

# Poinsettia Post

Anglican Mothers Union Australia  
Brisbane



WINTER 2023



# A Message from our President

Hello everyone

As I write this message I have vivid memories of Easter worship – an Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday, a video of Christ’s crucifixion performed by the students at St John’s College at Forest Lake to accompany the reading of the Passion, a Prayer Service at sunrise on Easter Sunday with a fire that would light the pascal candle in the next service, the renewing of baptismal vows on Easter Day. We have a new priest at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Algester, Rev’d Christopher Bate and all parishioners appreciated his efforts to make this a memorable Easter time, a time to deepen our relationship with God. I hope that all AMUA members have also experienced a holy, meaningful Easter and are celebrating still the wonder of the risen Christ.



As you are probably aware the present Australian AMUA President, Dr Robin Ray, is a member of the Brisbane Diocese. We are fortunate, then, that she can attend our meetings when she has no other commitments. At the last Executive Committee Meeting she encouraged all members to spread the word about Mothers’ Union. She is concerned that parishioners and the community at large do not know who we are and what we do. She would like AMUA members to ‘get the positive news of Mothers’ Union as a legitimate and helpful organisation around the world, into the Parish and be proud to be a member of Mothers’ Union.’

I, too, would like to encourage you to take your Mothers’ Union banner to any event or activity concerned with AMUA mission in which you are involved, wear your MU badges, advertise the fact that we donate substantial amounts of money to Anglicare, women’s shelters, overseas projects and so on. If you take beanies or knitted rugs to the Seafarers’ Mission or are part of a peaceful demonstration protesting about particular social issues or cater for functions at your church, please ensure that your parishioners know about this. You might be surprised how much extra help and support you will receive through advertising!

I am visiting several branches in the near future and am looking forward

to meeting and talking with members. If you have questions for me, please ask. If you have complaints, I am listening. If you have suggestions or ideas, I will take them to the Executive Committee.

Many blessings

Jenny Bullock

## Lady Day 2023

Lady Day celebrations were held in St John's Cathedral on 22 March 2023. Dignitaries who attended included (pictured front cover L to R) The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt, The Venerable Archdeacon Gary Harch, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM AC, Governor of Queensland, Jenny Bullock AMUA Diocesan President, The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves, and Dr Robin Ray AMUA Australian President

Left: Presentation of cheque for Anglicare SQ Chaplaincy by Jenny Bullock to Dr Steven Harrison, Director of Mission.

Bottom Left: Marilyn Dunning received a Life Vice-President's Badge and Certificate.

Photo Credit: C Martin



## Thanks from Marilyn

The greatest honour and privilege of my Mothers Union life was to receive Life Vice-Presidency which was presented to me on Lady Day at our service in St John's Cathedral.

The badge itself, is of very special significance to me as it was a personal gift of the late Shirley Beale, a dear friend, a Past-President of Mothers Union in this Diocese, and a Life Vice-President. Shirley asked her family to give me her badge before she died if I was to be made a Life Vice-President. I wear this now with great pride and very fond memories of really happy occasions shared.

My many thanks to Diocesan Council and all members for this honour which I receive with God's blessing. I am grateful for the years of being a member of Mothers Union and for the time given to me as Diocesan President. I had beautiful and fond memories of the members I was able to meet, worship with, and share happy moments in the country and throughout the Diocese. Those trips to the country branches and country hospitality were really special. I have been truly blessed. May God richly bless you all.

*Marilyn Dunning.*

## World Day of Prayer - Sunnybank

The president of Sunnybank AMUA Jan Tully welcomed Susan Yang as special guest speaker at World Day of Prayer on 3rd March.

Susan Yang is a native Taiwanese and is the curator of the multicultural art gallery at the Sunnybank Plaza.

Members enjoyed fellowship with members from other churches. It was a very successful day.

*Marcia Williams*



## **Manly/Wynnum AMUA in the Parlour**



Manly/Wynnum Mother's Union now meets in the Chapel at Lota House which is the new home for our congregation with the sale of St Paul's Anglican Church land and buildings to the Education Department. St Paul's is situated next door to Manly State School which was originally built for 300 students, but now has enrolments of close to 800. The additional land will make such a difference to the students and we are delighted that the new plans for development include retaining our church as a Music and Art centre.

It has been very sad to have held our final Sunday service in St Paul's, but we do look forward to new beginnings with our first full service in Lota House Chapel to be on Easter Day.

Mothers' Union has been meeting in the Chapel for the past nine months and have a wonderful space in the parlour of the Heritage listed Lota House to enjoy our morning tea after the service. As an added bonus, residents of the attached E.M. Tooth Memorial Home are able to join us for the morning service and activities.

Photo: AMUA Members enjoying morning tea in the Parlour.

## Special Days in Hervey Bay

Hervey Bay AMUA members have had a busy start to 2023. World Day of Prayer for Taiwan was celebrated at the Hervey Bay Uniting Church on 3 March.

On 21 March, Lady Day was celebrated at Childers. The guest speaker was Nikki Stevens from Anglican Youth Housing who explained her role in this important ministry. Members from Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Childers, Gayndah and surrounds attended.

On 24 March, Wave of Prayer was celebrated



at St John's Ministry Centre, Pialba on 24 March.

After our regular monthly meeting on 19 April, a Quiet Day was held with Rev'd Mamour giving an inspiring testimony related to hardships in life and the gratitude he feels today to be able to be part of our community.



## Grovely Outreach

Kathryn Lum President, Grovely AMUA presented Carol Birrell, Services Manager, Anglicare's Home Away from Homelessness Centre, with toiletry bags; items collected by way of donations from the parish and AMUA members.

A total of 20 complete toiletry bags was collected. Our guests were impressed with the complexity and range of Anglicare's work at the Centre.



# A Reflection from our Chaplain

## WAITING

One of the characteristics of life these days is that we are often called on to wait: wait for the bus; wait for the results of medical tests; wait for notice from a financial institution as to whether we have been accepted for a loan; wait for news of a family birth, or just waiting in the queue for a checkout at the supermarket. Each time patience is required, and, at times, this is so hard to do ... we want things to happen ... NOW.



As I write this, we are in the Church's Easter season; the time between Easter and Pentecost and I am reminded how the disciples were told by Jesus to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the awe-inspiring news that Jesus had risen, and having seen him in the flesh, they still had to wait. I believe this waiting time for them was essential for them; they took the time to reflect on all Jesus had told them, all that was in the scriptures, and to discuss with each other all this meant for them and their faith ... their faith was invigorated, giving them the courage to step out in faith to share this faith with others after Pentecost.

I don't know about you, but I have found that many of the times I have had to wait for something I thought should happen immediately, I became aware of aspects of the situation I had not noticed before ... I have been strengthened for the future ... and, in time, I have found the new timing perfect. In many of these cases I have learnt that God's timing is sensational and the fact that God wastes nothing.



It is in hindsight we realise the immense blessing contained in the gift of time, the gift given to the disciples and often given to us.

May we continually learn to thank God for this gift of waiting and the grace God gives us through time.

Your sister in Christ,

Jane



*Eternal God, we are mindful of the contribution made by faithful members. Thank you for the leadership and encouragement they provided, for their commitment to the purpose of AMUA. We give you thanks and praise for the lives they lived and the fellowship we shared.*  
**Amen.**

#### VALE: ELAINE ANN GRAMM 04/02/1931 - 21/03/2023

Elaine was an inaugural member of the Gold Coast North Branch in June 2009. Elaine embraced being a Mother's Union member and became Treasurer for ten years. She took the opportunity to travel to Country Council Meetings and to Conferences, meeting other members and travelling to places she had never been before.

*Marjory Fieldus*

#### VALE: OLGA OWEN 18/5/1923 - 19/2/2023

Olga was in her 99th year. She moved with her family from Innisfail and joined St Margaret's Parish at Sandgate in 1955. Olga joined the Sandgate Northpoint Branch in 2004, and Olga with other members sewed clothing, shorts and skirts for the AIDS patients in Papua New Guinea. The sewing group did some knitting and crocheting for the elderly and beanies for the mission to seafarers. In recent years Olga resided at Maranatha nursing home at Kallangur.

*Maureen Neems*

## VALE: PHYLLIS BLANCH 26/8/1925 -7/2/2023

Phyllis joined Miles branch in 1962 and transferred to Chinchilla branch in 1979. Phyllis was president at Chinchilla for 6 years. Her family and the church was her priorities. She had 3 children Rob, Rosemary and Liz. Phyllis loved to attend MU conferences and synod. In 2008 she moved to Pittsworth to live at the Grange. While she was in Pittsworth she attended MU. When she found getting around difficult she joined the IPC members. Her last couple of years was spent at Beauraba Living

Romona Postle

## VALE: RUTH LOCKE 12.4.1935 – 15.3.2023

Ruth became a member of Warwick Branch AMUA on 14 September 1965 and gave over 57 years of faithful service to the Warwick Branch. She lived in the Warwick area all her life. Mothers' Union was always a very special part of her life. She was a Vice President for many years and attended Brisbane Diocese Conferences. She made and delivered hospital emergency packs to the Warwick Hospital for a very long time. She was a wonderful seamstress and made much of St Mark's Anglican Church altar linen and clergy robes over the years.

Elaine Stewart

## VALE: MURIEL HOPE BROWN 15/11/1935 - 01/03/2023

Muriel was admitted to MU in Gympie on 27th June 1978. She was married to Derek for 49 years and had 4 boys (one deceased). Muriel held the positions of President, Dept President, Treasurer, Secretary, Hostess Secretary and Wide Bay Deanery President. Muriel was a faithful and devoted parishioner of St Peter's Church Gympie

May Nash

**For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Rev 7:17**

# **Marjory's Story**

It is interesting to look back on life and see how many threads have been woven together over time and as a result you take on a position you never expected to.

In the sixties my mother, Marjory McAlister was involved in our local Church and she attended YMD for many years at Holy Trinity Kew in suburban Melbourne.

In 1979, my husband, myself and two young children left Melbourne to live in Wewak, Papua New Guinea. There was no technology, no television, the only way we could communicate with back home was to write letters regularly. I looked forward to receiving letters from home. Fast forward to 2009. Irene Daniel was starting a new AMUA Branch at St James' Anglican at Biggera Waters. I was working part time and, along with three others, became an inaugural member of the new branch. Over the years, I held many positions including Secretary, President and Deanery Secretary. I am currently Link Correspondent staying in contact with St Mary's Branch at Sunbury, Victoria.

In August, 2019 Alison Dunstan approached me about the position of Lone Member Correspondent. I thought, "How could I do that?" I went home and thought and prayed about it. I remembered all the letters I had written home when I lived in Papua New Guinea. I accepted the position which has opened up a whole new world for me.

Lone Members come from all around the large Diocese of Southern Queensland. When I look at the ladies' profiles and read what they have done over many years, I am in awe of them.

I send out four letters a year along with prayer notes from Prayer and Spirituality Department. I receive letters, emails and phone calls from



members telling me their news. For example, members who live on farms will tell of good rainfall which enables them to have a bumper harvest. A member swaps knitting patterns with me as like me, she enjoys knitting. Another writes such interesting stories about what her AMUA Branch did before it closed. A member knits beanies for Seafarers which the Mission is grateful to receive.

A few years ago Dalby was flooded and I was concerned for two lone members who live there. I phoned and was relieved to hear they were dry. Each April I attend a combined Ipswich/ Laidley Lone Member Gathering, taking the banner with me.

I am guardian of the lone members banner, which is displayed at my church, St James at Biggera Waters. Every time I see that banner, I think of all the Lone Members and remember them in my prayers. I have proudly carried this banner at the Lady Day Service at the Cathedral on behalf of all lone members. This year Gwen Davenport from Rosewood carried it for us. I have taken the banner to Laidley and Southport, where one lone member said she never realised we had a banner!

For the last two years I have joined the Cathedral Branch outside St John's Cathedral to protest on 25 November about gender-based violence. I send the prayer notes to all lone members and encourage them to join in the 16 Days of Activism. I also encourage members to join in the Wave of Prayer. I appreciate the help I get from Val Madsen who keeps in contact regularly with lone members out west.

I can't tell you how much I enjoy my role. I give thanks for what lone members have done for AMUA. It inspires me that they still want to be connected to AMUA even though they are not able to attend Meetings.

On looking back, I am so pleased I accepted this position back in 2019. It is very fulfilling and I am so blessed I am able to connect with these wonderful ladies and still be an active member of Gold Coast North Branch.

*Marjory Fieldus.*

Lone Members Branch/ Gold Coast North Branch.





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The quarterly newsletter of  
AMUA Brisbane Diocese

## Calendar 2023

- 6 August Retiring Collection Anglicare
- 9 August Mary Sumner Day
- 15 August Country Council Maryborough 10.30am
- 3 September Fathers' Day
- 21 November Council St John's Cathedral 10am
- 25 November 16 Days of Activism starts
- 10 December International Human Rights Day

## Gold Coast North welcomes a new member



Judith Wood was admitted to AMUA at St James Church, Biggera Waters in March. Pictured above: President, Jeanette Dale, new AMUA member, Judith Wood and Rev'd Canon Gary Smith.

**Closing date for the next issue 31th July 2023**

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