, leadership and guidance through these years. She spent her later years as a resident in a care facility at Mitchelton but maintained her interest and love of Mothers Union during this time. Janice was married to Reg Carter in 1952 and they had three children.

Rose Mowat

Eternal God, we are mindful of the contribution made by faithful members. Thank you for the leadership and encouragement they provided, for their commitment to the purpose of AMUA. We give you thanks and praise for the lives they lived and the fellowship we shared.

Amen.

A Reflection from our Chaplain

COMPANIONSHIP



As a young mother nearly fifty years ago, I became a member of a Young Wives Group at our local parish and I enjoyed these few hours once a month away from nappies (yes, we had the ‘joy’ of nappies in those days), bottles, toddlers and being constantly on the go.

In recent times I have witnessed a thriving Mothers’ Union group and met women in a number of parishes who have and still are benefiting from a group. I have met women for whom attending a Mothers’ Union group is not possible nowadays, due to their own circumstances or to the fact their local group has had to fold for various reasons; I feel for these women.



Young Wives, which became Caristas, and Mothers’ Union groups do a great deal of amazing work; however, I believe it is the companionship provided by and to its members that is of immeasurable value and is vital. Companionship which supports when personal ill health and age-related issues present, when family members are experiencing serious health issues and when a loved one pass away.

I am reminded of a verse from the ‘Servant Song’:

*We are pilgrims on a journey and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load.*

May members of Mothers Union groups continue to be companions to each other and strive to share God’s love in all our relationships and interactions.

Jane

Thank You



Dear Members of the Brisbane Diocese,

Thank you for the many cards, letters, and emails that I received, I have been very touched by your kind words and best wishes.

It was a lovely surprise to receive the special gifts presented on Lady Day at Childers and at St John's Cathedral. When I use the beautiful bird tea cups from the Burnett Deanery and the lovely vase and the waterman pen, engraved AMUA Dio. President- 2017-2022 I will be reminded of my AMUA friends and the privileged experience of being your Diocesan President for five years.

The friendships made during my time on the Diocesan Executive are very precious to me, and I thank you all for your love, support, and prayers.

I pray for God's richest blessings on all members, on the AMUA Executive and Council for the years ahead. May we look forward to many more happy years of friendship, fellowship, and service in AMUA.

With Love and Blessings,

Bev

AMUA –DIOCESE OF BRISBANE 2022 PLANNER

- 4 Oct EXECUTIVE Meeting St Francis College Milton —10am.
- 11 Nov Remembrance Day.
- 15 Nov COUNCIL MEETING —St John’s Cathedral —10am.
- 25 Nov 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence begins.
- 6 Dec EXECUTIVE Meeting & Christmas Lunch.-10am
- 10 Dec 16 Days of Activism ends

BUNDABERG BRANCH OVERSEAS DAY

In July Bundaberg members gathered for their Annual Overseas and Northern Outreach Day. We were pleased to welcome Diane and Greg Thomson to Bundaberg with Diane our Diocesan Overseas



and Northern Outreach Coordinator presenting a very informative powerpoint presentation on the work and projects of Mothers Union in the United Kingdom. The day concluded with a delicious Soup and Sweet luncheon with the proceeds of this day going to the above funds.

Bev Perry

Closing date for the next issue 15th Oct 2022

Editor - Susan Skowronski

