

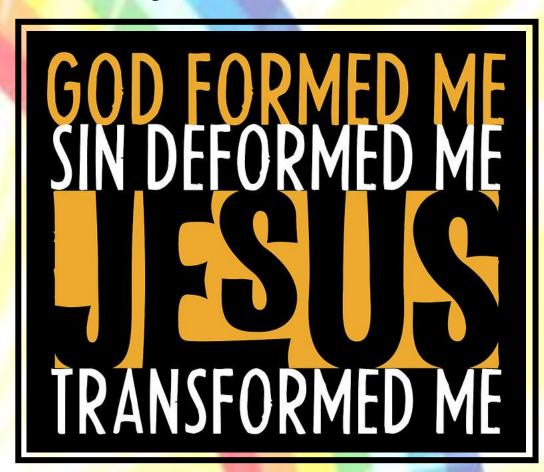
MOTHERS UNION NEWCASTLE

November 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

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 Friends in MU,

As I sit and reflect on what to write in my last 'President's Page' many things come to mind. I always find it challenging to get started and then am surprised by the many opportunities that have

come my way during the past few months. I have admitted new members at Belmont, Southlakes and Windale and have presented 60 year and 50 year membership awards at Cardiff and Raymond Terrace. I am looking forward to a further 60 year presentation at Glenrock in November. The faithful long time service to MU by these wonderful ladies is an inspiration to us all.

In August the ONO services at New Lambton and Wyong were followed by an interesting talk by retired Bishop David Mulready and his wife Maureen. They spoke of their time in the Diocese of North West Australia and mentioned the financial support from MU which enabled clergy and their families from remote areas of the diocese to attend bi annual conferences in Perth. A cheque for \$5000.00 was presented to NICU. More than half of this amount was donated by members and the balance made up from MU Diocesan funds. Since 2004 MU has donated over \$68,000.00 to NICU.

During the very early morning (1am-3am) on 11th August I tuned in to the webinar from Mary Sumner House on Gender Based Violence. I have since received a recording of this event and for anyone interested in watching all or part of this click on this link

https://youtu.be/KUgwAbzGvjA
I found it very enlightening. One of the presenters was Bishop Genieve Blackwell from Melbourne Diocese.
Bishop Genieve spoke about the need to acknowledge the problem, to raise awareness and the need to bring about long-term cultural



change, to spread the word that GBV is not socially acceptable, to break the self-perpetuating cycle passed from parent to child.

(continued over page....)

I was encouraged at the recent Diocesan Synod to learn that the 'Ten commitments for prevention and response to domestic and family violence in the Anglican Church of Australia' compiled by the General Synod Family Violence Working Group are being worked on here and that there is a Diocesan Project Officer. On the ABC News last night an ambitious plan to end gender based violence was announced. One of the women who spoke said 'We need to **transform** our pain into action.' I encourage all MU members to pray for both the victims and the perpetrators of GBV and for positive outcomes for plans to end GBV. Don't forget the United Nations 16 Days of Activism (Nov 26 – Dec 10) and a reminder about MU Global Day on 26 Nov when we pause for 3 minutes of silence at 3 minutes past 1pm joining other MU members worldwide in a concurrent wave of action. No more 1 in 3.

1:03 Three Minute Silence 1:06 Closing Prayer

Lord of justice and mercy, who has called us to be the body of Christ, use us as his hands and feet in the world;

to raise awareness of what must be challenged, and to address the plight of the vulnerable.

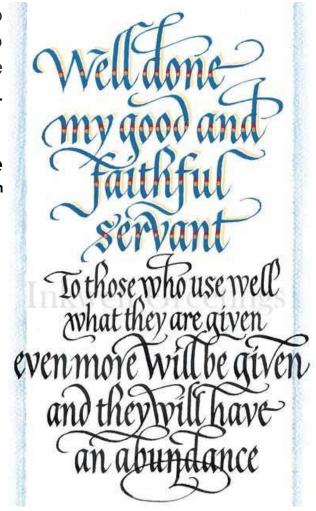
We unite together across the world to champion the cause of justice and to offer up our prayers for all who are affected by gender-based violence. Amen

You are also invited to attend 'A Service of Lament' at 6pm on Monday 28th November at the Cathedral.

As my term as MU Diocesan president draws to a close I would like to thank you all for your prayers, support and encouragement during the past 5 years through all the highs and lows. It has been a privilege to serve you.

Love and Blessings,

Denise



A·B·O·V·E & B·E·Y·O·N·D



CHAPLAINS CHATTER Reverend Nicole Baldwin

Moments with God

Dear friends,

As you read our Mothers

Union Newsletter, we will all be preparing for Advent and Christmas as Christian communities, with our families, and with our friends. We will be planning and organising how and when we will



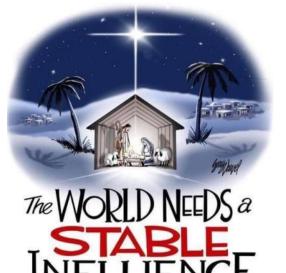
celebrate and who we will celebrate with. We will be thinking of the services we will be involved in and attending, as well as offering hospitality and showing love to those who are most important in our lives. There will be many decisions to make and none of us will be able to do everything we would like to. As we make our plans, let us ensure that we keep the reason that we celebrate this season, at the centre of our planning and of our celebrations.

Jesus brings hope, and love, and peace, and light into our broken and divided world. All through the year, and particularly during Advent and the Christmas Season, we see these blessings amongst us in the delight of the people around us. But we also see the pressure and stress that occurs when people try to have the 'perfect' celebration. Can I suggest that we focus on finding the hope, love, peace, joy, and light in the moments as well as in the whole of our celebrations. Advent and Christmas are special times for our families as we prepare for and celebrate the birth of our Saviour and in that celebration we will discover that we are richly

blessed. The infant Jesus in the manger reminds us that Jesus was born as one of us, into a family, a community, a specific time in history, and that he lived as we do.

Jesus felt the joy and grief of living, the highs and the lows that we feel. He understands us better than we can imagine. By living among us, Jesus shows us what God is like.

Jesus shows us the human face and divine love of God.



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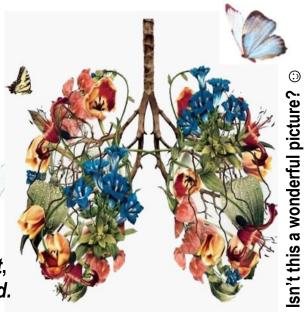
So, as we plan and as we celebrate, let us be aware of the ways that God comes near to each of us, our families and friends, and our Christian and wider communities through Jesus. Let us be aware of the ways that God surprises and challenges us, the ways that God inspires and holds us, the ways that God makes his presence known to us. As we welcome God into our lives each day and offer ourselves to the one who calls us by name, may our hearts be set on fire with the love of God. As we nurture our relationship with God by spending moments with him, may we come to know his deep love of us and our brothers and sisters.

All through the year, we hear about moments with God from our Scriptures, and we experience moments with God personally. We set aside time for prayer. We reflect and ponder on God's action in our lives and the lives of people throughout the world. We read and study God's word. We know how special it is when someone we love takes the time to call us, to write to or email us, to visit us. Imagine how much more special this is to God, who not only loves us, but created us in his image and sent his Son to die for us so that we might have eternal life! Taking the time to set aside time for God is so important for our faith journey and our maturity as Christians. The moments with God are the most valuable moments of our day. May making the time for the moments with God to happen be our priority as we follow where he calls us and who he calls us to be. May our moments with God be life giving to us and those we know and reflect God's love and mercy. As we spend moments with God, we pray that we become aware that these moments are as important as our breathing. Both sustain our life.

My prayer for us, and for all people, is that we will come to know the depth of God's love, that we will treasure the moments that we spend with God, and as we do, that we will grow in his likeness bringing peace, and love, and joy, and hope and light into our world.

Prayerful love and blessings Reverend Nicole

Life is a Miracle and every Moment, every Breath is a gift from God.



On 19th October over 30 MU members attended the **Diocesan Quiet Day at Lakes Anglican Church**, Kanwal.

Before proceeding into the church there was a time of socialising and a welcoming cup of tea which was greatly received by those who had travelled long distances.

Rev Nicole Baldwin, Diocesan Chaplain, then led us in Holy Communion before we entered into our Quiet Time. The Theme was 'The Sound of our Breathing' with the scripture verse being Genesis 2.7 – "Then the Lord"

God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." We listened to a song – The Sound of





Our Breathing – by Jason Gray before entering into our quiet time. We then joined together for lunch and a time of sharing. Thank you to the MU Branch at Lakes Anglican for the use of their premises and providing us with tea, coffee and lovely cakes and slices.

Blessings—Elizabeth Bissaker



Photo left to right: Jan Walpole, Chris Lewis, Dawn Davies and Janice Proud.

Wave of Prayer Service

As part of our Diocesan Wave of Prayer commitment a small but loyal group of Lambton MU members met on June 11 to support our sisters across the world. We sang, learnt about life in these foreign places, viewed images of their lives and, of course, prayed for MU in Mahajanga,

Mara, West Buganda, Kwoi, East Kerala and Newcastle. **Gail Iles**





Diocesan President, Denise Brown, visited

Southlakes MU Branch on the

23rd August. Denise was

invited to induct a new member,
Jane Barrow and present 25 year service
certificates & badges to Glenyce Armstrong,
June Critchley and Margaret Middleton

and 40 year service certificates to
Jenny Dacombe and Elizabeth Bissaker.
Denise will join some of us at a later date to present one of our members with her 50 year badge as she was unable to join us on the day. After the presentations Denise joined us for morning tea and spoke to us about her early life and also encouraged us to focus on the Mothers'

Photo 1—Denise presenting Jane with her badge, certificate and service book with Branch President, Elizabeth Bissaker

Union prayer.

Photo 2—Jane, Jenny, Denise, Glenyce, Margaret, June, Elizabeth

Photo 3—Denise, Glenyce, Margaret and June – 25 year membership

Photo 4—Our small but prayerful members participating in the meeting

Photo 5—Beth, Jane, Jenny, Denise, Dawn, Juleen, Margaret, Elizabeth, Glenyce, Susanne, Gail and June.











BELMONT NORTH REDHEAD MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH

The Parish of Belmont North Redhead and the neighbouring Parishes of Windale, Belmont and Swansea have now been merged into the greater Parish of East Lake Macquarie. Unlike the other three former Parishes, the former Parish of Belmont North Redhead no longer has a church as both churches have now been deconsecrated. Redhead

Church building has been sold off and Belmont North Church building is now used for another purpose, being an extension of the Redhead Op Shop. It has been decided by the Belmont North Redhead Mothers' Group that it would continue as a Group and meet at a private home.

Whilst Redhead Church was part of the Parish of Belmont and had been going since 1929, it was not until March 1976 that Belmont Mothers' Union proposed that a Branch be set up at Redhead.

Mrs Wheatley (President), Mrs D. Thomson (Secretary) and Mrs E. Davies (Treasurer) were appointed for the Group's first year in 1976.

On Sunday 10 October 1976 the Redhead Mothers' Union Group held its first admission at Redhead Church, where 12 new Mothers' Union members were admitted.

The Diocesan President, Mrs Freeman was present and as the Group's banner was not yet ready, Mrs E Davies and Mrs S. Flowers who were already members held up the Aims, Objects and Purpose of Mothers' Union instead.

The Mothers' Union banner having now been dedicated on 20 March 1977, was ready to be carried at the Lady Day Service on 25 March 1977. Mrs S. Flowers one of the Group's founding members sadly passed away in early 1978.

On Belmont North Redhead becoming an Experimental Pastoral Area (EPA) on 1 January 1986, the Redhead Mothers' Union Group adopted the new



name of Belmont North Redhead Mothers' Union Group.

The Parish of Belmont North Redhead was constituted in 1993.

The picture on left was taken at Holy Name Church Redhead in December 2019, when Evelyn Davies, our longest serving member, had achieved 60 years membership of Mothers' Union.

From left to right are Rev. Greg Colby BNR, Evelyn Davies, Rev. Nicole Baldwin MU Chaplain and Denise Brown MU Diocesan President.

Dulcie Smith thanking Denise Brown

Celebrating 190 years of MU Membership

The August meeting of **Cardiff MU** was buzzing on Mary Sumner Day 2022. We welcomed MU Diocesan President, Denise Brown who spoke of

the life and work of Mary Sumner linking this with the MU Diocesan theme 2022:

"The time for Transformation is now".

Following Denise's address, six members who

have embraced this theme over many years, were presented

with their Long Membership Awards:

Laurel Blow—60 years, Leanne Kibble—30 years, Kathleen Wilkes—30 years, Father Garry Atherton—25 years, Karen Atherton—25 years and Margaret Jackaman—20 years

making a total of 190 years of MU membership.

A congratulatory cake was cut and enjoyed by all present after an enjoyable lunch.

Lyn Wickham—President Cardiff MU



MEMBERSHIP?

That's a lot

of years! .

Cutting the cake

Left to right: Fr Gary Atherton, Karen Atherton,
Kath Harris, Laurel Blow,
Margaret Jackaman and Leanne Kibble.

M U 80th Birthday at Belmont.

Belmont Mothers Union Members celebrated their 80th birthday on Tuesday 20th September 2022. Invited guests were MU Diocesan President Denise Brown, MU Chaplain Nicole Baldwin,

MU Diocesan Executive, Fiona Tinney & Robyn Ashley-Brown. Members were invited from local branches – Windale, Swansea, Belmont North/Redhead, Boolaroo, Cardiff, New Lambton & Lone members.

The day commenced with a Eucharist celebrated by Rev'd Nicole Baldwin & Fr Peter Tinney. It was good to have branches bring their banners and process into the church.

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Members & guests then enjoyed fellowship and lunch. Our guest speaker, Rev Nicole spoke of her trip to the Holy Land on an archaeological dig of ancient ruins. Holy Land

Our newest member, Alison, cut the birthday cake which was



iced by Lesley Byrne.
Guests were all given a copy of the History of Belmont Mothers Union as well as being able to view the history shown in pictures around the walls that Sylvia Maurer had prepared. It was nice to be able to catch up with other branches, an enjoyable day

was had by all.



Nancy Lott—President Belmont Mothers Union.

- **1.** MU members with their banners along with Helen Edwards, Rev Nicole, Flag bearers & Fr Peter Tinney.
- **2.** President Denise Brown admitting new member Alison Horrell to our MU group. M U Chaplain Rev Nicole Baldwin is shown along with Alison and Anne Cocking.
- **3.** Fr Peter Tinney, Rev'd Nicole with Helen Edwards celebrating the Eucharist.



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF SHARING YOUR STORY.

YOU NEVER
KNOW WHICH OF
YOUR PAGES
MAY HOLD THE
SECRET
SOMEONE ELSE
IS SEARCHING
FOR.





28th June 2022 Fr Steve saying grace before we began to eat the delicious food. L to R: Susanna Denham, Denise Brown, Fr Steve, Raelene Henderson, Edith Hoy, Lorraine Phillips.

RAYMOND TERRACE MU/ Men's Dinner.

Twice a year at St Johns our MU ladies and other parishioners meet with our Men's Group for a combined dinner. The dinner in June was such a great night, delicious food and good company. This was also our June activity for our 160 year celebrations.

Last newsletter we read a

story about THE TRAVELLING PLAQUE from Denise at Wyong Branch.

This newsletter St Johns have a TRAVELLING BOOK story to share with you all! Our guest speaker at the dinner (Warren H—St J's parishioner and Men's group member) told the most wonderful story about a children's book that was owned by a young girl called Isabel. Isabel lived in Albany W.A. with her family who had migrated to Oz from England. Isabel's father was in the RAAF and before one of the family's many moves Isabel's book was donated to a local charity. Many years pass by. Isabel travelled across the country to study midwifery. While living in Sydney she met and married RAAF serviceman Peter. Peter passed away and left Isabel with four young children to raise. Isabel, then living in R.T. met Warren when he became the

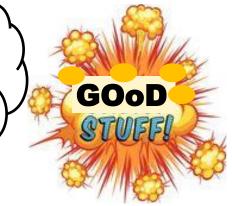
Isabel had a job at a local R.T. primary school helping a disabled girl named Elizabeth and she continued to support Elizabeth when she moved on to High School. While in the library one day Isabel was sorting through books and came across the very book that had belonged to her when she was a young girl living in W.A. Her name on the third page! (This is a very brief overview of story). Sadly our beautiful Isabel passed away in 2019. Warren said she was 'just stunned' when she found the book. I love stories like this! Where had this book been for 26 years? How many people read it?

How did it aet to R.T?

OURS IS NOT TO WONDER WHY: OURS IS BUT TO DO AND DIE.) Alfred Lord Tennyson

I ONCE WAS LOST. BUT NOW

Maybe YOU have a LOST and FOUND story you would like to share? Or-ANY story?



The Travelling Plaque is still travelling!

It is currently at Bateau Bay and will soon travel to Southlakes. It has been to The Cathedral, Cardiff, New Lambton, Gorokan, Kincumber and Bateau Bay.

(May God guide your every step as you travel through life)



Every little bit helps.

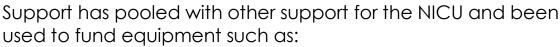
Proceeds from the Raffle at the R.T. Combined MU/Men's Dinner (previous page) came to \$177.00 This money was forwarded to

Diocesan MU treasurer for inclusion in the annual donation to NICU (Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit).

Mothers Union—Australia Anglican Diocese of Newcastle.

Been supporting the NICU at John Hunter Children's Hospital since 2004

- ▼ 18 years of support
- ♥ Given a total of \$68,698



- ♥ PUMPS
- LED phototherapy system for Jaundice
- ▼ Air/Oxy Blender Model which dispenses a continuous and precise blend of medical air and oxygen via outlet ports
- Mattress protectors

NICU Fun Facts:

- On average 1200 admissions each year
- ♥ Over the last 18 years that's 21,600 babies who have potentially been supported by this group
- ▼ 43 beds
- ▼ 7 NICU rooms
- 4 Special Care Unit rooms

Gift in Kind Support wish list:

- Muslin wraps
- Sets of three cuddle hearts
- ♥ Blankets
- ♥ Quilts
- Newborn sized cardigans
- Teddies

Shared by Denise Hird

Information from Kiera Wray who is in charge of fundraising at John Hunter Children's Hospital which also includes NICU.









Second Council Meeting

The second MU Council Meeting was hosted by **Lakes Anglican** at Kanwal on Friday 24th June. Attendance was disappointing, however those who made the effort to be there were treated to an interesting talk by Rick Howes who made the MU Travelling Plaque. Working with wood is a retirement hobby for Rick. He has made many clocks and gavels. His travelling gavels have been all over the world. The amount of intricate work involved in making the gavels has to be seen to be believed. They are made up of thousands of small pieces of wood. The clocks have been used for fund raising purposes for the Wyong hospital.





The clock of life.

The clock of life is wound but once and no man has the power
To tell just where the hands will stop.....at late or early hour.
To lose one's wealth is sad indeed.
To lose one's health is more.
To lose one's soul is such a loss as no man can restore.

The present only is our own so live, love and toil with a will. Place no faith in tomorrow for the clock may then be still.

Each Day
only comes
once
in a
Lifetime
Every
moment

Author unknown.



Standing: Elizabeth Bissaker, Patricia Jacobs, Denise Brown **Sitting:** Jacqui Sorby, Lorraine Phillips, Laurel Brook, Patricia Barry

Denman Visit

Five MU Executive members met with Patricia Jacobs and Patricia Barry at the Royal Hotel in Denman. It was a great time over lunch, there was history shared in story and photos, and there is more to come, when Patricia Barry can get someone to get it from a high shelf. These two ladies have now become Lone Members, and Lone Members Coordinator, Elizabeth is very pleased at this outcome. Following a lovely lunch,

someone asked for coffee. The man who runs the Hotel, said he would make them. This took a bit of time, and he came to the table carrying take-away cups. He admitted he didn't know how to operate the machine, so went across the street to a Coffee Shop and bought them. When we offered to pay he would not hear of it. Great country hospitality was shown. He had set a separate space for us

in the Dining room with a lovely warm fire as well.

How good was that! If you are travelling through

Denman and are looking for a great meal we highly recommend the Royal Hotel.

Unexpected KINDNESS is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change.



THE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT QUEEN.

Her Christian faith remained constant. Although eyes were always on her as Queen, her eyes were on Christ as King. She went about playing her part in uniting Christian leaders within the temporal kingdom assigned to her, in the hope that God's united kingdom would come upon

the earth. The Servant Queen – sometimes attending up to 400 official engagements a year, and being patron of over 600 charities – sought actively to see fulfilled Christ's words in Scripture, 'I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one.' (Gospel of John 17:21).



Left to right:
Lois Allanson
Noni Anschau
Delma Jones
Pam Blume
Carole Cornish
Ruth Brand
Dorothy Bodell
Joyce Fox
Nancy Stone
Below article was also pon last Mia Mia Magazin

Below article was also printed in last Mia Mia Magazine.
Written in answer to their request for comments about 'Transformation Now.'

St. Augustine's Merewether Branch chose to have a discussion on the Theme "**Transformation Now**", inspired by your excellent Autumn Mia Mia. The result was a success, and we were surprised how vocal our eighty year old members were.

Several members had been recently widowed, and others had experienced long periods of caring for chronically sick husbands. These members spoke of how their lives had been transformed, and the great adjustments they had had to make; but all remained very positive and fulfilled. Christ had been ever present in their lives.



Some more mobile members talked about their everyday activities of shopping and walking around their village or towns. How easy it is to stop at the supermarket checkout and talk to the elderly migrant, assist a blind person, or help a harassed

mother with children that are being difficult. That word to convey love and encouragement is so easy to speak, but so helpful to the person

we encounter. It can make their day. To assist a vision impaired person in traffic, or to help someone at the checkout with change, is such a simple act, but can make such a difference; transforming a stranger's day.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.



For me transformation was to improve my own health, and at aged eighty three I decided to lose weight. With personal prayer and a lot of discipline I managed to reach my goal, and I can now walk faster and further again .

For this I thank my God.

Finally Covid was a sad time in our churches, we must try to grow our congregations and influences again. To do this we must transform them into lively places, and we have started with a small mothers, children and grandmother's group.

We hope this will go a little way to extend Christ's love among their families

"Transformation Now" sounds such a big deal, but all members

decided that with thought and love and a little extra time we can all make a difference. If we focus on the simple acts of everyday kindness, and perhaps just as we leave home we say prayer. Praying that God will open us up to



more mindful acts of compassion, and that He will transform our minds and attitudes to everyday problems, and to little changes that matter to others .

Anne Clarke—Secretary Merewether Branch.





GONNA BE A BEAR

In this life, I am a woman. In my next life, I'd like to come back as a bear. When you are a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could deal with that.

Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that too.

When you are a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you're sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that!

If you're a mama bear, everyone knows that you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them too. I could deal with that.

If you're a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling. He EXPECTS that you will have hairy legs and excessive body fat.

Yup...gonna be a bear!!

A day without laughter is a day wasted.



Our world seems wrong-side up and right-side down sometimes, living by principles opposed to our Lord's teachings. We can either follow the

world's dead-end philosophies, or we can accept Jesus challenge to bring change to the world. Today, let's serve God by praying, giving, and witnessing in our small corner. One day the King of Kings will return

and transform the whole world!

Christ calls to us. Come follow Me. And don't look back at yesterday: Fresh grace I'll give to change your world. My joy you'll find as you Obey. Our Daily Bread-used with permission.

THANKYOU for the kind words and encouragement for June Newsletter it was all much appreciated. xoxox

Whatever you do, do it all for the









AMUA NEWCASTLE DIARY DATES for 2023

February	20th	Executive Meeting	9.30am	Cessnock
March	3 rd 3 rd -5 th	World Day of Prayer AW Retreat		Catalina @Rathmines
	10 th	First Council Meeting	10.00am	Cardiff
		Lady Day	10.30am	Cathedral
	25 th	Lady Day	10.504111	
April	4 th	AW Diocesan Quiet Day	10am – 3p.m	Singleton
	9 th	Easter Day		
May	15th	Executive Meeting	9.30am	South Lakes
<u>June</u>	11 th -13 th 23 rd	Wave of Prayer 2 nd Council Meeting	10.00am	Raymond Terrace
July				
August	7 th	O/NO Luncheon	9.30-10.00am	New Lambton
	8 th 9 th 21st	O/NO Luncheon Mary Sumner Day Executive Meeting	9.30-10.00am 9.30am	Kincumber Lambton
September	5 th	Anglican Women	10.30am	St Peter's
September		Annual Service	10.30am	East Maitland
October	16 th	Executive Meeting Diocesan Quiet Day	9.30am 10.00am	Boolaroo TBA
	1 mth		10.00	
November	17 th	Annual General Meeting	10.00am	Merewether



DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 10th February 2023

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
or re-send. **Thank you.**

WEBSITE: www.munewcastle.org.au