



Poinsettia Post

Anglican Mothers Union Australia
Brisbane



ANGELICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA

SPRING 2025



**The Rev'd Doug Frith at the
Redcliffe Deanery Day blessing
prayer shawls made by
Caboolture AMUA members**

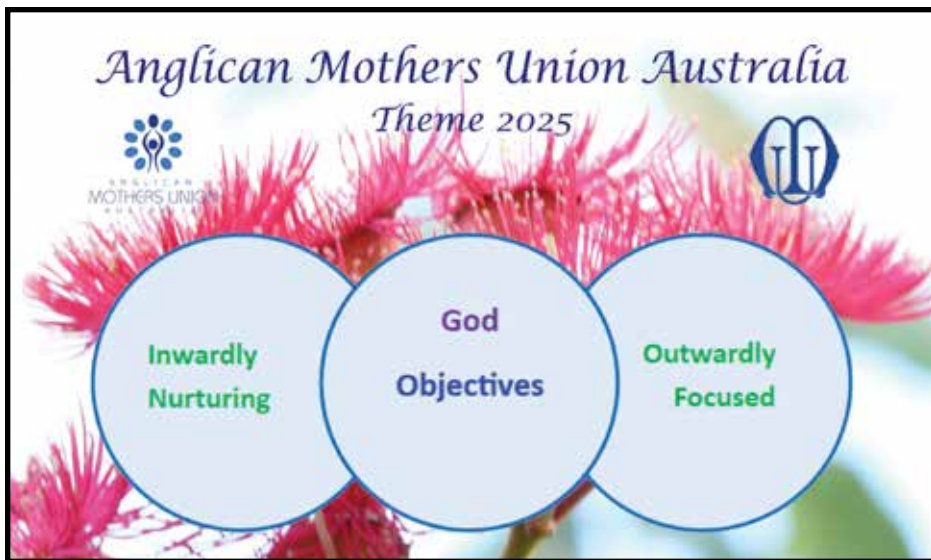
A Message from our President

Hello everyone

My computer tells me that Spring is a time of 'sprouting, flowering, breeding, migration and swarming'. For me it is a time of warming up and regaining my energy, as I hope it is for you.

Recently I have been thinking again about what a wonderful organisation the Mothers Union is – over 4 million members across the world devoted to the Christian faith, working hard to strengthen, support and encourage families, to improve the status of women and girls in our communities and to bring literacy and financial knowledge to men and women so that they might find a degree of independence in these communities.

Whenever I am asked to award long-service badges and certificates, I am amazed that some members have shown such



devotion and loyalty to the MU over fifty, sixty, even seventy years. The AMUA is truly an important part of the Anglican Church in Australia.

However large organisations like the AMUA need leadership. Hopefully you have all been able to read the June 2025 letter to members from Dr Robin Ray, the President of the Australia Council in which she outlined how all positions in the national and diocesan councils and committees become vacant at the end of this year. In the Brisbane Diocese at our AGMs in October many positions will also become vacant at a branch level. We need individuals to organise and lead or else the AMUA will cease to exist. Robin urges us to reflect and pray, to seek God's guidance and then either nominate for a position or encourage someone else to nominate. We really do work well together!!

At church last Sunday our rector, Reverend Chris Bate, read to us from a book by David Helm titled 'Daniel for You'. David compared his father to the biblical Daniel who was still useful to God despite being in his eighties. He writes that his father 'is praying that God would see fit to make him more productive for Christ in his eighties than in all the previous decades of service combined! May that example encourage us all. For as long as God gives us breath, He has work for us to do'. So I ask you to reflect carefully, pray and cast your eyes upon your congregations to see who might need your encouragement to take up a leadership position in AMUA next year.



Jenny

Diocesan Country Council - May 2025



The Diocesan Council meeting was held at St Luke's Toowoomba in May. What joy to welcome our Diocesan President Jenny Bullock, members of Diocesan Executive, lone members and members from our local deanery and from around the diocese from Gold Coast to Bundaberg and places in between!

The inspiring guest speaker was Mrs Letitia Shelton, CEO of City Women in Toowoomba. City Women have developed programmes to support women and children, lobbied governments, set up a pregnancy support centre, established friendship groups for migrant and refugee women, worked with women in brothels and so on. Today the members are reaching out to women in Fiji as well. They are attempting to send the message that 'Jesus loves you' to all women. Prayer is, of course, of the utmost importance but Letitia emphasised that Prayer and Action go together. She challenged us all to pray, but also to act and support others always.

Elaine Stewart from Warwick thanked Letitia and presented her with a gift.

The project for the coming year is to support the Anglicare SQ youth homelessness accommodation project underway at Logan. Funds from the retiring collection for Mary Sumner Day will be directed to this project, and branches are permitted to hold one special fundraising event for the project during the coming year.

Jenny Bullock presented long service certificates to local members, left to right, Jennifer Murray (20 years), Susan Skowronski and Bev Perry (40 years), and Joy Lemin (20 years).

After the meeting, members enjoyed lunch and fellowship in the heritage listed parish hall, constructed as a school in 1911.



Redcliffe Deanery Day



On 8 May, some 43 people gathered at St Laurence's in Caboolture to celebrate the Eucharist and witness three members (pictured above) receive long service awards presented by Diocesan President, Jenny Bullock. Audrey McKillop (North Pine) received her 60 year badge and certificate, Chris Martin (Caboolture) received her 50 year badge and certificate and Jill Clifford (Caboolture) received her 30 year certificate.

A new member, Jenny from Caboolture, was admitted. Rev'd Doug Frith blessed prayer shawls made by Caboolture members.

Guest Speaker, Hilda Lamani, presented an informative talk on the Solomon Islands, covering Mothers Union, climate change



and their ceremonial dress worn for special occasions. Hilda used audio-visuals and artefacts from the Solomons.

Left: Hilda explains the artefacts to Jan O'Dare, Fay Jordan and Jenny Bullock.

Fay Jordan

Laidley Gathering for Lone Members

Each April, members from Ipswich and Pittsworth meet with the Lone Members from Laidley. This year we had a busy morning. We lit a candle to remember Maisie Turnbull who had recently passed away.

As it was so close to Anzac Day we had a Service of Remembrance and Diane Thompson told us the story behind the *Purple Poppy*. It is to remember all animals that went to the many Wars. She showed us a beautiful quilt a friend had made, dedicated to these animals. Diane kindly knitted all present a Purple Poppy for us to wear. Thank you Diane and Leanne from Ipswich Branch for organising the morning. We are all looking forward to meeting up again next year.



Marjory Fieldus

St Luke's Toowoomba AMUA Pyjama Drive

St Luke's AMUA held their annual pyjama drive during May, and are very thankful to all our parishioners who so kindly donated much-needed pyjamas during our appeal.

The pyjamas were blessed by Fr Neil Fernando, and distributed by members. *Hope for our Children* received 49 pairs. Protea Place received 47 pairs for women who flee domestic violence, a situation which unfortunately is increasing.

Jennifer Murray



Rosemary McLeod (left) and Jennifer Murray sorted the pyjamas

Logan AMUA Speaker from AAA

On 9 July, members of Logan AMUA and other parishioners, enjoyed an inspiring presentation by Marilyn Wright about her visit to 8 countries in Africa for 8 weeks in 2024 as voluntary Secretary of Anglican Aid Abroad (AAA).

Marilyn met community leaders with whom she has corresponded about AAA funding they have received and saw some of the activities resulting from this aid. She was impressed by their resilience in the face of difficulties from climate change, wars, poverty and disasters.

AAA funds 3 general areas: self-sufficiency and sustainability; health and education. They focus on projects which support these areas, such as building, resourcing and equipping schools, orphanages, health centres, local hospitals and agriculture projects, particularly those which assist local groups to develop income-generating activities. AAA relies entirely on donations and bequests.

Marilyn met Sisters of religious orders, school staff and students, priests in local parishes, bishops and other community leaders. She was welcomed by members of Mothers Union in a number of countries, being impressed by the dedication and Christian love they show in support of students and families, including some of the most vulnerable families in their community. For example, MU members received funding for a project in Rwanda to supply goats, bringing prosperity to them. At a school in Kampala, Uganda MU members from the South Sudanese community are the 'Mothers' or 'Carers' for boarding students during school holidays.

Marilyn said her journey was a wonderful God-given experience of meeting kind, thoughtful, generous, committed Christians who live out their faith by sharing God's love in their communities.



L toR: Helen Culbert, Marilyn Wright and Maureen Medford

Helen Culbert

Ipswich AMUA Domestic Violence Awareness

St Paul's AMUA Ipswich remembered those whose lives are, and have been, affected by Domestic Violence at a prayer and candle lighting service was held on 23 May.



Two representatives from the Caxton Legal Service, Frances Privitera (social worker) and Elizabeth Aisi (lawyer) spoke to us on Elder Abuse. Elder Abuse is a single or repeated act-or lack of appropriate action (eg neglect) -occurring within a relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.

Sadly, most reported cases occur within family relationships. Abuse can be physical, emotional, psychological, social (isolation), financial, sexual, interference with property rights, withholding access to grandchildren, and neglect (eg an adult child caring but not meeting their parent's needs re food, medication, hygiene and skin care). The safety of the abused person is always at the forefront of the Caxton legal Service. Free advice is offered to clients 60 and older. For those of Aboriginal heritage, 50 and older. Contact is made through the Social Worker first. It is better if issues can be resolved amicably.

The Caxton Legal Service can provide legal advice on: divorce and property; fraud/misuse of funds; misuse of POA (Power of Attorney); grandparents' rights; money, assets and family agreements; retirement, what to look out for in buying into retirement villages; co-living and aged care; wills and future decision making.

The presentation was very informative and was much appreciated by all who attended.

Diane Thomson

A Reflection from our Chaplain

‘SPARE PARTS’

“I am not all me!” These words came to me the other day as I was getting ready to go out. Over the years I had lost various parts of my anatomy; I had had a hysterectomy and some vascular surgery; a dental implant and crown; as well as childhood teeth and various parts of teeth as I aged or ate Minties or Fantales; and also the parts of my body which continually renew themselves – skin, hair etc.




But this time I had given permission to a surgeon to cut and discard parts of my bones and permanently replace these parts with bits of metal and plastic. I have had a total left knee replacement.

I believe I am not alone in this experience. Many of you who will read this will have new knees, hips, stints; maybe breast implants or a pacemaker; and even an organ transplant. Medical research has progressed significantly over the decades allowing us to upgrade our bodies with ‘spare parts’ so we can live longer without some of the pain and discomfort our predecessors had to endure.

What does all this mean for me? It means I am indebted to all the medical and scientific research; for the medical staff and physios who have looked after me over the past few weeks. I am very appreciative of the support of my family, friends, and neighbours; and I am thankful to God for my body. It may take me a while to be back ‘on deck’ but each day I am so appreciative of all I have been given. My youngest son lovingly reminded me the other day that no matter what has happened to my body I am still ME!

Everlasting God, we live with our human bodies 24/7 and we each have to deal with the characteristics and foibles of these bodies, which at times can be challenging and time consuming. Give us patience, strength, and self-compassion to do this knowing that your love for us is unconditional and everlasting. Amen.

Jane



Eternal God, we are mindful of the contribution made by faithful members. Thank you for the leadership and encouragement they provided, for their commitment to the purpose of AMUA. We give you thanks and praise for the lives they lived and the fellowship we shared. Amen.

VALE: MAISIE ELLEN TURNBULL. 03/12/1929 –30/03/2025.

Maisie joined AMUA in 1975 at Cleveland Branch. Over the years Maisie did beautiful needle craft and knitting. In 1997 she helped sew pieces together for the wall hanging, *The Year of the Women* which currently hangs in St. Mark's Church, Warwick.

Maisie's daughter, Gayle presented her with her 50 year badge and certificate, days before she passed.

Marjory Fieldus

VALE: SUSAN WHITE passed away 19/7/2025

Following the passing of her husband, Fr Clarry White in March 2024, Sue returned to live in the UK to be close to family, after 20 years living in Pelican Waters and worshipping in St Andrew's Caloundra.

Sue had been actively involved in our parish as an LA and Parish Councillor; she taught Religious Education at Caloundra Primary School, was a Member and past President of the Mothers' Union Caloundra Branch and she participated in numerous other parish-related activities.

Helene Baker-Daines

Treasure!

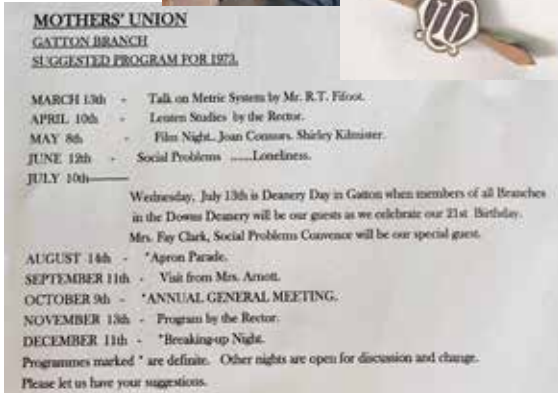
I am thinking it's time to start decluttering! Where do I start and what will I find? One of our daughters said she would like one of my cabinets, so I start there.

I found three MU books that had belonged to my mother Rita Bishop. There was The Mothers Union Service Book Revised Edition 1948, and the Mothers Union book of Offices and Prayers, also the 1948 edition, as well as The Mothers Union Service Book.

I found her Admission Card dated 1956 and numerous pieces of paper with prayers and hymns relating to Mothers Union. And lastly but not least her MU badge. It was such a joy to find these books with her name written in her own handwriting. Such treasures!

Margaret Weise

Bribie Island AMUA



Closing date for the next issue 1 Oct 2025

Editor - Susan Skowronski