



*Joining the dots  
..... + ..... = ?*



*Mothers Union  
Diocese of Bunbury  
Spring 2026  
Djilba -  
Kambarang*

*Distributed as a  
supplement to  
the 'Mia Mia'*

## *A resurrected Branch at Collie ...*

It was a great delight to induct 10 new members to MU from Collie branch. Many of you will know that Collie was at one time a very active branch, but in the ebb and flow of life it fell away. Congratulations to Rev Gail Smit (*Below right with Isobelle*) for her work in renewing the branch and we all look forward to its unfolding.

Also shown (*below*) is Mrs Blanch Faries receiving her new prayer book - she has been a member of MU for 32 years - so we thought it was high time she got a new one!



As well as at Collie, three new members were inducted at Busselton and three more at Mandurah.

This is exciting indeed during our 150 years celebrations!

*Isobelle  
Diocesan President*





*From the Editor* ... Hello members! Well, it was rather a trying time awaiting the arrival of the Winter MiaMia, so that we could distribute The Mustard Tree. We haven't yet heard what the problem was, but I notice that the new Editor has not included a deadline for the next issue, so -

The Diocesan Executive has discussed distributing The Mustard Tree via email. This has merits:

- It will allow us to publish in colour
- It means we can distribute The Mustard Tree independently of the MiaMia
- It will cut costs, allowing more money for other expenditure

Of course, there are some of you who do not operate with email and you will not miss out. We will still continue to distribute to members who need hard copies.

We will be talking about this at the AGM during the Country Rally in October. (See page 3)

By the way, what did you think of the 'new look' MiaMia? I would love to hear responses from the branches, perhaps for an article in the next Mustard Tree.

Now - to other matters!

### *I have been joining some dots !*

- Recently our Curate at St Mary's preached a sermon in which she pointed out that 'In any situation, God is present before the situation arises.' I hope I understood this correctly.

Sometimes the 'situation' arises first and then we inject God into it as we try grapple with it, instead of remembering that God was there from the beginning. Just as, for example, God was with Moses in the burning bush, when he called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

- This brought into my mind part of a verse in a book which I was given when very young ...

.....Above 'em,  
Below 'em,  
Behind 'em,  
Before 'em .....

- And that is where God is. He is all around us in the situation before it happened; above us, below us, behind us, before us.... but also within us ...

## *GOD IS!*

God be in my head,  
And in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes,  
And in my looking;  
God be in my mouth,  
And in my speaking;  
God be in my heart,  
And in my thinking;  
God be at mine end,  
And at my departing.



Dunsborough Branch  
invite you to the  
AMUA Bunbury Diocesan



## *Country Rally & Annual General Meeting*

St George's Anglican Church  
Cnr Gibney Street and Naturaliste Terrace, Dunsborough

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

9.15am – 9.45am Morning Tea  
10.00am Eucharist  
followed by the Annual General Meeting  
Luncheon at 12 Noon  
Followed by our Guest Speaker  
Cost per person \$30

**RSVP with numbers and payment by 1st October 2026 to Judy Lundie**  
**Please advise of any dietary requirements**  
**Email: [jlundie@kgma.com.au](mailto:jlundie@kgma.com.au)**

Payment to: Dunsborough St George's Church  
BSB: 706-001      ACC: 30003099  
Reference: "Branch name" MUCR

**"Joining the Dots"**

*God, Church, Community*





*From the President -*

## **150 YEARS OF MOTHERS UNION**

This year, 2026, we celebrate 150 years of Mothers Union. These years have covered some major world events. Too many to enumerate here but just think of all the technological advances that have occurred in your own lifetime!

Yet at the heart of it all the needs of the people have not really changed much. We may be able to fly to the moon and cure smallpox, but family life still is the place where children are nurtured and cared for.

The actual family composition of today varies enormously and the nuclear vision of mother, father and two children is possibly not so common now. Sometimes it is the aunties or the grandparents who provide the children's primary support. At other times it is a special teacher who has influence on a young life. Archbishop Desmond Tutu declared that it "takes a village to raise a child" so that a child's life is richer for having many relationships.

Mary Sumner was adamant that the main parental responsibility was to bring up the family in loving care and in faith. She didn't expect us to go it alone, and said that in each area, a band of mothers should unite in support of each other, in prayer and living by example the model of what we might expect our children to become. From this objective, programmes of community services have sprung up which are many and varied in nature. Just look at your own branch and take time to reflect on all the ways in which MU reaches parts of your community and congregation. All too often we talk ourselves down saying we are too small, too old, or we've done it all before.

So in this our 150<sup>th</sup> year I challenge to you look again at the objectives of MU and to think positively about where we may extend the simple yet profound message of Mary Sumner. Programs don't need to be huge to be effective – as Mother Theresa said it is only necessary to do "small things well". I wish you every blessing during this "birthday" year and I look forward to hearing how you have celebrated, and to meeting up at Country Rally

Blessings *Isobelle*

### *What's been happening in Albany?*

In July we had a guest speaker from Anglicare to talk about Domestic violence, how to recognise that it is happening and suggestions to help victims.

On Wednesday, 19th August, we celebrated by holding a service to honour Mary Sumner and the 150th anniversary of her founding of Mothers' Union. We also plan to have each participant give a brief outline of a woman who has had a positive influence on our life.

Cheers,

*Wendy Minchin -Secretary*



## News from Bunbury

Here in Bunbury we are loving the glorious Spring weather and all the colours bursting forth !

At our May meeting we welcomed Mish, the Manager of Doors Wide Open. She talked of this very worthwhile Charity which is literally there for anyone in need, whatever the reason. Our generous members brought in food items and Mish was able to take 3 overflowing bags back with her. (With their permission I have attached some information from their website. Ed)

In July we cancelled our usual meeting as we hosted the Friendship Day in the Cathedral Hall. It was well attended, and we give thanks to the organisers.

August saw us making Christmas Cards and many thanks to Lynne for bringing all the materials and for sharing her expertise with those of our “un-crafty” members, me included!

At our recent September meeting Rev Cathie took the Eucharist and gave an interesting and inspiring talk of her life and spiritual journey. Rev Cathie is also going to provide Holy Communion at home for some members who can no longer attend Church. We are very grateful for this .

Also, on August 29th Bishop Ian's farewell service and “Laying Up of his Staff” was held. It was a truly wonderful day and we give thank for Bishop Ian and Anne's loving ministry.

*Val Duff - President*



Welcome to Doors Wide Open, where compassion meets action in the heart of Bunbury.

At Doors Wide Open, we understand that addiction doesn't just affect individuals; it touches entire families and communities. That's why we're dedicated to providing a beacon of hope and support to those struggling with drug addiction and their loved ones, homelessness, financial hardship and much more.

Led by the compassionate hearts of Mish and Chrissy, Doors Wide Open offers a wide range of services aimed at fostering recovery and healing from life itself. From counselling and support groups to practical assistance like free food, clothing, and blankets for families in need, we're here to provide holistic support every step of the way.

Our doors are always open, not just figuratively, but literally. Every week, we cook up a warm meal and invite anyone in the community who hasn't eaten to join us for a nutritious and comforting meal. Because we believe that no one should ever go hungry.

But we offer more than just food and shelter. We offer understanding, empathy, and a non-judgmental space where individuals can find the support they need to navigate their journey to recovery and a new life. And we don't do it alone. We rely solely on the generosity of the public and local businesses to keep our doors open and our services running.

At Doors Wide Open, we believe in the power of connection and collaboration. That's why we work tirelessly to connect with other agencies and organisations, forming a network of support that benefits not only our service users but the entire Bunbury community.

## *Brief news from Boyup Brook*

On Sunday 9th August, Mary Sumner Day, Boyup Brook MU ladies renewed our commitments to MU as part of our Parish Eucharist service. Rev'd Allyson Charles from Albany, our celebrant on the day, was very happy to accommodate the wishes of our members. Intercessory prayers that day were led by our member, Bev, and had a focus on MU world-wide.

I was delighted with our latest MiaMia - the new editor is bringing fresh ideas to our magazine.

*Blessings, Jan Ritson - Secretary*

## *Dunsborough is preparing a new banner - and other news!*



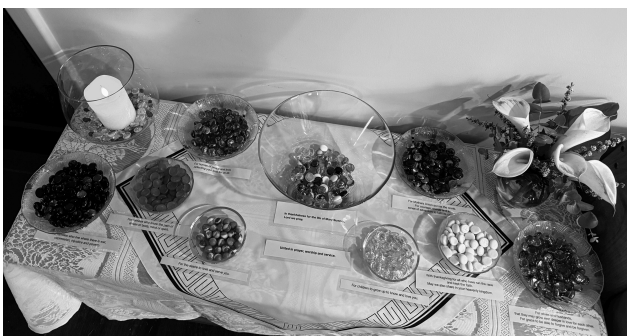
Our June activities included an invitation from Busselton Branch to join them for lunch and the MU Candle Liturgy Service. Always good fellowship with our nearest MU neighbour.

Our members were asked to suggest ideas for a Branch MU Banner design. This project has progressed rapidly and we should have our banner ready for the upcoming Country Rally and AGM on Thursday 15th October, to be hosted by Dunsborough Branch at St George's Parish Church.

July began our preparations for the Christmas Tree Display, to be held in our Family Centre. (See members hard at work in picture above.)

Our opening times during December will be Saturdays 12th and 19th between 9am and noon. Plus Mondays 14th and 21st, Wednesday 16th and Friday 18th, between 9am and 3pm. All are welcome to attend during the above opening times.

In August our focus was hosting our Sunday Eucharist Service on 9th August to celebrate the life of Mary Sumner and 150 years of Mothers Union. The Rev Canon Justine Richmond incorporated Mothers Union and the vision of Mary Sumner into the sermon, including the daily readings. Our prayers came from the MU Service Book, and a prayer bead station was set up in the church to use over the following week, using those prayers. Following the service we held a Parish lunch, including a display of Mothers Union information. As a result we are anticipating we will have two new members joining us. *Judy Lundie - President*



The prayer bead station



Lunch is ready!

## **SOCIAL ISSUES AND ACTIONS**

### **REFLECTION QUESTION**

So many issues are affecting families today: affordable housing, cost of living, black market tobacco and vapes, under 16s access to inappropriate internet sites and the list goes on.

In May our President Isabelle attended a zoom meeting with national executives to discuss focus for the next 3 years. Isabelle then forwarded to me a questionnaire for my input prior to her meeting.

I would really like the branches input to the following question:

#### **WHAT SOCIAL ISSUES ARE MOST AFFECTING FAMILIES IN YOUR BRANCH?**

I would appreciate if your branch would forward to me feed back from your members. Once I have all the data I will publish (anonymously) in the first Mustard Tree in 2027.

I encourage small branches and lone members to particulate as well as the large branches giving a larger and diverse demographic of members.

Thank you in advance for your participation, I am looking forward to your feedback.

Ann Busch  
Social Issues and Actions  
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## *From our MU Chaplain - Reverend Cathie Broome*

Blessings to you all, my MU brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese ...

As we start the season of Spring our minds turn to new life. Spring is a powerful Christian symbol of new life, spiritual renewal, and the promise of the resurrection. In the Bible, Spring represents renewal, rebirth, and the life-giving presence of God as the earth awakens from winter.

In the Springtime it's easy to see God's love. New life is everywhere, gorgeous flowers, and glorious days. If we have our spiritual eyes open we can see in all of this a figure of resurrection — life re-emerging from the ground. God built this yearly reminder into His creation deliberately. At this time of the year I often think of St Francis of Assisi and the song we often sing at our services "All creatures of our God and King". The song is actually based on Francis' "Canticle of the Creatures".



**"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth in the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God"**

**(Psalm 90.1-2).**

Moses wrote this passage, making it one of the oldest psalms in the Bible. What a picture of God's greatness, from everlasting to everlasting. We don't talk like that, we say from beginning to end.

**But that's the point?** We can't really talk that way about God because He has no beginning and He has no end. We do! We exist in time. God exists beyond time and this Psalm reminds us that everything changes, except God.

When you trust the everlasting, unchanging God, you don't have to worry about anything else in this world; the seasons in our lives will come and go, but God will never change. Many of us have been through Spring many times over the years, and all the seasons in between. Some would say they are in the "twilight of their lives" and that's okay.

God loves you, and we can put our trust in Him. As we continue the work of Mothers Union in our Diocese we give thanks for God's love as we support families and serve as God's hands in His creation. God is our dwelling place, may He continue to walk with you, my friends, all the seasons and days of your life.

With God's Grace and Blessings,

*Cathie*

## Friendship Day 2026

A wonderful time was had at Friendship Day in Bunbury on July 2nd. Following a delicious morning tea of sweet delights, Isobelle opened the morning with prayer and then welcomed each Branch, asking them to share what they have been doing since our last gathering.

It was interesting and inspiring to hear from Dr. Robin Ray, the Australian President for Mothers Union via video and we were blessed with a visit from Bishop Ian and Dean Darryl at various times through the day.

The rest of the day was filled with laughter and chatter as we all made 3 Gift Cards; one Birthday, one 'Thinking of You', and a Christmas Card. We were given the opportunity to keep one and the other 87 will be donated to Handmade Cards for Seniors, an organisation throughout Australia that encourages card makers to make and donate cards to be given to Seniors living in Aged Care and those who receive Meals on Wheels.



This gathering was a true testament to the meaning of Friendship Day. A most sincere thank you to Bunbury Branch for their hospitality and to Isobelle for her leadership and care.

Although Robyn didn't include this in her report, members were full of praise for the work Robyn did to present and prepare the card-making materials. A very happy day was had by all.

*Robyn Chalk and Maggie Goss (Mandurah Branch)*







**ENCOURAGING  
FAMILIES  
THROUGH  
FAITH IN ACTION**

**2. Leadership and Cultural  
Change**

Commitment Two:  
Our church leaders  
commit to ensure  
conditions that support  
the prevention of  
violence, a church  
culture that promotes  
equality, and support for  
those who experience  
violence.

Ten Commitments for  
Prevention and Response  
to Domestic and Family  
Violence in the Anglican  
Church of Australia.

*'Every older person  
has the right to  
safety, respect, and  
healthy  
relationships'  
Relationships Australia*

**CELEBRATING  
150 YEARS OF  
MOTHERS'  
UNION**

**Join Us, Join In!  
Lighting the way for  
Generations to Come**

## DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE PORTFOLIO

August 2026 Bulletin

✉ [vicepresidentdv@muaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicepresidentdv@muaustralia.org.au)

🌐 [www.muaustralia.org.au](http://www.muaustralia.org.au)

### ► DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 6 older people will experience some kind of elder abuse in their lifetime. The World Health Organisation defines elder abuse as 'a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person'. Framed another way, 'Elder abuse is any act that causes harm or distress to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust.' *Relationships Australia*.



### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – 15 June

Elder Abuse is a recognised form of Family and Domestic Violence. Learning about and sharing information on Elder Abuse is a positive step that we as Mothers Union can undertake within our branches, our parishes and our communities.

- We can look out for forums that are hosted by agencies within our community and encourage members and/or parish leadership to attend, depending on the focus of the forum.
- We can invite a guest speaker to come to a branch, regional or diocesan occasion
- We can work with a local agency to host an information session for members of not only our branch, but also our parish and our community.
- We can become informed about the contact details of local agencies that can help us or others who may be experiencing or at threat of experiencing Elder Abuse.



**DAYS TO CELEBRATE  
DAYS TO ADVOCATE  
DAYS TO EDUCATE  
DAYS TO REFLECT**

What kind of days will you have  
in your Diocese and Branch?



*Vale Janette Rose McGeachin* : Jan, a member of the Busselton Branch, left us on 20th August 2026. She was 95. She was faithful and loyal, attending church, Mothers Union and Ladies Guild regularly - and she always had something to contribute! Jan received her 5 year Membership certificate in 2024.

## *Greetings from the Mandurah Branch*

Well we are already in the second half of 2026!! It seems such a short time since I took on my role as President. I recall feeling very anxious about whether I was capable of filling this important role. Mandurah Branch have given me so much support and shared their knowledge and I am pleased to report at the July meeting, for the first time I felt confident leading the team. We had lots to cover but among the serious business there was laughter and some mayhem. Just how I like it.

The Diocesan Friendship Day was well attended by Mandurah Branch This is one of my favourite events. Love the sharing from other branches. I was fortunate to chat to Eleanor Lewin from Busselton who shared some ideas around Guest Speakers.

I'm delighted to report that we now have a Secretary. Val McClements is doing a wonderful job taking notes for our meetings.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2026 Mandurah Branch is celebrating our 67<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Organising has been in the planning for awhile. 67 years is worthy of a special celebration. A High Tea will be held following our meeting. Lots of fun and surprises. We will celebrate in style!!



Mary Sumner's 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations was a wonderful opportunity to highlight this amazing woman who was way ahead of her time. I knew very little about Mary so I was delighted to listen to our newly ordained Rev. Michelle Collins (left) speak at all 5 of our weekend services. At our August meeting Diocese President Isobel Shortreed was our guest speaker and gave another informative presentation about Mary Sumner. My heart swelled with pride to be part of Mary's work. I now feel even more connected to Mothers Union and all those who are part of it.

At the July Meeting we welcomed 3 new members to our branch. Vicki Hill and Diane Thorpe are returning members after a long absence and Merrylyn Braddon who is new to Mother's Union. We welcomed all 3 members with a Eucharist service. They were presented with a Mother's Union Bag and Prayer Books.

I'm pleased to report we have 24 members.

Until next time... keep smiling and God Bless

*Maggie Goss - President*

## Busy Busselton Branch

Busselton members have been busy, as usual.

Our June meeting was held after the June Mustard Tree was published. This was the beautiful Candle Liturgy and saw the admittance of 3 new members. (Right)

In July we attended the Friendship Day in Bunbury. A wonderful day! Thank you Bunbury for taking over from Donnybrook when Rev's Cathie was unable to take this on. We look forward to next year!

We seem to have had a run of bad luck with guest speakers who were not available for our July or August meetings. However, in August after a meeting of the Executive we decided to run a craft session kindly organised by Marilyn Royer. We all made small decorated 'Gratitude booklets' in which we will record our day-by-day gratitude. Also a beautiful 150 Years display with coloured lights and a special cake had been organised.



(Left: unfortunately we can't see the beautiful lights!)

On Sunday August 9th, President Eleanor gave a short talk in church on the life and work of Mary Sumner.



## Diocese of Bunbury 2026 Events and Dates of Importance

|          |                |                                                             |
|----------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | 21st           | Executive annual reports to Diocesan Secretary              |
|          | 25th           | Agenda items for AGM to Diocesan Secretary                  |
|          |                | <i>Public School holidays September 25th - October 12th</i> |
|          |                | <i>Synod October 2nd -3rd</i>                               |
| October  |                | <b>Branch annual meetings to be held this month</b>         |
|          | 5th            | Annual report book to be distributed (electronic copy)      |
|          | 12th           | AGM agenda to all branches and executive                    |
|          | 14th           | Executive meeting Dunsborough                               |
|          | 15th           | <b>Country Rally Dunsborough</b>                            |
|          | 19th           | <b>Mustard Tree contributions to Editor</b>                 |
| November | 25th -Dec 10th | <b>16 Days of Activism</b> (Prayer Diary p 95)              |
|          | 30th           | Branch annual returns to Diocesan Secretary                 |
| December |                | <i>Public School holidays commence December 18th</i>        |
|          | 25th           | Christmas Day (Friday)                                      |
|          | 31st           | Financial year ends for branches                            |