

Wendy's Writings January 2025



*Forward into the future:
with hope and love*

*God gives us a future, daring us to go
Into dreams and dangers on a path unknown
Elizabeth J. Smith*

Dear members and friends,

And so, I begin my final year as your diocesan president. I pray that it will be a joy filled and fruitful year for Mothers Union in our diocese as we move forward into the future with hope and love.

For the first time ever, Ian and I were able to celebrate Christmas with our children and grandchildren on Christmas Day, coming together for lunch and an afternoon of swimming and relaxing. We were joined by my parents, creating a four-generational gathering, something we are blessed to be able to experience a few times each year.

A few days later Ian, Dusty and I set off with Elijah and Jethro for a holiday in our motorhome, stopping at Pumphrey's Bridge, Albany, Kulin and Lake Towerrinning, with a half day in Kondinin. Some of these stops were work related, some due to family commitments, and the rest pure holiday. After 6 nights we reunited the boys with their parents and then set off for a few more days by ourselves, visiting Tozer's Bush Camp, Miller's Point and Jayes Bridge. Such a wonderful variety of nature's hideaways available across our diocese to enjoy and explore.

During all of this time I took the opportunity to disconnect, rest and relax, hence the relative lateness of this newsletter. It was an amazingly restful experience to not open my laptop for a period of some 14 days, during which much reading and crocheting of angels for Joy Bags was undertaken.

Mothers Union activity is gathering momentum. Some branches are holding planning meetings this month, and others are preparing to recommence in February. I encourage you to consider how you program to ensure that we are God Centred as we seek to inwardly nurture and be outwardly focused in our work as members of Mothers Union, always and everywhere remembering our aims and objectives.

I have submitted an article to the MiaMia on our diocesan MU by Zoom which was commenced last year. Our next gathering will be held on Friday 24th January and I invite any members who are unable to attend a branch meeting in person, but who would like to be a part of a meeting with other members, to let me know so that I can send an invitation with a link to our Zoom meeting.

Lady Day is our first diocesan activity. We will hold a Lady Day service in St John's, Albany on Saturday 22nd March at 3pm. The change to an afternoon service time has been necessitated due to the scheduling of an ordination service at Living Waters at 11am on this day. I would encourage members planning to attend the Albany Lady Day service to take the opportunity to attend the ordination in the morning and then to travel to St Johns for our afternoon service.

Our second Lady Day service will be at the Cathedral in Bunbury on Tuesday 25th March. Planning for both services is now underway and further details will be available shortly.

As mentioned in my last newsletter our 2025 Friendship Day will be held in Boyanup on Friday 11th July. Executive will confirm arrangements at its March meeting. Our 2025 Country Rally will be hosted by Mandurah branch on Thursday 16th October. The branch has planning for this day in hand and will share details a little closer to the time.

We are now in a position to move forward with the making of our new diocesan banner which will hang in the Cathedral once completed. The Dean will be applying for a faculty to have our old banner hung in a permanent location within the cathedral in a glass display case, which we will commission as soon as we have received advice that the faculty has been approved.

On a state level, I will be meeting with my Perth and NWA counterparts next month to continue discussions regarding plans for a statewide gathering in 2026 to mark the 150th anniversary of the formation of Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner. On a national level I will be participating in a Zoom meeting with other Australian diocesan presidents on 14th January to share happenings in our dioceses, to hear updates on national plans and to spend time in prayer and fellowship.

I remind you all of our 2025 theme: Forward into the future: with hope and love, and our 2025 theme song *God Gives Us a Future*.

Every blessing

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