

2017 saw the celebration of the 125th Anniversary since the Mothers' Union was commenced in Australia at Cullenswood in Tasmania, with the visit of the Worldwide President of Mothers' Union, Mrs Lynne Tembey. MU Australia is known as Anglican Mothers Union Australia and has a new logo.

This year has been quite a challenge with both Kaylene and Chris having had ill health. But we will keep on hoping the coming year will be better. We have adapted our program to meet the needs of our members. Most meetings involve worship time based on the annual theme which in 2017 has been "Faith in Action", highlights from MU departments and what MU is doing around the world, and chat 'n chew.

At the October AGM, members agreed to the continuation of Kaylene Vlasveld and Chris Hughes leading the Group.

November: A Eucharist, led by Chris, began the afternoon. Discussion on future programmes was held. Members then enjoyed a nice afternoon tea.

February: Kaylene outlined what the theme 'Faith in Action' is about, and read the story of 'The Starfish'.

March: Further discussion on 'Faith in Action'. Just sharing a smile, helping some-one in the Supermarket are forms of 'Faith in Action'.

April: Meeting cancelled due to funeral of Sam Newman, the son of long-time parishioners.

May: Discussion on 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

June, July August and September had to be cancelled due to extreme weather or illness.

We average about 4 members to a meeting but not always the same four. Although low in numbers and ageing, all members are very keen and enthusiastic to hear about what MU is doing throughout the world.

We continue to raise funds for Overseas & Northern Outreach with our little 'pots' of 5 and 10 cent pieces.



In the weeks leading up to Christmas and Easter, we had a stall on Sunday morning selling cards. At Easter, we sold many 'A Cross in your pocket' raising funds to support the work of MU within the parish (Baptism and marriage kits)

We continue to correspond with our Link Branch in France sharing MU news and activities.

Baptism Folders and Baptism Bears, knitted by Chris Hughes, are presented by a member to the baby at their baptism.



We were saddened to hear of the passing of Betty Scott-Smith, a long time active member of St Pauls' Frankston, having served as Secretary of the branch and of the Frankston Deanery for many years. We plan to have an Afternoon of Remembrance for Betty at our October meeting, inviting parishioners to share their memories.

The AMUA 'Thought for the Week' is published in the weekly Parish Pewsheets. As well as telling something of the work of Mothers Union worldwide, it gives something for parishioners to think about /pray about during the coming week.

With an ageing membership, we are unable to do the fundraising and promotion of MU programs with speakers as we did for several decades. What we can do, is pray (MU is a praying organisation). Although few in numbers we still enjoy each other's company and would love to welcome others, so in 2018 we encourage both men and women to come along to spend an afternoon of fun and fellowship and a laugh over a cup of tea.

With MU blessings,

Chris Hughes and Kaylene Vlasveld (Co-Leaders)