



Poinsettia Post

Anglican Mothers Union Australia
Southern Queensland



ANGELICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA

Spring 2026



150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in



A Message from our President

Hello everyone

By the time that you receive your Spring edition of the Poinsettia Post I hope your branch has already decided on activities and events for this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender -based Violence campaign which starts on 25 November. In their RISE UP Programme the members of MU in the UK agree to work together to raise the awareness of and support survivors of domestic abuse in all countries of the world. In our AMUA Handbook 2024 it states that 'AMUA is committed to campaigning to end family and gender-based violence, to strengthen families and advocate for change'.

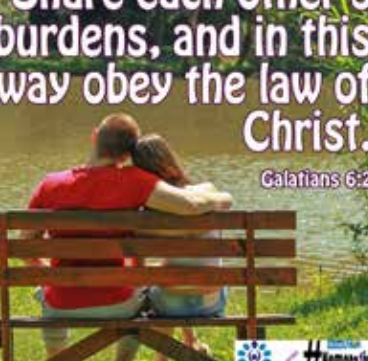


So what is your branch ready to do this November? Will you distribute prayer booklets for the 16 days to members of your branch and parish? Do you have a sign that could be erected outside your church? Will you build a prayer tree? Have you booked a guest speaker like Vanessa Fowler from the Allison Baden-Clay Foundation to speak at an appropriate gathering? Are you creating a special display, like the Souls of our Shoes exhibition, in your own church during the 16 days? Have you



**RISE
UP**
against
domestic
abuse

What ever your plans, big or small, let us make this 16 Days of Activism campaign one to remember – a campaign that promotes both an end to domestic violence and the interest of all AMUA branches in raising an awareness of this community problem.



**Share each other's
burdens, and in this
way obey the law of
Christ.**

Galatians 6:2

Caloundra AMUA Celebrations



On Tuesday 9 June 2026, MU Caloundra Branch held a very special service to acknowledge Avis Matheson's 60 years of service, commitment and dedication to Mothers' Union.

Avis and her husband Rod Matheson attended our service,

together with some of their family (son David, daughter Helen, grandson Alexander). We were so pleased Avis felt well enough to participate in this special occasion, as her health is now monitored on a day-to-day basis.

AMUA Diocesan President, Jenny Bullock, joined the MU Caloundra Branch for this recognition of dedication to the Mothers' Union, and presented Avis with her 60 year Badge and Certificate.

We were all privileged to hear the long list of achievements Avis has contributed to MU in our Diocese, including compiling a history of MU in the diocese and serving as Diocesan President. Thank you Avis!

Sunshine Coast Deanery President, Sue Milwright, admitted new member Pamela Large, with a warm welcome as she joins her

mother, Diana Large, as a Member of the Caloundra Branch of Mothers' Union.

Our Priest, Rev'd Dr Tom Hunton, celebrated the Eucharist and our musician, Anne Bowyer, accompanied us on the organ, with beautiful hymns including the Mothers' Union Hymn composed by R. Mowat.

Following our service, morning tea, and a brief meeting, members adjourned for lunch to celebrate the Mothers' Union Branch 46th anniversary in Caloundra.



Helene Baker-Daines

AMUA Publications at Synod



A wide range of AMUA products was available at Synod. Thank you to Narelle and Neville Blunt for continuing this service.

Celebrations at Gold Coast North AMUA



On 25 June, many gathered at St James Hall to celebrate Irene Daniel's 60 years of AMUA Membership. Guests included members of Irene's family, Diocesan President, Jenny Bullock, Gold Coast Deanery President, Elizabeth Uther, members from Gold Coast North and South Branches and members from St James Community.

President, Jeanette Dale welcomed everybody and opened in prayer. Irene Daniel

spoke of her association with Mothers Union and Marjory Fieldus outlined some of Irene's achievements over the years.

Three members from Gold Coast South Branch told the story of Mary Sumner and the founding of Mothers Union 150 years ago.

Jenny Bullock presented Irene with her 60 year Badge and Certificate and Glenda Morris with her 10 year Certificate. Congratulations to both these ladies for achieving these major milestones.

Jenny spoke about the progress of the new building that is being built in Beenleigh for the homeless. It is hoped to be completed later in the year. This has been a major project for Mothers Union during 2026.

A wonderful celebration that all present will not forget.

Marjory Fieldus

Strive to be Kind Day - Algester

On 31 July, the Algester AMUA Branch celebrated Strive To Be Kind Day, an initiative of the Allison Baden-Clay Foundation encouraging acts of kindness and raising awareness of domestic violence.

Our branch offered a free cup of takeaway coffee or chocolate to educators from the local Child Care Centre, parents dropping off their children for daycare and mums and carers about to enjoy Mainly Music in our hall. It proved to be a great way to mix with members of the community and hopefully inspire them to treat one another with respect and compassion.

Vanessa Fowler, the sister of Allison Baden-Clay had earlier in the year been a guest speaker at an evening gathering of the Algester AMUA to help educate us all about domestic and family violence.



SUPPORTING



Gympie AMUA News



This beautiful hand made Teddy Bears Picnic rug was made by Marie Forman, and donated to our MU. Held up by Margaret and President May.



At our July meeting, our guest speaker was Mr Murray Wegner, the husband of our sec/treas Maxine. He spoke to not only MU members but parishioners who were welcome. Murray enlightened us on the role of the Lions Club, and what an eye opener it was - the number of jobs, and organisations they are involved in, not just Lions mints and Christmas cakes. May thanked Murray for sharing this service with us.

Beris Trainer.

New member - Gold Coast North



During a recent Wednesday morning Service at St James Church, Joan Brushett was admitted to our Mothers Union Gold Coast North Branch by president Jeanette Dale. Many members were present to welcome Joan.

Marjory Fieldus.

Ipswich AMUA- 119 Years

On Mary Sumner Day, St Paul's AMUA Ipswich hosted a special morning tea for their church family to celebrate 119 years of continuous branch service.

Long serving member, Margaret Hertweck, who celebrated her own milestone birthday a couple of days earlier, was invited to do the honours of cutting the cake.

Diane Thomson



Manly AMUA Hymns & Pimms

Following on from last year's very successful Hymns & Pimms morning, Manly Wynnum Mothers' Union and friends once again enjoyed a relaxing morning of fun, fellowship and singing. We sang some of our favourite hymns while sipping a refreshing glass of Pimms—or, for those who preferred, a delicious non-alcoholic fruit punch.



It was a wonderful opportunity to come together, enjoy each other's company and celebrate our shared love of music and fellowship.

Ailsa Gill

Manly AMUA Tribute to Beryl



At our July meeting, Manly Wynnum Mothers' Union paid special tribute to Beryl Wheeldon, who has been a member of Mothers' Union since 1953. As Beryl celebrated her 98th birthday in August this year, she has made the difficult decision that she is no longer physically able to attend Mothers' Union meetings in person.

Beryl became a member of Mothers' Union in Oakey in 1953 and moved to Wynnum in 1958. During her many years with the Wynnum branch, she held a number of positions, including President, Secretary, Treasurer, IPC Secretary and Enrolling Member.

Beryl was also one of the church organists for much of her time at Wynnum and, until only a few years ago, was the chief transporter for members who had no other means of getting to meetings and services. Her willingness to help others has been a wonderful example of the spirit of Mothers' Union.

Beryl will be well known to members of other branches as a regular attendee at Lady Day services and many other Mothers' Union events throughout the Diocese. Her presence, friendship and faithful service has touched the lives of many over the years.

Now a resident at Lota House, Beryl is still able to remain connected with her church community. Each Sunday she can attend services in the chapel with members of the Manly St Paul's community.

We give thanks for Beryl's 73 years of faithful membership and service to Mothers' Union and for the many ways in which she has supported, encouraged and enriched the lives of others.

Ailsa Gill

North East Deanery Day



Food glorious food cooked by Fr Daniel - so generous we were given takeaway for dinner. What a wonderful time we all had at the North East Deanery day on 27 May at Chermshire.



Rev Indira our guest speaker is from Chennai in Madras. She is married to Bishop Paul. They are both friends of Father Daniel who invited them to visit. Rev Indira was the first ordained woman in India. She celebrated the Eucharist and gave a very inspirational homily about Mothers Union 150 years Join us Join in. We hope to share this with everyone.



Mary de Vries of the Cathedral branch was presented with her 60 year badge and certificate by Jenny Bullock.

Thank you to Margaret Coombs who was our MC for the day and to All Saints Chermshire who showed us wonderful hospitality.

*Lyn Northfield & Dianne Barnham
NE Deanery Presidents*

A Walk in the Churchyard-

AMUA Supporting Literacy



Recently I had the pleasure of running a writing workshop for parish children during the school holidays. We began with a discussion about fact and fiction. We agreed that fiction was great fun because we can make things up. We were grateful that facts are recorded especially news and science. I spoke about records my great-

great-grandfather kept when he arrived in Queensland from Denmark in 1865. One of the children pointed out we should be grateful people wrote about Jesus, so we know about His life.

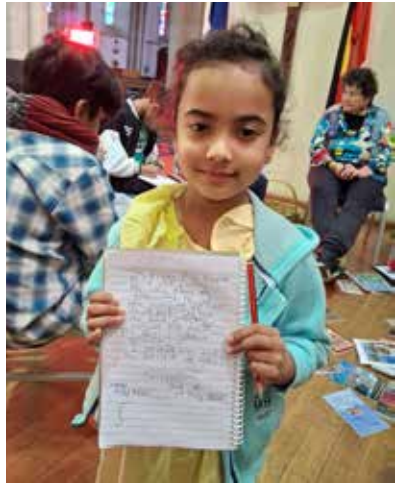
We discussed poetry, and how different forms can be used for different outcomes – haiku to capture a moment, ballads to tell a story and free verse to just let your feelings flow.

The children were given a notebook supplied by our branch of Anglican Mothers Union, and asked to write their name and list the things they saw on their way to our gathering. The lists included buildings, cars, clouds and trees. Then they were told we were now going to change – we would be the opposite to the people who walked in. We wrote our names backwards. Neil became Lien, Ann became Nna and I had the pleasure of becoming Nasus Iksnorwoks! What fun we had saying our ‘opposite’ names.

It was time for our ‘opposites’ to go outside to walk around the ground. We walked slowly, we noticed our surroundings, making note of little things. On the magnolia tree, we saw lichen and buds on the branches, fallen petals on the lawn. We saw many different shaped leaves, coloured flowers in the garden, blades of grass and weeds in the lawn, a spider’s web on a statue, and then we found the spider. We found seed pods and coloured pebbles, a plaque and an outdoor power outlet. We met a man with a small

dog, and explored the labyrinth.

After refreshments, we reverted to our real names and settled down to write about what we saw on our walk or the things we thought about as we walked. The children were allowed to write in any style they chose, and it was great to see the variety in their work. We had some haiku and free verse, a story about the little dog, and a snippet of prose that may become a novel.



The children showed a lot of interest in the display which included my books and booklets, with anthologies and magazines to show how joining writing groups and submitting work for publication in anthologies can help to get your name known.

International Literacy Day is celebrated on September 8 each year, to remind us of the importance of literacy, and highlight areas where reading and writing skills need improvement.

Traditionally literacy means the ability to read and write. Based on this definition, Australia has a literacy rate of approx 98%. Literacy has been expanded to include using and understanding computers and technology. A recent study found 14.1% of our population have very low levels of literacy, and over 40% below what is considered enough to get by in everyday life.

If ever you have the opportunity to conduct a writing activity with children, I highly recommend stepping up! It was a most rewarding experience.



Susan Skowronski



Vale

Vale MARIE HARRIS - 10. 1. 1938 - 8. 6. 2026

Marie was admitted to St. Luke's Toowoomba Branch on 15 Mary, 2005 and dedicated 21 years to the service of Mothers Union in prayer, helping others in her quiet manner and her creativity in so many ways.

During later years she was unable to attend regularly but maintained her interest and commitment to the Branch. She will be sadly missed and be remembered for her love of Christ, her family and branch.

Jennifer Murray

Vale MARY EMILY PRIOR - 14.6.1925 – 12.6.2026

Mary Prior married Ralph Proudlock, who served in the RAAF and was killed in Action in 1945, Their daughter Susan was born after his death. Mary married Eric Prior in 1950 and they were blessed with a daughter and two sons.

Mary joined Mothers Union at Bulli NSW in 1946 and transferred to other branches over the years – Austinmer, Corrimal, Balgownie and Fairy Meadows.

In 1986, Mary and Eric moved to Gold Coast, and Mary joined Robina AMUA, and served as secretary and treasurer. When the branch closed, she became a lone member.

Marilyn Dunning presented Mary with her 70 year badge and certificate at Robina in 2016. Mary was due to receive her 80 year badge at St Vincents Nursing Home at Kangaroo Point this year but passed away in June. May she rest in peace.

Marjory Fieldus

Reflection from our Chaplain

WAITING



LIFE IS FULL OF WAITING (for)
Someone to notice your new tooth.
The ability to stand on your own two feet.
A visit from Santa Claus.

Your first day at school.
Money from the Tooth Fairy.
Friends who are with you each day.

Subjects you are really interested in.
Your first kiss.
The School Formal and 'Schoolies'.

The piece of paper with your qualifications.
The job of your dreams and aspirations.
Money in the bank.

The person you love to 'pop the question'.
The birth of your children.
Holidays exploring the world
and enjoying the company of family.

Times of quiet and reflection.
Visits of family and friends.
Finding the 'Stairway to Heaven'.

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

LORD, HELP ME TO BE PATIENT WHEN
WAITING. AMEN...

Rev'd Jane

St Luke's Toowoomba AMUA



AMUA members from across the Toowoomba Deanery gathered in June at St Luke's Toowoomba to celebrate the 150 anniversary of Mothers Union.

Guest speaker Bev Perry recounted achievements of the past, current projects and aspirations for the future. New member Lindsay Macmillam was admitted and welcomed warmly.

Preident Jennifer Murray thanked everyone who had contributed to this wonderful occasion before everyone enjoyed fellowship and a delightful lunch in our historic hall.



Closing date for the next issue 20 Oct 2026

Editor - Susan Skowronski