

Wendy's Writings March 2025



*Forward into the future:
with hope and love*



'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have' (1 Peter 3:15)

Dear members and friends

Our Central Charity has released the following news:

*'Mothers' Union has had the privilege of enjoying royal patronage since its foundation in 1876, and we are delighted that **Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Edinburgh**, has accepted the invitation to continue this tradition.*

As our new patron, The Duchess of Edinburgh is committed to helping strengthen families and communities to deal with issues that impact them.

*"We are honoured that Her Royal Highness has chosen to join us as patron," says **Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow**. "The Duchess will bring strength and inspiration for the work we all do. We are especially grateful for Her Royal Highness's experience and commitment to championing the most marginalised, particularly those who are impacted by violence and abuse in conflict. As a woman-led movement, we also greatly welcome The Duchess's commitment to promoting the development of women into leadership."*

We are thankful and blessed to be able to call Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Edinburgh, our Royal Patron, especially as we approach our 150th Anniversary next year.'

From our AMUA President, Dr Robin Ray: 'The Duchess is patron for Mothers' Union Worldwide, not to be confused with Patron of MU Australia which (following the Palace's decline) remains as the Primate, the Archbishops and the Bishop of Tasmania of the Anglican Church of Australia, who consent to accept the office (as per the Constitution Section 17).'

Lady Day celebrations will be held later this month in Albany and in Bunbury. Hopefully by now branches have been able to finalise their Lady Day numbers and we will see many of you at one of our gatherings.

Bishop Ian, who has recently returned from a visit to the Diocese of Kapsabet, will be sharing some of his experiences with us during our Lady Day services. I have already seen some of his many pictures featuring Mothers Union members in the diocese and you may have also read about aspects of his visit from his March edition of 'To the People'.

At Lady Day in Bunbury we will also hear from a representative of Anglicare WA who will share with us details of "Standing Together", a Anglicare WA initiative, specifically for Anglican parishes in the Dioceses of Perth and Bunbury, to educate about the signs and drivers of family & domestic violence and how as a community we can work together to end it. We will not actually be undertaking the workshop but rather hearing what it is about. Domestic Violence, along with Parenting, is a key focus area of AMUA and we can, as members, be active in supporting the bringing of this workshop to our parishes and communities.

I met with Bishop Ian during February to discuss Mothers Union matters, including the makeup of our executive beyond 2025 and the challenges of forming a new leadership team. The current executive will discuss this at its upcoming meeting. Our new AMUA handbook (2024) states that:

'Each diocese is responsible for the management and function of AMUA in their diocese, thus able to develop and implement their own guidelines. However, the Rules/Regulations/Constitutions of all Anglican Mothers Union Australia Diocesan Councils must not contravene the Constitution and By-Laws of the Council of Mothers Union Australia Inc. A current copy of the Diocesan Council Rules/Regulations/Constitution should be in the files of the Australian President and the Australian Secretary for reference.

DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE

Diocesan Executive shall comprise at least 3 people including but not limited to:

Diocesan President

Vice President

Diocesan Secretary*

Diocesan Treasurer*

Where possible a diocesan contact person for each department may be included. These persons will liaise directly with their national counterpart for information and ideas in relation to that department.

Prayer and Spirituality

Overseas and Northern Outreach

Promotion and Communication

Social Issues and Action

Publication

Other elected positions that are currently provided for in Diocesan Guidelines.

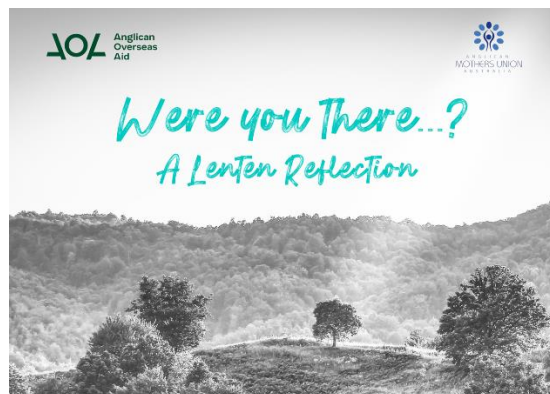
* Please note in smaller dioceses the President cannot hold a dual role, but Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person.'

We are now in the season of Lent and many parishes and diocesan organisations are finalising their plans for Hope25 activities to share the hope and love of Christ with the communities in which God has placed them. As such many of you may be participating in the Hope25 Lenten Study. The Bible passage above comes from the foreword of this study.

Another Lenten Study that has just been released and which I am sharing with this newsletter, has been written by our AMUA President, Dr Robin Ray, for Anglican Overseas Aid. Entitled ***Were You There...?*** In the introduction, Robin writes:

Anglican Overseas Aid pursues the dignity, equality and inclusion of people experiencing poverty and marginalisation, working towards a world as God designed it to be, renewed and restored. Mothers Union Australia seeks to share Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life; maintaining a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service; promoting conditions in society that favour stable family life and the protection of children; and helping those whose families have met with adversity.

With these objectives in mind AOA is proud to collaborate with Mothers Union Australia collaborating to produce this Lent booklet for your reflection and prayer.



This simply study, in six sessions, does not need to be restricted to Lent, it can be used at any time of the year. Branches might like to use it as a reflection over a series of six meetings, exploring one focus each time they gather.

We are currently awaiting details of our new Overseas Target Project and I will share the information as soon as it has been distributed to dioceses. In the meantime, a survey is currently being conducted by the Overseas & Northern Outreach department to seek member input into the AMUA Northern Outreach grant program. Survey details will be sent separately to branch contacts to be shared with members, with responses being due by Easter.

As I journey through my final year as your diocesan president, I would welcome the opportunity to visit each branch, should this be possible. As well as joining in special celebrations, I would also enjoy the chance to share in a regular branch gathering with members.

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*