

Diocese of The Murray, South Australia.

**THE MURRAY
CON-TRIBUTARY
NEWSLETTER**



**Being Inwardly Nurtured to be
Outwardly Focused**

October 2025

Dear Friends,

My love to you all in this changeable spring season. I have so many pretty flowers in my garden to choose from to put in a vase at present. The farmers are probably not so excited as I am. Let us all pray for good spring rain for them where needed.

This will be my last 'president's ' letter via The Con Tributary as I officially finish up at the end of the year. What a wonderful 6 years it has been, full of new experiences, lots of inspiring situations and inspiring people to meet and the love and care from you all that has been so appreciated. Thank you all so much for your faith in me to carry out this role and your prayers to keep me on track. I will attend the AMUA council meeting in Sydney at the end of October with Caroline and will no doubt return with lots of information and enthusiasm to share.

We have received some heartwarming thank you messages from the recipients of the Farmers Drought relief vouchers that we distributed in the Mallee.

It will soon be time to pray and act for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence to bring awareness and hopefully comfort to many. There are special prayers that you may like to use on page 104/5 in the Prayer Diary.

There is lots of information and prayers and thoughts for the day available on the AMUA website too.

It will then be Advent and nativity set time again. Who will see your nativity set and begin a discussion on the real Christmas message????

2026 will mark 150 years of Mothers Union and there will be many celebrations world wide and in Australia too. There will be a large service in

Durban South Africa. In our Diocese we decided to have a meal together and plan to have a 3 course lunch after our Lady Day service....Details below. To fit around several timetables our Wave of Prayer service will have a different format this year....details below.

You never know what's around the corner. One of our very old goats gave birth today. What a surprise! I pray that you meet new situations good or sad or surprising with the knowledge that God is always there with us.

Love and blessings Jocelyn

At our AGM in August we elected new people to new roles but several positions were not filled which we hope to organise at a short Council meeting on November 10th. As we have several volunteers to join our exec committee we pray that this should be easily done. The positions that are finalised are..

President: Caroline Earl

Secretary: Liz Hampel

Treasurer: Jocelyn Williamson

Publications: Natalie Jones

Prayer and spirituality: Helen Cook

Mia Mia distribution: Ronda Elson

Families Equip/ parenting: ?

Overseas and Northern Outreach: ?

Social Issues: ?

Promotion : ?

Diocesan Member contact: ?

Vice President: ?

DIARY DATES:

27th-30th October AMUA Council Sydney. Jocelyn and Caroline to attend

10th November Monday. Wave of prayer service. Christ Church Strathalbyn.

10.30am m/tea

11.15 am Council meeting and AMUA Council updates and news

12.15pm BYO lunch

1.00pm service

25th November . 16 Days of Activism... begins

17th-19th December Our Wave of Prayer dates although we will have acknowledged and prayed at our November service too.

9th February Exec meeting at St Aidans Aberfoyle Park 10.30am

25th March Wednesday Lady Day service and 150th celebration lunch. St Nicholas Seaford. Keep the date free. Costs and timetable and RSVP dates still to be organised.

Have you ever thought...

... of using the AMUA Worship and Prayer Book for the intercessions during Sunday worship? The Litany, "Our Relationship with God" on page 39 has been used in a very prayerful way to lead the intercessions during a service of Praise, Prayer and Proclamation. The parish priest was very supportive and the parish secretary graciously printed the litany in the pew sheet so that the congregation were aware of the responses to be made. This allowed for a time of reflection after each prayer. What an amazing way to raise the profile of MU?! One of the congregation even ordered a copy of the AMUA Worship and Prayer Book after the service.

... about how powerfully God uses the things that seem so small to us? A cell, an atom, an idea, a word, a mustard seed, a small donation, one talent, five loaves and two fish, Dorcas's needle, David's five stones, a quick touch of the hem of Jesus's garment, a smile, a kind word?

Elizabeth Cottrell (Mt Barker) reflects that God has the power to take those things that we consider to be insignificant, and bless, magnify, sanctify and exult them to make his kingdom come on earth, here and now.

VALE – Janette Orchard. Many of you will remember Janette, who was the Publications Coordinator for our Diocese for some years. Janette was called home by our Heavenly Father on the 2nd of September. Janette treasured her membership of MU and the friendships that she made.

VALE - Ruth Brook, who was also called home in late September. Ruth was a Diocesan member in the Adelaide Diocese and she came to The Murray a few years ago.

Both women had been residents of the Strathalbyn Aged Care facility, where they received kind, thoughtful and respectful care from all the staff.

CONGRATULATIONS to June Shepherd, a member of Mt Barker branch who celebrated her 100th Birthday this year, in June!

If you have any news of members or information to share, please contact us:

For those reading this online, you can contact Liz Hampel or Natalie Jones via the email newsletter@muaustralia.org.au