



Poinsettia Post

Anglican Mothers Union Australia
Brisbane



ANGELICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA

WINTER 2026



Lady Day at Warwick
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A Message from our President

Hello everyone

It would be remiss of me to allow 2026 to go by without mentioning the 150 year anniversary of Mothers' Union. Wow! What an achievement! A faith-based women's organisation has endured for 150 years! Not only has it endured, but it has flourished and now boasts over four million members in 84 countries around the world. Of course, men are now encouraged to become members, but that has not always been the case.



It has been 150 years since Mary Sumner, the wife of a Church of England vicar in the small parish church of Old Alresford in Hampshire in the UK called together a group of young mothers to offer one another support in child rearing and to consider the role of motherhood. Mary was a rather shy individual, but she persisted because her cause was so important. She believed that women, regardless of class and status, could come together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the church.

Today, 150 years later, members continue to encourage and support families. They fight for the elimination of gender-based



violence, promote equality and justice for women and encourage the building of healthy relationships and the effective parenting of children. MU has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, contributing to the empowerment and equality of women all over the world. Members continually campaign and protest to governments and decision-makers to bring about change.

So 2026 is a year of real celebration! On 10th June 2026 members from all over the UK and Ireland and, indeed, the whole world gathered for a Service in St Paul's Cathedral in London to celebrate the Anniversary. The Australia Council of the AMUA requested that Anglican churches throughout Australia celebrate on the 21st June 2026 in their regular Sunday Services. Our Provincial Conference in Caboolture in September will be another opportunity for us to recognise this anniversary. There will be a global gathering in Durban in South Africa in early October this year. Five members from the Brisbane Diocese will participate in this 'powerful international gathering'. On the UK Mothers' Union website it states that 'this will be more than a celebration – it will be a sacred space for gratitude, growth and global fellowship taking place over three days.'

I hope that all branches of AMUA in the Brisbane Diocese will acknowledge the anniversary this year. We belong to a wonderful organisation, so let us get creative and celebrate!

Jenny Bullock



AGM Report



*Jenny Bullock thanked
Archbishop Jeremy Greaves*

The AGM of AMUA Brisbane Diocese was held on 10 March at St Paul's Ipswich, chaired by Archbishop Jeremy Greaves who remarked that it was a great joy to see from the reports all the work MU does to support the work of the church.

AMUA Brisbane Diocese adopted the new Constitution (titled Constitution of the AMUA Brisbane Diocesan Council) which was sent out to all members on the 14th February, 2026.



*Marcia Fife was thanked by
Rev'd Eleanor Mancini*

The guest speaker was Ms Marcia Fife from "Hope in a Suitcase". Rev'd Eleanor Mancini thanked her for her interesting talk which was appreciated by attendees

Marilyn Dunning, Beverley Perry, Kris Frith and Maureen Medford were farewelled from the Executive. Each one has served AMUA well. The President, Jenny Bullock, spoke of their involvement in Mothers' Union and presented Marilyn and Kris with a gift of appreciation. Beverley and



Maureen were not present at the meeting but they too will be presented with a gift of appreciation for their work and dedication they have shown to Mothers' Union.

Fortunately, there are 3 very enthusiastic ladies to fill the vacancies; Pam Lynam, Jenny Roberts and Fiona Holliday.

Ipswich Branch was thanked for holding the AGM at their church.

Lunch and fellowship followed the meeting.



Upon their retirement from Executive Marilyn Dunning pictured above with Jenny Bullock, and Kris Frith (below) were thanked for their dedication to AMUA



New Members at Bramble Bay

Father Ted & Jen were admitted to AMUA at Bramble Bay in March. They are pictured with their son Charlie.

Gillian Bust



Lady Day at Warwick -see front cover

On March 23, St Mark's AMUA Warwick Branch hosted the Lady Day Church Service for the Toowoomba Deanery. The service brought together members from St Luke's Toowoomba, Pittsworth Branch, and Warwick Branch for this special occasion.

The service was officiated by Rev'd Richard Butler. The Wave of Prayer was included, uniting participants in shared devotion and reflection. The congregation was privileged to have Dr Robin Ray as the guest speaker.

Dr Robin Ray presented a badge and certificate to Bev Spence, recognizing her 50 years of dedication to St Mark's Mothers Union. Since Bev joined the branch on Lady Day in 1976, she has tirelessly supported the Warwick Branch, including serving a total of 16 years as Secretary and 2 years as President, and numerous other positions. She is currently the Branch Link Secretary, maintaining regular correspondence with St Elizabeth in Eastbourne, UK. Bev is pictured with Dr Robin and Elaine Stewart on the front cover.

Following the service, members and guests enjoyed continued fellowship over lunch at the Condamine Sports Club, further strengthening the bonds within the Toowoomba AMUA Deanery.

Elaine Stewart

Caloundra AMUA Celebrates

MU Caloundra Branch Member, Val Allen, celebrated her 102 birthday on 23 April. Val still lives in her own home and fends for herself, with some assistance from Community Care.

When my grandchildren Eleanor 7 and Rosie 4 come to visit each school holidays, we always visit Val. This visit we told her all about Pickle Ball and she was very interested in the girls' instructions and demonstration on how to play.

Below: R to L Marilyn Dunning, Mary Edwards and Margaret Rose (Clayfield) and Helene Baker-Daines (Caloundra) enjoyed catching up on Lady Day.



Algester AMUA



Algester AMUA welcomed John Scott from Rise 96.5 to speak at the meeting in March. John, pictured above and above right with local member Joy Young, spoke about his background and his involvement with Rise 96.5 radio, recently known as 96.5. A very informative morning and enjoyed by all.

In April, members made Anzac wreaths. In May, Vanessa Fowler was guest speaker about Domestic Violence.



Sunnybank AMUA

During the month of May to enhance awareness of Domestic Violence in our community, two strategies were implemented.

Weekly pew bulletin notices requesting prayer for victims and families and each week three ways of helping if you suspect or recognise someone dealing with these issues.

Using the church digital notice board with an awareness sign was very effective and stood out at night lit up.

MU members hosted a special service in May to congratulate two parishioners, Ron and Sama, on 60 years of marriage, with special prayers and a blessing followed by members and visitors enjoying a great fellowship morning tea. The story of their romance and arranged marriage brought so much joy to the morning. A wonderful example of sharing Christ's teaching on marriage and the promotion of its wider understanding.

Helen Keith



Lone Members Gathering at Laidley

It was a lovely autumn day when we all met at St Saviour's verandah (next to the Hall) at Laidley. Members from Ipswich Branch and all Laidley Lone Members were present. It was very special to have Sie join us, who is visiting from Zimbabwe. The MU Branch that Sie is a member of is, St David's Church at Bulawayo and that Branch is the link Branch with St Paul's, Ipswich. Her daughter Gettie was also present along with her adorable granddaughter.

We did something a little different this year. All members brought along a favourite cup, saucer and plate, and told why it was important to them. The stories were varied but very interesting.

Marjory, Leanne and Diane shared the story about, "THE TEACUP." This was followed by Diane reading from the Bible, Jeremiah, Chapter 18, verses 1-6. All about the Potter and the Clay. We finished by singing Hymn 69 in Mission Praise which tied everything together.

We fitted in Morning Tea along the way, lots of great fellowship followed by Midday Prayers. A great morning was had by all.

Marjory Fieldus, Lone Members Branch.



Celebrations at Stafford AMUA

Stafford Branch members and friends celebrated founding member, Allison Money's 100th Birthday (11.4.1926) on the 16 April, 2026. After the Eucharist, Richelle Faulkner extended best wishes from the Branch and thanked Allison for her service since she attended the first meeting in 1957 and took on the position of Secretary, holding many positions in the Branch over this time.

Diocesan President Jenny Bullock also expressed her thanks and said prayers recognizing her service to Mothers Union. A gift of an orchid was presented to Allison. Flower sprays made by member, Patricia Gribble were presented to Allison, Jenny and other visitors.

Twenty-five friends and members joined Allison in a celebratory luncheon at "The Gibson" on Stafford Road. All present had an enjoyable time and Allison thanked all for their best wishes and remarked on how everyone at St Clements were always so welcoming and everyone responded so happily and caring with each other.

Once again Happy Birthday Allison and keep shining brightly and inspiring those around you. May God continue to Bless you with His love through the year.

Rose Mowat -Sec.

*From left –
Jenny Bullock,
Allison Money
and Richelle
Faulkner.*



Favourite Hymns at Freshwater



*Above: Jennifer Moran
playing Harp*

Below: Freshwater Band

What an amazing afternoon at Freshwater Anglican Church when we came together to sing the top 20 (or 25 as it turned out) sacred songs as voted by the parishes of the Redcliffe Deanery. In November we launched our Favourite sacred song voting competition, where people for \$2 could vote for their top 5 favourite hymns to be sung at a concert on Mothering Sunday.

Voting closed New Year's Eve. Then came the task of counting of votes -5 for your favourite 4 for the next etc.. There were 225 different sacred songs voted for, then the top 20 sorted out. What were the chances that 6 would tie for 20th place? Then the task of



going through votes to find who voted for these hymns to see if they would like to announce the hymn and tell why it was special to them. What awesome stories we heard.

We also needed musicians to play. Freshwater band did an amazing job. Thanks you Brian, Rowland, Alan. Christine, Diana, Vicky and Wayne. Rev'd Claye presented Oceans and

Jennifer Moran brought many to tears with Silent night played on the harp. Thanks also to Joan Smith, Carol Hill, Marguerite Ross and Margaret Petersen who all shared their keyboard skills. We sang from 25 down to 1. The winning hymn was announced by Glynis Banks with 188 points "How Great Thou Art" sung by Paul Liggins accompanied by a full church of voices making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

We raised \$1536.20 for the Mother's Union contribution to the Anglicare Youth Homelessness Project in Logan

Below left: Paul Liggins Below right: Kris Frith and Pam Lynam



Rev'd Claye Middleton



Reflection from our Chaplain

It only takes a moment to make a difference.



I am sure each of us can remember, with deep gratitude, some of the little ways other people have supported us in our lives. For me there was the time when we arrived at Church with four very young children and a lady entering before us looked at me and at the children and then back at me. I must have looked exhausted as she said, “I had four and I am still here!” That was nearly fifty years ago, and I have never forgotten her words of understanding and encouragement.

There have been numerous other times when it has been the little things that have boosted my spirit in many ways. All too often we may forget the little things that have helped us on our life’s journey.

This year we celebrate one hundred and fifty years of Mothers’ Union and I am sure that much of the ministry given by Mothers’ Union members was in little ways – a smile; a letter or card; a meal; joy bags; knitted beanies; and prayer.

I believe we need to acknowledge the trillions of ways Mothers’ Union members have ministered to others over this time; to thank God for the methods God has used us to share love with our fellow humans, both near and far away; and to rededicate ourselves to continue ministering in God’s name.

Tender God, touch us; make us lovers of humanity;
compassionate friends of all creation.
Gracious God, hear us into speech;
speak us into action;
and through us, recreate the world. Amen.

Jane



Vale

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: SHIRLEY QUINN 15.1.1937-9.4.2026

Shirley Quinn joined Caritas at St Oswald's Banyo in 1990. She became a Mother's Union member in May 2006 and would have received her 20 year certificate this year. She was an LA, GFS leader, a Sunday school teacher, helped with playgroup & messy church and served on parish council.

She was our Prayer and Spirituality leader for 14 years. She was our dear friend a very faithful lady.

VALE - JACQUIE NICKELSON 7.5.2026

Jacquie was a treasured member of the Caloundra Branch of MU, and, when she was well, actively participated in various roles, her last position being Links/Overseas Outreach officer.

Jacquie's husband Eric convened the Building Committee for Caloundra/Glasshouse Country Parish Council over a number of years, until retirement in 2024.

A very talented and creative person, Jacquie often donated her gifts of calligraphy/cardmaking to Fundraising Stalls and Fetes held in the CGHC Parish & Community.

Jacquie was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother to 7, great-grandmother to 2, and will be dearly missed by her husband Eric, and families of Andrew, Joanne, Francis (dec'd) and Matthew, and her sweet companion through all the days of convalescence, Macy, her Shelly dog.

Anglicare SQ Youth Homelessness Project



Four Mothers Union members travelled to Beenleigh to inspect the build of the Youth Homelessness Project. The site Manager, Nathan Stanley and his PA Emerson Smith, carefully guided us through the partially complete building showing us the studio rooms and the family units, reception area, communal kitchen and dining area and communal laundries.

All agreed that the building is progressing well with excellent attention to detail and use of space and materials. Thanks to all AMUA members who have contributed to the fundraising events.

Above Left, left to right: Emerson Smith, Nathan Site Manager, Marcia Williams Secretary AMUA, Jenny Bullock President AMUA, Joy Sievers Treasurer AMUA and Jan Tully Algester Branch member.

Above Right: Work continues on the site



Closing date for the next issue 31 July 2026

Editor - Susan Skowronski