

September 2022



HOW WILL YOUR  
BRANCH  
OR  
DIOCESE  
HELP PUT THE  
TRUE SPIRIT OF  
CHRISTMAS  
IN THE HOME,  
THE CHURCH  
AND  
WIDER  
COMMUNITY  
THIS YEAR?



Greetings all,

Well Spring is with us. Here in my home town of Ballarat it has been continual rain, a very wet start indeed. However, the colours and fragrance from all the beautiful annual bulbs and blossom trees show us the true beauty of creation.

Shopping centers are already putting up their Christmas decorations encouraging people to shop early, with supermarkets filling shelves with Christmas fare.

Recently at our AMUA Diocesan AGM meeting, the discussion of Christmas cards came up, with our Bishop enquiring about purchasing our cards.

A reminder our publication department is still offering 2 card styles, including the beautiful blue and gold one which depicts the nativity. Christmas is all about the nativity, our focal point. When we are setting up our nativity and seeing others, it is an opportunity for Christians to again be reminded, this is what it's all about; the birth of Jesus Christ who changed the world.

A few years ago, in Ballarat a public display of *nativity scenes* was set up in one of our Halls leading up to Christmas. It drew large crowds, as people came to look around the vast array of nativities from across the world, which mostly belonged to local residents. It was an amazing sight, as well as being a fund-raising event for local charities supporting families, especially at that time of year. My ceramic nativity is the first decoration I set up each year, a gift from my late parents.

Following a recent meeting in England the theme starting from 2023 – will continue to be **Transformation Now!** and will remain this for the incoming triennium, with an initial focus on 'membership'. More information will be shared as it becomes available, however it can form part of your planning with

thoughts and ideas moving into the new year on how you can create more awareness of AMUA and find ways of encouraging new members or inviting those who have dropped away to come back. We are needing to rebuild ourselves after almost 3 years of Covid.

Another opportunity to engage with the community is through our observation of the “**16 Days of Activism**” by inviting other groups including local Churches to join with you. Domestic violence at all levels greatly affects families and family life, whether victims are female, male, children or household pets – none of it, is tolerated. Involve your local media!

Resource material is usually made available via our Australian website or the England site.

## **GOAL AND CHALLENGE**

“To create a greater awareness of God’s love for everyone, as well as the work of Anglican Mothers Union Australia not only in our Church but also the broader community, through promotion and development.”

## **PROMOTIONAL ITEMS AVAILABLE VIA OUR PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT**

The Publication Department still have some of our lovely prayer cards available to acknowledge “Transformation NOW!

Additional Christmas cards can also be purchased.

***Please contact Rob Kennedy directly to order these items, and who will advise postage costs.***

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Another great way to interact with other members in Australia and Overseas is via social media

Facebook - **MU Australia** - this is a private group (133 members) only people in the group can participate

### **Mothers’ Union Australia**

Website – Mothers Union Australia (936 Followers)

[www.muaustralia.org.au](http://www.muaustralia.org.au)

Mothers’ Union (England) – [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

The wings of transformation are born of patience and struggle ...*Janet S. Dickens*

**In Christian love and friendship to you and your members**



Denise Lay

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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