



DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE 2017

President Lynette Pole
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Vice President: Pauline Foy
Secretary:
Treasurer: Elizabeth Harris
Chaplain: Rev'd Wendy Cooper

Prayer & Spirituality Roz Rowett
Social Issues and Action Rev'd Flo Walters

Publications: Jane Tanner
Paint a Rainbow Editor Elizabeth Harris
Overseas & Northern Outreach & Wave of Prayer Nel Taylor

Diocesan members Helen Martin
Mia Mia, PAR & Families w/wide distribution Rosalie Cook
Promotion & Development Everyone
Area Presidents: Pat Owen
 Marlene Long
 Pauline Foy

MU Australia website www.muaustralia.org.au

Paint a Rainbow is the magazine of MU Australia in the Diocese of Willochra. Published four times each year to members and friends of the organization.



Paint a Rainbow A celebration of faith



December 2016

A word from the President

Dear All,
Having just returned from our Australia Council Meeting in Melbourne, I have a number of things to report to you.

It was a busy seven days in all with three days of Executive and four days of Council Meeting. It was held at Pallotti College in the Yarra Valley which is a beautiful place—very serene with plenty of space for contemplation.

Elections

The new Executive for AC for the triennium 2017-19 will be Rev'd Anne Kennedy (Melbourne) President
 Rev'd Canon Libbie Crossman (Brisbane) Immediate Past President
 Elizabeth Harris (Willochra) Senior Vice President
 Christine Jensen (Sydney) Junior Vice President
 Rev'd Lesley McLean (Adelaide) Prayer & Spirituality Dept. Head
 Rev'd Flo Walters (Willochra) Social Issues & Action Dept. Head
 Christine Brain (Perth) Overseas & Northern Outreach Dept. Head
 Robyn Ray (North Qld)

Education Dept. Head
 Susan Skowronski (Brisbane)
 Mia Mia Editor
 Narelle Blunt (Brisbane) Publications
 Denise Lay (Ballarat) Promotions & Development
 There was no nomination for Treasurer so if you know of someone who would be willing and able to take on this portfolio please let me know.)
Congratulations to Flo Walters and also to Lesley McLean who was formerly in Willochra diocese on their appointments.

Changing the structure and image of MU Australia

In 2014 the AC Executive were directed by the Council to begin the process of moving towards bringing together under one name, all members and groups who are part of MU Australia by 2020.

In accordance with this and following advice from a PR consultant and surveys of bishops at General Synod in 2015 and a general public (unidentified) survey, the Executive put forward to the council, the following



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recommendations :

That our name be “Anglican Mothers Union Australia”

And in bringing together all members and groups

“That groups wishing to continue to be part of MU Australia (now Anglican Mothers Union Australia) will be required to pay the fee set by the Diocesan Executive and maintain communication with the Diocesan President”

“That the role of Promotion & Development Coordinator will no longer include Caritas Leader”

Members of Council passed both resolutions and these changes will come into effect immediately but do not need to be completed until 2020.

It was also recommended by AC Executive that as a strap line - **who we are** ‘a worldwide fellowship of ‘Christians united in prayer, worship and service’ - **what do we do** - ‘Christian care for families’.

A new Logo for letterheads, publications etc.



Parenting program

Sydney diocese have revamped our parenting program and called it ‘Families equip’. They are offering training to

facilitators for any diocese interested in taking up the program.

The Murray diocese already have a very successful parenting program going and it was agreed to leave these two programs as they are and any other diocese wishing to continue or take the programs could contact either of these sources.

125th anniversary conference

15th-17th September 2017 in Launceston, Tasmania.

Flier will be available early in the New Year—meantime anyone wishing to make a booking at the selected Best Western Hotel should contact them direct 03 6333 9999 or email reservations97435@bestwestern.com.au quoting the code 150917. Room prices start at \$130.00 per night and the conference registration fee is \$300.00.

The conference will begin with a dinner on Friday night and an opening Eucharist on Saturday morning. There will be a formal dinner on Saturday night and various speakers and group sessions.

What we do

One of the highlights of the AC Meeting is the diocesan reports—it is amazing the number and variety of projects undertaken by our branches across Australia.

I am sure that Lynette could fill you on further aspects of the Meeting—if you see her, ask her.

Gospel

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Luke 23:42

For prayer and reflection...

When you remember me, it seems that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are.

It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us.

It means that if we meet again, you will know me.

It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart.

For as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost. When I’m feeling most ghost-like, it’s your remembering me that helps remind me that I actually exist. When I’m feeling sad, it’s my consolation. When I’m feeling happy, it’s part of why I feel that way.

If you forget me, one of the ways I remember who I am will be gone. If you forget me, part of who I am will be gone.

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom,” said the good thief from his cross (Luke 23:42).

There are perhaps no more human words in all of Scripture, no prayer we can pray so well.

F. Buechner Whistling in the Dark
Our overseas project to assist the Church Community Mobilisation

Welcome to our Ministry Development Officer, Gael Johannsen as an MU member.

In her talk to us at our Annual Meeting, Gael told us that she originally became a member of MU in New South Wales some years ago and it was good to have her renew her commitment to membership of MU in our Diocese.



Our participation in the (CCM) project in Tanzania has finished but we have helped some 20,522 beneficiaries in 7 countries including Tanzania which was our particular focus. CCM has transformed lives and ended the dependency culture that can blight communities. CCM brings transformation through

- Improved access to safe water
- Increased family incomes
- Better health
- Community cohesion
- Increased participation of women in decision making
- Improved relationships
- Care of the environment
- ◆ Church growth.





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**From Mary Sumner House
16 Days of Activism Against
Gender Violence 2016**

**This 16 Days of Activism,
Mothers Union is shining a light
on violence against woman and
girls, with the clear message
that #itsnotok**

The reasons for campaigning against Violence against women and girls are many and for us at Mothers' Union we support the 16 days campaign which we believe reflects the heart of our vision – that of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. We are calling on all communities around the world to understand the many different forms of abuse that gender-based violence takes, from controlling behaviour by a partner to rape as a weapon of war.

In particular, we encourage families and schools to teach children and young people about building healthy relationships, and to challenge gender stereotypes.

We are calling on governments and leaders to take action to; Ensure that national, local and customary law prohibits all forms of violence against women and girls

Ensure that all victims of gender-based violence have access to justice and to support systems and services

Ensure that perpetrators are

prosecuted, punished and rehabilitated

Changing culture to end gender-based violence takes all of us working together to spread the message that #itsnotok

We are calling on all members and branches to join us on 25th November in a '**Global Moment**' to raise awareness of and stand in solidarity against gender-based violence. At midday, wherever you are in the world, mark the start of these 16 Days with a lighted candle and a time of prayer or reflection.

Loving Lord, we light this candle to remember all who are affected by gender-based violence, and as a symbol of hope as we pray for a world which is free from all forms of violence and abuse.

Amen

If you want to get involved with the campaign, you may also want to hold a service, surrounding the prayer and lighting of candles.

We will not be in time to join in these particular 16 days beginning 25th November, however I would like to suggest that we use the first 16 days of Lent instead.



*AC President /Anne Kennedy
being commissioned by Bishop
Genieve*

**Diocesan Executive Meeting—
February 2017**

This meeting will herald the beginning of a new triennium and we welcome our new Diocesan President Lynette Pole and her executive

IPP & Treasurer:—Elizabeth Harris

Prayer & Spirituality—Roz Rowett

Social Issues & Action—Rev'd Flo Walters

Chaplain—Rev'd Wendy Cooper

Overseas & Northern Outreach & Wave of Prayer—Nel Taylor

Publications—Jane Tanner

Paint a Rainbow – Elizabeth Harris

We don't have an Education Officer or a Promotions person at

this time. We are hoping that perhaps this meeting could be held at the Cathedral and the new executive commissioned by Bishop John. We will let you know further details.



Dear Liz and all at Willochra MU This comes to say a very big thank you for the generous cheque for The Quickest Warmth Project. I had just emailed Liz and the other provincial MU presidents to see what might be done to place and keep some Bibles and children's Bibles and stories in places where people come, and often need to wait. I had just gone out and spent the money donated by the inter church council when I spoke at Riverton, and the very next day your cheque arrived which now means we have some funds tucked away (in the account) to use for some Christian endeavour particularly in Anglicare.

We are most grateful and this is a wonderful new step for The Quickest Warmth Project. Just to update a bit, we are currently attempting to get at least 300 Christmas stockings made...200 for Gawler DPC (Department for Child Protection) and 100 for Elizabeth DPC! We are probably about a third of the way to date.



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Thank you all again and may this Advent and then Christmas be a time of blessing for you all. Blessings and kind regards

Prue O'Donovan

(this was our offering at the Annual Meeting and some other donations given to me at that time)

OUR RICH LITURGICAL HERITAGE

(part 2)

The great Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote: *“pray when you’re in a praying mood-it would be sinful not to do so. Pray when you’re not feeling like it, for this is a very dangerous situation to be in.”* Combining prayer with our Bible reading is always a wise habit since God’s word to us evokes prayer from us. Sometimes thanksgiving, at other times confession, often petition for ourselves or supplication for others and more often than not praise and adoration flow from us to God after we have attended to His word.

But sometimes we need to prime the pump, so to speak, because we are feeling discouraged, tired or preoccupied with worries. This is where the psalms come into their own. This is why our liturgical practice of reading the psalms and praying them is such a rich blessing. We see an example of this in the versicles and responses of morning and evening prayer. Last month we

considered the first three and this time the second three of these psalm prayers. They run: Lord save your people, **and bless your inheritance.** Psalm 28:9

Give peace in our time, O Lord, **for you are our help and strength.** Psalm 29:11

Create in us clean hearts, O God, **and renew us by your Holy Spirit.** Psalm 51:10-11

What an extraordinary treasure of hope and assurance is contained in these prayers. What a helpful pattern and range of prayer that is laid out for us. Their balance will surely keep us from shallowness in our prayers. Though we are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we are not immune from living self-indulgently. This prayer calls upon our Heavenly Father to save us from this disaster. He who saves from sins penalty can be counted upon to save us for a life of selfless service. If we need any encouragement to stand out from the self-absorbed crowd we only need to be reminded that we are, collectively and by faith, His inheritance. The privilege of this mercy and calling is calculated to strengthen our will, put a spring into our step and alert us to the value God places upon us. Could there be a greater promise than this? I know I don’t deserve it but it is at the heart of what gets disciples up and running every

day.

God would have His inheritance, His chosen people, pray for others. If we are to be the peace makers Jesus calls us to be, we must first be peace pray-ers. Whether it be in our homes, places of work, local or world community, we are to pray for peace. Real and lasting peace is impossible for sons of Adam and daughters of Eve without the grace and strength of God and ministry of the Holy Spirit. So we pray and are embolden by the promise of his help and strength. What God commands of us He will always enable us to do, especially as we pray. The prayer of the repentant King David from Psalm 51 will often be on the lips of every disciple. This final prayer takes us to the heart. Everything depends upon the state of our heart before God. Since He knows the secrets of our hearts (which truth is before us every time we come to The Supper) we are wise to have this prayer regularly on our lips.

God’s grace though freely offered is only given by God and received by us when we come clean before Him. And what wonderful work He does when we come clean with a sincere heart: the constant renewing of the Holy Spirit. Prayer not only keeps our relationship with God alive but enables us to fulfil His calling to be a blessing to others. Could there be a richer or noble calling?

Rev’d Peter Brain

Paul: Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.’ (1 Corinthians 13:3-7)

God’s plan for families

* that our families would rediscover the sacredness and beauty of God’s plan for families and marriage.

* that our families will be places enriched by the presence of God, directed by His word and empowered by prayer.

* that our families will be an example to the world of what true love looks like, of how individual lives can be enriched by being part of a family that is committed to serve, honour and respect each other in love.

Christmas Blessing from Roz

A new Life Vice-President

Following the vacancy left by the death of Pat Moore, we have welcomed Jane Tanner to the position of Life Vice President of MU in the diocese of Willochra. Jane has held various positions on the Executive including Diocesan President for 5 five years prior to going to Flinders Island where she was Diocesan Treasurer for Tasmania. Thank you Jane for accepting the position.