

# Wendy's Writings

## October 2025

# HOPE25

*Forward into the future:  
with hope and love*



*'...[we need] to recognise our power, and that as wise women we need to let go of what should have been, could have been, might have been, and that we need to have an attitude of wonder and awe!' Cath Connelly*

Dear members and friends

In the last week of October Australian Council will be meeting in Sydney. I shall be attending in my role as AMUA Overseas and Northern Outreach Coordinator and Isobelle Shortreed, our nominee for Diocesan President 2026-28, shall be attending on behalf of our diocese as my proxy.

The words above come from a report written by the DP of Gippsland, Lindy Driver, where Cath Connelly was a guest speaker at Lady Day this year. It has been interesting to read the reports from all the DP's on the activities within their diocese.

The business papers also include a schedule of membership numbers. As of December 2024, outside the mainland capital cities, which have membership ranging from 200 to 724, next comes Newcastle (447) and then Bunbury (129).

We will be joined at AC by Provincial Presidents from Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific, and Melanesia, and hopefully our Zone C Trustee Dorothy Siep from Papua New Guinea, if her visa can be sorted. We will have Zoom links our WW President and staff from Mary Sumner House. We will hear about the planned world gathering in Durban, South Africa, in October 2026 to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union and we will discuss plans for an Australia wide celebration. We will take part in discussions on ways of being MU and on visions for the future. We will hear about 'Taking Love Beyond the Wall' – an Anglicare Youth Engagement initiative.

Motions being considered relate to updating the AMUA Constitution and By-Laws, and the review of the Northern Outreach Grants which was undertaken earlier this year.

As it is an election year, nominations will be confirmed and the new executive commissioned. At the time of publication of the business papers, no nominations had been received for the roles of MiaMia Editor, Publications Manager or Promotions and Communication Co-ordinator.

Before AC, we have our own Country Rally and annual meeting in Mandurah on 16<sup>th</sup> October. I am delighted that we have close to 60 people attending our lunch, with a few more who will only be present for the Eucharist and meeting.

Electronic copies of our 2025 Annual Report and Annual Meeting Business Paper have been distributed to executive members and branch contacts. Printed copies, two per branch, will be available for collection before the Eucharist.

Could I ask all branches to bring their banner, with stand, if possible to Country Rally. These will be placed around the church prior to the service, with only the Diocesan and host branch banners paraded.

During the Annual Meeting, branches are entitled to two votes on any motion. Branches should determine who their voting representatives shall be and inform Jan Ritson of their names before the meeting.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Isobelle and I attended a State Council meeting in Perth. It was the last one chaired by myself, with leadership passing to the Diocese of Perth from 1 January next year. Our main points of discussion were the upcoming Australian Council meeting and the motions to be put forward, and options for celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union. We will await the outcome of the AC discussions on a nationwide celebration, and in the meantime Perth Diocese are going to investigate the possibility of a state conference in the latter part of the 2026, mostly dependent on if they can secure a venue.

October is a month with much to be done. On 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, Diane Hill and I will represent Mothers Union at the Diocesan Synod, which is being held in Albany. I ask that you uphold us in prayer as we prepare to travel to Albany, and that you pray for the Synod and all that will be discussed.

In September I attended two branch meetings, my own and Busselton. Mandurah, who would normally celebrate their birthday at their September meeting, set aside celebrating being 66 years young to enjoy fellowship around the table as they worked on Country Rally preparations. Busselton Branch are now 109 years young and celebrated with a lunch at a local eatery.

Every blessing  
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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*