



## MU Newsletter November 2025

Hello MU Members, here we are, over halfway through November and the weeks are flying towards Christmas!

Recently I attended the MU Australian Council (AC) Conference, held at the end of October. The Diocesan Presidents from around Australia were joined by our Zone C Trustee Dorothy Seip, Sandra Rollands Anglican Church of Melanesia, and Norma Evans Australia, New Zealand & Polynesia. Each DP was asked to highlight something from their submitted report over the 4 days. I spoke of our project/collaboration with Kerryn Lewis and the Diocesan Program, Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) to translate their training into the Karen Language.

Executive Elections also took place as follows:

**Robin Ray** continues as President

**Elizabeth Parker** continues as Vice President - Parenting

**Wendy Mabey** elected as Vice President - Family and Domestic Violence (Elaine Longford standing down)

**Ailsa Gill** elected as Treasurer (Marilyn Robey standing down)

**Diane Thompson** elected as Overseas and Northern Outreach (taking over from Wendy Mabey).

**Kristi Day** elected as Social Issues (Susan Skowronski standing down).

**Christine Jensen** continues as Prayer and Spirituality coordinator.

**Lindy Driver** (and team) elected as Publications (Rob Kennedy standing down).

**Promotions & Communications, and MiaMia Editor** remain vacant.

It's important to expand on the Publications Position. When it looked unlikely that this role was going to be filled, our President felt that she would have to take it on. Lindy Driver (DP Gippsland) heard of this and put her hand up. She knew she did not have the computer skills to complete the financial recording requirements of this role but could not let Robin take on this task as well as being MU President. Lindy spoke with her MU branch, and from her conversation of the situation, they decided they could form a "team", headed by Lindy, to fulfill the role. Church Treasurer Positions often have 2 or 3 people completing different tasks (I do as treasurer in my Church), to "spread the load" of the role. Something that we may need to consider for other roles/positions that appear difficult to fill, on an AC and Diocesan Level. We need to start thinking outside the square of how things have been done in the past.

At our Melbourne AGM in October, there were many Christmas Cards delivered to Bev Cottell, to pass on to June Robertson for Dame Phylis Frost and Tarrangower Womens Prisons. Bev has informed me she had enough to fulfill June's request of 400 cards, with a surplus to be carried on into Christmas 2026! Thank you to everyone who supported Bev and the Womens Prisons with this outreach.

Christine Jensen has forwarded our Advent Devotions, your branch will have a copy, and as always, sends them with her own profound words:

***"As we come to the end of the year, once again we focus on the birth of our Saviour and Lord. What a precious time it is. I have been reading the book of Hebrews in my Bible study at church and here in the first three verses we have a wonderful description of exactly who he is. 'In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.'***

*In the Advent readings for this year, I have focussed on the names and titles of Jesus that are revealed in the Christmas story. As we meditate upon them, we are gazing at the real Jesus and why we worship him with all our hearts."*

16 Days of Activism begins 25th November to 10 December. Social Issues Coordinator, Susan Skowronski has provided **16 Days of Activism** information, posters, flyers, booklets, which your branch should have.

We will be joining the **RESPECT Walk Against Family Violence** on Friday 28th November, meeting at St Paul's Cathedral steps at 10.30am to join the march at 11am. More info about it in MU Happenings below. PVAW and Kerryn are actively involved in the walk.

I was very pleased to be invited by Jennifer Pugsley, and join MU Murrumbeena at the beginning of the month to present Nell Champion with her 60 years + certificate and to acknowledge her years of MU dedication, it is Nell's 101st Birthday next month!

At the last minute, I was unable to attend MU Altona for their AGM, and a special visit from Barabra Andrews, a member of their Link branch in UK, St Faiths Lee on the Solent. Lyn McDonald let me know they had a very enjoyable gathering and shared lunch, I was sorry to miss out. Barbara spoke about her branch, what they were involved in, and expressed similar issues being faced by an aging group and the struggle to attract new members.

Please let me know if you have any questions, would like further information on anything I've mentioned.

### Dates of MU Happenings around Melbourne:

**28<sup>th</sup> 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*



The 2025 Australian Council Group



Nell's Presentation at Murrumbeena



2026 AC Executive Committee



Altona's Link visitor from the UK