

Wendy's Writings August 2025



*Forward into the future:
with hope and love*



"Union is strength, union in prayer is infinite strength" – Mary Sumner

Dear members and friends

As I write to you it is the 3rd of August. I am sitting outside our motorhome gazing over the amazing scenery that can be witnessed from the Albert Tognolini Lookout, which is between Newman and Port Hedland. It is a beautiful afternoon, some 24 degrees, with a gentle breeze blowing through.

I always enjoy the drive north of Newman through the rising hills with sparse vegetation. It is a chance to understand and appreciate the vastness of this great land and follows from an equally impressive drive north from Meekatharra through open station country.

While I am enjoying this break from normalcy and my everyday routine (which has been anything but routine over the past few months), I am on holidays only from my paid employment and not from Mothers Union. Over the next few weeks I will be preparing a number of articles and reports – for Synod, for the next edition of The Mustard Tree, for Australian Council, for the MiaMia and for our own annual report book. I will continue to be available, although only when in internet range, for emails, text messages and phone calls as needed.

I will also be praying that members may step forward to offer themselves for ministry in fulfilling one of the executive roles that are currently open for election. I am aware of nominations for Vice-President, editor of The Mustard Tree, and Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator. Core positions yet to receive nominations include President and Treasurer.

I wonder if there is a branch that would be prepared to take corporate responsibility for our Publications Coordinator role. With AMUA reducing its stock outside of essential Mothers Union merchandise, the role in the diocese is also reduced. While it is necessary for there be a person who takes responsibility for being the contact person with AMUA, it is possible that a branch could work corporately to manage the stock orders and distribution, as well as running the Publications Table that we have at Lady Day and Country Rally each year.

To assist me in the compilation of my reports, I ask that branches share with me a few paragraphs of how, over the past twelve months, their programs have reflected our current AMUA Theme expressed in the following graphic:



Mothers Union Australia

Theme 2025



How has your branch embraced God as being central to all that we do? How has your program reflected the aims and objectives of AMUA? What activities have you done that were inwardly nurturing or outwardly focused?

I am also seeking photos of MU activities from this year for use in my reports.

Mary Sumner Day is on the 9th August and I do hope that our members may be able to celebrate in a meaningful way in their parishes and / or their branches. There is a service in our Australian Worship and Prayer Book and also one on the Mary Sumner House website. Even if you can't be at a gathering of others to celebrate, I encourage you to have your own personal time of worship wherever you may be on 9th August, using one of these resources as your guide. In 2026 Mary Sumner Day will be a Sunday, a wonderful opportunity to share in our parishes the joy that we all have in being members of Mothers Union. It is not too early to start planning now and to speak to those in leadership in your parish about how this might be done.

I would like to thank members of the Boyanup Branch for hosting our members at our recent Friendship Day and to thank Isobelle Shortreed for sharing with us all how we can use mandalas for prayer. Just over 20 members gathered together to share fellowship, to talk about issues of importance to us as members of Mothers Union and to participate in our workshop activity.

All branches have received a flyer with information regarding Country Rally which will be held in Mandurah on Thursday 16th October. Our morning tea and Eucharist will be hosted by Mandurah Branch at Christ's Church. Our annual meeting will follow the Eucharist, after which we will journey to the Meadow Springs RAAFA estate for lunch. During the Eucharist Bishop Ian will bless our new diocesan banner. During the Annual Meeting we will give thanks for outgoing executive members and commission new office holders. We will also be presenting our badges and certificates in honour of member's service to Mothers Union.

With the new 2025-26 season at the Anglican Campsite in Busselton just beginning, branches are asked to let me know if they would like a week reserved in their name to sponsor a family from their community to have a holiday in our caravan. If a branch or parish is unable to afford the fees, our diocesan executive does have money available through our Family Holiday Fund to provide assistance.

Last week I took part in the quarterly Diocesan President's Zoom Gathering. Among the many things we discussed was the 150th anniversary celebrations acknowledging the founding of Mothers Union in 1876. On a world scale, there will be an anniversary service of thanksgiving in London in June 2026 and a worldwide gathering in Durban, South Africa, in early October. This gathering is likely to have 700+ members attending from many of the 84 countries in the world where MU is established. I am aware of interest from at least a few of our members and I will keep you informed as more details come to light.

On an Australian level, we are considering a virtual conference, with members gathering in hubs in branches and dioceses to hear from speakers, to worship, and to join in conversations. Dioceses are also likely to have the opportunity to showcase themselves. NSW trialled this very successfully in July for their State Conference. I have viewed their sessions and believe this has great potential for our Australian 2026 gathering, allowing many more members to participate than if we held a central conference for people to attend. Support would be able to be provided to ensure members have access to the technology to participate.

The Australian Executive will no doubt be talking about this when we meet via Zoom later this month. It will also no doubt be further discussed when Australian Council meets in Sydney during the last week of October. I will be there as your representative for the last time in my capacity as Bunbury Diocesan President, while also fulfilling my obligations as a member of Australian Executive.

On a state level we will be considering our activities when representatives of each diocese meet together during the September/October school holidays. It is possible that, should the Australian Gathering go ahead in the format currently being considered, we will not have a separate state event.

Every blessing
Wendy Mabey
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*God of Hope
you call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world;
by your spirit awaken in us
a true vision of your kingdom,
a greater certainty of our salvation, and
a deeper dedication to your service;
that through our words and actions the same Spirit may
bring many who are lost to be found,
and for them to celebrate the hope
that we can only have in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen*