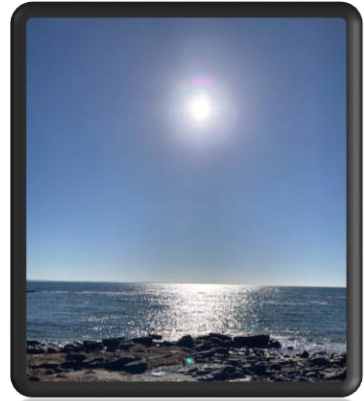




Wendy's Writings June 2024



**'Be salt and light:
Shine Brightly'**

'MU is the stone in the shoe'

Dear members and friends,

The month of May was a very active one for me as your Diocesan President. I was delighted to be present in Perth with 25 other members of our diocese to welcome to Perth our Worldwide President Sheran Harper, our Mary Sumner House Zone C contact Jeanette Lawrence and Australian Provincial President Dr. Robin Ray. I know a number of our members had the opportunity particularly to meet Sheran before and during breaks to share time chatting with her. As each of the Diocesan Presidents was giving a report at the upcoming Australian Council meeting, we each invited two representatives of our dioceses to talk about Mothers Union projects that we have. I thank Diane Hill (caravan) and Isobelle Shortreed (Red Bench) for sharing on our behalf. Reports of the day can be found in the Winter edition of The Mustard Tree along with a number of photos. Here are a few more from Sheran's collection:



A moment of hilarity as my MU earring came out



Perth & Bunbury members chatting to Robin



With a Perth Sudanese MU member

I also had the opportunity to spend more time with Sheran and Jeanette, as well as our Zone C Trustee Pamela Abana, at the Australian Council meeting in Sydney. Pamela lives on an island in the Solomon's where she has very limited communication services. She has to travel to Honiara on a neighbouring island in order to participate in the international Zoom meetings for Mothers Union that form part of her role.



Pamela has made the decision not to nominate for another three-year term when her current term expires later this year as she feels called to dedicate her time and energy to local projects which will benefit women and children in her local community. Nominations for our next Worldwide President and Zonal Trustees close on the 9th June and I will be involved in the voting if this is necessary in the coming months. Announcements will be made for uncontested posts in early July, with full results announced at the beginning of September.

Some items of note from our meeting:

- A committee has been appointed to investigate the creation of an Australian Mothers Union material and / or scarves
- A committee has been appointed to review the guidelines and funding model for the Northern Outreach Grants which provide funds to the three northern dioceses in Australian for mission work. I am the lead of this committee
- A new Handbook has been provisionally adopted, with final adoption to occur after some minor amendments
- Buckingham Palace has advised that AMUA will not have a royal patron. Mary Sumner House is still waiting for advice as to whether we will have a worldwide royal patron.
- AMUA strategic funding grants program announced. Dioceses can apply for a grant of up to \$7000 to implement a project that reflects the current two strategic directions of AMUA, being parenting and addressing domestic violence.



As well as hearing from Sheran, Jeanette and Pamela about their lives and their journeys with Mothers Union and their roles, we also participated in sessions on MU parenting programs, understanding AMUA finances, self-care and engaging in the digital world. This latter session very much covered the information shared with us by Bishop Ian in his June newsletter regarding scams as well as other information. I hope to receive a copy of the presentation so that I can share it with you all.

I have a hard copy of an earlier edition of the resource Bishop Ian referred to “The Little Book of Scams”. It is well worth reading. It appears that the age group of our members, a most trusting generation, is the most vulnerable to scams.

As a part of safeguarding ourselves, diocesan office bearers are being encouraged to set up email address for our roles rather than use our own personal email addresses. AMUA has done this at a national level for all its executive members. I will be exploring the best way of moving this forward for our diocesan executive and we will discuss it at our meeting in July.

At the opening session all the diocesan presidents showed the boundaries of their dioceses on a map of Australia and spoke briefly on the social, geographical and industry aspects of their diocese. On the subsequent days we each had the opportunity to give a report on Mothers Union in our diocese to support our written reports that we had all submitted to the conference papers.

On the final morning we were joined via Zoom by Kasy Chambers, CEO of Anglicare Australia to hear of the many programs that Anglicare implements in our dioceses and how Mothers Union and Anglicare may be able to work together and amplify each other in the work we do.

I was privileged at both our state gathering and Australian Council to lead midday prayers. This was especially joyful at AC where it was our turn to be prayed for in the Wave of Prayer along with the other dioceses with which we are joined up in prayer.

Liz Byleveld has now completed her time as a volunteer with Mothers' Union in Kapsabet and I have received a copy of her final report. Liz has offered to visit our branches during the second half of July to share her experiences and at the moment the schedule is looking like this:

July:

Thursday 11th – Dunsborough

Wednesday 17th – Albany

Thurs 18th – Busselton

Friday 26th – Mandurah

August:

Thursday 1st – Bunbury

I will confirm these arrangements, including the timing of each gathering, in my July newsletter. Members of other branches are welcome and encouraged to travel to one of these places to meet Liz and hear her speak.

In putting these arrangements in place I have become aware that some of branches have meeting schedules which differ from that which I have on record. Could I ask that all of our branches provide me with the details of the current day of the month and time of your meeting?

I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend our Friendship Day in Boyup Brook on Tuesday July 9th. We will commence our day in St Saviours' with a prayer service from our AMUA worship and prayer book and then travel to the CWA rooms for the rest of our program. Please see the accompanying flyer for more details.

Every blessing

Wendy Mabey
President
AMUA Diocese of Bunbury



*Praying globally – serving locally
Supporting family life
Advocating for social justice*