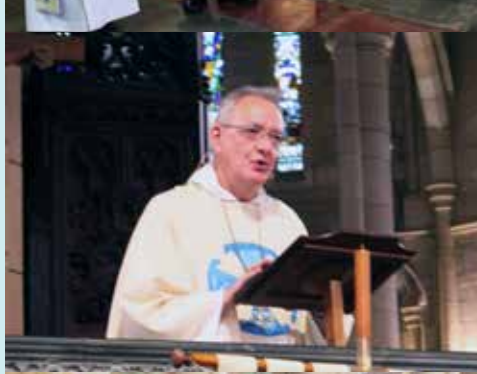


Poinsettia Post

Anglican Mothers Union Australia
Brisbane



WINTER 2021



A Message from Bev

Dear Members,

What a wonderful time of fellowship was experienced by members who attended our recent Diocesan events. Our first gathering in 12 months was the February Council Meeting held in St John's Cathedral. Thanks to Dean Peter Catt we had plenty of room to social distance and being Shrove Tuesday were served pancakes for morning tea by the Cathedral Staff. It was a delight to hear from two of our three bursary recipients, Dr Gemma Dashwood and Brad Turner who shared their spiritual journey thus far.



The AGM at St Andrew's Indooroopilly was the next successful event with a good attendance and great fellowship. Chairperson Bishop John Roundhill was very encouraging. Tania Felstead from the Red Rose Foundation shared sensitively of their work to end domestic and family violence related deaths.

Lady Day celebration at St John's Cathedral was a magnificent time



Bev Perry with bursary recipients Dr Gemma Dashwood and Brad Turner

of worship. Archbishop Phillip presided and delivered a most inspiring address and with 138 attending, much fellowship followed making it another successful day of Mothers Union gathering to worship. The Burnett Deanery met at Christ Church Childers; Toowoomba Deanery met at St Luke's Toowoomba and because of the week of wet and flooding, branches

in the Sunshine Deanery met in their own Churches as did Chinchilla a lone branch in the Maranoa Deanery to celebrate this special day.

I have been so encouraged by the numbers who have attended these events, considering we are still journeying through difficult times where registration and social distancing are the norm. All these events were live-streamed, and I hope members who had not been able to attend have made use of the generosity of St John's Cathedral and St Andrew's Indooroopilly.

The next event we are all looking forward to is our Country Council Meeting on 18 May at St Luke's Toowoomba. Our Guest Speaker is Bishop Daniel Abot Bishop of the Diocese of Duk in South Sudan. I look forward to seeing you there.

As we journey through this Easter Season I do hope and pray that the love and power of the Cross and the hope and peace that the Resurrection brings will continue to empower each of you with hope, confidence, and faith as we serve Our Lord and Saviour in all we do in the name of AMUA. With Love and Blessings

Bev.



Marjorie Voss thanked AGM guest speaker Tania Felstead



Carol Hill thanked AGM Chairperson, Bishop John Roundhill



Bev Perry thanked retiring editor of Poinsettia Post, Dorami Keyt

Thanksgiving for Long Service



Marjorie Voss - 60 years

It was a joy for Marjorie to receive her award at the AGM at St Andrew's Indooroopilly where she had joined AMUA 60 years ago. Marjorie has served AMUA with much dedication and enthusiasm, in branch, Diocesan Council and Australia Council roles.

Mary Mitchell - 50 years

Mary joined AMUA in 1970 at Cunnamulla. All her life has been centred around worship, prayer, and service, helping her family and being there for friends and those in need. When the Cunnamulla Branch closed in



2008, Mary became a Lone Member. Mary has written and published a book called *Mary's Story*. Mary was presented with her 50 year badge by Jennifer Murray at St Luke's Toowoomba on 13 December 2020 surrounded by family and friends and members of AMUA.

Peggy Robertson - 50 years

Peggy transferred to Sunnybank after the Yeronga AMUA Branch closed. Marilyn Dunning presented Peggy with her 50 year badge in Sept 2020. Many of Peggy's friends attended.

Photo: Jan Tully (Pres) congratulates Peggy Robertson





Members from St Barnabas, Sunnybank AMUA attended the World Day of Prayer at the Uniting Church in Sunnybank Hills. The Uniting Church Tongan congregation opened and closed the service with cultural

hymns and songs. A priest from the Cook Islands informed us the coral atolls, home to some communities, are slowly sinking into the sea - a stark reminder of the effects of climate change. He spoke about problems for women and girls in the Islands of Vanuatu. Morning tea included a delicious choice of Tongan food.

Photo L to R : Narelle Blunt, Joan Lethlean, Jan Tully, Peggy Robertson, Ann Burgess and Marcia Williams.

Gold Coast South

In April, President Elizabeth Uther welcomed as guest speaker Mrs. Kerry Divine from *Offspring Project*. This Christian based group operates in Kolkata, India, as a rehabilitation centre for the purpose of transforming the lives of girls and young women who have been rescued from the insidious practice of sexual slavery.

She described how the girls often as young as 12 to 14 years are either sold or promised to be married or lured into other false employment. Girls are provided with housing and employment training as well as life skills and health and psychological care. Importantly they are given training to obtain work including sewing, hairdressing and other skills.



Sandgate Northpoint

On 21 April at St Margaret's Sandgate, Rev'd Michael Donaldson assisted by Branch President Maureen Neems, welcomed new members Grace Hackney and Margaret Evans to Sandgate Northpoint AMUA

Photo L to R- Rev'd Michael, Grace, Maureen and Margaret



Laidley Lone Members Gathering 2021



Each April the Ipswich St Paul's AMUA members visit the Lone Members in Laidley. This year I was able to join this gathering. We sat out on the large verandah that joins the Church Hall. It was so nice to meet Lone Members. Gwen Davenport and myself walked

across to Tabeel Nursing Home, where I was able to spend time chatting with another Lone Member, Maisie Turnbull. Midday Prayers were led by Diane Thomson. *Marjory Fieldus. Lone Members Branch.*

Gwen Davenport with Maisie Turnbull and with Pearl Dennison





Comfort Packs - Grovely

Grovely AMUA commenced their project for Toiletry Packs for the Anglicare Homelessness Centre at Toowong before Christmas 2020.

At Grovely MU's April Meeting, Wendy Matthews, a representative from Anglicare spoke about Homelessness and the Play and Grow Centre at Toowong.

Photo: Wendy Matthews receives packs from branch president Kathryn Lum

Joy Bags - Algester

Joy Bags are sent to those who are house bound or ill in hospital or just feeling down. Last year we made around 70 bags for the Chaplain at Algester Primary School for distribution to children. From all accounts, recipients of the Joy Bags enjoy opening the presents each day (7) and reading the little messages. Left to right, Sandra Pearn, Kay O'Brien and Jenny Bullock.



Baby Shower - Sunnybank

AMUA Sunnybank had the privilege of hosting a baby shower for our young Nigerian family, Ernest and Joy on February 13th. A great day was had with songs and a poem. Joy is new to our Parish but Ernest has paved the way over many years.

Photo: Joy with baby Joel



Hervey Bay

As part of the Christian Education Program at Fraser Coast Anglican College in Hervey Bay 70 Year 7 students were assisted by members of AMUA in showcasing St Johns Anglican Church. The object was to learn about the elements seen in communal worship spaces across different religion.



Students were divided into groups which rotated through a series of 15 minute segments under the headings of 1. Décor and Architectural features; 2. Candles and Reflections on Prayer; 3. Symbols; 4. Sanctuary; 5. Sacraments and 6. Outside Spaces.

Bible Readings such as the Last Supper were used to introduce students to Communion and Worship and Baptism. The symbolism of banners, including those of the AMUA was explained with students given the opportunity to create their own. Photographs were taken with permission of our School Principal Mr. Joe Wright, having first ascertained none were on the *Not for Publication List*.

The students were able to see that while we all know we can encounter Jesus in many different places and different ways, Parishioners at St John's as Anglicans, and more broadly, as liturgical Christians, create sacred spaces in communal worship, in churches.

Students received coloured beads from each rotation coinciding with a *meaning* for that colour on the planning sheet. The Rector's wife briefed the group whilst the initial thread, onto which the students later added their beads, was distributed.

Both helpers and students had an enjoyable time.

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 Fay CALLOW. 1937-2020

Fay Callow was President of Mitchell before becoming a Lone Member. She visited the sick and gave gifts to the new mothers. Fay received 1988 Citizen of the Year Award for services to the community. *Marjory Fieldus*

VALE Yvonne Ailsa GILLAM 17/2/1927 – 2/2/2021

Yvonne Gillam was a valued member of MU at St Francis Nundah for over 50 years. She took care of church linen and the flower roster. *Sandra Milczewski*

VALE Ruth Alison ROBSON - 22/8/2020

Ruth Robson joined MU in August 1962. She became the inaugural president of St Mark's Toowoomba and was a valued member of St Luke's Toowoomba for many years. *Roseanne Schneider*

VALE Patricia SCHUTT 18/9/1924- 1/4/2021

Pat Schutt was a foundation member at Stanthorpe in 1960. She was foundation member of Harrisville/Boonah and Cleveland. Pat was Diocesan Secretary, Rockhampton for six years and six years as Diocesan President Rockhampton. She became a member of Toowoomba West, and Vice President. She was on the Court House Roster until Covid19. *Carol Baldwin*

VALE Margaret SIEBENHAUSEN - 17/12/2020

Margaret Siebenhausen was enrolled in Chinchilla in 1991. She was a pastoral care member and secretary of Chinchilla Mothers' Union. In 2013, Margaret transferred to Drayton and became IPC Secretary. *Ailsa Errington*

VALE Agnes Ellen WALKER 5/5/1927 - 10/3/2021

Agnes was a foundation member of Laidley in 1962. She joined Gatton Branch when she and Jim owned a business before retiring in Laidley. She served as Treasurer for many years until she became a Lone Member. *Gwen Davenport*

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.

REFLECTION:

THE HOLY SPIRIT & WITNESS TO JESUS

Rev'd Robert Perry



Right at the very beginning in the book of Acts, Jesus said, 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...'

So, from the very beginning Jesus linked the coming of the Spirit to his disciples with their being motivated to go out and share the message worldwide.

“We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard!”

In the years between AD 33 and 64 a new movement was born.

In those 30 years it got sufficient growth and credibility to become the largest religion the world has ever seen and to change the lives of hundreds of millions of people.

If those first Christians could accomplish so much in so short a time with such skimpy resources, what might the worldwide church today accomplish if only it was prepared for the vision, the faith and dedication they exhibited.

The Holy Spirit is given not just so that we may have beautiful personal experiences, but so that we may be motivated to share the message of Jesus with the world around us.

Our third Objective 'To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship, and service.'

The apostle Paul compared the church to a body, each part functioning in harmony with the others. The Spirit has given different gifts to different members of the church, and only when each is using his or her gift properly does the body of Christ go into full action.

Prayer: Come Holy Spirit and fill our hearts, kindling in them the fire of your love. Use us as you used your first disciples, unite us in faith, that we may witness to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world. Amen.

Mothers' Union- so much more than cups of tea

Part 1

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby declared, 'There is only one Mothers' Union. It is the world's oldest and largest women's movement. It is a gift of God to Anglicans and is one of the Anglican Communion's greatest gifts to the worldwide church.' A survey at General Synod concluded Mothers' Union is 'the Anglican Church's best kept secret'.

So what is the story? Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation that has been supporting families since Mary Sumner called a group of mothers together in 1876 in her local parish to offer support and discuss the role of motherhood. Mothers' Union has grown into an international movement with over 4 million members in 84 countries. In Australia, the movement has recently become Anglican Mothers Union Australia, or AMUA.

Prayer is at the heart of everything Mothers' Union does. Members include prayer in their daily lives and maintain a worldwide fellowship with a focus on prayers for communities, fellow members and for those in need. Despite the name, Mothers Union is an inclusive organisation and very proud to have a growing number of men joining the ranks.

As a Christian movement, we work towards stopping poverty, inequality and injustice. We support families

in all their forms to eliminate gender-based violence and abuse, to promote equality and build healthy relationships, and to support women in the key role they have in building communities and bringing peace and reconciliation. Members work alongside local communities at grassroots level around the world to bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes. By understanding the needs of individuals and communities, we are able to build effective policies which can have a real and lasting positive impact according to the specific needs of different communities across the world.

Mothers' Union has consultative status with ECOSOC (The United Nations Economic and Social Council). In the next issue of Poinsettia Post, we'll take a look at what that means.



Poinsettia Post

The quarterly newsletter of
AMUA Brisbane Diocese

CALENDAR

JUNE

- 5 World Environment Day
- 12 World Day against Child Labour
- 20 World Refugee Day

AUGUST

- 8 Anglicare Retiring Collection
- 9 Mary Sumner Day
- 17 Diocesan Country Council
Gympie 10.30 am

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Fathers' Day
- 8 International Literacy Day

OCTOBER

- 17 International Day for Elimination
of Poverty

NOVEMBER

- 11 Remembrance Day
- 16 Diocesan Council Meeting
Cathedral 10 am
- 25 International Day for
Elimination of Violence
Against women

DECEMBER

- 10 World Human Rights Day

Front Cover: Images from Lady Day at St John's Cathedral Brisbane 2021
Photo Credit Chris Martin

Closing date for the next issue 15th July 2021

Editor - Susan Skowronski

**Thank
you!**

Dear members,
A big thank you to all who sent messages
on my Citizen of the Year Award. I
appreciate all the love and support.
I enjoyed reading all the lovely
comments. Dorami

