



*Distributed as a  
supplement to the  
'Mia Mia' Magazine*



*Mothers' Union  
Diocese of Bunbury  
March 2025  
Autumn  
Bunuru - Wanyarang*

*Forward into the  
future: with hope and  
love!*



*From the Editor ... a fun photo to move forward into the future!*

Hello! It's wonderful to be with you all again as we have embarked on yet another year. And already we are passing through the first two months, and will soon be saying - "Where did it all go?" Lent? Easter? So, let's make a start.

I was very much taken with the prayer from the MU Prayer Diary for the day on which I am writing this - Monday February 10th:

*You are the God of new starts and fresh beginnings.*

*We pray for new members, passionate about seeing your kingdom here on earth.*

*We pray that we will continue to be a people of peace, reconciliation and prayer  
as we seek to grow our membership and our impact.*

So, I was delighted that a couple of branches sent in ideas of what they are doing this year for **HOPE25**. You will see these on the following pages. Some branches have not had their planning meetings yet, and I am sure there will be more ideas emerging before Easter.

How do we make 'new starts and fresh beginnings'? It looks easy on paper, but my mind goes into a state of hibernation when I actually try to come up with new ideas. BUT, we need to start with just ONE THING; just ONE IDEA to put into action.

I found this quotation recently -

*'Action creates motivation - not the other way round.'* This is so true; just try it!

In the prayer we ask to be people of peace, reconciliation and prayer. Let's all try to spread peace around us, reconcile ourselves to anyone with whom we are at odds (and help others to do the same) and, above all, pray.

"And the one who was seated on the throne said. "See, I . 'am making all things new." (*Revelation 21: 5*)

By the time you read this I will be in China on a short tour. I hope I will have something interesting to share with you in the June edition.

*Blessings - Priscilla*

*mubunburymt@gmail.com*





## ***Nurture Hope... Share Love...***

In my summer message, I mentioned that I had a 1997 calendar sitting on my desk, waiting for the first of January this year when it would become useable again, some 18 years later. It is a Warner Press calendar with the theme of 'Growing in Grace'.

The January message by Julie A. Campbell is entitled Nurture Hope, and it goes like this:

*'God sends the priceless gift of hope into our lives at times when we need them most. A tender word from a friend, the beauty of softly falling snowflakes, the inviting aromas of pine cones – each gives us hope for*

*tomorrow. And when we place our hopes and dreams in the hands of the Father, they will blossom in His perfect time.'*

The February message is also by Julie and is entitled Share Love:

*'Where there is understanding, acceptance and forgiveness, seeds of love will grow. Where hearts are dedicated to others, an abundance of blessings will spring forth. Love is the soil that preserves us, sustains us and makes us one heart and mind. When we share love from our hearts, God gives it back to us in ways we never would have imagined.'*

I invite you to reflect on these two messages, to ponder them in your heart, to consider how you may have experienced hope and love as expressed by Julie.

Perhaps when you next gather as Mothers Union members you may like to share your experiences with one another (to inwardly nurture) and to explore how you can, individually and as a group, nurture hope and share love with others (outwardly focus).

What 'little things' can you do that will make a difference in the lives of others?

**HOPE25**, in its latest newsletter, provides a seven step process for planning initiatives that will share the hope we have in Christ with others. Taken in context, and adjusted to the realities of the circumstances of yourself and your group they are a good starting point.

Simply put, you are encouraged to:

1. Get together to plan what you want to do
2. Pray for renewal in your group
3. Decide who you are being called to reach through your activities
4. Build relationships with those you are trying to reach
5. Reflect on how you welcome others and consider how you might improve this experience for them
6. Invest in training – take time to prepare, to gain confidence in sharing with others
7. Cultivate opportunities to prayerfully extend warm, compelling invitations to gatherings and events

Let us all continue to move forward into the future with hope and love.

Blessings,

*Wendy*

## *From the Branches - Bunbury*

Bunbury Branch had a lovely Christmas service and lunch, attended by 22 members plus our Diocesan President, Wendy Mabey. A hot buffet lunch was served with a choice of two desserts, and we thank our member Lynne, together with her two lovely helpers, for once again providing us with a beautiful lunch,. We also thank Dean Darryl for all he does for us each year.

Wendy presented two members with certificates of service. Lucy Sharpe received her 40 year certificate and Marj Quartermaine received her 20 year Certificate. Many thanks to both our ladies for the wonderful contributions they have made to MU.

We have not had another meeting since our Christmas lunch meeting although the Executive has met to work out our yearly schedule of meetings etc. \*

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 9.30am at St Boniface Cathedral for a service, followed by our meeting and fellowship in the Hall attached to the cathedral. If any members from other branches wish to join us, please know you will be very welcome.

The February meeting was held on 6th February, where we caught up on each other's Christmas and New Year news, and enjoyed a morning tea of fellowship and prayer. \* Diane has added the following news from the February meeting - Thursday May 1, service at 9.30, guest speaker to 10.30 from Advocate. Anyone interesting in joining us please let Diane know on 0412940108. *Diane Hill: President*

## *Boyup Brook*

In November we decorated St Saviour's, and our parish meeting room, to observe the 16 Days of Activism against Domestic Violence, using 16 red hearts as a visual reminder. We gave all our parishioners a copy of the prayers recommended to use during the 16 days. Sunday morning intercessions also had a focus on DV.

We assisted with the organising and conduct of a raffle outside our local IGA store in early December to raise funds for the Christmas Bowl appeal.

On the 15th December we helped decorate the church for our Carol Service as well as organising and presenting the program. We have been hosting this in our Parish for a long time and we involve the other churches in our town so it is a great time of Christian fellowship.

Currently we are helping prepare for a gospel sing-a-long to be held in St Saviour's as part of the Country Music muster held each year in February in Boyup Brook. *Jan Ritson*

### Bunbury Diocese Mothers Union



*Forward into the future:*

*with hope and love*

## **2025 BUNBURY LADY DAY FESTIVAL**

**Tuesday 25th March 2025**

### MORNING TEA

From 9.45am in St Boniface Hall

### EUCHARIST

10.30am St Boniface Cathedral

Celebrant: Bishop Ian Coutts

### LUNCHEON 12:00 pm

St Boniface Hall

Cost of Luncheon: \$ 30



Members: Please RSVP to your branch  
Branches and Lone Members: Please use our Lady  
Day luncheon order form to RSVP with numbers &  
payment by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March



## Bunbury Diocese Mothers Union



*Forward into the future:  
with hope and love*

## 2025 ALBANY LADY DAY FESTIVAL

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**

**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**  
From 2.30pm in Parish Hall

**EUCCHARIST**  
3.00pm St John's Albany (York St)

**FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS**  
**AVAILABLE AFTER THE SERVICE**



RSVP numbers by  
Friday 14th March  
Wendy Minchin, Albany Branch Secretary  
Phone: 9845 1220  
Email: [wendyminchin1@gmail.com](mailto:wendyminchin1@gmail.com)

## *From the Branches - Albany*

We had our planning meeting in January, with results for the first half of the year as below.

In February the Rev. Karen will conduct a Eucharist service in the Lady Chapel at St John's church. This will be followed by the introduction to the study topic for 2025. We will be studying from the book 'Surprise the World', with studies leading towards **HOPE25** and including the MU topic of 'Forward Into the World with Hope and Love.'

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have our local celebration of Lady Day. We are looking forward to the participation of our Diocesan President, Wendy Mabey, as well as Bishop Ian. We will be providing afternoon tea before and after the service, which will commence at 3pm.

We will be providing Simnel cake and rosemary sprigs to attendees at both services on Mothering Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> March.

We will not be having a meeting in April as our usual date falls within Holy Week.

In May we will continue our study of 'Surprise the World' and the launch of **HOPE25**.

In June we will be having a 'History Day'. It has come to our notice that this year is the **110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of MU in Albany** and we are keen to find out, and document, as much as possible about our past. Looking through old records has already revealed a few surprises and we look forward to learning more. If anyone has any information it will be very welcome. It can be emailed to me at [wendyminchin1@gmail.com](mailto:wendyminchin1@gmail.com) or to our president, Jane Sattler, at [janesattler44@gmail.com](mailto:janesattler44@gmail.com)



We meet at 1.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month and we will be delighted to welcome any visitors. We always finish with a welcome cuppa and informal chat.

*Wendy Minchin: Secretary*

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## *Katanning*

Katanning MU Branch members will meet on 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. We will have a Eucharist Service in the Church led by Revd Neale and our first meeting of the year will commence after that.

At this meeting we will compile our program for the year. Some members will be going to the Lady Day Service at Albany which is a lot more convenient for them than travelling to Bunbury. Tom & I will be attending the Lady Day at Bunbury.

MU Katanning is a small group with a few members but we try to look after some of the elderly or housebound members who cannot attend church or MU.

*Sylvia Spicer: MU Secretary*



## *From the Branches - Busselton*

We began the year with a January Planning meeting. Our new Executive (pictured below right with Fr Nick: Acting Treasurer- Mary Watts: VP- Priscilla Broadbent: President- Eleanor Lewin:: Secretary- Leslie Hooper ) was commissioned on January 19th, and Chris Dimiris and Janet Yoxall were presented with their 10 year Service Certificates.

We have included in our program ;

- a day for making Joy boxes
- a visit to the Anglican campsite with a picnic - hopefully joined by some members from other branches
- making picture folders for residents of aged homes ( especially for dementia patients)
- A session to investigate our MU Worship & Prayer book & the Prayer Diary to get to know them better.
- Invitation to Rev'd Carol Reid to be our Guest speaker in July; to our delight she agreed!
- Card making session with Annie-Evans Pascoe,
- We have also started a project for **HOPE25**. *See the picture on the right . Details later!*



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### **SOCIAL ISSUES AND ACTION REPORT**

I re-read the December issue of Mia Mia and read what Susan Skowronski wrote in her article about the blessings of God and the beauty of his creation. Susan herself suffered a shattered femur after a fall in May last year resulting in extensive surgery and a prolonged stay in hospital. However, in spite of that, Susan was very thankful and aware of God's blessings.

Since the last issue we have a new American President, President Donald Trump. I think many of us thought he might try to work towards a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine, however what he suggests is dreadful and the people of Palestine must be feeling very shocked. The war in Ukraine continues. I think we all wonder when, and if, it will come to an end. Being a leader and having political power over people comes with great responsibilities; I am not sure if those responsibilities are being taken seriously by some leaders.

We continue to pray for all who sometimes, through no fault of their own, find themselves homeless. We pray especially for women and children in this situation. Often domestic violence makes this situation worse for many. I do remember many years ago that Chaplains in schools ran workshops with children on the topic of respect. Perhaps it would be a good thing if this was done again.

We give thanks for a good season with the crops for our farmers. Where would we be without them? Every time we go to the shop and pick up our fresh fruit and vegetables, (*Cont on page 6*)

bread etc, we must remember that this is only possible through the work of our farmers, and we give thanks to them all.

We are thankful for our care agencies such as Anglicare, Mission Australia and Caritas who provide counsellors and emergency relief. In our Diocese we are thankful for Boniface Care; through this here in Katanning we provide money for school uniforms, and help to the pharmacy with the cost of scripts so that people can get their medicine when needed. This year has been difficult for many with rising rents etc so when school starts it is good we can help with the cost of the school uniforms.

We lift our prayers to God in thankfulness and hope for the future. Our MU Theme song for 2025 for our Diocese is: "God Gives us a Future" - may we take the words of this beautiful hymn to heart.

God Bless. *Sylvia Spicer. Social Issues and Action Coordinator*

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## *From the The Chaplain*

*Greetings my MU brothers and sisters in Christ,*

On the MU Australia site it says this - '**Christian care for families worldwide**'. Christian care - have you ever thought about what that means and who we are talking about? Poverty, disease, violence, and catastrophes often put immense pressure on families, jeopardising their ability to stay together. Poverty – particularly when paired with illness or violence – disrupts families. In Australia we are not immune to these pressures as many families struggle with the rising costs of living on a daily basis. Everyone deserves to be safe, loved, and connected.

Mothers Union throughout the Diocese, together with ministries such as Boniface Care aim to help and care for individuals and families. It is a joy to hear about some of the different ministries happening in your branches, such as running community events, donating to food banks, and helping people who are unwell or homeless. The Bible encourages Christians to care for themselves and others through love, compassion and responsibility. So what does this look like?

### Self-care

**Love yourself:** The Bible says to love yourself as you love your neighbour.

**Take care of your body:** The Bible says that our bodies are temples of God and that we should take good care of them.

**Find rest in Jesus:** The Bible says that we can find rest in Jesus by spending time in God's Word and praying.

### Caring for others

**Love your neighbour:** The Bible says that loving your neighbour is the second most important commandment after loving God.

**Share resources:** The Bible encourages us to share resources and care for those who lack.

**Be responsible:** The Bible says that we are responsible for the way we act toward others and treat our families.

**Serve others:** The Bible says that we can use our God-given gifts to serve others.

What's most essential about care for one another is **the foundation...It's founded on love**. We love one another because we are members of the one Heavenly Family. (*Cont on page 7*)

We are brothers and sisters in Christ, and recognise that we are fellow sinners redeemed by Jesus in the same way.

We love one another because love is a fruit of the Spirit who lives in us and because we long to be like our Saviour who loved us and gave Himself for us. Furthermore, we love one another because it is commanded by our Lord in the famous new commandment: **“A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”** (John 13:34,35)

Not only does this new commandment benefit the recipient, but it also carries an element of evangelism. Our loving care for our brothers and sisters in Christ results in those around us knowing, and hopefully being attracted to, the God whose love has transformed us.

With God's Grace and Blessings, *Cathie*

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### *From the Branches - Dunsborough*

In the last Mustard Tree our Christmas Basket and Christmas Tree Display were highlighted. Since then we distributed 53 Christmas Baskets and our Christmas Tree Display has been and gone! A number of people visited our Family Centre over the week that the trees were up, including residents from Cape Care in both Busselton and Dunsborough and William Carey Court. The residents enjoyed morning tea with us as part of their visit. *Judy Lundie*



*Some of the residents from Cape Care Dunsborough enjoying their visit  
to the Christmas Tree Display*

*The Dove Tree*

# AMUA Diocese of Bunbury

## 2025 Events and Dates of Importance

<b>March</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
	7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>World Day of Prayer</i>
	12 <sup>th</sup>	RSVP for Lady Day Bunbury to Diane Hill
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Branch reports to Diocesan secretary
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Executive members report to all executives.
	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Lady Day Festival in Albany</b>
	24 <sup>th</sup> .	Executive meeting in Bunbury
	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lady Day Festival in Bunbury.</b>
<b>April</b>	<i>Public school holidays 11<sup>th</sup> –27<sup>th</sup> April</i>	
	<i>Holy Week 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April</i>	
<b>May</b>	10 <sup>th</sup>	Annual contributions due to Diocesan Treasurer
	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mustard Tree contributions to Editor</b>
	21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wave of Prayer (p40 of MU Prayer Diary)
<b>June</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Branch reports to Diocesan secretary
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Executive member reports to all executive
<b>July</b>	<i>Public school holidays 4<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July</i>	
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Executive meeting – Boyanup
	11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MU Friendship Day – Boyanup</b>
<b>August</b>	9 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Sumner Day
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Notice of AGM and request for agenda items to branches.
	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mustard Tree contributions to Editor</b>
<b>September</b>	16 <sup>th</sup>	Branch annual reports to Diocesan secretary
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Executive annual reports to Diocesan secretary
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Agenda items for AGM to Diocesan secretary
	<i>Synod October 10-11<sup>th</sup> in Albany</i>	
	<i>Public school holidays 26<sup>th</sup> Sept - 12<sup>th</sup> Oct.</i>	
<b>October</b>	<b>Branch annual meetings to be held this month</b>	
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Report Book to be distributed (electronic copy)
	11 <sup>th</sup>	AGM agenda to all branches and executive
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Executive members report to all executive
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Executive meeting in Mandurah
	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Country Rally in Mandurah with AGM and election of executive members for 2026 – 2028 inclusive.</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Branch annual meetings to be held if not held in October</b>	
	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mustard Tree contributions to Editor</b>
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Branch annual returns to Diocesan Secretary
<b>December</b>	31 <sup>st</sup>	Financial year ends for branches