



*“Encouraging
Families
through Faith*

MU News October 2026

Dear Members,

It has been an action packed couple of months!

Hot off the press - We have a new Chaplain, officially appointed by Archbishop Ric, finalised at Synod! Rev Heidin Kunoo will hopefully be able to attend our Council Meeting. Heidin will be commissioned at the Lady Day Service next year.

What an outstanding Worldwide Gathering we had in Durban, celebrating 150 Years of MU. There were 16 delegates from Australia, with 5 from Victoria - Jennifer Devlin DP Bendigo, Felicity DP Ballarat, Lindy Driver DP Gippsland, Bairnsdale MU exec member Cheryl, and of course, myself. The days were jam packed with information, many speakers, much prayer, and singing. There were 2000 + MU members in attendance over the 4 days.

Our Worldwide President Kathleen Snow was with us throughout the event, I will have copies of her closing address at the AGM, or, your branch contact should be able to access them for you. Our past Worldwide president Sheran Harper, newly appointed CEO Mary Sumner House, Alison Marshall was able to attend, although she will not officially start till December. Also in attendance was Jeanette Lawrence, our Mary Sumner Global Membership and Parenting coordinator.

On the last morning of the conference, The Most Revd. and Rt Hon, Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury, celebrated our closing Eucharist. She was accompanied by The Rt Revd. Dr Thabo Magkaba, Archbishop of Southern Africa.

Mary Sumner house has released a review/wrap-up of the Conference which is available through your branch, and I will also have copies at the AGM.

Melbourne Diocese Synod, where I spoke, was conducted Wednesday 7th (the day after I returned!), until Saturday 10th October. Mothers Union is certainly 'on the map' now! The motion I put forward was; ***“That this Synod recognises the Anglican Mothers Union Australia as integral to the mission and outreach of the Anglican Church”***. There was a suggested amendment put to Synod as follows; ***“That this Synod thanks God for the work of Anglican Mothers' Union Australia and encourages parishes, schools and agencies to make good use of the expertise and resources of Mothers' Union in their mission and outreach”***. As this amendment changed the focus and recognition I sought from Synod, I rejected it, and as this amendment was not supported, my original motion was carried. I will have copies of my address at the AGM.

There were ensuing heart-warming affirmative speeches delivered, upholding my original motion. Most appreciatively, we had the support of Matthew Crichton, the Melbourne Diocese CEO, and Bishop Paul Barker (my area Bishop) from my Episcopate. God is good!

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 22nd, starting at 11am at St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne in the Barbara Darling room. Agenda and Reports will be advised in due course. There will be tea/coffee available, and I encourage you to bring your lunch and stay back after the meeting to share with each other.

Please note, there has been a change of Guest Speaker. MU project with Prevention of Violence against Women is progressing. Mrs. Olivia Ephraim will be attending to give us an update.

Holding the Light Tuesday 1st December 5.10pm. I inadvertently advised the incorrect date last Newsletter, so please take note of this date. Posters are available from your branch, or contact me.

16 Days of Activism 25th November - 10th December

The flyer to display in your Church at the AGM, along with Prayers that can be included in your intercessions are available through your branch contact – I will have copies at the AGM. Lyrics have been composed into a specially written song - to the tune of 'Abide with me'. You may also be able to attain these from your branch contact. It would be lovely to sing the hymn at your meetings, and, if possible, for it to be a hymn in your Church Service during the 16 days of activism

Prayer and Spirituality News from Christine Jensen.

Hot off the Press, I have just received notification from Christine that the book of our 150 stories for our 150 years will be available in a couple of weeks. You can order directly from Lindy Driver publication@muaustralia.org.au or get together with your branch clusters to work out how many copies you would like.

Thoughts of the Week by Christine Jensen, our Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator for AMUA are available. As always, Christine sends her own thoughts, as follows;

"I send you these 'Thoughts for the Week,' two thousand Mothers Union members are attending the 150th Celebration Conference in Durban, South Africa. Robin Ray, our Australian President along with a contingent from across Australia are joining the celebrations. Anniversaries give us the opportunity to give thanks for the past and to seek the Lord's guidance for the way ahead.

Life has changed since Mary Sumner first gathered the group of young mothers in the vicarage in Old Alresford, Hampshire but her vision of 'supporting mothers in bringing up their children' has not changed. Her faith in God underpinned all she did. During her lifetime, the Mothers Union grew as churches adopted her vision. The work expanded as she and members started to advocate on issues of key importance to families and children.

As we take embrace Mary Sumner's vision 'to win the families of the nation for Christ' we continue to seek the Lord's guidance in facing the challenges of the world today. Mary Sumner's prayer is our prayer today."

*"All this day, O Lord, Let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, Do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through
the words I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen"*

Social Action and Issues (SA&I) position.

Carole Martin stands down.

Carole, a long-time Executive member, who has held many different positions, has needed to stand down from this position immediately for personal reasons. The vacancy will be an Agenda item at the Council meeting to be held on Thursday 22nd October. On a Diocesan level, this role mirrors, to a lesser degree, the Australian Executive role.

The SA&I coordinator (NB: it may be that a couple of people would like to work together) will be working with, and supported by, the MU Melb Dioceses Executive Committee.

If you are interested in finding out more about this role, please contact me.

Dates of MU Happenings – contact your branch leader or Melbourne President for more info.

Thursday 22nd October starting at 11am - Council Meeting including AGM in the Barbara Darling Room St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne. ALL ARE WELCOME. PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING, A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OTHER MEMBERS.

RESPECT Walk Against Family Violence e Friday 20th November. Time from St Paul's Cathedral to be confirmed but approx. 9am for 10am March to Birrarung Marr.

Tuesday 1st December - Holding the Light Service 5.10pm St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne. Please note amendment to date.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP. PLACING IT IN THE NEWSLETTER IS NOT JUST NOTIFYING THOSE WHO MIGHT LIKE TO ATTEND, BUT LETS US ALL KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE MELBOURNE DIOCESE.



A new MU Melbourne Chaplain has been appointed

Revd Heidin Kunoo



Worldwide Gathering Delegates
Durban South Africa 2026



MU
Melbourne
President
Karen and
Worldwide
President
Kathleen
Snow



Karen and
Mary
Sumner
House
CEO
Alison
Marshall

Australian Contingent of Worldwide
Gathering Durban South Africa



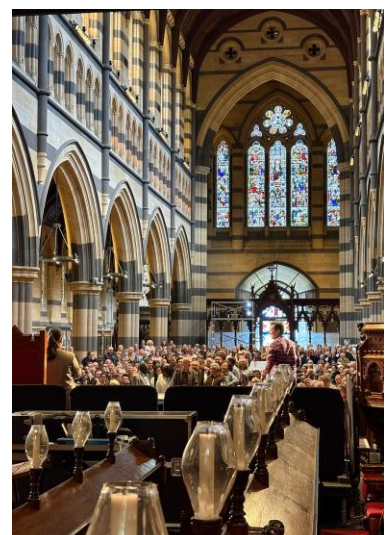
Jeanette Lawrence Mary Sumner
House and Karen



Sand Sculpture 'modified' to
include Mothers Union



Karen Speaking at
Synod Oct



Synod