

MIA MIA

SPRING ISSUE *Peace*

*And a harvest of
righteousness is sown in
peace by those who make
peace.
James 3:18*

ANGELICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA



ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION AUSTRALIA

VISION

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.

MISSION

Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Mothers' Union is to be especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.

AIM

Our aim is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

OUR FIVE OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church.
3. To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

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MIA MIA

PRONOUNCED: HIGH-UH-HIGH-UH

Mia Mia is an Aboriginal word for a temporary hut or shelter, more commonly used to refer to a home.

Mia Mia is a quarterly magazine of Anglican Mothers' Union Australia.

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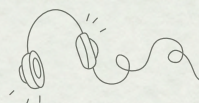
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AN AUDIO VERSION OF MIA MIA IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE, WWW.MUAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU. ARTICLES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON CD. CONTACT YOUR DIOCESAN TREASURER OR THE EDITOR AT MIAMIA@MUAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

HAVE YOUR SAY IN MIA MIA



Contributions and insights are welcome. Please send all correspondence to the editor.

Publication in Mia Mia is at the editor's discretion.



from the EDITOR

Where do you find peace?

The very idea of peace can sometimes feel like a fantasy. I spend far too much time staring at news outlets that tell me a thousand reasons why I should not feel peace. Our world faces endless wars and tragedies where millions suffer, and with this information at our fingertips the empathetic hearts among us cannot rest from anguish.

So where do we find peace? I feel most calm when I stare at the ocean and appreciate God's wonderful creation, but calm and peace, whilst synonymous, are not the same. Calm is temporary, a lull in a busy period, but peace, true peace, is found in the Lord, after all, He is the Prince of Peace.

When we have faith in the Lord and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, turning away from sin, we know, without a doubt, that He has conquered death for us and has released us from the burden of our sins. We have peace because we have been saved by grace.

As Christians, bestowed with the peace of the Lord, this does not mean that we will never worry, but it does mean that we know at the end of the day we can rest in Him. Colossians 3:15 states "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." We are told time and time again in scripture that we need not let worry rule us; I think we are reminded so often because it is easy to feel anxious and it can feel harder to trust in the Lord. In handing our worries over to the Lord, we can embrace the gift of peace.

I pray that those who have lived with endless restlessness, seek the Peace that is found in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Bethany Mills



PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU; MY PEACE I GIVE TO
YOU. NOT AS THE WORLD GIVES DO I GIVE TO
YOU. LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED,
NEITHER LET THEM BE AFRAID.
JOHN 14:27



from the PRESIDENT

Imagine yourself in this situation. It's the third day of wet cold weather, a mother is trying to catch up with her emails, four teenage children are arguing over the board game they are playing, the washing machine is beeping and there is someone asking for help at the door. In desperation she pleads 'Oh for a few minutes peace!' Recently I experienced a similar need for peace while at a conference. During the afternoon tea break I tried to find a quiet corner, I just needed some time out, some peace from the constant noise of people discussing issues. Many of us crave a few minutes of peace and quiet, some space to give our brains time to rest, times to refocus.

The gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry on earth record several times when Jesus sought solitude and peace. Yet the crowd were so anxious to hear from him or seek healing that Jesus' peace and quite often did not last long.

In Luke 5:15-16 after healing a leper, Jesus' reputation drew crowds for teaching and healing. Jesus recognised that he needed time alone, in peace to pray, to restore him. Likewise in Matthew 14:13, after hearing of the death of his cousin, John the Baptist, Jesus withdraws to what is described as a desolate place. We can imagine his grief and the need for some peaceful space. However, this time the crowds follow him and compassion causes him to continue to meet their need for teaching. All in all, biblical scholars identify nine specific instances (and agree there would have been more) when Jesus chose to remove himself to lonely places to find peace and pray.

In our lives today these accounts of Jesus seeking time out, give us an example and permission to take time out of the busyness and constant change of our daily lives. Jesus models the need to make time to rest and pray opening us up to receiving the peace of God that passes all understanding. I encourage you and myself to look carefully at the daily routine, to plan for time each day to leave aside the demands of tasks and people, to seek a place for peace and prayer. Where will you find the peaceful places in your life?

Robin Ray





DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT
ANYTHING, BUT IN
EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND
SUPPLICATION WITH
THANKSGIVING LET YOUR
REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO
GOD. AND THE PEACE OF GOD,
WHICH SURPASSES ALL
UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD
YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS
IN CHRIST JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

GOD'S GOOD GUARD

I know only too well from personal experience that sometimes things get out of control. It can be a health issue, it can be financial, it can be family, it can be the death of someone close to us. I sometimes get anxious about even trivial things if I don't know what's going to happen. Anxiety gnaws away at our hearts.

Feeling helpless is not a happy state to be in. We are not at peace.

It's interesting that Jesus urges us not to be anxious: 'Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble' (Matthew 6:34).

It's a funny thing to say, a bit like advice you would receive from a counsellor. But Jesus was not giving us a handy proverb to live by. It was deeper than that. It had to do with the real truth about this world we live in. Many people think that this world is all there is. It has arrived by a sort of accident and it works like a machine. It is up to us to make ourselves as happy as we can be. We are in charge. So, 'Sufficient for the day is its own trouble' is not a bad slogan.

But this is the opposite of Jesus' teaching. He wants us to know that there is only one person behind the whole world. One person has planned it all; one person controls it all; one person has a plan for us all.

Of course, that Person is God. He is God Almighty, the Creator and Sustainer and Judge of all things. But It is important to notice that Jesus does not only call him God. He calls him 'Father' and he is telling us that we are family, the ones who are especially looked after. We can and should spend our lives trusting him.

God is a God of peace. He creates peace between him and us through Jesus who died for us on the cross. When we trust him we receive forgiveness and reconciliation. And he watches over us with love at all times.

That is why the Bible also says 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4:6-7).

The fact that we are at peace with God our heavenly Father means that we can experience peace in our hearts and minds even in the bad times. This peace guards our inner self and enables us to continue despite our troubles.

I have seen this in action. I have friends who have suffered such cruel loss in their family that I would be crushed forever after. But that has not happened to them. They have trusted their Father who still cares for them and loves them. God's peace has guarded their hearts and minds and they have been such a blessing to so many.

Let's all learn to trust God and cast all our cares on him, for he cares for us.

Christine Jensen

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY COORDINATOR



SEEKING PEACE

'In domestic violence, peace is not the absence of noise or conflict. It is not about obedience, hiding your feelings or keeping someone else happy. True peace means safety, freedom from fear, and the right to make your own choices without abuse'.

'(National Organisation for Men Against Sexism)

I wonder how many times you hear, say or sing the word 'peace' when you worship. Have you ever taken the time to reflect on what is really being said, when 'peace' is used. What does it mean?

According to Norwegian sociologist Johan Galtung, the absence of noise or conflict is a negative peace when the threat of an outbreak of violence is ever present due to the underlying conditions that caused the conflict not having been addressed.

Galtung believes that violence is of three kinds – physical, structural, and cultural. In the absence of physical violence, people can still live in a state of injustice, of poverty, of fear, of power imbalance and control. These are all forms of violence according to Galtung's model, and while there may be a superficial veneer of peace, there is still abuse occurring.

In Galtung's world, feeling safe, not living in fear, not living with the threat of abuse, is a state of positive peace. It is a type of peace that allows that conflict may still occur, but it does so in an environment where it can be resolved in a non-violent way without the threat of any form of abuse. He believes that in a marriage, 'when the going gets rough, the test of peace is the ability to handle conflict without recourse to violence'.

When I visited Canda 10 years ago I was struck by the fact that instead of having war memorials to acknowledge times of violent physical conflict between nations, they have peace memorials that acknowledge a time of violent physical conflict that came to an end. It is a subtle, yet nevertheless significant point of difference.

Cont.





Peace doesn't mean quiet.
It doesn't mean compliant.
It doesn't mean looking away.
Peace means honest.
It means naming what is harmful.
It means refusing to normalise what was never normal.
It means holding the vision of what's possible while naming what has to be composted.
Peace isn't the absence of conflict.
It's the presence of partnership, resources, care, protection, solidarity, safety, truth, accountability and hope.
That's the peace we're talking about here.

– Peace Futures



Earlier this year, Bracken Ridge State High School, in Brisbane, held a Peace Walk with the statement that 'together Queenslanders can prevent domestic and family violence.'

Called to Peace, Peace Futures, Roads to Peace, Center for Domestic Peace, and Peace Over Violence, are all organisations in the United States which focus on addressing issues of family and domestic violence.

Peace over pieces is a Domestic Abuse Survivor Podcast.

Books written by survivors acknowledge peace as their landing place having left violent relationships. 'Finally at peace – a domestic violence survivor's story (Katie Kay)' and 'Called to Peace – A survivor's guide to finding peace and healing after domestic abuse. (Joy Forrest)' are two such stories.

When we, as Mother Union, through our prayers and our actions, work toward an end to poverty and injustice, when we work toward an end to gender inequality, we are seeking positive peace for all. When we undertake activities that educate, advocate, celebrate, and reflect on the issues surrounding Family and Domestic Violence, we are acting in the name of bringing positive peace to people whose lives have not been peaceful.

Let us be advocates of peace, positive peace, for all families.

Blessings

Wendy Mabey

VICE PRESIDENT
(DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE)



NATIONAL HELPLINES: CALL 000 IF YOU ARE IN DANGER

1800 RESPECT
1800 737 732
TEXT: 0458 737 732

DAISY APP

LIFELINE 13 11 14

KIDS HELPLINE
1800 55 1800

ELDER ABUSE HELP LINE
1300 651 192

MENSLINE AUSTRALIA
1300 789 978

MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE
1300 766 491



PEACE IN ALL SEASONS

Spring has sprung! Daylight is creeping in earlier and earlier into the morning. Waking with the birds, riding down to the bay listening to their song, and dipping in the sea, I am filled with peace, and a connection to nature, that never ceases to replenish my soul.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

In this busy life where it seems one thing finishes only to be replaced by another waiting, it's easy to feel overwhelmed, to focus so hard on the task, that we can fail to see God working in our lives. We all need a quiet space in time to reconnect with our Lord and let Him fill us with His peace.

A special anniversary, an '0' birthday, elicits congratulations and goodwill whenever it's announced. This year, as we celebrate 150 years of ministry and service worldwide, our voice is louder than ever around the world. This year, we are presented with a 'megaphone', a 'looking glass' we can all build on, to lift the face of MU.

Our voice has been heard in General Synod this year, and MU Diocesan Presidents have been heard in their own Dioceses' Synod. Speaking and working with Clergy to further the Ministry work of MU, whether at a Diocesan, or Parish level starts with asking how we are able to assist, to further their/our ministry. How we can support Clergy to reach out into areas of Ministry that may currently be unsupported. How we can be stronger together.

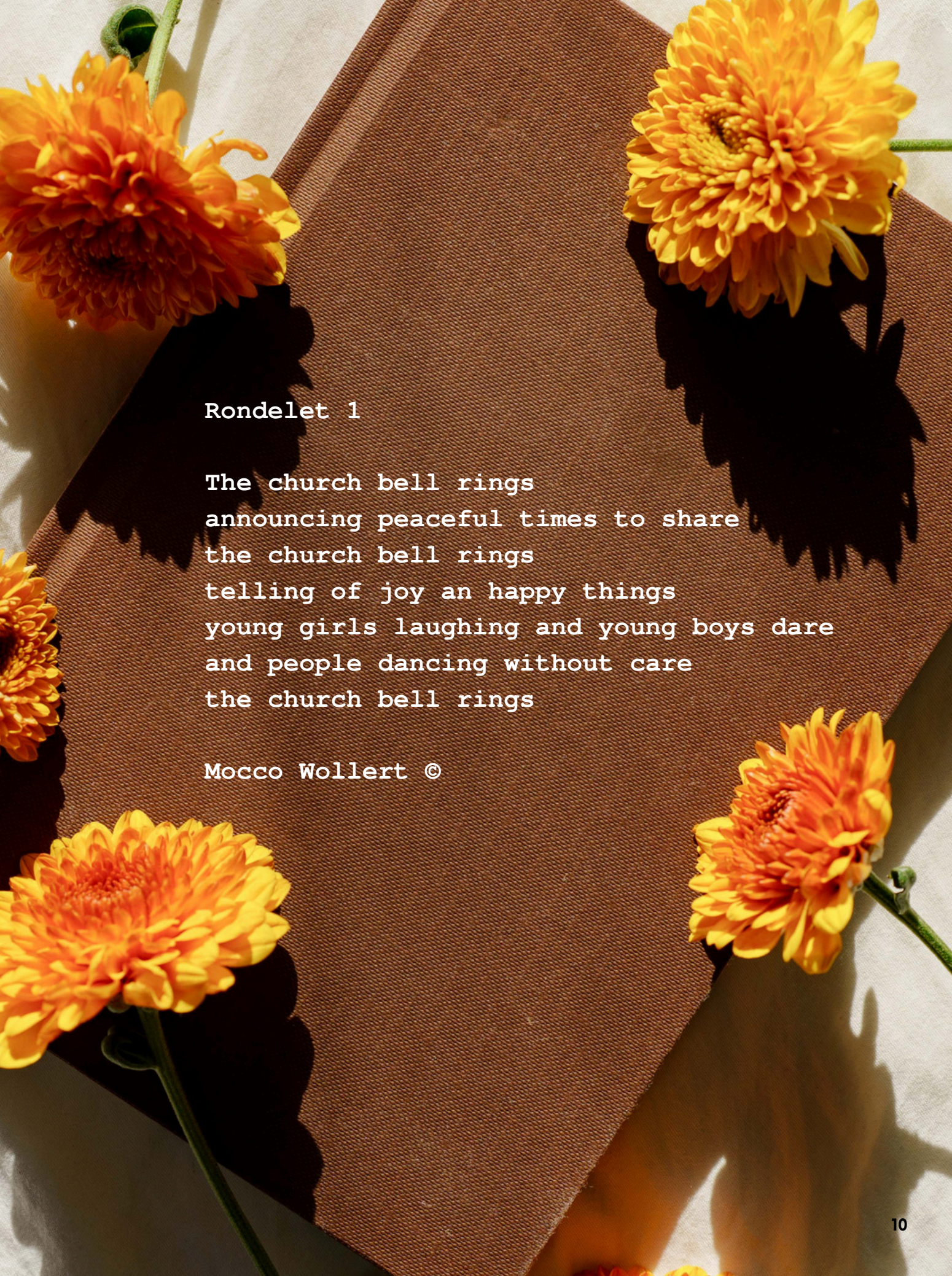
Not only are we, this year especially, giving thanks for Mary Sumner's legacy, but we are also celebrating who MU is, and what the possibilities are for MU to support and promote in the future in this changing world.



Peace be with you,

Karen Hayden

PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION
COORDINATOR



Rondelet 1

The church bell rings
announcing peaceful times to share
the church bell rings
telling of joy an happy things
young girls laughing and young boys dare
and people dancing without care
the church bell rings

Mocco Wollert ©



CHOOSE PEACE

Peace is often spoken about as though it is something grand, distant, or global—something negotiated in parliaments or prayed for in times of crisis. But Mothers' Union has always known a deeper truth: peace begins in the ordinary places. It begins in kitchens, in school-run conversations, in the way we listen to one another, and in the small, faithful habits that shape family life. Peace is not only the absence of conflict; it is the presence of connection, compassion, and steadiness.

We often focus on the big challenges facing families. But this year, as we celebrate 150 years of MU, it feels right to pause and reflect on the quieter work—the everyday peacebuilding that happens long before any crisis emerges. Families are the first communities we ever belong to, and they are the places where we learn how to relate to the world. When families experience peace, children flourish, adults feel supported, and communities become stronger.

Peace in families doesn't mean perfection. It doesn't mean everyone agrees, or that life is free from stress. Instead, peace looks like the ability to navigate life's pressures with grace. It looks like creating rhythms that help people feel safe and valued. It looks like slowing down enough to notice one another. In a world that is increasingly fast, loud, and demanding, these small acts are radical.

One of the most powerful ways families build peace is through shared time. Not necessarily long hours, but intentional moments—five minutes at the end of the day, a cup of tea together, a weekly meal where phones stay off the table. These rituals anchor us. They remind us that we belong to one another. Research consistently shows that families who maintain small, predictable routines experience stronger relationships and better emotional wellbeing. MU has always championed this kind of practical, relational care.

Cont.

Another foundation of peace is communication that honours dignity. Families thrive when people feel heard. This means listening without rushing to fix, acknowledging feelings without judgement, and allowing space for difference. It's a skill that takes practice, and it's one of the most transformative gifts we can offer one another. When children grow up in homes where their voices matter, they carry that confidence into adulthood. When adults feel respected, they are more resilient and more connected to their communities.

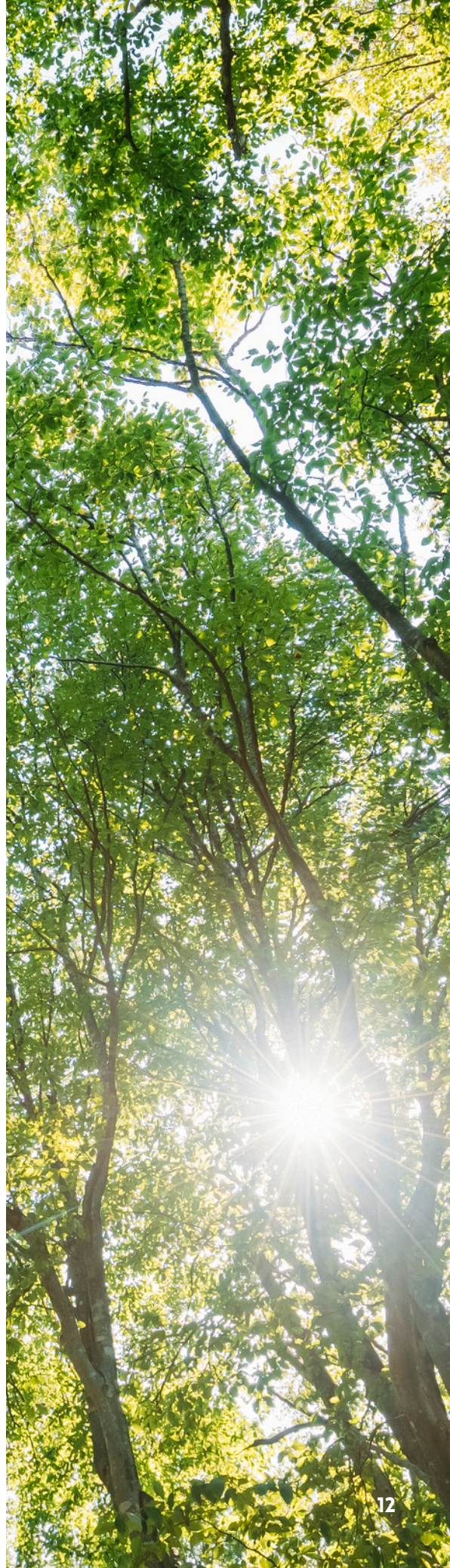
Peace also grows through service—the everyday acts of helping one another. Mothers' Union members know this instinctively. Whether it's preparing a meal, offering a lift, or simply checking in on someone who seems tired, these gestures create a culture of care. They remind us that peace is not passive; it is active love. Families who serve one another cultivate humility, gratitude, and trust.

And finally, peace is strengthened through faith. Our Anglican tradition teaches that peace is not something we manufacture alone; it is a gift of God, nurtured through prayer, worship, and community. When families pray together—whether formally or simply in quiet moments—they root themselves in something larger than their circumstances. They learn to seek wisdom, patience, and courage. They learn that peace is not fragile; it is sustained by grace.

As MU continues its mission of supporting families facing adversity, let us also celebrate the everyday peacekeepers—the parents who show up, the grandparents who steady the household, the carers who give tirelessly, and the children who remind us of joy. Peace is not only a social issue; it is a social action. Every family that chooses connection over chaos contributes to a more compassionate world.

May we continue to be women of peace, building it quietly, faithfully, and with love.

Kristi Day
SOCIAL ISSUES AND
ACTION COORDINATOR



THE PEACE OF GOD

“The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Book of Common Prayer

In these words, I believe we have one of the most beautiful definitions of peace that there is. They remind us that Christian peace is not simply the absence of difficulty, but something much deeper: a life held in the knowledge and love of God.

The Hebrew word shalom helps us to understand this. Shalom means more than simply being free from conflict. It speaks of wholeness, completeness, wellbeing and right relationship. It is the peace that comes when things are restored to what God intends them to be.

Yet when we think about the world we live in, we know that we are far from such peace. Violence continues in so many forms. There are wars and conflicts between nations, but also violence in our communities, our homes and our relationships. Violence can be physical, but it can also be expressed through words, hatred, cruelty, intimidation and the failure to recognise the dignity of another person.

We long for peace in our world and within our own lives. Let us remember to pray for those whose lives are affected by conflict and violence, for our communities, for one another and for ourselves. We are called not only to pray for peace, but to be people who seek to bring God's peace into the places where we live and work.

There are times when our hearts are troubled by grief, uncertainty, fear or circumstances we cannot change. It is easy to imagine that if only these difficulties were removed, then we would have peace. But Jesus never promised his followers a life without trouble. Instead, he promised his presence: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” (John 14.27)

The peace of God does not mean that everything around us is peaceful. It means that we do not face those things alone. When our hearts and minds are turned towards God, we can discover an assurance that circumstances cannot easily take away. We may not have all the answers, and we may not know what tomorrow will bring, but we can trust that God loves us and that Jesus walks with us.

Perhaps this is what it means for the peace of God to “pass all understanding.” It is a peace that does not always make sense according to the circumstances of our lives. It can remain even in sorrow, uncertainty and difficulty because its source is not found in our circumstances, but in God.

May the peace of God continue to shape our lives and our hearts, our relationships and our communities, and may that peace reach out into our troubled world. May God's shalom bring wholeness where there is brokenness, reconciliation where there is division, and hope where there is despair.

Have a beautiful day!

Blessings

Reverend Nicole

NATIONAL AND NEWCASTLE CHAPLAIN



WORKING FOR PEACE

The Cambridge dictionary has this definition of peace: “freedom from war or violence, especially when people live and work together happily without disagreements”.

In the world of today, war and violence appear everywhere. In Australia we are blessed with a relatively peaceful nation. However, in countries where some Mothers Union members live, peace is a goal yet to be achieved. In this article, two gatherings where Mothers Union played a part in nurturing peace and reconciliation among communities will be highlighted.

In 2019, AMUA accepted the invitation from Mary Sumner House to support the gathering of South Sudanese Bishop’s wives for a Peace and Reconciliation Forum to be held in Uganda. This involved a time of reflection and therapy, primarily through art, followed by teaching on how to use these techniques with others. The women were helped to deal with their own traumatic experiences and were equipped to share what they learned with other women on their return to their communities.

A recent article on the MU website (April 2026), had the headline: “Friendship Conference in Ethiopia brings Communities together in Unity and Peace”. The Friendship Conference was held at the Anglican Cathedral in Gambella, Ethiopia, and hosted by Mothers Union. This was part of a wider Eagles Project, which uses existing local resources to empower change in individuals, the church and the wider community. 150 participants from five different ethnic communities and churches in the town, government representatives, and community leaders attended. Primary objectives of the conference were to promote peace, reconciliation, unity and spiritual fellowship amongst the communities following recent conflicts in the region.

Throughout the day, open dialogue and reconciliation led to enhanced collaboration and mutual trust between church leaders and government authorities. The work of Mothers’ Union in encouraging peace and supporting community development was also highlighted, with moments of prayer, preaching and worship. Time for spiritual reflection was given to emphasise the positive role faith plays in supporting peace building efforts.



Diane Thomson
OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH
COORDINATOR

Ethiopian Conference photo from the Mothers Union website UK

4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."

9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

JOHN 18: 4-11

I AM

In recent weeks, through sermons and as a part of our bible study, our parish priest has been taking us through the "I am" statements of Jesus. This week we studied the 'I am' statements in John 18, depicting the arrest of Jesus. After initially looking at the chapter, I decided to research the text further; to my surprise the statement "I am he" (found in verses 5 and 8), was how it was translated to make the most sense as we read it, however, what Jesus actually stated was "Ego eimi" meaning "I am." Just as God had stated in the old testament. This then made sense as to why the people who had come to arrest Jesus fell down at these words, the words the Lord. Consider this, Peter was ready with a sword, to fight. Jesus, however, stood firmly in the face of betrayal and violence, choosing the path of peace and obedience. Healing the servant, protecting his disciples. Jesus showed us that we need that quiet courage, to stand firm, to boldly witness, always speaking with diplomacy, compassion, integrity and love. This is the way of peace.

Lindy Driver
PUBLICATIONS

MEET BEC

WHO IS IN YOUR FAMILY?

I'm Bec and I'm married to Daniel and we live in Rockhampton, Queensland. We have 3 lovely daughters – Rachael (13), Jessie (10) and Emily (7). Then there's Wanda the kelpie and a few chooks!

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT BEING A MUM?

I just absolutely love seeing their personalities develop. I could never have dreamed up the crazy mix of kindness, creativity and fun that each of my girls display – God dreamed that up! I also really love having fun with my girls. Recently we've been playing a lot of 'Just Dance' – imagine lots of wiggles and giggles, plus plenty of serious competition!

WHAT DO YOU FIND HARD ABOUT BEING A MUM?

The weight of responsibility over the spiritual upbringing of my daughters. Once each of my girls was formed in my womb, she became a person who would live forever. Not on earth of course, but in the life to come. And as a mother, my biggest hope for my children is that their eternity is spent with God.

And so I ask myself: Am I being a godly example? Am I teaching them to put God first in their lives? Am I encouraging them to read God's Word for themselves? Am I disciplining them with justice as well as grace?

Raising kids to know and love Jesus is a big job! It's a good thing I have the Spirit's help along with the help of many Christian mum's who have walked before me.

And ultimately, I know I can't control the eternal destination of my kids, which leads me to prayer!

HOW DOES BEING A CHRISTIAN HELP YOU AS A MUM?

What a relief that I can come to our Heavenly Father in prayer – in the big dramas, and in the mundane. And He is a kind & powerful God who I can entrust my girls to, knowing He loves them more than I do.



PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, HE SHOULD ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT FINDING FAULT, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO HIM. JAMES 1:1

**LORD, I PRAY FOR WISDOM
TO RAISE MY CHILDREN
AND WISDOM FOR MY CHILDREN
TO DISCERN YOUR WAYS. AMEN**

**(FROM NANCY ANN YAEGER, A MOTHER'S
PRAYERS FOR HER CHILDREN, 2005)**

PARENTING PAGE

IN-LAWS AND OUT-LAWS AND HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE

6 steps to being a good mother-in-law ...

- Express love for your son-in-law or daughter-in-law
- Be considerate of the couple's rights and don't impose on them
- Be sure to treat all partners equally
- Be careful not to criticise the one partner to the other
- Be careful not to intrude or give unsolicited advice
- Pray about your relationship with your adult children and their spouses

See 'When Extended Family Gets Complicated - Setting Healthy Boundaries' article on the Focus on the Family Australia website - families.org.au

CHECK OUT THIS WEBSITE WITH ARTICLES ABOUT PARENTING

growingfaith.com.au

See article on 'What to do with Boredom' with our kids

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

The Lion Children's Bible by Carolyn Cox & Pat Alexander, published by Lion Hudson 1991.

An excellent bible story book with beautiful illustrations and extended text for 8-12 year olds (upper primary age). Useful for reading aloud to children or for independent readers who like pictures to help them along.

PODCAST RECOMMENDATION

Check out the 'Neurodivergence Family and Faith' podcast series hosted by Kate Morris and Dave Whittingham - 20 episodes to choose from!

See their website faithfulgod.net

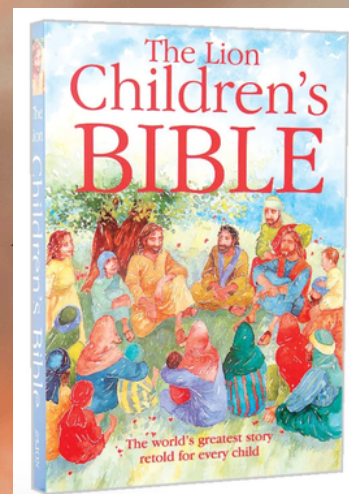
Collated by

Elizabeth Parker

Vice President MU (Special Responsibility Parenting)
vicepresidentparenting@muaustralia.org.au



ELIZABETH AND HER MOTHER-IN-LAW



NEURO-DIVERGENCE, FAMILY & FAITH

with KATE MORRIS & DAVE WHITTINGHAM

A photograph taken from an airplane window, showing the wing and tail fin of the aircraft. The plane is flying above a thick layer of white clouds, which are illuminated by the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise. The sky above the clouds is a pale blue with some wispy clouds. The text "AROUND THE DIOCESES" is overlaid in a large, orange, serif font.

AROUND THE DIOCESES



RESPONDING TO THE CALL

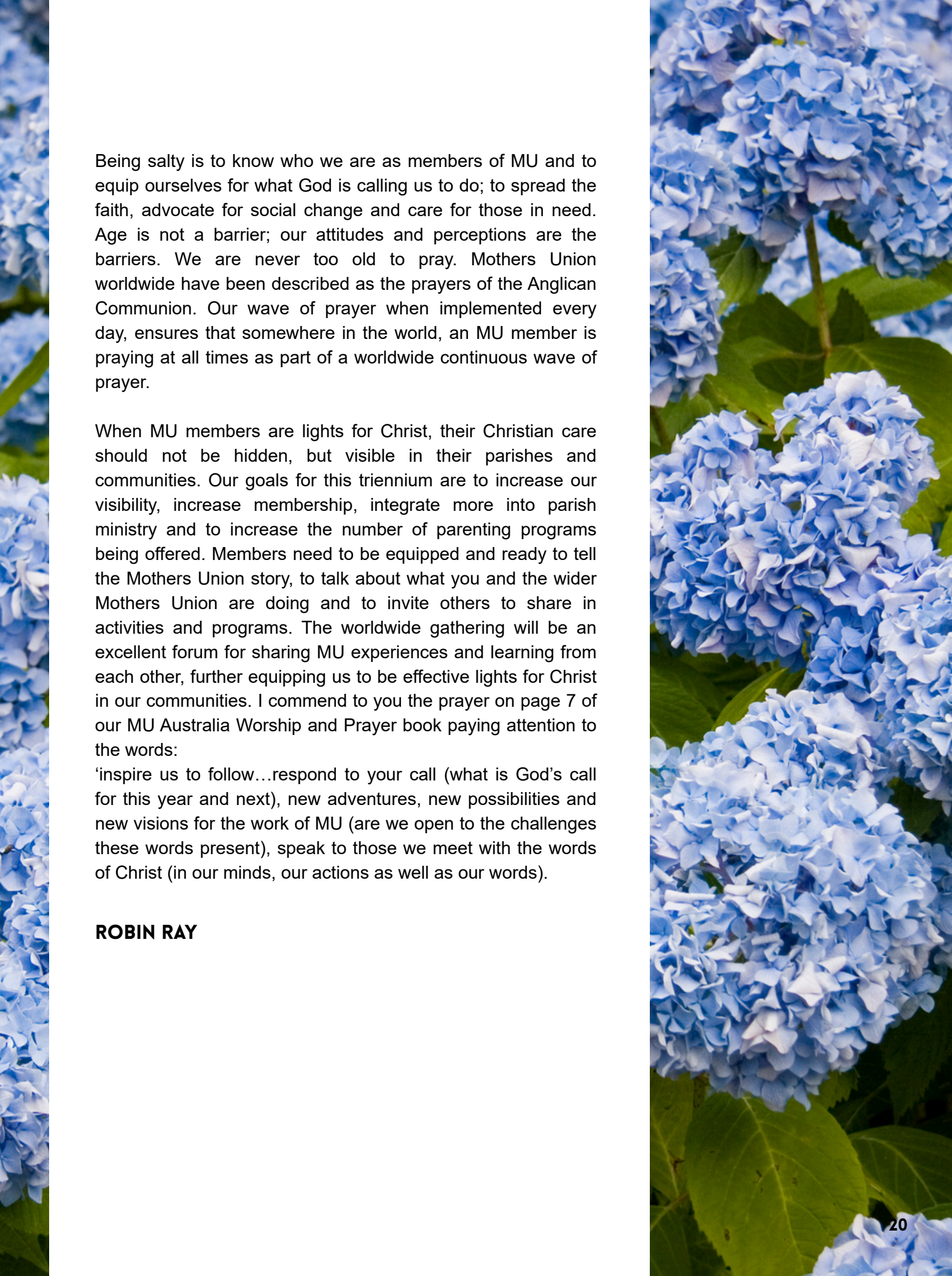
As we continue to celebrate 150 years of ministry through Christian care to women, girls and families, these passages of scripture presented at the Diocese of Grafton celebration, may prompt deeper discussion of our MU calling.

Psalm 127:3-5 tells of the importance of children. In verse 4, the psalmist reminds us that children are a heritage from the Lord, a gift from God to be nurtured in the faith. Therefore, from our very beginning, we claim a relationship with God. Yet, like Samuel (1 Samuel 3: 2-18), some do not know God (v7). In other situations, God's call may go unrecognised. Often, we ourselves may not hear God's call or may not be ready to heed the message, especially if it's prompting us to do something we would rather not do. We need others, like Eli, to help us to listen to, and work through that call. As an example, while I was happy in the national ONO portfolio and saw myself serving there for another 3 years, two members of the 2022 Australian Executive felt I was being called to be president. I certainly did not at first, perceive that call, however, weeks of purposeful prayer helped me to be open to this call, to listen to God and to explore what that might mean for MU Australia going forward.

Over the last 150 years God has continued to call members of Mothers Union to respond in the good times (like Samuel and Eli's seemingly respectful teacher/student relationship denoted by Eli's use of 'my son') and the difficult spaces in their lives (such as when Samuel was called to deliver Yahweh's judgment on the behavior of Eli and his sons).

As MU members in 2026, we too are being called to follow Jesus' teaching and live into our MU Objectives. Across the dioceses, members have responded in different ways. In the Diocese of Grafton you have responded to God's call in many ways such as assisting with fire then flood recovery, baby bundles for the maternity ward, visiting nursing homes, distributing handmade gifts, the recording of audio Mia Mia and fundraising for MU projects. You provide extensive communication and support for lone members and were one of the first diocesan Mothers unions to introduce executive meetings by zoom. However, we need now to move forward. How do we do that? Our gospel reading from Matthew 5:13-16 gives us some clues.

Cont.



Being salty is to know who we are as members of MU and to equip ourselves for what God is calling us to do; to spread the faith, advocate for social change and care for those in need. Age is not a barrier; our attitudes and perceptions are the barriers. We are never too old to pray. Mothers Union worldwide have been described as the prayers of the Anglican Communion. Our wave of prayer when implemented every day, ensures that somewhere in the world, an MU member is praying at all times as part of a worldwide continuous wave of prayer.

When MU members are lights for Christ, their Christian care should not be hidden, but visible in their parishes and communities. Our goals for this triennium are to increase our visibility, increase membership, integrate more into parish ministry and to increase the number of parenting programs being offered. Members need to be equipped and ready to tell the Mothers Union story, to talk about what you and the wider Mothers Union are doing and to invite others to share in activities and programs. The worldwide gathering will be an excellent forum for sharing MU experiences and learning from each other, further equipping us to be effective lights for Christ in our communities. I commend to you the prayer on page 7 of our MU Australia Worship and Prayer book paying attention to the words:

‘inspire us to follow...respond to your call (what is God’s call for this year and next), new adventures, new possibilities and new visions for the work of MU (are we open to the challenges these words present), speak to those we meet with the words of Christ (in our minds, our actions as well as our words).

ROBIN RAY

OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH GRANT TO THE DIOCESE OF NWA

This year the Diocese of North West Australia gratefully received a grant for \$12,000 from the Northern Outreach fund of AMUA to be applied:

- \$7,000 towards the cost of airfares for children of clergy to attend Christian camps in Perth;
- \$2,500 towards the costs of bringing parenting speaker Ann Cunningham to Geraldton to run parenting seminars;
- \$2,500 towards travel costs for the Bishop's wife to accompany the Bishop on trips to Clergy families in the remoter parts of the Diocese.

Clergy children attending Christian camps in Perth
Because of the large distances in WA and the lack of resources outside Perth, children who wish to attend a Christian youth camp have to travel to Perth. For Miriam Baines, resident in Broome, this is a 2,223km road trip (one way) or a 3 hour plane flight. The WA government subsidises plane travel for regional residents but it is still \$700 for a return flight from Broome to Perth. This means Miriam's parents pay for an airfare as well as the cost of her camp. MU allocated money for clergy in the Diocese of NWA to claim a subsidy from the MU grant towards the cost of their children's airfares to attend Christian camps of their choice. CRU is a Christian youth and camping organisation in NSW and WA.

Miriam has written about her experience:

"Hi!! I'm Miriam, and this year I went on my 5th CRU camp, called Crosstrain. I will be first in line to tell you how much I LOVE CRU. I learn so much, reconnect with friends and make awesome memories. This year, I learned how to give a Bible talk on Psalm 8, guided by a few leaders from various Perth churches. A particular thing that I picked up (and learned to enjoy!!) was cross-referencing different parts of the Bible - I found links from Daniel to the Psalms, and New Testament readings that connect as well. This wasn't a skill that I particularly bothered putting the effort into, but now I really enjoy it! I also completely cherish the mini church services every evening, with brilliantly wonderful sermons from Ed Surrey and wonderful music. As someone who doesn't have many other Christian teens around me, singing about the Lord with about 300 was amazing!!

I love the friends that I made, reconnected with and knew on CRU, and I can't wait to go again next year!! Thank you so much for the support Mother's Union has provided to help us get to camp!"

Ada wrote the following:

"Thank you Mother's Union for helping us get to CRU camp. I like camp because we get to meet other Christian kids my age and making new friends. The activities and the quests always get me excited for the next camp. Thank you Mother's Union!!"



PARENTING SEMINARS WITH ANN CUNNINGHAM (MU SYDNEY)

We aim to have parenting seminars once every two years accessible across the Diocese. This year Ann Cunningham, parenting presenter from MU Sydney, flew to Geraldton from Sydney on the last Friday in June to present three parenting seminars on Saturday and one on the Sunday afternoon:

Parenting the Developing Brain;
Resilience at Each Stage of Development;
Parenting your Teens;
Discipline Strategies.

As mentioned above, airfares to and within WA are expensive and we were able to pay for Ann's airfares from the Northern Outreach grant, as well as catering for two of the four seminars.

The seminars were hosted at two different Anglican churches in Geraldton, and available for livestream to any Parish in the Diocese. Two women watched the first seminar from the small community of Shark Bay, and a ladies bible study group in Karratha have been watching each of the seminars over consecutive weeks. 15 to 20 people attended each seminar in Geraldton (a total of 40 people across the weekend). Parents were happy to stay around afterwards to discuss the content over a welcome cuppa and lavish refreshments (provided by the local MU group for two of the four seminars).

One father with a toddler and a baby expressed his gratitude for the input, saying that he knew he wanted to parent differently from his family of origin, but was struggling to find a good reference point with healthy alternatives.

TRAVELLING WITH THE BISHOP

As with all of our three northern Australian Dioceses, it is a whole-family decision to live in remote towns to provide ministry in the Anglican church. This involves sacrifice not just on the part of the minister but also the spouse and children. Elizabeth Parker (Vice President AMUA, Special Responsibility for Parenting) appreciates the opportunity to travel with her husband Darrell to visit ministry families as a gesture of acknowledgement and support in their geographical and sometimes social isolation.

In May this year Bishop Darrell and Elizabeth visited the churches and ministry families in Newman, Broome and Port Hedland by road. This was a 4,500km round trip over 2 weeks. Bishop Darrell then continued on by road to a Deanery gathering near Karratha for another 4 days, but Elizabeth flew home to return to work, having taken 2 weeks off to make the visit north. This flight cost \$600 one way, paid for from the Mothers Union grant money.

When Elizabeth was explaining to a young woman in Geraldton her reasons for travelling with Bishop Darrell to visit these families, the young woman responded by saying "I know - you are going so the spouses feel seen!".

Thank you to those who give to the Northern Outreach fund and support the Anglican church in the Diocese of North West Australia

ELIZABETH PARKER



ANN CUNNINGHAM PRESENTING A SEMINAR AT ST GEORGE'S BLUFF POINT, GERALDTON



BISHOP DARRELL AND ELIZABETH ON A BACK ROAD BETWEEN MARBLE BAR AND THE GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY BETWEEN PORT HEDLAND AND BROOME

NORTH QUEENSLAND

North Queensland Mothers' Union has helped place the children's book 'This Is Not Yours to Carry' by Sarah and Matt Brown into all Mackay libraries and the Yarrabah community, ensuring families can easily access this supportive resource.

The story offers a simple but powerful message for children affected by domestic and family violence: the heavy feelings and frightening situations around them are not their responsibility to hold. Through gentle language and thoughtful illustrations, the book helps young readers understand that the behaviour of adults is never their burden.

MU members recognised how valuable this tool could be for local families, especially those navigating difficult circumstances. By supplying copies to libraries and community spaces, MU continues its long tradition of practical care—quietly placing hope, reassurance, and healing within reach of the children who need it most.





Kristi Day, Jessie Wickins and Deane Bray



NORTH QUEENSLAND

Opening the MU Pre-Loved Gown Shop in Mackay

In July, Mothers' Union Mackay officially opened and blessed the Pre-Loved Formal Gown Shop—a ministry created to support local families and ensure every young person can feel confident and celebrated at their school formal.

Rev'd Janet Story offered a heartfelt blessing over the space, praying for the young people who will walk through its doors and for the volunteers who make the ministry possible. The ribbon was cut by Jessie Wickins and Deane Bray, marking the official beginning of this community-minded initiative.

A special moment of gratitude was shared for MU members across Australia, who have lovingly donated and posted gowns from every corner of the country. Their generosity has filled the racks with beautiful dresses that have already been gratefully received by young ladies searching for the perfect gown. Each parcel has carried not just a dress, but a message of care, dignity, and solidarity.

The celebration continued with morning tea, enjoyed alongside the wonderful Faith in Action Coffee & Op Shop volunteers, whose steady support has been essential in bringing the shop to life.

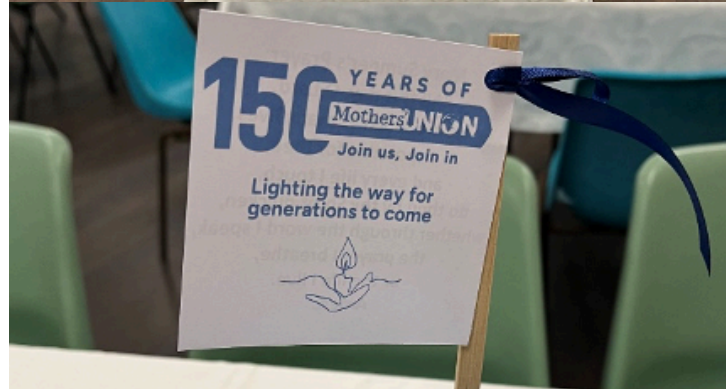
The Pre-Loved Gown Shop now stands as a gentle, welcoming place where families can find affordable formal wear—and where MU's mission of compassion and practical love is lived out in a very real way.

NORTH QUEENSLAND CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

Across North Queensland, the past months have been filled with joy, storytelling, and deep gratitude as Mackay, Townsville, and Atherton each celebrated 150 years of Mothers' Union worldwide. These gatherings brought together long-serving members, new faces, families, clergy, and friends of MU to honour a movement that has shaped generations of community life.

Each celebration reflected the character of its region. In Mackay, Townsville, and Atherton alike, stories flowed generously—memories of early branch meetings, tales of fundraising ingenuity, recollections of friendships forged through service, and reflections on how MU has adapted to meet the needs of families facing adversity in changing times. Many spoke of the courage and compassion of MU women who, decade after decade, quietly strengthened their communities. Food, of course, played its part. Some branches hosted elegant high teas, complete with tiered stands and fine china; others shared hearty roast meals that brought everyone to the table in true North Queensland style. No matter the menu, the atmosphere was one of warmth, welcome, and shared purpose.

Cont.



A highlight across the celebrations was the History Quiz, which proved both challenging and entertaining. Members tested their knowledge of MU milestones, early leaders, and surprising historical facts—often with much laughter as answers were revealed. The quiz reminded everyone just how far Mothers' Union has travelled since its beginnings in 1876, and how deeply its mission has taken root in North Queensland since the early 1900s. Equally captivating were the historical displays, lovingly prepared by local branches. Old photographs, minute books, embroidered banners, and treasured memorabilia offered a window into MU's evolving story. Many visitors commented on how eye-opening it was to see the changes across the decades—from uniforms and fundraising methods to outreach programs and advocacy priorities. The displays honoured the past while celebrating the resilience and adaptability that continue to define MU today. Together, these celebrations affirmed what Mothers' Union has always been: a movement grounded in faith, fellowship, and practical love. As North Queensland marks this significant milestone, members look forward with hope, ready to continue supporting families and communities with the same dedication that has carried MU through 150 remarkable years.

KRISTI DAY



BENDIGO'S 150TH CELEBRATION

Bendigo Diocese celebrated the 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union in June. We had decided to make this an outreach event and chose Rochester Anglican Church as our venue. Rochester had been badly affected by flooding with some residents leaving the town whilst others slowly rebuilt their homes and lives. We were grateful to Rev'd Samuel Kelly, our host, and the congregation for welcoming us so warmly. We wanted to connect with our contacts and diocesan members in this part of north-central Victoria.

We were delighted to be overwhelmed with the response. So much that we had to make two cakes and double the catering! Members and friends came from all the groups in our diocese as well as many diocesan members. Three former members renewed their memberships on the day. Our Chaplain, Rev'd Hannah Gregory prepared our liturgy and led our worship. Our guest speaker was Canon Tracey Wolsley our local archdeacon.

Tracey shared her testimony of a strong sense of not belonging, coming from her childhood. As an adult she was found by Jesus and her childhood sense was healed and replaced by a sense of belonging to God and his family. This was followed by brief speeches and the cake-cutting. Our Treasurer/Secretary reported on our appeals for MU ministries and welcomed each group. Our Chaplain reported on our partnership with 105.1LifeFM our local Christian radio station. Our President, Jennifer, shared the cake cutting ceremony with our oldest member and with our youngest member.

Lunch was served and enabled us all to meet and greet one another with celebratory laughter. There was time for fellowship, looking at the displays provided by the groups and catching up with one another. The conversations gave rise to a number of ideas for new initiatives that we might undertake in the coming months. It was a very happy occasion.

REVD. PETER DYKE
Diocesan Treasurer



OUR MOTHERS UNION OF THE CANBERRA AND GOULBURN DIOCESE CONTINUES WITH ITS EXCITING MINISTRIES.

Isaiah 40:31 "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

In 2025 and 2026, Mothers' Union (MU) members continue to visit churches around the Diocese. In 2025, we attended St Simon's Anglican Church in Kaleen with the rector, the Reverend Ben Paton (a Mothers' Union member) and his parishioners. At this inspiring event, Ben spoke about the time he, his wife Caitlan, and their children lived, worked, and ministered in the Torres Strait Islands. His talk inspired us all. We visited St Phillips O'Connor, with the Reverend Christine Cargill, for our Overseas and Northern Outreach Day. We very much enjoyed gathering there for a talk, worship, praise, and the sharing of faith and life stories. Also, we visited St Simon's again in 2026 for Lady Day, where we heard Catherine Masila (one of our newest members) speak of her home country, Kenya, and how Mothers' Union's ministry and service operate there.

On the 19th May, on a cold and wet day, Canon Anne Wentzel, our diocesan MU Chaplain, ran a Quiet Day with Hope 25 activities and reflections on the St Saviour's Hope25 cathedral exhibition for members. Seventeen of us gathered in a warm church with hot soup to help us concentrate on what God had to teach us.

Each quarter we continue to mail our newsletter and Mia Mia magazines to all 18 of our correspondence members. Authored by Dorothy Mackenzie, the newsletters keep them in touch with all that is happening within MU within the diocese. To become a correspondence member, please email Dorothy Mackenzie at mackenzied0804@gmail.com.

We have also been putting together blessing packs for school principals, making recycled cards and engaging in other craft activities. The cards raise important funds for our ministries. Members sew and fill toiletry bags for people who are homeless and for those struggling financially through the Early Morning Centre in Civic, Canberra and St John's Care, Welfare Agency, Reid.

We are always looking for new members. Our Canberra group meets at Holy Cross Hackett on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10 am, and our Goulburn Group meets at the Cathedral on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1.30 pm. Please drop in.

So what now for MU? The Goulburn Cathedral branch is busy planning an Advent Service and a very special lunch in November at the Cathedral. We will be celebrating 150 years of MU since Mary Sumner commenced the movement, and we will be remembering her wonderful legacy. At this service and lunch, we hope to present our Oral History Project, detailing MU's history from 1996-2026. Everyone is welcome. God bless you.

BY JOAN EBERLE AND DR MONICA SHORT



Photographs provided by Joan Eberle, used with permission.

PERTH'S 150 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

Thank you to all our members who took part in the 150 years celebrations. On Saturday 20th June in the cloudy and cold weather 130 members were unstoppable as they arrived by 10.30am at St. David's Church, Applecross. Many branches brought their banners and these were displayed around the Church. The Eucharist was led by Bishop Kate Willmot assisted by Father Des Smit MU chaplain and Rev. Frida Lemi. Our organist Jenny was most grateful to be asked to play for this occasion as her mother was a MU member. At the commencement of the service the Sudanese members from Malaga MU/Balcatta/Hamersley MU and Joondalup sang the opening hymn. Diocesan President Jan Rose led the procession with the Perth Diocesan Banner after which she welcomed all members and thanked the clergy, organist, Parish members and Applecross MU for their help in setting up for this day. Bishop Kate gave the homily speaking about her memories of MU in her early days of ministry. She went on to say how MU is welcomed in countries around the world and quoted from the book of Acts engaging members with Paul the Apostle, letters on discipleship. Prayers were led by Rev. Rob Healy. At the end of the service the MU prayer was said and this was led by Former Diocesan President Kaye Healy. A retiring collection was taken up for Northern Outreach and Overseas.

Members on leaving the Church moved to the Hall for a finger luncheon. Grace was said by Kaye Healy. During the lunch a Celebration Cake was cut by Bassendean MU member Merle Andrews.

At 12.45pm member Judith Nichols was asked to speak on our founder Mary Sumner. She told how MU first started in 1876 and why Mary Sumner thought there was a need to help families.



Members from the Sudanese MU Malaga/Balcatta/Hamersley/Joondalup sang the opening Hymn



Bassendean MU member Merle Andrews cutting the cake





CEO Kym Brooklyn Parkerville
Children and Youth Care



Rev. Frida Lemi - Sudanese Liaison



Kaye Healy
Former Perth MU Diocesan President

Rev. Frida Lemi spoke about how MU was known in Southern Sudan and how it became an important part of their upbringing. Various projects by MU have helped many members over the years. Frida's commitment to MU continued when she came to Australia.

Kaye Healy took us back down memory lane with dates, commencement of branches, overseas visitors and various state events.

Our Guest Speaker from Parkerville Children and Youth Care Kim Brooklyn told our members a little bit about herself before she told of the various projects that Parkerville have set up particularly Ruby's. Later she told a story of a family which revolved around a son, step father, mother, and father. The son was having trouble dealing with the family situation. She said it was important to keep a family together and Parkerville managed this in small visits to begin with and gradually working up to weekly stays. This relationship has been repaired and the son has now gained work.

The afternoon ended at 2.05pm with the Grace. My thanks to the work of Helen McDonagh MU member Applecross MU who put together a team of MU and Parish workers. The team work and arrangements were a credit to them all.

JAN ROSE

President

Perth Diocesan MU



Holy Communion, and encouragement from Luke 6:27–38 on loving and forgiving our enemies, led by our Rector, Revd Peter Smith. We then adjourned to the hall for our usual delicious morning tea and fellowship.

At the meeting, President Faye Rowe spoke of the recent Governor's Prayer Breakfast which is held in the Crown Ballroom annually. It began very humbly in the early 1990s with a handful of people from the State Parliamentary Prayer Group and the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship. Over the years it has grown into a gathering of well over a thousand Christians praying for Western Australia, the nation, and the world. His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM and Mrs Dawson are joint patrons. The Governor is an excellent orator and gave a very inspiring introduction to our faith in Jesus Christ. She also spoke about the inspiring Police Chaplains she met there. These brave and dedicated chaplains; only six of them across this vast State work, often in very difficult circumstances, to bring hope and comfort to many on both sides of the law. They covet the prayers of Mothers' Union, which we can confidently offer.

Faye also reflected on the keynote speaker from Ed Surrey, Director of CRU West, who spoke of sharing the gospel with the next generation through camps and school groups. The Second Chance Choir sang with great power. The choir was made up of men and women who have known addiction, prison and trauma; they now lift their voices in hope. It was very emotional for all those in attendance. Their witness, with Ed's call to keep pointing young people to Jesus, left a deep impression.

Our guest speaker was our own member Mrs Rachel Lowry, a former nurse who has worked in many countries, including Ireland and Canada. Rachel spoke on "Coping with a Medical Crisis". She began by generously sharing her own moving and inspiring story and then invited us to share ours in pairs.

Rachel outlined five main points:

1. Control

- Get the facts, so conversations with doctors are more productive. Take a support person to appointments: two ears are better than one.
- Communicate openly; ask for clarification and for anything you do not understand to be repeated.
- Prepare your questions; doctors generally appreciate this. If you must consult "Dr Google", use only reliable sites such as the Mayo Clinic or a government health site, and discuss what you find with your doctor.
- Know your preferences: it is all right to have a doctor or chosen advocate guide decisions, rather than trying to master every detail yourself.
- Focus energy on what you can change and let go of what you cannot.
- Prioritise wellness, and set realistic goals in small, achievable steps.

2. Commitment

Stay connected.

- Give time to the people and activities that give life meaning and purpose.
- Nurture your faith by remaining active in church and Bible study.
- Prioritise relationships and spend time with family and close friends for emotional support.

3. Challenge

- Reframe hard times as opportunities for growth rather than as disasters.
- Lean on Scripture — for example James 1:2-4, on joys in trials.
- Process your emotions: fear and anger, often recurring, are normal responses.
- Give yourself grace; talk with loved ones or a counsellor; consider journaling.

Cont.



4. Connection

- Ask for support; never hesitate.
- Accept assistance; this eases the load on primary caregivers.
- Suggest specific tasks for those who want to help, for example, “Could you do my laundry on Thursday?”
- Find a peer network; hearing from others in the same situation can be very reassuring.
- Join structured groups, such as those hosted by the Cancer Council or Dementia Australia.

5. Confidence

- Trust God’s faithfulness.
- In difficult times, remember how God has helped and sustained you in the past.
- Reflect on Scripture i.e. for example Lamentations 3:22–23: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases...”
- Focus on what you can do rather than on what you cannot and modify daily activities so that you can still enjoy them.

Faye thanked Rachel and presented her with a small gift. The meeting closed with the Grace. Our next meeting is Thursday 8 October 2026.

A prayer

Loving Father, you meet us in Holy Communion and call us, in Christ, to love and to forgive. Bless the Police Chaplains of this State, few in number, faithful in hard places and use our prayers to strengthen them as they bring hope on both sides of the law. Give thanks for the Governor, Chris Dawson the patron of The Governor’s Prayer breakfast; for Ed Surrey and for CRU’s work among the young, and for the Second Chance Choir, whose song reminds us that your mercy makes all things new.

Hold those who walk through medical crisis. Give them wisdom to seek the truth, courage to ask for help, grace to receive it, and quiet confidence in your steadfast love, which never ceases and is new every morning.

Make our homes and our branch places of patience, tenderness and practical care, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FAYE ROWE



CELEBRATION DAY AT GRAFTON DIOCESE

On Saturday 25th July 2026 members and friends of Mothers Union Grafton Diocese came together to celebrate the establishment of Mothers Union in 1876 and the life and work of Mary Sumner. In Grafton Diocese members have been and continue to be involved in many aspects of their parishes and beyond. Members visit nursing homes, hospitals, make biscuits for the less fortunate at Christmas time. Many are deeply involved with their parishes on reading, prayer rosters, and working in Opportunity Shops.

On our special day it was wonderful for our special guest, Dr Robin Ray to enrol a new member, Janette Sweeney. We also presented Long Service Certificates to Margaret Klein 60 years membership, Jean Knight and Wendy Hodgkinson 50 year membership and Janette Llewellyn 40 year membership certificates.

Among our guests were the Australian President, Dr Robin Ray, our Australian Secretary Sue Milwright and vice-president Wendy Mabey. Also present were the Australian and Newcastle Chaplain the Rev'd Nicole Baldwin, the President of Newcastle Mothers Union Elizabeth Bissaker with a group of members from Newcastle Diocese. It was a wonderful time of catch up for many of us following the Celebration Eucharist in the Cathedral when we adjourned for a light luncheon in Edwards Hall.

Our special Celebration Cake was cut by our 60 year membership member Margaret Klein.



Left to Right: Cake cutting - Dr Robin Ray, Australian President, Margaret Klein (60 year certificate) Gae Shorten (Diocesan President)



Left to Right: Gae Shorten (Diocesan President), Jean Knight, Wendy Hodgkinson (50 year certificates), Bishop Murray Harvey, Janette Sweeney (new member), Janette Llewellyn (40 year membership)

THIS WORK OF LOVE FOR MOTHERS' UNION 150 YEARS

Since eighteen hundred and seventy-six,
this work of love has grown;
from England's fields to distant shores,
its mercy has been shown.

In Australia's towns and country roads,
by city, coast and plain,
they carried hope to mothers' hearts
through loneliness and pain.

They knitted rugs and tiny clothes,
soft blankets, warm and small;
they brought their gifts to Baby wards,
and answered mercy's call.

They visited the young and tired,
the frightened and unsure;
they gave a meal, a gentle word,
and helped them to endure.

They stood beside the mother left
to face the world alone;
they brought her comfort, prayer and care,
and made her need their own.

They helped where money would not stretch,
where cupboards stood near bare;
they came with quiet, faithful hands,
and showed that love was there.

No trumpet sounded for their work,
no crowd stood by to cheer;
yet lives were changed by simple acts,
years by faithful years.

Christ was seen in cups of tea,
in wool, in food, in prayer;
in every visit, every gift,
in every burden shared.

So let us honour those who served,
and those who serve today;
the women who have held the line
when hope seemed far away.

For when we strengthen mothers' hands,
we strengthen home and land;
we mend the fabric of the world
with heart and voice and hand.

Lord, bless this Union's faithful work,
its past, its present call;
may love still bind, may prayer still guide,
and mercy cover all.

COLIN BRIGHT 6/26.



BOWRAL HIGH TEA

On Saturday 12 September, the auditorium at St Jude's Bowral was filled with 90 women and men enjoying a beautiful spring afternoon at the annual Southern Highlands MU Area High Tea, raising funds for the MU Sydney special project, Projek Bali.

The tables were beautifully adorned with stunning camellias, vintage-style cups and saucers, and an array of tempting cake stands and platters, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for an afternoon of fellowship and generosity.

Luanne Mills, MU Sydney President, was our MC and guided us through an afternoon filled with music, fellowship and stories of God's work. Musical performances by Leonie and Bec added to the occasion, while Narelle Barbarino from Anglican Aid gave an insightful overview of Projek Bali. A video featuring the children, their activities and the resources being supported helped bring the project to life and gave us a glimpse into the difference this partnership is making.

Anglican Aid partners with Projek Bali, a community ministry of Widhya Asih, an organisation of the Christian Protestant Church of Bali. Projek Bali supports children living in poverty through residential care across seven homes and centres, as well as education, nutritious food and medical support. These centres provide vulnerable children with a safe and nurturing environment where they can grow and develop educational, social and life skills.

Our guest speaker, Narelle Hadfield, served with CMS in Indonesia for nine years. Drawing on her experiences as a missionary and reflecting on Philippians 4:8–20, Narelle spoke about the joy of contentment, generosity and Gospel partnership.

She encouraged us to live as followers of the Lord Jesus, to live in Christ, to embrace a life of joy, to practise contentment and generosity, and to remain faithful to the end. We are not called to live this way so that we may look good in the eyes of others, but so that our lives may bring glory to God.

Following the formalities, the Southern Highlands MU women served a delicious afternoon tea, and the auditorium soon hummed with lively conversation and fellowship.

The tireless work of the volunteers was richly rewarded, with an amazing \$2080 raised for Projek Bali. It was a wonderful afternoon of friendship, faith and generosity, reminding us of the blessing of coming together to support others in Christ's name.

GILL TRUMAN

Southern Highlands Area President



Narelle Hadfield

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF BUNBURY

At Mandurah Mary Sumner Day was celebrated at five services across the weekend of 7 – 9 August, with a special liturgy and sermon about Mary's work and how it connects us both to the church and to God

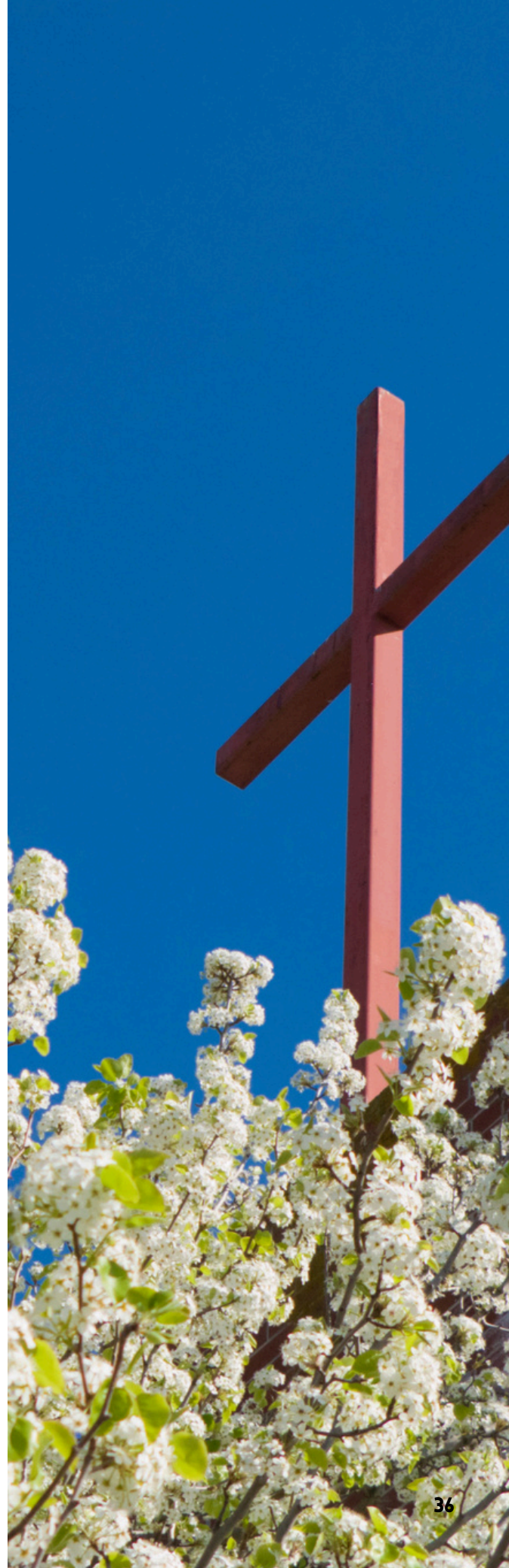
The highlight of the past months though is the new/old branch opening at Collie. In the past, Collie was a very active branch. But as ever, times change and the branch became inactive with only two members left of a more mature age. With the influx of new young families associated with the local mines, interest has revived and it was with great pleasure that the Diocesan President Isobelle Shortreed welcomed 8 new members and reaffirmed the ongoing membership of one member on Sunday 16th August. National Vice President, Wendy Mabey accompanied Isobelle and assisted her in the welcome. There were a couple of new members who were unable to be present who will be welcomed to MU as soon as possible. Other branches in the Diocese have also been welcoming new members, with 3 being welcomed in recent months in Busselton and 3 in Mandurah.

ISOBELLE SHORTREED

Diocesan President of Bunbury



Isobelle Shortreed, Diocesan President and Rev Michelle Collins, deacon at Christ's Church Mandurah.



WORDS BEGINNING WITH 'MU'

PUZZLE SUBMITTED BY BARRY FROM THE BENDIGO DIOCESE. THIS PUZZLE WAS CREATED AS A PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS COMMEMORATING 80 YEARS OF ST PETER'S EAGLEHAWK MU BRANCH

1. CROSS BETWEEN DONKEY AND HORSE
2. COMMON TO TWO OR MORE PERSONS
3. A BREAKFAST FOOD
4. RENDER SOMETHING IMPERFECT
5. CONCERNING SELF-GOVERNMENT
6. SILENT OR REFRAINING FROM SPEECH
7. SPLENDIDLY GENEROUS
8. UNDERGO CHANGE OR ALTERATION
9. MILITARY WEAPONS
10. A BUILDING FOR STORING OBJECTS
11. A PAINTING ON A WALL
12. PONDER OR REFLECT

TURN PAGE UPSIDE DOWN TO VIEW THE ANSWERS BELOW

1. MULE	7. MUNIFICENT
2. MUTUAL	8. MUTATE
3. MUESLI	9. MUNITION
4. MUTILATE	10. MUSEUM
5. MUNICIPAL	11. MURAL
6. MUTE	12. MUSE



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE OF MIA MIA!

IT IS WONDERFUL TO HEAR OF THE CELEBRATIONS ACROSS AUSTRALIA, ESPECIALLY AS EACH BRANCH HAS CONTINUED TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF MOTHERS UNION.

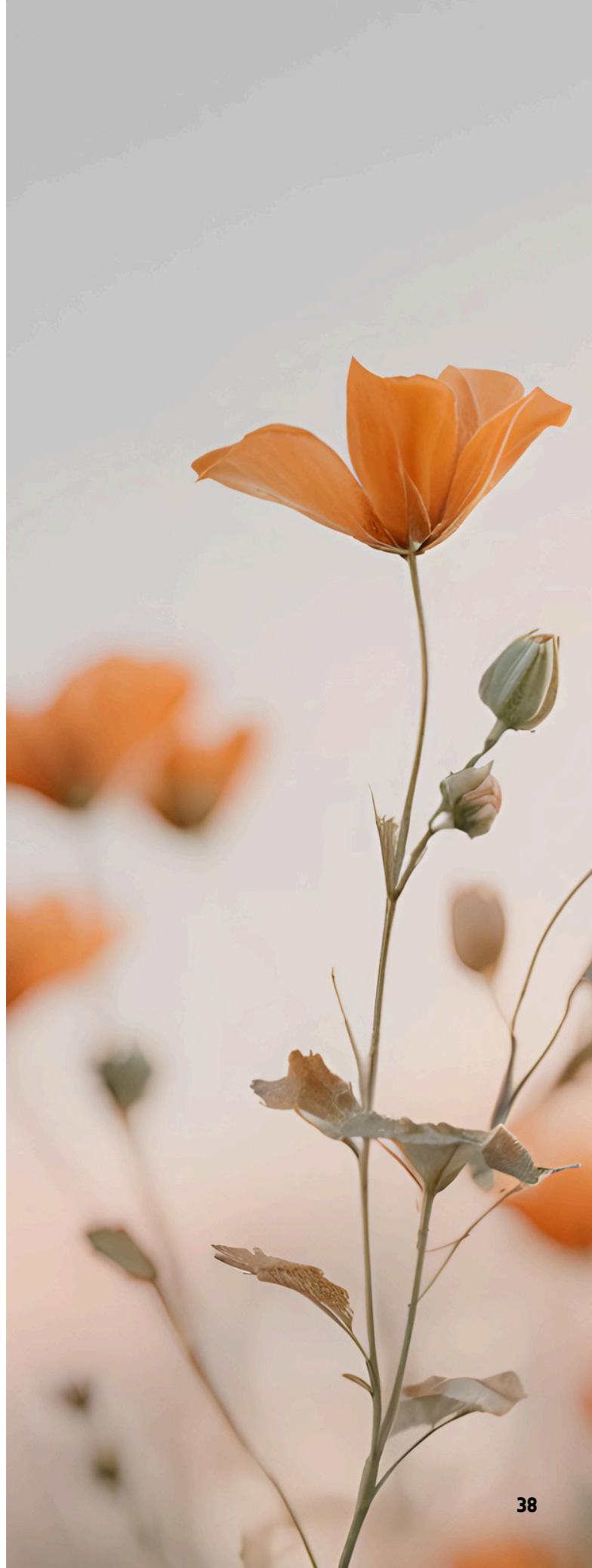
I PRAY THAT WE CONTINUE TO SERVE THE LORD IN ALL THAT WE DO FOR MOTHERS UNION. MAY WE ALWAYS ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO GROW IN THE FAITH AND TO KNOW THE LORD BETTER EACH DAY.

IF YOU HAVE PICKED UP MIA MIA FOR THE FIRST TIME AND YOU ARE JUST DISCOVERING MOTHERS UNION BUT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE PLEASE CONTACT US VIA THE AMUA WEBSITE OR EMAIL (CONTACT@MUAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU) AND WE WOULD LOVE TO CONNECT YOU WITH YOUR LOCAL BRANCH.

ANYONE IS WELCOME TO CONTRIBUTE TO MIA MIA.

I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU, WHETHER YOU HAVE BEEN A MEMBER FOR 60 YEARS, OR IF YOU HAVE JUST BEEN INTRODUCED TO MOTHERS UNION FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE, A STORY, A POEM, A PRAYER, OR EVEN A RECIPE TO BE FEATURED IN A FUTURE ISSUE.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



*And let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts, to which
indeed you were called in one
body. And be thankful.*

Colossians 3:15

