



ST PAUL'S AMUA (Anglican Mothers Union Australia) REPORT

2021 theme: 'Rebuilding hope and confidence'

2021 has been another year of interruptions and uncertainty with the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns for our branch which made it impossible to utilise the excellent program resources and ideas for face-to-face meetings.

Some branches were able to meet via Zoom but this was not possible for our branch.

We managed to meet in April when we re-sorted and updated eleven Blessing Tins.

A Blessing box/tin contains seven little gifts, individually wrapped and with a small card with a bible verse offering encouragement and strength. The recipient is asked to unwrap one gift per day for seven days.



Frustratingly, when we thought these blessing boxes would have been beneficial to those isolated in their homes during Lockdown #5 and #6, we not only could not access the parish office to get them nor did we have means of distributing them.

We will arrange to have them distributed in the coming months.

This is an ongoing project.

I have had the opportunity to participate in virtual Mothers' Union meetings and activities with members around the world, especially as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Mary Sumner who had the vision 145 years ago to establish an organisation that *'shares Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening, and supporting marriage and family life.'*

During this year two faithful and loyal long-serving MU members have gone into God's care. We give thanks to God for their faithfulness, friendship and commitment to MU, especially to St Paul's MU over several decades.

Barbara Annable, (93 years) a member for over 60 years, Barbara made a tapestry MU kneeler which is in the St Richard's chapel. Barbara was Branch Vice-President for many years and an enthusiastic member who even after going into Aged Care continued to enjoy reading about MU activities around the world.



Jean Silk (90 years) who moved back to the UK and then resided in France where she continued being a MU member in the Diocese of Europe. Jean served as our Branch Secretary for many years. Several of her embroideries are framed in the Church.

Although our numbers are few, we will meet in 2022 and plan our meetings around the 2022 World Mothers' Union theme 'TRANSFORMATION – NOW!'

This theme being very appropriate as we move from Lockdown to the new Covid-norm as *'Transformation comes through prayer, discernment and action'*.

Chris Hughes & Kaylene Vlasveld Co-leaders