



*Be salt
and light
-
shine
brightly!*

*Forward
into the
future:
with hope
and love*

*Mothers Union
Diocese of Bunbury
Summer 2024-25
Birak-Bunuru*

*Distributed as a
supplement to the
'Mia Mia'
Magazine*

*May all our readers have a joy-filled Christmas as we celebrate the coming of
Our Saviour into the world.*



From the Editor Yet another year is ending and another beginning. In the coming January we morph from concentrating on being 'salt and light' to moving 'forward into the future; with hope and love'. And, of course it is the year of Hope 25. Does that sound like an adventure, or a lot of hard work, or both?

Now, more than ever we must think about what Mothers Union is, and what its role is in our parishes. If each MU branch (and indeed each member) would come up with one idea for our future it would be great. I know we already do lots and lots of good things, but let's get creative!

At our October meeting in Busselton we did a short play reading. The play was called "Gifts that Money can't Buy" The cast was a group of women at a meeting very like our MU meetings and they were discussing how busy they were with so many things to do before Christmas. The conversation came round to Christmas cards -

" - Oh yes, the cards. I suppose they started out as loving greetings, but now they are another Christmas chore that must be done...I often think that a little friendly conversation during the year would be much better than a Christmas card."

"-I think we all use Christmas cards as an excuse for the lack of loving concern and friendship over the year. We feel guilty about someone not contacted for a whole year, so we sign our name on a Christmas card and send it off, hoping perhaps in this was to write off our responsibility."

While this is not true of everybody, or every card we send, it perhaps points to something that we could do as individuals or as a branch; contact people who we haven't seen around for a while. They may be confined to the house, or in a nursing home. Or we could try partnering with an overseas branch, or possibly a lone member in another state.

Mother Teresa said "We can do no great things, only small things with great love". This is so important to remember when we feel daunted or inadequate.

God is not calling us to save the world on our own, but together we can do small things with great love. And that can make a lot of difference!



From the President - Summer 2024

“Advent: the time to listen for footsteps – you can’t hear footsteps when you’re running yourself.” Bill McKibben

Three months ago, as I wrote for our Spring magazine, I reflected on the challenge of downsizing, the need to take stock and to make decisions on what is important, what to keep and what to let go.

As I sit in my office/sewing alcove, I am surrounded by what is important, for now. I have my computer system, an essential tool in managing our personal affairs and in carrying out the roles I have undertaken in Mothers Union and beyond. From time to time the desk gets a little messy with piles of receipts to process and file, and notes of things to do strewn around.

The cork noticeboard holds varying contact details for people written on small pieces of paper, accounts awaiting payment, and an assortment of inspirational messages such as ‘Keep calm and sail on’! A Cursillo card asks ‘What Christian gifts have I used in His service?’ and the Rotary “Four Way Test of things we think, say and do, asks ‘Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?’

Leaning against the cork board is a 1997 calendar, waiting for 1st January 2025 when the days and dates will be in perfect sync and I can use it once again. Just to the side of the board is my 1985 Young Citizen of the Year Award, reminding me of my life long commitment to community through servant leadership.

Sitting on a shelf above is my display of animal ornaments, mostly collected on overseas holidays. Some are gifts and some are personal indulgences. Each has a story and each has a reason that it became and remains a part of my collection.

If I turn my chair 90 degrees to the right, I find myself facing my sewing table. This represents my personal time, my relaxation, my time to inwardly nurture myself.

Above the sewing table is a haphazard collection of memorabilia – a picture given to me when I was a young child, some bark pictures created by my mother and myself during my guiding years, a fluffy dog given to me by Ian shortly before we married, some photos of my children when they were young, a clock that belonged to Ian’s aunt, a number of ladybird ornaments (I have always liked ladybirds), and a canvas painting created by my oldest grandson when he was a toddler.

The rest of the wall and floor space in the alcove is taken up with shelves and cupboards that support my administrative and sewing activities.

Do I need everything that I have in my little alcove? Probably not! However, I have managed to find a place for it all and, if not altogether useful, many of these things have remained with me because they bring me joy; they call to mind memories and experiences, they remind me of people who have been a part of my life.

As we move through this summer season, amidst the busyness of end of year parties, Christmas and New Year preparations, I pray that we may all find time to inwardly nurture ourselves, to find joy in the things that surround us and to, above all else, truly embrace Christ in our lives as we once again celebrate his birth. Every blessing -

Wendy



Christmas in the Dunsborough Branch.

Dunsborough MU has been gearing up for Christmas for a few months now! We have two major projects – our Christmas Baskets and our Christmas Tree Exhibition.

The Christmas Baskets have been given out by the parish for many years. Last year the MU took on this ministry, although we now use Christmas bags instead of baskets. These are really like Joy Bags, filled with treats and given out to those who are struggling with life – this might be because of illness, bereavement or loneliness. The recipient receives some festive treats in their bag, but more importantly, they also get a visit and a chat with a friendly St George's parishioner when the bag is delivered.

The Christmas Tree Exhibition is the brainchild of MU member, Fay Roocke, who has created an amazing array of Christmas Trees. Originally these were for an annual exhibition her church used to hold in Katanning. Dunsborough has benefitted from this creativity, and we have since added new trees to the mix. Each tree has a theme, with beautifully crafted decorations to match the theme.

The decorations are made from vastly different materials. In the photo is the “Good Shepherd Tree”, where you can see the creativity that goes into making these trees. Each one has a card which tells the people a little about the meaning of the tree, or how it was made. Our Exhibition will be open Saturday 14th and 21st December from 9-12, Monday 16th, Wednesday 18th and Friday 20th December from 9 to 3pm. We would love other branches to come and visit to see this amazing exhibition – it really is worth the trek to Dunsborough. Let us know if you are coming and we will pop the kettle on. Send me an email if you would like to arrange a branch visit – parishpriest@dunsboroughanglican.com.au

Blessings to all as you prepare for the arrival of Jesus our Emmanuel.
Rev'd Justine Richmond, Dunsborough Branch.

We hope the Mustard Tree will be out in time for you to enjoy this.

Saturday 14th and 21st December
from 9-12.

Monday 16th, Wednesday 18th and
Friday 20th December
from 9 to 3pm.



The Country Rally - from the Albany branch.

On Friday 18th October we hosted the Bunbury Diocese Country Rally. We had 36 participants on a lovely Albany day. Several visitors had taken the opportunity to have a brief holiday and some had enjoyed a trip to the local Entertainment Centre the evening before to take in a show.

The day commenced with morning tea in the Dorothy Wood hall adjacent to the church of St John the Evangelist. This was followed by the Eucharist service, led by our own Reverend Canon Karen Cave, assisted by MU chaplain Reverend Cathie Broome and Bishop Ian. Bishop Ian, who had returned from UK just the day before and flown himself to Albany in time for our service, delivered the sermon. The diocesan and Albany MU banners were paraded with those from other areas also displayed. The St John's choir led the singing and several MU members assisted with readings.



Membership Milestones

15 yrs Eleanor Lewin Busselton
20 yrs Beth Wootton Bunbury

MU Diocesan president, Wendy Mabey, conducted the AGM and annual reports were received..Wendy showed us the repaired MU Diocesan banner and plans for a new one. She also spoke of next year's theme 'Forward into the Future with Hope and Love' . Next year's theme song will be 'God Gives Us a Future.'

We all then adjourned to the Emu Point Sports Club for lunch provided by local caterers. Reverend Dot Bailey spoke on the themes of 'Salt and Light' and our own theme that 'With God's help we can jump puddles'. Thanks to all members for help, support and donations. They all helped to enrich the day and make it run smoothly.

Thanks to the Bunbury branch for donating the three crocheted rugs for raffle prizes. The raffle raised \$110, which will be sent to aid with expenses for the new MU caravan at Busselton. Thanks to Sylvia and Tom for setting up their tables with books and cards for sale.

So, our thanks to all who came. We appreciate that many of you from a considerable distance. We hope you all enjoyed your time with us and look forward to seeing you all next year in Mandurah.

From Mandurah - a very special presentation as it involved over 200 years of members' service!

From left to right -

65 yrs - Julie Gent
60 yrs - Judy Rule
25 yrs - Canon Ian Mabey (& Wendy)
65 yrs - Joy Barrett (seated)

The certificates were presented by Diocesan President Wendy Mabey during our October meeting.



*A Christmas message from our Chaplain,
the Rev'd Cathie Broome*



'I was thinking that this might be useful for those who are at home or unable to get to church, as well as all of us as we prepare for Christmas.'

Greetings my MU brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's hard to believe, but another year draws to an end, both on the calendar and in the Church year as we turn our lectionaries to Year C. All around us we see signs that Christmas is coming, but as I walked around the shops the other day, I pondered the absence of Jesus among much of the preparations. So this year I thought my final message for 2024 would be an opportunity to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

This season is truly sacred, as we set aside time to remember and prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Whether your home is adorned with decorations and you've got Christmas carols playing all day long, or you're still struggling to get into the spirit of the holiday, God's word can help us focus on Jesus and remind us what this season is all about.

Our preparation starts with the need for a Saviour. Long before Jesus' birth, the story of redemption was unfolding as His coming was prophesied and God's people were waiting for Him. He was the perfect king who would be just, righteous and mighty.

Jeremiah 23:5 - The Lord says, "The time is coming when I will choose as king a righteous descendant of David. That king will rule wisely and do what is right and just throughout the land."

Isaiah 7:14 -But the Lord will still give you proof. A virgin is pregnant; she will have a son and will name him Immanuel.

Today, these passages remind us of God's love for us. He knew the need of a broken, fallen people to be saved. Through His great love and compassion, God set into motion the perfect plan to save the world by sending His Son.

Then we enter into a time of Anticipation. We can only imagine what Joseph and Mary experienced as they were told of the miraculous conception and the upcoming birth of the precious baby boy who would save the world. Feelings of honour, anticipation, fear, joy and so much more. The time leading to Jesus' birth was certainly eventful and exciting, a time like no other.

Matthew 1:20-23 - An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Luke 1:26-28 - In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured. The Lord is with you."

Today, we can read these verses with the knowledge of who Jesus is and all that He did during His life on earth. We find ourselves humbled to be on this side of His life, death and resurrection.

And we continue with cause for Celebration. These verses are a vivid depiction; for the birth of Jesus caused the angels to praise and worship. The angels came and shared the greatest news ever that Jesus was born.

Luke 2:6-7 - While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Luke 2:13-15 - Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Today, these passages draw us into praise and worship too, as we celebrate and anticipate Christmas. The birth that changed every life and the world is certainly worthy of all the glory, praise and honour it received — then and now.

The good news is that the Nativity, Jesus’ miraculous birth, was just the beginning. The beginning of Jesus’ ministry was radical. John the Baptist prepared the way and the Spirit of God announced who Jesus was. Jesus began His earthly ministry by calling us all to turn from our sin and have faith in Him.

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Mark 1:10 - Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

At Christmas, we celebrate His humble birth that leaves us with a lasting peace and hope because Jesus has come, He conquered death, and we can put our faith and hope fully in Him.

With God’s Grace and Blessings,

Cathie

Mandurah branch 65th birthday celebration!

Attended by 25 ladies and one gentleman - it was a very enjoyable afternoon!



SOCIAL ISSUES AND ACTION REPORT

As I write this report I heard some more news today regarding the building of new homes throughout Australia. The Government is to encourage the use of demountable type homes the kind that are made in a factory then assembled on site. I think this is very positive as we seemingly do not have enough building companies to build the number of homes required to be built in brick.

From the Editor - The following is good news from Busselton - 'The proposed four-storey development on Brown Street, Busselton, which received a major boost in the 2024-25 State Budget, will offer a mix of 16 social and 14 affordable housing options located close to the CBD and local services.'

The conflict between Israel and Palestine and now Lebanon continues with Saudi Arabia now indicating they are having no success in trying to get negotiations going with Israel and Palestine and not willing to continue. We need to pray that another avenue will be found to bring the warring parties together to negotiate a peace plan.

The war in Ukraine continues. This is very sad and devastating for the people of Ukraine, and further to my last letter it seems that North Korea has sent troops to help Russia. Apparently Russia has lost many troops in this conflict. Now that we will have President Trump in place in America from 20th January next year one wonders if he can achieve peace so that Ukraine keeps its territory.

We need also to pray for the families of young people killed in car crashes on our roads. It seems we hear of another tragic accident every week. Better driver training would be a good way to go. Some good news about the young and education I have heard about is the sessions in schools teaching young people about the dangers of vapes, a trial has proved to be effective I believe.

We pray for our farmers and their workers as they begin the harvest this year. May they have a good return on their crops .

Amidst the bad news we hear of good things happening and our care agencies such as Anglicare, Mission Australia and Caritas provide counsellors and emergency relief. In our Diocese we are thankful for Boniface Care; through this here in Katanning we provide money for school uniforms, and help to the pharmacy with the cost of scripts so people can get their medicine when needed.

We lift our prayers to God in thankfulness and hope for the future. Our MU Theme song for 2025 for our Diocese is: "God Gives us a Future". May we take the words of this beautiful hymn to heart.

God Bless.

Sylvia Spicer
Social Issues and Action Coordinator

What is happening in 2025?

Saturday March 22nd - Lady Day in Albany

Tuesday March 25th - Lady Day in Bunbury

Wednesday July 9th - Friendship Day in Boyanup

Thursday October 16th - Country Rally in Mandurah

A Full Year for the Bunbury Branch!

(The Bunbury Branch news was omitted in the last edition due to an email problem, so Diane has covered the whole year in her President's report. Ed)

Bunbury Primary School choir once again visited in 2023 with some 60 students and teachers entertaining us following our morning service. What was particularly pleasing was the number of parents and grandparents who attended. We provided morning tea following their performance, each child receiving a fruit juice, plus tea and coffee for parents, and an absolutely beautiful morning tea provided by our wonderful ladies.



The three pictures are of the visit by the Bunbury Primary School Choir

A lovely Christmas lunch followed our Christmas Eucharist taken by Dean Darryl at St Boniface Cathedral. We were joined by our MU Chaplain Rev Cathie, our MU President Wendy Mabey, and Dean Darryl. The lunch in the Cathedral Hall, was very much enjoyed by 30 members. It was thoroughly delicious and we sincerely thank Lynne A'Vard for another wonderful spread and her gift for each member of a small gift box of chocolates.

Members enjoyed a lovely Christmas and New Year. There was some sickness amongst some of our members and some family members, and we prayed for them constantly.

We do not meet in January, and our February meeting started as always with a eucharist by Dean Darryl, followed by morning tea, and was a more casual day. March saw a guest speaker – Adrian Price – who spoke to us regarding recycling so we can understand what goes in what bin!! Hopefully we are now full bottles!

Bunbury Branch again successfully hosted our very special Lady Day celebration, It is a credit to our members who assist with setting up the lunch venue etc. and again a special thanks to our lovely Lynne who prepared, cooked and served lunch this year. It was a delight.

Some members travelled to Perth in May to meet our Worldwide President, hosted by Perth Diocese. It was a lovely, if not long, day. It was nice that members could travel together by bus paid for by MU Executive and provided with thanks by Georgiana Molloy school, ably driven by John Lewin – who donated his time – many thanks John.

Kristen Brodison – daughter-in-law of a branch member and an agricultural scientist working for the agriculture department as an “Apple Developer”,— was our guest speaker in June. It takes 20 years of trials before a new variety of apple appears on the market in our shops! Kristen came with several varieties of apples for us to “test” and evaluate. This of course included tasting . We all thoroughly enjoyed this exercise and learnt much about apples in general and the patience required to bring us and other overseas countries new tastes and varieties. In appreciation of her visit Tricia Daniel presented Kristen with a box of chocolates. *Con't on next page.*

We had some members attend The Friendship Day in Boyup Brook in July and this was an informative day technology-wise, and once again another chance to spend some quality time with members from other branches. The drive home was hairy as the weather was dreadful, but we nonetheless enjoyed the day.

In August Liz Byleveld who had spent 6 months on mission in Africa – in particular Kapsabet in Kenya - spoke to us. Liz thoroughly enjoyed her time and was able to assist the women as they went about their duties. The women complained that they found the growing of vegetable crops very hard work for their backs both in harvesting and carrying. Liz who has agriculture background (I think she said an Ag Science degree) was able to speak to the women about “raised beds” for the plants. Liz also came along with several pieces of handiwork from the women which they had presented to her. Another very enjoyable day.

While we no longer make and donate Joy Boxes, we have continued with our Prayer Partners (sending a card for special occasions, if they are unwell, or just to let them know they are thought of). We have expanded this to include people who members know who are unwell or in need of comfort, and Barbara Brodison has undertaken this role and does it with great efficiency. We thank her for her kindness and diligence.

Our bring-and-buy stalls included a large variety of good including lovely cards, scarves, pot plants, books, ready made meals, cakes, biscuits etc. The money raised from this morning goes towards providing a very substantial morning tea for our visiting school choir, their teachers, parents and grand-parents, and postage for cards.

We once again had a lovely soup morning following our morning service, and it is always a happy morning of fellowship and good food.

Our MU chaplain Rev Cathie again joined us for one of our morning services for which we thank her.

We were terribly disappointed that our twice arranged trip to the Anglican campsite in Vasse was cancelled – once due to unforeseen circumstances at the campsite and once due to horrendous weather – thunder, lightning, torrential rain! We are hoping we can reschedule for next year.

Whilst we have a couple of our long term members who can no longer attend our monthly meetings due to illness, I hope they know we think of them often. We continue to have the occasional lunch for whoever can attend at Retravision following our meetings and will let them know in case they can join us.

Our thanks to Dean Darryl for his unwavering support of Mothers Union, taking many of our monthly services prior to our meetings, and taking the responsibility of running our AGM. His morning as our guest speaker was informative and an insight into his overseas trip to the Holy Land.

I thank all our members for another wonderful year of worship and fellowship. My special thanks to Beth, Tricia and Iris for their advice, support and friendship. *Diane Hill: President*



From the Boyanup Branch

Boyanup Branch has held our last meeting for the year.

It was great to have Wendy join us on this occasion.

Following the service and meeting at St Aiden's church at Ferguson we adjourned next door to St Aiden's Winery for a delicious meal and fellowship.



Our new Diocesan banner

The new banner has been designed by Jillian Green, a Christine artist from Kentdale. She has recently visited the Cathedral in Bunbury to meet with the Dean and MU members to discuss where the banner will hang.

It is a design that incorporates all that members indicated they wanted, and we look forward to its completion.



The colours are -

Mary's cloak - blue Season - Makuru

Mary's gown - pink " Djeran

Christ Child - red " Birak

Mary's veil - green/blue " Djilba

Mary's halo - gold " Kamarang

Christ's halo - orange gold " Bunuru

All these seasons except for Djeran have been used on the front of The Mustard Tree along with our calendar months.

Djeran is April/May - time of the red-pink flowers.

Busselton Branch

Like other branches we have had a busy time and a fair bit of travel in the past 3 months.

On the 18th of October, 4 members of St. Mary's Busselton Branch of MU attended the Country Rally and Diocesan AGM hosted by the Albany Branch.

Most of us travelled down a day or two before, and left the day after, to return home. It was a long way to travel, but the weather was good and the company was great. Coincidentally we all met at the same time outside St John's even though we were coming from different places.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Eucharist service celebrated by Bishop Ian who flew down to Albany and back to Bunbury just for that occasion. The beautiful old St. John's church was a lovely venue for the service and the following MU AGM.

The lunch was held at the Golf club and many members were having a wonderful catch up with old friends of other branches that they only see on these "social occasions."

The new "intended" Diocesan Banner was on display, and when made will be a wonderful addition to our parade of banners on future Lady Days.

The guest speaker, Rev'd Dot Bailey, was a lovely lady and left us with a lot to think about, especially taking time for ourselves.



As reported on page 4 Eleanor Lewin was awarded her 15 year membership certificate.

On November 14 we gathered for our final Eucharist conducted by Chaplain, Cathie Broome, and we then adjourned to Nova Village for a delicious (and filling) Christmas lunch.

During the lunch our oldest member - Jan McGeachin - was awarded her 5 year membership certificate. Jan turned 93 on May 12th this year!

She is wonderful and attends church and MU meetings regularly.

On a less happy note - Vale Sally Poore

Sally was a member of our Busselton branch of Mother's Union for 5 years.

Sally was in care for the last couple of years. Glenda Marshall regularly picked her up from her own home when she was unable to drive anymore, and then from the Nursing Home, so that she could attend our meetings. Sally also enjoyed attending Diocesan Lady Days, and being with our members on our special occasions.

These included our Birthday lunch and end of year Eucharist, followed by a Christmas lunch.

Sally never held office but was a dear member of our branch, and was a long time member of our St. Mary's Parish.

Sally was renowned for her gifts of knitted and crocheted articles for the children's hospital for many years.

May she rest in Peace.

Collie MU Celebrates 100 Years!

The Collie 100 year events over the weekend of the 9th and 10th of November went off very well. Memorabilia were on display from 10am to 1pm in All Saints Anglican Church and there was bell ringing by some visitors.

The Diocesan President, Wendy, was in attendance and we were delighted that she was able to come across both days.

The 9am Thanksgiving Service for MU was well attended and the Archdeacon, the Venerable Geoff Chadwick, presided, assisted by Canon Mavis Tyler. Gabby, the Archdeacon's wife, was also present.

Blanche Faries received her 35 years of MU service from Wendy.

This was followed by a delicious morning tea in the Collie CWA Hall. The Collie MU received well-wishes via email from both MU Busselton and Albany which were read out in Church.



Blanche Faries receiving her 35 year membership certificate.

