

MOTHERS UNION NEWCASTLE

JUNE newsletter 2022

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

Theme for 2022:

The time for Transformation is now.



Scripture Verse:

For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1.37

DIOCESAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2022

Diocesan President:

Denise Brown

Vice Presidents:

Leonie Toovey Barb Warland

Secretary:

Laurel Brook

Treasurer:

Jacqui Sorby

Chaplain:

Reverend Nicole Baldwin

Education & Promotion:

Glenda Grono

Overseas & Northern Outreach/Links

Noelene Lentfer

Prayer & Spirituality

Lorraine Phillips

Publications:

Barbara Hayes

Social Issues & Action:

Vacant

Branch Liaison Contact:

Pat Calder

Lone Members:

Elizabeth Bissaker

Magazines:

Diane Kenchington

Publicity: Newsletter Editor:

Lynn Mulley

Website:

Kim Bussey

Coffee & Care:

Ella Means

Hospital Visiting

Denise Hird

Our Vision:

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.

Our Objectives:

- To promote and support married life
- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name. Amen



FROM OUR DIOCESAN PRESIDENT Denise Brown

Dear MU members, as I reflect on the last few months I note that we have much to be thankful for. At our Council meeting in March we heard some inspiring

words from guest speaker, Fr Garry Dodd from Mission to Seafarers recounting the wonderful work of the mission to seafarers – a group that has suffered more than most as a result of the isolation caused by the pandemic.

It was good to see the amount of goods that were brought along by our MU members to help provide 'little extras' for the seafarers. Lady Day was another highlight as we were able to meet at the Cathedral to celebrate the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I have joined with the members of Williamtown/Medowie/Mallabula Branch to admit two new members and have been to the Boolaroo Small Group on two separate occasions to present long service awards. At the first of these visits to Boolaroo two men were also admitted to MU. On the second visit it was a privilege to award a 70 year membership award to Betty Bowditch. Betty shared with us some of the highlights of her long membership. You will see more about Betty in an article from Boolaroo. I have also been to Windale MU and was privileged to hear the guest speaker who spoke of her work with a group of Street Kids in Uganda. It is truly heartbreaking to learn of the conditions under which so many children are forced to live but inspiring to hear about how some of these children are being helped. Next week a group of MU Executive members are travelling to Denman to share with the few remaining MU members in Denman. The Branch closed at the end of last year after more than 60 years. Many of us experienced their hospitality at ONO and Quiet Days At our MU Executive Meeting in May our Treasurer Jacqui was pleased to share with us that to date over \$2000.00 had been donated by Branches, Lone Members and other individual members to support NICU. If you have yet to make a donation to this very worthy Diocesan MU project it is not too late. A cheque will be presented to a representative from NICU at the Overseas and Northern Outreach Service at All Saints/Anew New Lambton on 1st August.

grateful thankful blessed

While on the subject of finance I would like to remind everyone who makes an online deposit to MU to please notify Jacqui Sorby, our much loved treasurer, of the details of the deposit. Jacqui needs to know who made the deposit and what it is for so it can be accurately receipted. It is not fair to Jacqui when she has to follow up deposits. The information provided on bank statements is very limited. A phone call, text or email to Jacqui with full details will be very much appreciated.

You should have all received information concerning the rescheduled MU State Conference being held in Canberra 21st to 23rd October. The theme is Intergenerational Faith and some interesting speakers have been lined up. I encourage you to consider attending. Invite a friend. You may find it transforming. Remember our MU theme for 2022.

'The time for transformation is now.' When you reflect on this do you

IF NOT US, who? IF NOT NOW, when?

note a sense of urgency – the time for transformation is NOW or is it a starting point for gradual change. On many occasions throughout the year the word 'transformation' or another derivative of the word 'transform' has popped up and a little 'PING' alert goes off in my head. I should have written them down but didn't and my sluggish brain has trouble recalling

them even though they were important at the time. One occasion I do recall was as recent as this morning during the sermon at church when we recited a statement of belief based on Psalm 67

'Let the nations celebrate with joyful songs because you judge fairly and guide all the nations. We believe that God fills us with His Spirit. His joy and justice transform our lives and he guides us and shows us how to share His Good News.'

I am part of a study group at church and currently we are doing a study based on the movie 'Overcomer'. It is about transformation in the life of John, formerly a basketball coach, transformation in the life of Hannah a young cross country runner with many issues and the circumstances that bring them together. The movie is available on DVD or on Netflix if you have access to that. It may be something you could watch at one of your meetings and discuss the transforming power of God's love that is portrayed.

May God's transforming love continue to flow through us all. Love and blessings,

Denise



CHAPLAINS CHATTER Reverend Nicole Baldwin

Moments with the Holy Spirit



Dear friends,

By the time you receive your newsletter, we will have celebrated both Ascension ar

Pentecost in our Churches. Jesus prepares his disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit, but before the Holy Spirit can come amongst them, Jesus leaves them to ascend into heaven. It is only after Jesus has ascended that the Holy Spirit can come to make his home in them.

As I thought about that and reflected on the past couple of months and look forward to the coming months, I noticed some of the ways that the Holy Spirit has been present to me. There have been many moments of delight, challenge, transformation, encouragement, change, and inspiration scattered throughout the ordinariness of the days, weeks, and months. These are often the work of the Holy Spirit as we listen deeply or sometimes not at all.

As many of you may know, I recently began a new ministry in the Parish of Cessnock. Leaving the Parish of Branxton Greta Lochinvar was a challenge as I love the people and communities of that Parish, but I am equally inspired by all that I have learned amongst the people of Branxton Greta Lochinvar as I come into this new ministry, to which God has called me. Any new beginning, whether in ministry or in life, brings with it many unknowns. As people of God, we are assured that the Holy Spirit will be with us as our guide, our comforter, and our friend. It is in this knowledge that we often find our courage to do something new.

Another moment of knowing the presence of the Holy Spirit was when I was asked to preside and preach at our Lady Day service at the

there is no perfect
like.
There are perfect
Moments

Cathedral. This is a profound privilege that I will cherish and remember always. Sharing this experience with our very own Mothers Union President, Denise, as she served as Sub-Deacon, and Dean Katherine who was the Deacon of the Eucharist and is a past Mothers Union Chaplain, made the day even more memorable and special.



I think we made a pretty good team, and I know the Holy Spirit was present among us all as we celebrated together. My prayer for us, as it was on that day and continues to be is that we are willing to

follow wherever it is that God calls us, and that God's call will come in a way that we will recognise so that we may respond "let it be with me according to your word."

Even more recently, I experienced some beautiful moments and quiet times whilst on Silent Retreat in Kincumber. As we gathered to pray, to praise, to listen, and to rest in God's presence, we created a Christian community. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit was evident in the quiet times, in the prayers, during worship, and during meal times. Listening for the still small voice of God enabled us to be more focussed on and receptive to the Holy Spirit's presence amongst us. This is true whether we are on retreat, or we are going about our normal everyday life. Our willingness to be guided by the Holy Spirit opens our hearts to embrace every moment.

So, as I think back over the last couple of months, I can see more clearly where God has been present in my life, sometimes affirming and always encouraging me to live further into the child of God he created me to be. I encourage you to take some time to be reflective so that you too can know the joy and delight of the Holy Spirit being fully present to you.

As we continue to live into and unpack all that being filled with the Holy Spirit means for us and the people around us, let us be open to transformation which is possible in all our lives. Let us cherish the moments when we know deeply the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. May we always welcome the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as

we seek to serve God and our communities. May our prayers be inspired by the Word of God as we live and minister where we are.

May God's blessings rest gently upon us, disturb our settled lives, and inspire us to be all that we are created to be.

Prayerful love and blessings Reverend Nicole



(QUIET) | Give \ Yourself \ Time



Come and join us for the

Overseas and Northern Outreach Celebrations

When: Monday, 1st August, 2022

Where: All Saints Church New Lambton

When: Tuesday 2nd August

Where: St. James Church Wyong

Program:

9.30 a.m. - Morning Tea

10.00 a.m. - Eucharist

10.45 a.m. - Guest Speaker

Bishop David and Mauren Mulready

11.30 a.m. - Thank you to guest speaker

Prayers

12 noon - Fellowship and lunch

Publications and Cards will be available





ANGLICAN WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA IN THE DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE ANNUAL SPRING CELEBRATION 2022

Place: ST PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH, EAST MAITLAND

47 William Street, East Maitland

Date: Tuesday 6th September, 2022

Program: 9:30am Morning Tea

10:30am Eucharist & Collection of (TYB)

(It would be appreciated if TYB offerings could be exchanged by each Parish into a cheque for ease of collection on the day)

Guest Speaker: 12:00 **Robert McLean from ABM**

Literacy and Numeracy Programs for PNG

2022- 2023 Thank You Boxes (TYB)

Roll Call and any announcements

Lunch: 12:30 – 1:15pm Lunch BYO & Fellowship in the grounds

Afternoon

Entertainment: Sing a long

(Bring a cushion for the afternoon program so you can

enjoy the music and seating)

Home time: 2:00pm

Enquiries: Lorraine Phillips

Diocesan President Anglican Women – 0419 277 294

THEME: 2022 - 2023

"One day at a time Lord Jesus"

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today" (Matthew 6:34)

Women Celebrating Our Faith

FAITH GROWS

8th October 2022 10:00 am All Saints Anglican Church Corner St James Road and Regent Street New Lambton

For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field.

You are God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9



What then is Apollos? What is Paul?

Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only the God who gives the growth.

The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each.

For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9



MU NSW STATE CONFERENCE Oct 21- Oct 23, 2022

Theme: "Intergenerational Faith"

'Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation' Psalm 71.18 Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture 15 Blackall St BARTON ACT 2600

Information and application form was sent to your Branch Contact at the end of April. It is also available on our MU website. If you are unable to access information please contact Denise Brown (Diocesan President) and the forms will be sent to you. Closing date for applications is 30th September.



MEMORIAL SERVICE for JOAN WINDER Sunday 10th July, 11am at St John's Raymond Terrace.

Members of MU who knew Joan are welcome to attend.



The Transforming Power of God's Word



NEVER-CHANGING GOSPEL FOR AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD. We are living through an age of rapid and unprecedented change, The world we are living in today is very different from even a generation ago. It is hard to imagine the world that our children or grandchildren will inhabit. For the Christian, the reassuring news is that God is in control, and

the purposes he laid down from eternity will still find their completion at the end of this creation. We have a task and a message that are unchanged. Our task is to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19) and the gospel we proclaim is still the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16-17)







Travelling Plaque.

Wyong Anglican Mothers' Union will be celebrating our Diamond Jubilee in 2023. As this is an amazing milestone in our journey we came up with the idea to make a plaque which would travel around the country as a symbol of unity, national pride, faith and friendship.

The Plaque is in the shape of Australia and is covered with small plates for each branch to

have engraved as they receive it. It is truly a wonderful and unique piece of wooden art work made by Rick Howes, husband of Barbara. It has begun its Faith Journey around the country with the Cathedral MU branch being the first to receive it on Lady Day in March.

We are delighted to be a part of this initiative and trust that the branches that receive it will share in our excitement and enjoy having the Plaque at their branch for a couple of weeks.

The idea is that it moves around quickly so as to maximise the places that it visits.

We ask that once your branch receives it, you show it to as many as you can, have it engraved and then pass it on to another branch.

This is just one of many ways Wyong Anglican Mothers' Union will be

celebrating our 60 years, and it gives us great pleasure to share it with our sisters in Mothers' Union.

Yours in Christ, Denise Callaway Wyong Branch President



Barbara Howes, Denise Calloway presenting Travelling Plaque to Brenda Dryden from Cathedral













25th March 2022 @ Christ church Cathedral.







Photo number 1.
Glenda Grono thanking Rev Nicole.

- 2. Guest Speaker Mr Henry Scruton President Hunter Branch of Surf Lifesaving.
 - 3. Top right:: Leonie Toovey
 - 4. Laurel Brook thanking Peter Guy.
 - 5. Barb Warland being commissioned as Vice President
- 6. Barb Warland thanking Dean Katherine





Lady Day 2022 was a little different again this year. On a happy note some of the Covid restrictions had been lifted so we didn't have to check in or wear face masks and we could sing. Only the MU Diocesan banner and Lone Members banner were in the procession. At the last moment some changes to the Sanctuary Party needed to be made as Bishop Charlie who was to have presided and preached was in Covid isolation in South



Australia. Bishop Peter was in the UK, Bishop Sonia was interstate and Archdeacon Arthur was also unavailable. Dean Katherine suggested Revd Nicole, our MU Chaplain preside and preach. Rev'd Nicole graciously agreed and all was well. This was the first time a MU Chaplain had presided and preached at a Lady Day Service in our Diocese – a special privilege.

During the service Barb Warland was commissioned as vice President. At the conclusion of the service Laurel Brook thanked Peter Guy, the Cathedral Organist. Unbeknown to us at the time this was to be the last time that Peter would be playing for Lady Day as he is going overseas for further studies. We have been blessed to have had such a wonderful organist playing at many Lady Day services over the years.

The Guest Speaker, Henry Scruton, President of the Hunter Branch of Surf Lifesaving spoke about the work carried out by lifesavers and some of the equipment that is used in carrying out rescues.







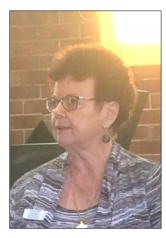
LAMBTON MU 93RD BIRTHDAY

Members & two guests, gathered in the Church, in a circle, to begin our meeting & celebration.

Rector, Reverend Kate Heath, welcomed everyone, & President Gail Iles introduced our Guest Speaker,

Glenda Grono, Education, Promotion & Advocacy Co-Ordinator.

Glenda gave an inspiring talk, encouraging us to include more spiritual content in our meetings, to contain some element of our faith & fellowship.



Guest Speaker— GLENDA GRONO

She gave us each several daily prayer cards to use, & a book of prayers for meetings. Also, how we should wear our badge or cross, to promote MU & our faith.

Glenda endorsed "The Time for Transformation is Now" – Jesus longs to see us in a serving way, united in prayer & service, each being called in our own talents.

An uplifting & thought-provoking time shared.

Reverend Kate then led us in a prayerful Eucharist Service, with hymns played by Don Smith.

Barb Warland, Diocesan Vice President, congratulated us on our 93RD Birthday, then she presented Shirley Lee with a certificate in recognition of 30 years MU Membership.

Pamela Wilson was gifted a beautiful prayer rug, made by the talented Janice Proud.

At the conclusion of the service, we drove to the Jesmond Hotel for fellowship & lunch.

A different, but enjoyable birthday celebration. We give thanks to God, & our founder Mary Sumner, for the love & fellowship we share as members of MU.

President Gail Iles—Secretary Daphney Whelan



Left: Rev. Kate, Gail Iles, Pamela Wilson

Right: Barb Warland and Shirley Lee.





Crafty, Caring Ladies from the Country



Two Mothers Union Lone Members from the Parish of Gloucester, Pat Green and Julia Hamberger, have been busy crafting and collecting items for MU Baby Bundles. Twelve shopping bags filled the boot of the car enroute to Newcastle for assembly and delivery to needy mums at John Hunter Hospital. Both these ladies are

handy with their

fingers, crafting baby rugs and shawls and many knitted items, but this gift also included singlets, gro-suits, soap, nappies, bibs and some necessities for the new mums. Julia is pictured displaying a tiny jumper for a premmie bub, featuring numerous press-studs for ease of dressing. Following a request these two ladies have also knitted baby wraps in indigenous colours.

Leonie Benson - Gloucester MU



News from Raymond Terrace Branch

Wilma McNeill has been awarded Life Membership of Raymond Terrace Branch. Wilma has been a faithful member of the branch since 1964 and during this time has held several executive positions.



Butterflies are beautiful to look at. Christians are noticeable because of Christ living in them.



Celebrating 70 years Membership for Betty Bowditch. Boolaroo Branch.

This was a marvelous occasion,
Betty spoke of her years of membership, and
shared some of her thoughts on change. We
celebrated with a balloon, cake and candles
and a light lunch. Diocesan President Denise
Brown presented Betty with her Certificate
and 70 year badge.

Over those many years, Betty has seen much change the MU Prayer, Prayer books, and badges of which she proudly showed the group. Rules, there was no men, had to be married, - no divorced persons, strict meeting rules as well.

Before Betty was married her to be mother-in-law, who was an avid MU Member from Islington Branch, encouraged her to join when the time was right. Her mother in law passed away before the wedding, but Betty always remembered her words, and she joined Adamstown group with her toddler daughter in tow. Betty was greatly influenced by her parents in the faith . Gloria Ryan who was the President of the Group at the time thought the old worn out banner should be replaced, and Betty being a very keen sewer was involved in the making of it. Gloria designed it. This was quite something, the new banner was well known around the Diocese. Betty was asked to carry it at Lady Day and she said she was very emotional carrying the banner in the Cathedral—possibly with white frock and veil. She remembers having lunch in the grounds of the Cathedral, following the services and it was a great time for fellowship. Days also remembered at the Cathedral Hall across the road. She remained at Adamstown for 38 years. She then moved to Belmont and spent 15 years there she took on Secretary, Treasurer and then Leader for 12 years. Whilst at Belmont she made a Table Runner that was used for both the Evening and Day groups. Her husband became very ill and had to go to Sydney, Betty knew no one there, and the Sydney MU came to the rescue for her helping to find accommodation and care. Ron following that illness was an avid supporter of MU as well. 50 years celebrated at Belmont, 60 years at Boolaroo, we all wore gloves and hats. Something never forgotten. "Respect people in worse situations than She finished by saying MU has been with me all my life, very special.

BOOLAROO UP DATE.



L to R: Joy Tyler, 40 years.
Helen McKerrow, 23 years,
Don Tyler New member,
Denise our Dioc. President,
Fr. Graham new member and
Laurel Brook 40 years.
In February we admitted 2
men. Fr. Graham Gordon has
shown much interest in MU
over many years.

Don decided he would join as well, Joy his wife received her 40 year certificate. It was a special day, we all wore something red [Ruby 40 years.], even had some red cakes. President Denise presented the certificates and admitted the men.

Laurel Brook

MU COUNCIL MEETING at RAYMOND TERRACE on 11th March.

GUEST SPEAKER: Fr Garry Dodd

WOW! What a wonderful, inspiring speaker Fr Garry is. He spoke with such passion about the MISSION to SEAFARERS organisation, about the terrible working conditions of the men and the impact Covid was having on them.

He explained how Newcastle was the first Port to arrange Covid 'jabs' for the men.

Fr Garry gratefully accepted donations

(always needed) from our branches and invited anyone interested to



Fr Gary was introduced by Lorraine Phillips and she also presented him with a gift at end of his talk.

tour their centre at any time to learn more about what they do.

There are 260 ports around the world. Newcastle is one of 27 Australian centres helping Seafarers.

Ships don't bring us 95% of everything we have.
Seafarers do.





FROM THE EDITOR!

Hi everyone.
What have I done?
Denise asked me a few
months ago if I would think
about editing future editions
of MU Magazine.
The word "Yes' came out of



The word "Yes' came out of my mouth without even

thinking—or praying—about it! I knew this would involve lots of things I love, sitting at my computer, finding clipart, (wasting time!) designing pages etc. I think I didn't fully understand the word 'edit' though - it's all very involved. But.....with God's help (and others) © I'll get there! I've been reading back through old Newsletters to pick up pointers—what a wonderful job Kim did. Thank you Kim & thanks for your advice and help to date. xo Thank you to Denise also. xo

I am a Mothers Union Member—just a very lapsed one!. Non-attendance for years—non payment of fees for years (I plan to rectify that—just the financial bit—I'll be too busy at my computer to attend meetings!) ©

I am a MOTHER—4 grown biological children and a 16 year old Foster son, who has been with our family since 3 days old, he is loved the same as our other four children and our 7 grandchildren. My husband Tom and I have been married for 52 years this month (June). We were married at St Johns, Raymond Terrace and have attended services and been involved in church activities there since that time.

I LOVE BUTTERFLIES!!!—I've loved butterflies ever since I can remember. So what a great Theme I get to start with! Thank you Lord. ♥
God began his transformation in me at a Christian Girls Camp at

Tahlee Bible College when I was 12-13 years old. I've fluttered briefly off the flight path a few times but I quickly fly back. © You can learn so many things from butterflies. I am sharing some things with you in this newsletter. 'nise gave me a little book called 'Personal Moments' for Easter in 1988 comparing, (in part) butterflies to Christians. I still have that treasured book and I have shared many things, with many people, over the years. (Permission to use. Personal Moments—Verna Rudolph)

If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies.

BUTTERFLIES emerging from the cocoon have to struggle very hard—Christians can become better, stronger people through the hardships and troubles that are part of living.

As a family we have had hardships and troubles in our life but (now ©) we are thankful for them all—they have made us into stronger, better people and we consider ourselves **very** blessed by God.



BUTTERFLIES never try to be anything else but butterflies—Christians are given their own gifts and abilities by God, and are meant to live as God intends. 'As we go on living, learning, doing, being, gaining more and more of God's truth to strengthen ourselves we can then share that truth of God's wonderful love with others.' This little MU Newsletter is a combined sharing of God's love with others through words, photos, stories, jokes etc. Please continue to share.

BUTTERFLIES though seemingly fragile can travel 10,000 kilometres— Christians through Christ, can do all things.

For nothing will be impossible with God.'

TO God be the GLORY

A special memory to share: When my oldest daughter Tania was very young I was showing her words and pictures in a book, like all mothers do—ie; cat (she would say cat and point to the cat) dog etc..... I showed her a picture of a butterfly—she said 'butterfly'. I showed her a picture of a caterpillar and she said 'Butterpillar'!) ③ Nearly 50 years later and we still laugh about this from time to time and use the name 'butter-pillar' when we are together and see a butterfly. Tania's daughter loves this story. ⑤

('Butter-pillars' are everywhere—you just have to look for them.) ©

JOKE: Why did the little girl toss the butter out the window? So she could see butter-fly!









June	11 th -13 th 24 th	Diocesan Wave of Prayer 2 nd Council Meeting	10.00am	Lakes Anglican
July				
August	1 st 2 nd 9 th 15 th	O/NO Luncheon O/NO Luncheon Mary Sumner Day Executive Meeting	9.30-10.00am 9.30-10.00am 9.30am	New Lambton Wyong TBC South Lakes
September	6 th	Anglican Women Annual Service	10.30am	East Maitland
October	8 th 10 th 19 th 21 st -23 rd	WCOF Executive Meeting Diocesan Quiet Day MU State Conference	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	New Lambton Windale Lakes Anglican ACT
November	18 th	Annual General Meeting	10.00am	Merewether

DON'T MISS the DEADLINE

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 18th October 2022

Please send your Mothers Union News/Photos etc to: Lynn Mulley

I will acknowledge your email when received.

If no acknowledgement your email may have gone astray so please contact me for re-send.

Thank you.

WEBSITE: www:munewcastle.org.au