



*“Being
inwardly
nurtured to be
outwardly
focused”*

MU Newsletter October 2025

Dear MU Members,

Thank you to all the members who were able to attend our AGM/Council meeting on Saturday the 18th October, both in person, and on zoom. Thank you too, for apologies received, you were there in Spirit!

Mrs Kerry Lewis, Program Manager of PVAW (Prevention of Violence Against Women) gave us an insightful talk, into the beginnings of the Program in the Diocese, and also a detailed explanation of the process and timeline for translating PVAW training into the Karen Language. She also spoke of how it has been applied in other cultures. I have since heard from Kerry. She thanked us for the opportunity to present on Saturday and said she had some really beneficial conversations after the meeting, making positive connections. PVAW is also considering work with the Dinka community.

All reports were received as documented within the AGM booklet, however, I would like to mention a few of the discussions. **Holding the Light Service** will be held on **Wednesday 3rd December at 5pm** in the Wesley Uniting Church. Guest Speaker will be Ms Sherele Moody, Australia's key femicide researcher, an award-winning journalist and media advocate for families impacted by femicide.

Whilst the positions in Executive Committee for Link Coordinator, Social Issues, and Intercessory Prayer are elected for 2025/26, the coordinators would like to stand down at the 2026 AGM. I ask for anyone who would be interested in taking on these roles, and become part of our Melbourne Council, to contact me for a fuller explanation of what is involved. You would be working side by side with the current coordinator to enable you to “learn the ropes/how things are done at the moment”. We welcome your input in these important roles for MU.

Rosemary Hicks is the World Day of Prayer (WDP) MU representative. WDP has asked if we have more MU members who would like to take part in the Committee. This will not involve an “official” role. Please contact either Rosemary, or myself, if you would like more information.

Australian Council will be held at Balkham Hills NSW over Monday 27th to Thursday 30th October. Our President Robin Ray is on board with our project with PVAW and the translation of their training into Karen language and has asked me to speak about our collaboration with Kerry Lewis and her program.

Robin has asked us to pray for Australian Council:

Almighty and everlasting God,

Give wisdom and understanding to the members of this Australia Council meeting.

Teach them in all things, to seek first your honour and glory.

May they perceive what is right, have the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

Australian Council Social Issues Coordinator, Susan Skowronski has provided this **16 Days of Activism** information.

As part of 16 Days of Activism, Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) will again this year join RESPECT the Walk Against Family Violence, meeting on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral at **10.30am, on Fri 28th November**. Each year it is growing in number, both Cleary and Parishioners, come join us!

Dates of MU Happenings around Melbourne:

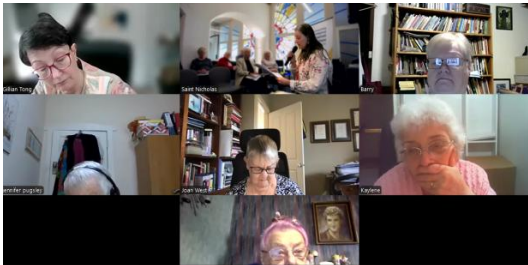
28th November (Friday) PVAW joins RESPECT Victoria in the Walk Against Family Violence. We meet on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral at 10.30am where we will walk to join RESPECT at 11am at Birrarung Marr, ending the walk in the Treasury Gardens.

3rd December (Wednesday) Diocesan Members Christmas Breakup. We will be attending St Paul's Cathedral Midday Eucharist at 12.15pm then lunching at Chole's (Young and Jackson) at 1pm. Please let Karen Hayden know if you would like to join us, you would be very welcome.

3rd December (Wednesday) Holding the Light Service 5pm will again be held at Wesley Uniting Church at **130 Lonsdale St Melbourne**. A flyer will be available shortly. Guest speaker will be Ms. Sherele Moody Award-Winning Journalist .

Should you need more information, have any questions, please contact the Leader/President or the Secretary/Contact Person in your Branch or call me directly.

Peace and Blessings to everyone, Karen



Photos from our AGM