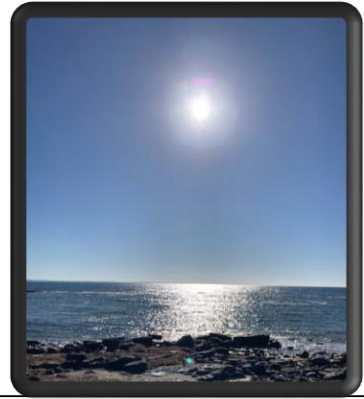




Wendy's Writings March 2024



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

Every woman's success should be an inspiration to another. We are strongest when we cheer each other on.

Serena Williams

Dear members and friends,



Each month, it seems, I have the pleasure of writing to you from a different place in our wonderful state. This weekend, having been in Hyden for our monthly visit, Ian, Dusty and I are now camped at Kwolyin, a bush camp which is the site of a former town gazette in 2013 along the then railway line between Quairading and Bruce Rock.

This is a picture of the front of the Hyden church on Sunday morning. Despite the challenge we did get inside and hold a service.

With the visit of our World Wide President Sheran Harper on Monday May 13th now just a few months away I need to advise the Perth diocese how many tickets I need for our Bunbury diocesan members for the day. I ask branch presidents/leaders to gather this information and let me know numbers as soon as possible.

Executive agreed to explore the idea of hiring a bus which would start in Busselton and have stops in Bunbury and Mandurah and then drive straight through to Wollaston Theological College. We need to know if this is a worthwhile endeavour so could the question also be asked of members whether they would take the bus if it was available, and whether they would only attend if the bus was running?

In less than two weeks I will be meeting our Australian President Dr. Robin Ray at Perth Airport and taking her around the diocese to meet members. I hope as many as possible will make the journey to Albany, Bunbury and / or Mandurah to meet with her. She is very keen to hear from members what they do in the name of Mothers Union and to be in conversation with us all about how we continue to be Mothers Union in our communities.



By now branches are hopefully finalising their numbers for Lady Day in Bunbury. If you would like details of the Lady Day gathering in Albany on Saturday 16th or the Mandurah Branch meeting on Wednesday 20th, please let me know.

At the national level, it has been confirmed that our MOU with Anglican Overseas Aid is being extended by 12 months and so we will continue as our Overseas Target Project Disaster and Climate Change in the Pacific. The 2024 project is to support churches in the Solomon Islands to update their facilities to be able to be accessible for use by people with disabilities when needed as emergency shelters. If members haven't as yet received the latest Overseas and Northern Outreach newsletter with details of this project, please check with your branch.

You will also hopefully shortly be receiving the Easter meditations put together by our national Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator.

Last week I had the opportunity to be guest speaker at the Peel Zonta Club where I was asked to share some of my life journey with their members. While also speaking about the importance of family to me, of being a foster parent, of my time as member of the Girl Guide movement, my time as a Family Support Program Coordinator, and my time in Coffs Harbour where I taught African refugee women how to sew and led a project to make specially designed kimono tops for breast cancer patients to wear during treatment, I was able to share what it is to be a member of Mothers Union.

This is a little of what I said:

Nationally and internationally members of Mothers Union have a special responsibility to participate in the mission of the church by furthering the awareness of issues of aid and development, working towards alleviating poverty, stopping violence and advocating for justice for all people.

At the local community level, the activities that each branch undertakes is guided by the health and wellbeing of the members, as well as the needs of the community. While much of it may appear inwardly focused, of benefit to those within our church congregations, we also engage in the wider community in a variety of ways.

I also shared with them Mary Sumner's prayer and concluded with this thought:

You do not need to be a person of faith to understand what she is saying. That each of us by our thoughts, our words and our actions have the capacity to make a difference in the lives of those we encounter. It is for each of us to accept or reject the opportunities that we are given.

Every blessing

Wendy Mabey
President
AMUA Diocese of Bunbury



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