

# Wendy's Writings February 2025

# HOPE25

*Forward into the future:  
with hope and love*



## **Join Us and Join In!**

Dear members and friends

Our 2025 MU diocesan theme is based on the desire that I have that every branch and every member of Mothers Union will intentionally and actively embrace and be involved in the Hope25 program from Easter to Pentecost and beyond. We can respond to the Hope25 theme of 'Hope in an Uncertain World' by moving forward into the future with hope and love. The acts of love we show, through our prayers and our actions, can provide hope to the people we meet. It is also how we will be salt and light in our communities, the current strategy for our diocese.

One outward expression of this is the sponsoring of families to have a holiday in our caravan at the Anglican Campsite in Busselton. Each year executive reserves a week in January, April and October to coincide with school holidays for sponsored holidays. In January the week was used by a member to provide a holiday for a family. In April the Mandurah branch will be sending a family to the campsite. The October week is still available. If a branch would like to make use of this for a family in their community, please let me know. Alternatively, if you know of a family in your community whom you would like to see have a sponsored holiday covered by the executive, please make contact with me.

Join Us and Join In! is the new international theme for Mothers' Union. This I discovered in reading our WW President Kathleen Snow's introduction in our 2025 Prayer Diary. I am sure we will find out more about the theme in time to come. As many countries, including our own, face declining membership, finding ways to attract people who wish to join us and join in is vital to the ongoing ministry of Mothers Union. At the time of choosing a new WW President, Kathleen shared the following vision with us, which has been reshaped and is now a part of the home page of the international MU website.

### **Together we are stronger**

- **Strengthen** communities all over the world
- **Help** the most disadvantaged at home
- **Shape** how we advocate for the rights of families
- **Build** supportive, loving relationships
- **Develop** your own relationship with God

I recently took part in a Zoom meeting with other Australian Diocesan Presidents. It was wonderful to be able listen to what other dioceses have been doing and are hoping to undertake in the coming year. I was able to share our MU by Zoom and its formative meetings.

Two presidents shared how their executive committees are folding through lack of leadership – there is no one willing to step forward to fulfill roles on their executives. Each is exploring what this means for their members, with one currently finalising an agreement with another diocese in their state to provide administrative support which in reality seems to mean that the members of the diocese without an executive will in effect become members of the diocese providing support. The second diocese in this situation is at the early states of exploring what their options are.

I share these situations with you because we as a diocese are at risk of a similar scenario if we are unable to fill our executive positions when nominations are called later this year. We are much stronger in terms of branch and membership numbers than both of these dioceses. When our executive meets in March we will be considering options for what our 2026-28 executive may look like. There is certainly the possibility of a much-slimmed down leadership team, as is offered in our revised AMUA 2024 Handbook.

MU by Zoom had its first meeting for 2025 at the end of January and we were joined by the Diocesan President of Melbourne and her husband (also a member) so that she could experience this meeting format. She is responsible for their large number of diocesan (Lone) members and wanted to see whether Zoom meetings may be an effective way for them to connect. We commenced our meeting using the service of renewing commitment to membership from our Worship and Service Book (pg 56) and concluded with the prayers from page 65 (starting in the middle of the page). I would encourage all branches to look at this service and these prayers as being an effective way to commence your MU year.

In January I uploaded a project to the MU Live database, providing details of the distribution of the 16 Days of Activism Prayer Leaflet around our diocese and the potential impact this might have had. The database collects information from around the world on projects undertaken in the name of MU which act toward ending violence, injustice and poverty. It is my hope that I will be able to upload regular stories this year of the projects and activities undertaken at a branch and diocesan level to reach out into our parishes and communities.

Plans are well in hand for Lady Day in Albany and Bunbury. Please don't forget to get your RSVP's in on time for both days to assist with catering.

Every blessing

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