



Overseas & Northern Outreach Newsletter – August 2025

Overseas Target Fund – Melanesian Adult Literacy Project

I recently received the following information from Jeanette Lawrence at Mary Sumner House regarding progress with the development of the Literacy Program in the Diocese of Melanesia that we are supporting through our Overseas Target Fund.

'The main update on this is Melanesia are still working on the proposal through the Ignite programme.'

To confirm the three Dioceses they are planning to work the literacy programme in are:

- *Diocese of Ysabel*
- *Diocese of Malaita*
- *Diocese of Guadalcanal*

Some further information provided by Melanesia on the Goal of the project:

"The overall goal of ACOM MU in this project is to improve the life, status and church/community participation of women in Melanesia. When women can read and write, they are able to participate in prayer and worship, understand what is happening in the world around them, and respond appropriately to the day-to-day needs of their families." '

I encourage you to continue to promote our Overseas Target Project within your diocese, both within Mothers Union and to your wider diocesan family. Just this week I received this request from a parish in Victoria:

Do you have a slide I can download about this year's project - the literacy program for the Solomon Islands? It would really help with our promoting it.

In my previous newsletter I mentioned that Helen Newton, O & NO Coordinator for the Diocese of Grafton, has a long association with the Solomon Islands, having joined Mothers Union there in 1991. You can read about her most recent visit to the Solomon Islands in the Spring 2025 edition of the MiaMia.

Northern Outreach

The month of August has seen me journeying through the Diocese of North West Australia, combining annual holidays with visits to seven parishes in the Diocese to join with Jenny, the Diocesan President, in sharing information about Mothers Union with those we have encountered at Bible studies and church services. Once our journeying is complete we will have time to reflect on our experiences and to share them with members.

Branch Links

Thank you to those dioceses who have responded to my request for information on Links that your diocese and your branches have, both overseas and within Australia.

Diane, from the Diocese of Southern Queensland and Jenny from the Diocese of Bendigo have both let me know that they have branches in their dioceses who would like to have links with branches in other dioceses in Australia. Their contact details are available in the AMUA Directory, or by contacting me via the email address at the end of this newsletter.

Blessings

Wendy Mabey
Overseas & Northern Outreach Coordinator
ono@muaustralia.org.au