

May God enable us to become the people God calls us to be, and, in everything we do, may our lives honour the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May God inspire and move us to action so that we fulfil God's will in response to God's amazing grace, so freely give to the world. Amen.

Check the Website for the MU Burundi Report—

'From a silent revolution to Communities of hope' A summary of the Mothers' Union Burundi Literacy and Financial Education Programme Longitudinal Study

It was said in the 2017 evaluation: It has been more than a programme—a movement, given the very high levels of community ownership and alignment with women's and community priorities. This was clearly a programme designed with the 'grain' of the vision for change that people have for themselves. It has taken on a life of its own as women and men whose lives have been improved, spread the word to others about the positive changes in their lives.

Save this date!

This year the ***Holding the Light Service*** will be held

5.00pm Thursday 30th November
at Wesley Uniting Church,
130 Lonsdale Street

(between Russell and Exhibition Sts) Melbourne
See article in September Mia Mia p21

The theme for 2023/24

"Transformation—NOW!"

To survive, Mothers' Union needs transforming into a more vibrant organization - reaching out to those who need to hear that there is hope in these troubled times. Let's work together on how to achieve this. Use the theme as you see fit for publicity.



**Melbourne Diocesan Newsletter
September 2023**

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From the President

Spring has Sprung! I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful bulbs that are popping up everywhere, the lengthening of the days, and the odd pleasant warm sunny day we are now experiencing.

Our big announcement is, we have a new Treasurer! Rosemary Simpson, who lives and worships at Box Hill, is currently working side by side with Hlish to "learn the ropes", and then "take the reins" next month. We welcome Rosemary "aboard", and a big thank you to Anne Kennedy for approaching Rosemary and asking her if she would consider supporting MU in this role.

The Dean and the Historical Overlay Committee of St Paul's have accepted our request to move the MU President's chair to the Cathedral, and it will be installed in the Annunciation Chapel as soon as we can arrange delivery. The Memorial books will most probably go into Church Archives, being called back for special services, such as Lady Day. Having a presence in St Peter's Eastern Hill Bookshop has not progressed as yet but will be followed up in due course.

The Visioning/Strategic day for Melbourne Executive committee was held in facilitated by our Australian President Robin Ray, similar to the Aust Exec Visioning weekend. See Robin's article on p10 in the Spring Mia Mia

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

Robin opened our discussions asking us to think about all the good things about MU, “Celebrating MU” – why we belong to MU. We then looked at MU as 3 pillars: “God Objectives” being our core/centre (all we do is driven by/ linked to, God), with overlapping “pillars”, “Inwardly Nurturing” (the points we spoke about when Celebrating MU fell into this “pillar”), and “Outwardly Focussed” (prayer, context driven, projects, social justice).

We then discussed what is not working so well, why people don’t want to join MU, and positive action to change this. Latest statistics shows a 33% decline in membership in the Melbourne Diocese over the past 4 years. Can we revitalise this? MU will cease to exist in 4 years, at the current rate of decline. We looked at clearer promotion of MU, how we introduce who MU is, promoting MU in our Churches, educating parishioners and Clergy about MU (do they know who we are?). Having brochures and information about our projects readily available. Providing information and support to branches to promote MU more visibly. How we can attract “time poor” people?

From our brainstorming we came away from the day with “Take Away Actions For Right Now”: Wear our badges at every opportunity, display banners in our Church, have information readily available in Church for visitors – have our newsletter available in Churches, advertise MU events in your Church via newsletter/pew-sheet. Stand up and speak in Parish Services notice time. Talk about MU in 30 seconds – a “catch cry” so all members, if/when asked about MU, will have a ready reply. There are also some things Executive will be/are working on to streamline our communication to all members, and there are also actions we can undertake in the “In the next 6-12 months” category. If you would like more information about our Visioning/ Strategic Day, and what our next steps are, please contact me, and I can support you with some more information. This day was not to “solve the problems of MU’ immediately (but we all wish we could, don’t we?!), but to give us a working tool with which to move forward.

Peace and Blessings, Kären

**NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES: MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER
AGM AND COUNCIL MEETING - BARBARA DARLING ROOM
ST PAULS CATHEDRAL**

Do check the Mothers’ Union Website regularly - for the latest news both local and overseas.
There is much to encourage us in our thinking about what MU is involved in. On the Australian site — there is the *Thought for the Week*, and you can also access the latest Mia Mia online.
Use all the tools available to help promote and further AMUA!!
If you didn’t receive the latest Prayer Diary - download it from the website. You can still stay in touch.

Please continue to support the Karen Nursery School project. Our Diocese is the only MU Group supporting this group — they can do so much with so little.

This is your newsletter—can you contribute?

We would love to hear what branches have been doing so that we can share with each other.

Just a short summary of Who/What/When/How would be great

Next Newsletter will be in November, so if you would like to speak about your event/project just get it to us by the 1st of Month. amua.melbournedp@gmail.com

How do we get MU publications now the shop has closed? Margaret is still actively displaying wares via the “travelling suitcase” and happy to attend any gatherings and fundraisers with MU goods.

Contact Margaret Dunbar, and she will organise what you would like

Please let us know if you have any questions to ask next Newsletter - chances are, someone else needs an answer to the same question.