



Poinsettia Post

Anglican Mothers Union Australia
Southern Queensland



Summer 2026



A Message from our President

Hello everyone

Another year of AMUA has almost gone by and what a wonderful year it has been! We have all enjoyed celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union, both here in the Brisbane Diocese and for the lucky few, in Durban in South Africa. Many members were attended our Provincial Conference in Caboolture in and that proved to be a very worthwhile activity as well. Both events have provided many pages to read from guest speakers who have particular ideas and opinions on contemporary topics relevant to the AMUA. I have found that I have a great deal to think about recently.



Kathleen Snow, our worldwide President spoke of the need for 'courage' as members listen, adapt and make space for new voices in MU gatherings, 'while remaining rooted in values that shaped MU from the beginning'. Sue Cooke from Anglicare SQ believes AMUA should keep 'faith, prayer, relationships, service, advocacy and commitment to families' while changing 'meeting formats, membership models, language, partnerships, methods of engagement and how younger generations participate'. Archbishop Jeremy concludes his sermon at the Provincial Conference with the following words – 'If we learn to see the people Jesus sees, perhaps visibility, articulation and relevance will follow.'



I conclude, therefore, we should not spend too much time worrying about how our members are aging or how difficult it is to find members willing to be Office Bearers in our branches although we still need to consider these challenges. Instead we should concentrate on our Mission Statement and the four Objects of Mothers' Union as we plan for 2027. As Anglicare tells us: 'Younger generations are looking for purpose, relationships, community, meaning and ways to make a difference.' We must 'make the mission so meaningful that they want to participate and make the methods accessible to enable participation.' These are indeed challenging words! Many branch members have endured quite stressful AGMs this year. I believe, though, that the members of the Brisbane Diocese have courage and energy enough to face these challenges in 2027.

I hope all members enjoy a wonderful, holy Christmas season, rejoicing in the birth of our Saviour. Please have a good rest as well, ready to return next year with energy and enthusiasm to serve and work for the aims and purposes of AMUA.

Jenny

Cleveland AMUA supporting Refuge Centre

AMUA members from Cleveland branch have been supporting the Refuge Centre for Women by collecting cosmetic items etc.

This photo shows our president Sylvia with Mary and Barb from the Refuge Centre.

Joy Hall





AMUA PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE 2026

The AMUA Provincial Conference was held at St Laurence's Anglican Church at Caboolture between 15th and 17th September 2026. Over 70 people attended the Conference, some on both days and others on either the Tuesday or Wednesday. Just two dioceses were represented – the Diocese of North Queensland and the Brisbane Diocese – in this very busy 150th anniversary of MU year. The theme of the Conference was AMUA – visible, articulate and relevant.

The Conference really began on Monday evening when some 28 members and some husbands met for dinner at a Caboolture Services Club. Great fellowship ensued!

Bishop Sarah opened the Conference on Tuesday morning and spoke inspiringly about the women of valour in the bible. A copy of her sermon is available on request from our Secretary, Marcia Williams. After that the Presidents from the two dioceses introduced their regions briefly. Then the theme of AMUA Visibility was explored. Kristy Day told us how the MU in the North Queensland Diocese remains visible in the

communities and Jenny Roberts, the Promotions and Communication Coordinator in the Brisbane Diocese gave us a number of ideas and suggestions. We discussed the suggestions in groups and wrote them down. Perhaps your Branch could follow-up these discussions next year and implement some of the better ideas.

After lunch it was time to reflect upon how we ‘articulate’ our thoughts about the MU. Dr Robin Ray, our Australian President, spoke enthusiastically about the words we need to use to explain MU. We all wrote our ‘elevator pitch’ to answer the question ‘So, what is Mothers’ Union all about?’ and this is another great activity for each Branch to explore in 2027. (An ‘elevator pitch’ is a concise explanation of an idea, deliverable in roughly the time it takes to ride an elevator with someone.)

On Tuesday evening Bronwyn Fryar was our after- dinner speaker using the theme, ‘Where dreams can take you’. Many found her message the



Above: Jenny Bullock thanks Bishop Sarah Plowman for her reflection

Below: North Qld delegates: L - Mrs Kristi Day - Diocesan President and R Mrs Viv Feltham - Immediate Past President





Above: Mrs Sue Cooke Anglicare SQ CEO, topic "RELEVANT"

Front Cover: Pam Lynam Redcliffe Deanery President thanks Dr Robin Ray Australian President, for her address - "ARTICULATE"

Below: Jenny Roberts AMUA Coordinator of Communication and Promotion Department - "VISIBLE"



most interesting and poignant of the Conference with her challenge to us to keep our dreams alive. The evening finished with Compline led by Reverend Jane.

Wednesday morning arrived very quickly with Opening Prayers also led by Reverend Jane. After that Sue Cooke, CEO of Anglicare SQ revealed to us how she saw 'being relevant'. Sue spoke passionately about AMUA and Anglicare working together. From her point of view MU can bring 'trust, time, prayer, lived experience, local knowledge and sustained human connection' to our communities which professional services, technology and government cannot contribute. Her advice to MU was that to become more relevant we need to become more connected to the realities of people's lives. A copy of her Power Point presentation has already been sent out to branches for you to use at your gatherings in 2027.

After morning tea we concentrated on celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union. Reverend



Above Left: Rev'd. Mamuor, Jenny Bullock, Archbishop Jeremy Greaves and Rev'd Jane Mitchell

Above Right: "Mary Sumner" cut the cake celebrating 150 years of MU

Below: A small group of Sudanese MU members attended this Service and sang traditional songs in their Dinka language.



Mamuor Kun-Peter gave a very moving account of his life and faith journey; we watched a video featuring various cultural groups over the last 150 years; “Mary Sumner” visited us and cut an anniversary cake for us; we did some craft activities and participated in a Trivia Quiz; we sang our favourite hymns with great gusto, accompanied by Joan Smith on the piano.

Archbishop Jeremy Greaves closed the Conference with a Holy Communion Service on Thursday morning. In his sermon he referred to the woman in Luke 7 who washes Jesus ‘ feet with her tears and dries them with her hair, a woman who makes respectable religious people uncomfortable. Do we really see this woman? The Archbishop left us with the challenge- ‘ Who are the women Jesus is asking us to see?’ A copy of his sermon has also been sent out to all branches.

A small group of Sudanese MU members attended this Service and sang traditional songs in their Dinka language. The ladies shared morning tea with us and provided a truly enriching end to a Conference that asked many questions and hopefully made us think carefully about appropriate answers.

Below: Members enjoyed the craft session





Vale

Vale PAMELA JOAN INNES 16.2.1930 – 7.10.2026

Pam was a cherished member of the Glasshouse Country Anglican Provisional Parish later to become the Caloundra Glasshouse Country Parish. Pam was the founding President of the GC Mothers Union, beginning with a Planning Meeting on 21st November 2004, with Reverend Libby Crossman and Avis Matherson and a group of ladies, some who had been members of MU for many years in other parishes. As I recall, Pam always had a list of interesting Guest Speakers or involved the group in creative activities which helped others. Like - Days for Girls.

Pam became a lone member after the closure of the GC MU in 2019. She was a truly dedicated Christian all of her life, always very involved with her church and held many rolls in MU as President or Secretary most years and as well as other rolls.

Pam served as an LA until her 90th birthday. She was also extremely involved in the community. She was the Editor and with her husband John owned the Glasshouse Country Newspaper for 17 years. Pam was on many committees such as Chaplaincy where she was able to help raise funds to support the Chaplains in their work.

Heather Setch



Reflection from our Chaplain

DISAPPOINTMENT.

I have no doubt many of you are like me and have had times of disappointment. Times when the medical report was not what you wished for: time when the people you know did not act in the way you believed they would: time when the plans you had were thwarted.



Moses was disappointed when, after spending time with God on the mountain, he came back and found Aaron and the people had made a golden calf to worship. Eli was disappointed when he learnt his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas were not living up to expectations placed upon them as priests. Jeremiah was disappointed that he could not marry and have a family. Jesus was disappointed when his disciples did not seem to understand the full extent of what he was teaching them. And how many times in the Bible do we read of the actions of so many people that we get a sense of God's disappointment.

As I write this, I am personally dealing with some disappointments I have had in the past few days and trying to come to terms with them. Through all of this I am deeply aware of two things, FAITH, and HOPE ... not forgetting LOVE.

These qualities have the power to alter our perspectives, our mood, and our outlook. 1 Corinthians 13, which lists some of the attributes of love and concludes with the acknowledgement the faith, hope and love abide ... they

abide in us; and we need to utilise them each and every day, especially when disappointment has the potential to derail us.

Prayer:

Comfort, we ask you, most gracious God, all who are cast down and faint of heart amidst the sorrows and difficulties, *and disappointments*, of the world: and grant that, by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit, they may be lifted up with hope and courage, and enabled to go upon their way rejoicing in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Richard Meux Benson, 1824-1915 *Adapted*

Rev'd Jane

St Luke's Toowoomba supporting Children

President of St Luke's Toowoomba branch Jennifer Murray, on left, presenting items donated by members and parishioners in response to our request for pyjamas and school needs. These items were blessed and presented to Sandy from 'Hope for our Children'.



Algeria AMUA



Left: Our branch is delighted to announce new office bearers for 2027. Incoming president Kay O'Brien (right) and incoming Secretary Rhonda Nelson(left)

Coorparoo AMUA



A quiet day was held at Coorparoo, and was attended by members from other branches including Algeria



Closing date for the next issue 15 Feb 2027

Editor - Susan Skowronski