



NEWCASTLE

our theme for 2021 is:

*Rebuilding
Hope
and
Confidence'*



JUNE
NEWSLETTER
2021

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



*FROM OUR
DIOCESAN PRESIDENT
Denise Brown*

Dear Friends in Mothers Union,

As we continue to live beneath the shadow of the Covid 19 Pandemic we are endeavouring to return as much as possible to life as it was knowing that at any time there could be a further outbreak and that restrictions could be reinstated. It is important to not let down our guard and to follow the precautions of hand washing and social distancing and to get vaccinated. We are very blessed to live in Australia and our thoughts and prayers go out to those who live in countries such as India where Covid is out of control.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our first Council Meeting held in Raymond Terrace in March and also at the Cathedral for our 'Covid-Safe' Lady Day Celebrations. Bishop Peter presided and preached. I have heard from several members who were unable to attend but enjoyed watching the live stream of the Lady Day Service. Robert Gummow, the Verger did a great job of streaming the service as well as his other duties.

In March I was invited to join the Dungog members as they celebrated their branch birthday and presented 60 year membership badges and scrolls to Audrey Neilson and Judy Olsen. As I was in Dungog I wasn't able to join the Taree members at their 20th birthday celebrations which were held at the same time. On Palm Sunday I attended the service at Toronto and presented a 50 year membership badge and scroll to Julie Collins.

Vice President, Leonie Toovey, and I represented Mothers Union together with representatives from Anglican Women and the Cursillo Movement on the team that organised the recent Women Celebrating our Faith day held at All Saints/Anew Church New Lambton. Team leader was Noelene Lentfer who as well as being Mothers Union ONO Coordinator is also the Diocesan Co Lay Director for the Cursillo Movement. Noelene did an amazing job of choosing the inspiring theme "AWAKEN" and inviting the key note speaker, Sharon Kirk who spoke on Romans 12.1-2. It was a spiritually uplifting day.

Some of our branches are going through unsettling times as Parishes are restructured and renamed and are not sure what the outcome will be for them. At this stage Mothers Union Branches do not have to combine or change their name unless members choose to do so. There has been the option of having more than one Mothers Union Branch in a Parish eg: Kotara South Day and Kotara South Evening. Whatever you decide to do please let me know so that our Diocesan records can be kept up to date.

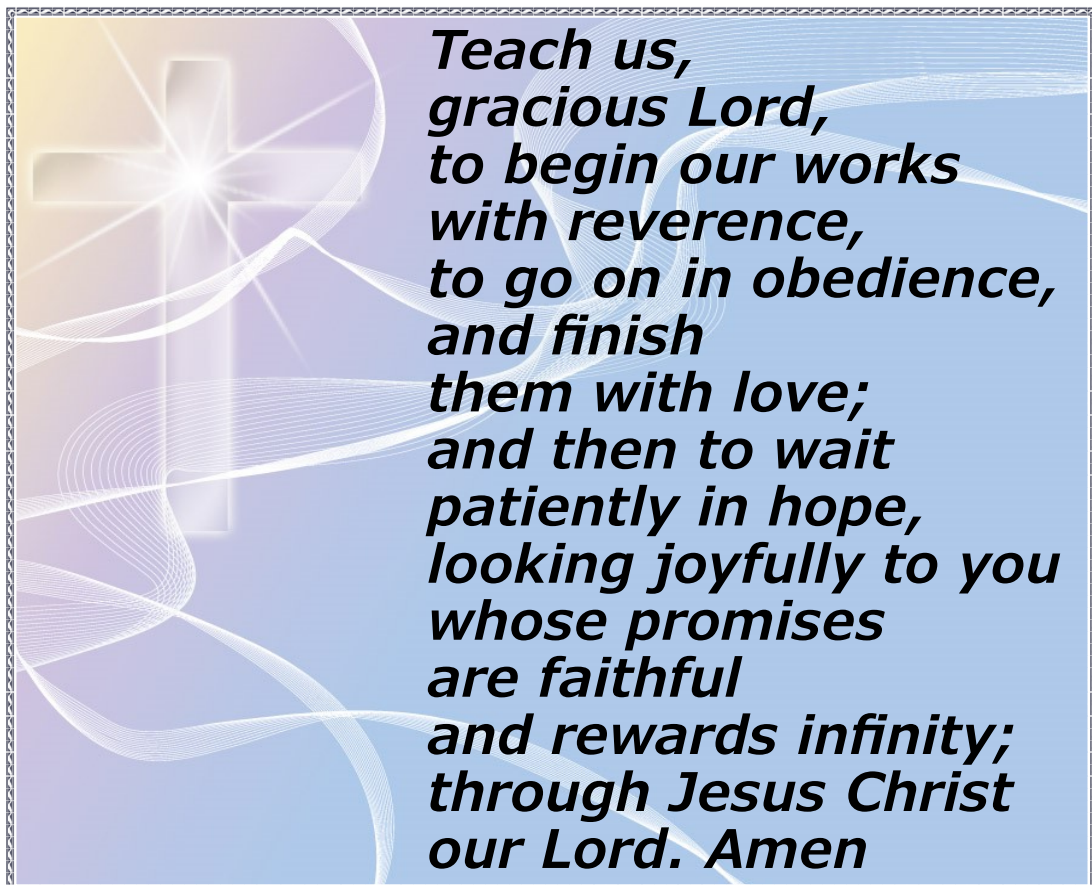
I am delighted that we now have a new Publications Coordinator on our Executive. Barb Hayes is relatively new to Mothers Union so please be patient during this transition. There will be a slight change in that you will now send cheque payments for orders to Barb so she can keep track of these. If paying by direct deposit online please advise Barb who in turn will notify our Treasurer, Jacqui. It is difficult for Jacqui to identify where online payments have come from and what they are for unless this advice is forthcoming.

Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to meet as a Diocesan group in 2020 and sales of greeting cards and other publications were considerably less than they have been in the past. All profits from sales of these items are donated to our Mother Union Diocesan project NICU (Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit) at the John Hunter Children's Hospital. We discussed this issue at our last Executive meeting as we think it is important to continue to support NICU. Our support of NICU is quite separate from Baby Bundles and we see both of these as very important aspects of our local Mothers Union outreach. One of the possibilities is that NICU be added as another line on the Annual Return Form. In the meantime please keep supporting our card sales.

Continue to keep safe.

Love and blessings to you all.

Denise Brown



CHAPLAINS CHATTER

Reverend Nicole Baldwin



INSPIRATION AND REVELATION

Dear friends,

As I prepared to write this Chaplain's Chatter, I found that life had caught up with me. I am busy doing things that needed to be done for my family, for my parish and for myself. But I was lacking inspiration. When I acknowledged that I was feeling uninspired, something beautiful happened. I found the inspiration that I needed amongst the things that I was already doing. I found my inspiration amongst the ordinary things in life. I was preparing a task that I was not looking forward to, and as I did, I discovered that the task held all the inspiration I needed. And it was at that time that I remembered to say "thank you" to God for being my guide and companion.

The passage that I was reflecting upon and preparing the required task for was Galatians 1.11-24. In this section of the Letter to the Galatians, Paul was frustrated and astonished that the Galatians were abandoning the Gospel that he proclaimed amongst them. Paul had proclaimed that God offered justification through faith in Christ, that through faith we become members of God's family. Paul taught the Gospel as he received it after his personal encounter with our risen Lord. The preachers and missionaries that came after Paul taught that together with faith in Christ, adherence to Mosaic Law was required for membership of God's family.

And this got me thinking! So, I went back to the beginning of the passage and reflected on what Paul wrote: "the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ."

This passage has had a profound impact on me because at the heart of it is divine revelation. There was something unveiled that had previously been hidden from Paul until that day on the road to Damascus. Although our own revelation from God is highly unlikely to be as extreme as Paul's, it is no less profound. God revealing Himself to us can have a profound impact on us too if we allow it to penetrate our hearts. The "still small voice" of God is profound and is always ready to reveal something more of God to us. This is what I remembered as I reflected on this passage and upon what I would write. As I went about doing the things I need to each day, I

remembered again that God speaks to us, sometimes in the beautiful and most often in the ordinary.

As God speaks to us, God inspires us, searches us out, calls us, and equips us for the ministries to which He calls us. Like the times of the early Christian church, there are many prophets who call to us ... some with the Gospel and others with teachings and promises that look and sound like the gospel. Like the churches of the Galatians, we too sometimes need to be reminded that the gospel that was proclaimed to Paul is not of human origin but was received through a revelation of Jesus Christ. We too can receive the Gospel and will be equipped to share it, when we are prepared to listen to God, to study the Scriptures and to rely on God to reveal to us the truth.

Can I encourage you, as I remind myself, to look for God's inspiration and revelation in all that we do, in the people around us, in the noise as well as the quiet of each day, and in the time we spend with God.

God will speak to us and through us when we open our hearts to receiving his inspiration and revelation.

*Christ, whose insistent call disturbs our settled lives:
give us discernment to hear your word,
grace to relinquish our tasks,
and courage to follow empty-handed
wherever you may lead,
so that the voice of your gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth. Amen.*

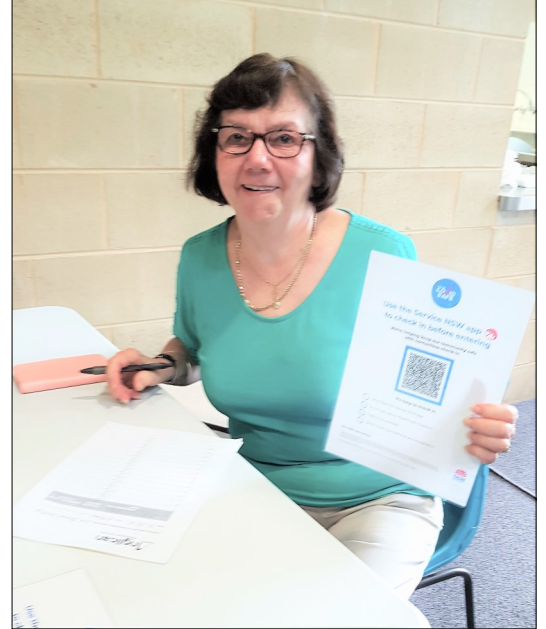
Prayerful love and blessings

Reverend Nicole





1ST COUNCIL MEETING RAYMOND TERRACE



It was great to
catch up with
everyone after
a 12 month
wait for
restrictions
to lift.

Shortest
council
meeting in
history!!!!





Save the Date

**8th October
Belmont @ 9.30am**

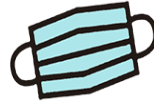
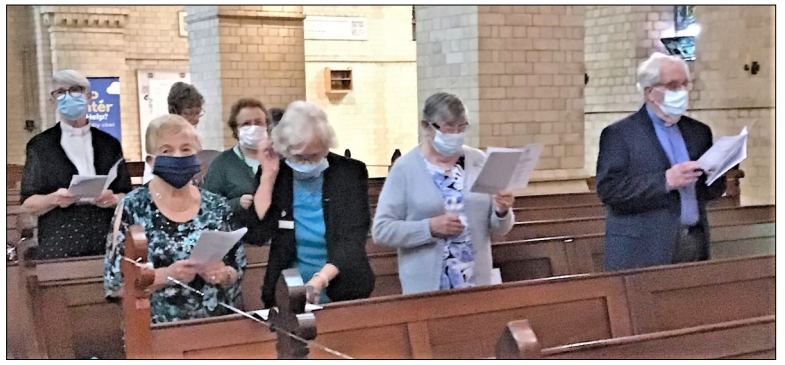
and

**19th October
Taree @ 10.30am**

Diocesan Quiet Days

More information to follow.





Good Morning



KIM'S COLLAGE COMPETITION

Collage - noun

a piece of art made by sticking various different materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric on to a backing. The art of making collages. A collection or combination of various things.

RAYMOND TERRACE

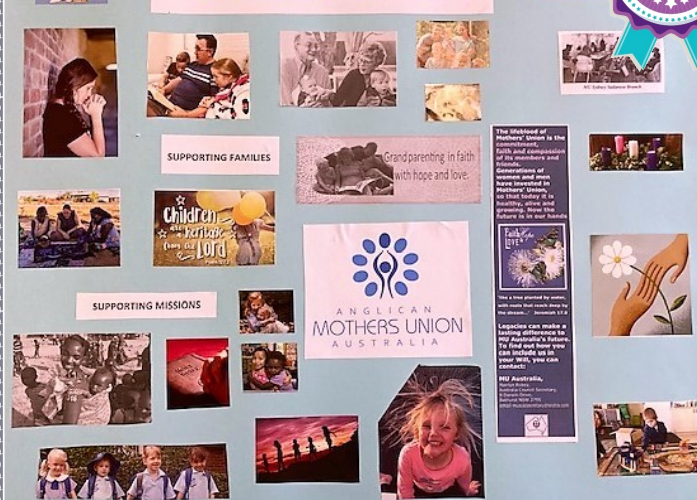


CESSNOCK



SOUTHLAKES

MOTHERS' UNION



MOTHERS' UNION



BELMONT



We give thanks to God and our founder Mary Sumner for the love and fellowship we share as members of Mothers Union.

During COVID this support was continued with phone calls and cards of encouragement .

Our Lambton Mothers Union poster sums up our work of Rebuilding Hope and Confidence, and will be displayed in church.

From life beginnings, to life's end, we are here, and we care.

All our work is centred in prayer, and it will be good to have this for the parish to see.

Prayers and support of family life, baptisms and follow up, the aged, strugglers in life, the lonely and our sisters and brothers here and worldwide.

We have supported Mothers Union in Madagascar as our overseas link partner.

Hospital visiting and booties given to new mums, 527 hospital emergency bags with personal hygiene items have been donated to JHH for emergency patients, personal letters to us show how grateful these are received, coffee and care at children's court, quilted prayer rugs with threads to tie as prayers are made and given to ill or frail Mothers Union members.

So as restrictions lift, we can do more, and pray for where that may lead us. We rest in God's guidance.

Thank you, Lambton Mothers Union

Daphney Whelan. Secretary



*MEET OUR NEW
DIOCESAN PUBLICATION
CO-ORDINATOR
Barb Hayes*

Stock is on display and available for purchase at Council Meetings and at the Overseas and Northern Outreach Luncheons in August.

IF PAYING ONLINE PLEASE CONTACT BARB HAYES AND
ADVISE HER THAT PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE.

****THIS IS IMPORTANT SO THAT ONLINE DEPOSITS
CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY OUR TREASURER.****

Receipts will be available for collection at Council Meetings.

Thank you,

Denise Brown



BABY BUNDLES



Dear Mothers Union members.

After being in touch with the social department of John Hunter Hospital this is an updated list for baby bundle items.

PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE PLENTY OF BEANIES IN STOCK AND NO LONGER NEED BOOTEES.

I have also been in touch with NICU. There are also some changes for NICU.

Due to the current number of items they have in stock they are:-

UNABLE TO ACCEPT BEANIES OR BOOTEES

They will accept Newborn size homemade cardigans homemade blankets or quilts, also wraps for swaddling babies – these should be 100 x 100cm in size and be made from a stretchier material such as jersey or muslin cotton composition.

It is important to pass this information onto your

members and anyone who knits for you as it will be a shame for ladies to spend both time and money on items which the hospital will no longer be able to accept.

My sincere thanks to all for the many contributions for baby bundles. The need has certainly increased.

So far this year I have delivered 24 bundles so as you can imagine we use a lot of items.

Blessings to you all,

Denise Hird

BABY BUNDLE ITEMS – UPDATED MAY 2021

Blankets – crochet, patchwork
or fleecy
Approximate size 90 x 130cms
Wraps – muslin, interlock
or flannelette
Quilts -- cot size or for use as a
play mat on the floor
Bath towels
Face washers
Johnsons baby soap
Small bibs
Singlets sizes 0000 or 000

Socks (socks preferred to bootees)
Summer caps
Beanies (no ribbons or ties)
Cardigans or jumpers
Jumpsuits – summer and winter
sizes 0000 or 000
Knitted – teddy bears, small toys
or small soft toys
Unscented wipes
Maternity sanitary napkins with wings
Newborn nappies

NEWS FROM OUR BRANCHES



Windale



Deep in thought bringing together their ancestry charts.

Bottom Left: Merly Wilkinson, to her left Patricia Gleghorn, Margaret Simmonette, Sue Williams, Lyn and Ann Mitchell, Bev Lewis, Jacqui Sorby, Margo Edson, Betty Rouse, Rosemarie Maloney and Lyn Wardle.

Taree



On the 11th March Taree celebrated 20 years.

Fr Peter and Reverend Nicole conducted the Holy Eucharist incorporating the candle liturgy.



A special part of the service was a thanksgiving prayer with a candle being lit for those who are no longer with us.

Members took part in the readings and lighting of the candles.

We then travelled to Club Taree for lunch where each member was presented with a certificate of membership and a thank you certificate for those who kindly knit our baptism bears and articles for our Baby Bundles. Leonie Benson was officially welcomed to the group.



Our birthday cake was blessed by Reverend Nicole, cut by original members Kim Bussey, Margaret Blyth and 60+ year members Beth Weeks and Jeanette Holland.

Guest speaker for the day was Sue Rowe from Samaritans who spoke about the Taree Women's Refuge.

A lovely celebration shared with family and friends.



Kim Bussey

OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH LUNCHEONS



Dear Fellow Mothers Union Members.

I trust this letter finds you all well and not feeling the colder weather to much. How quickly this year is getting away so I am writing to remind all Mothers Union Groups of the Overseas and Northern Outreach Lunches coming up in August.

The Newcastle Luncheon will be held on Monday 2nd August at All Saints, New Lambton Cnr. Regent Street and St James Road New Lambton commencing with Morning Tea at 9.30am and Eucharist at 10am. Bishop Peter will be in attendance. {Please note: Church not Parish Hall}

The Central Coast Luncheon will be held at St James, Wyong also commencing with Morning Tea at 9.30am and Eucharist at 10am. Bishop Charlie will be in attendance.

With Covid's impact, we are asking that you support the following:

1. That each member considers donating \$10.00 towards the ONO Ministry
2. All attending the Luncheons to bring their own sandwich for lunch. Tea and Coffee will be available. Your own mug would assist greatly as well.
3. If your group has been raising funds for ONO, could you please send all monies to our Treasurer before the event.

(Registration Form available from Noelene).

Our Guest Speaker at both Luncheons is Mrs Isabella Harrison who with her husband were Missionaries in Asia. Isabella has much to share with us so it would be great to have as many come to hear from her and enjoy fellowship together.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Luncheons.

Noelene Lentfer
ONO Co-ordinator

*Lord God, whose we are and whom we serve,
we place the work of Mothers Union afresh in your hands
take us as we are and make us what you would have us be;
that we may be drawn closer together, made strong for your service,
and used wholly to your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



HONOURING LIVES WELL LIVED



Our Beloved Peggy Hancock was born on 30th November 1924, in Maitland.

Peggy married Walter in 1954. Walter trained at Morpeth to become a priest, after he was ordained they travelled to several parishes with their two boys. Peggy was a devoted and loyal clergy wife and mother.

She lived for her Church, and for the Lord. As long as I've known Peggy, she was always involving herself in helping others. She worked tirelessly for the Op shop.

She was truly filled with "Fruits of the Spirit". A true Christian!

Peggy was admitted to Mothers Union in 1958, celebrating 60 years in 2018. She was also involved in Anglican Women and Cursillo. We would often travel together or meet up at these gatherings, enjoying Christian Fellowship.

Peggy sent me beautiful Easter Cards which was my last correspondence from my dear friend Peggy ... she finished the note with:

time just doesn't stand still God's love surrounds us each hour of the day, so we have nothing to fear or worry about, each day he guides us as we travel on our journey in life.

Leonie Toovey



Raymond Terrace Branch was saddened by the loss of Pauline Meredith earlier this year.

Pauline was a wonderful pianist and played the organ at St Johns for many years. Pauline was born in Raymond Terrace, delivered by Dr Meredith who became her father in law when she married his son, Jim.

A great fan of Peter Pan, Pauline named their children Peter and Wendy. Pauline taught countless children to play the piano and also taught at Raymond Terrace Public School where she was much loved by staff and students alike.

Denise Brown



Ethel Jones was a member of Lambton Mothers Union and were very sad to farewell another member.

Ethel passed away on March 31 this year. A member, for forty-eight years, Ethel and her husband, Jack, and family had attended St. Margaret's church at Jesmond which was affiliated with St John the Baptist at Lambton.

Ethel was very active in both churches with GFS, catering for Mothers Union activities and she was president of the Ladies Guild at Jesmond for many years.

Rest in Peace Ethel.

Gail Iles



Peggy Coghlan was a valued part of Lambton parish, spending her last days in care because of ill health. She died peacefully, aged 92.

She was strongly involved in the team catering for functions and church cleaning.

Her contribution to raise money was tireless, as she cooked and sewed for stalls run by Mothers Union. One room of her house was filled with her wonderful creations to be donated, or gifted, to family and friends.

A member of Mothers Union for 40 years, served as secretary, and sending Prayer Leaflets to members who were ill or unable to attend meetings, volunteered at the Family Court serving tea and coffee and hospital visiting to new mums giving them booties for their babies.

Peggy loved to laugh and joke, always fun to be around. But behind all the fun and laughter, was a deep, strong faith in her loving God. She lived her faith, by expressing how her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ walked with her through the good and dark days, and she showed that, by her faithfulness in attending her church here at Lambton, prayer, giving and a faithful servant.

Peggy was a special part of our church family, and was gifted with a beautiful voice. We loved hearing her sing each Sunday.

Peggy was a beautiful lady, a trusted loyal friend. She made a difference to our lives, and the memories she has left us will always be held close within our hearts.

We loved her, and we miss her.

Rest in peace Peggy.

Daphney Whelan

"JUST PRICELESS"

I was having a conversation with my eight year old grandson Owen who was telling me they had a mass at school on St Patrick's day, this is how the conversation went:

Owen: "Today at school our priest, whom we have to call Father, said "God was our Father, but I thought Dad was my Father."


Me: "I think your priest meant 'God is your Heavenly Father'."

Owen: "Well, that means I should be able to perform miracles."

I thought that was just priceless. He is so quick and of course I think he is delightful.

The conversation was actually much longer about God but that was the best bit.

Denise Hird



Creator God,
we thank you for our whole family
and especially
for our grandchildren.
We pray that we will have
opportunities to share our lives,
our experiences
and our memories with them
and see them grow
into responsible
and caring people who will find
your world an exciting,
loving and peaceful place
in which to live.

Amen

NEWS FROM MOTHERS UNION UK



2021 is a profound year for Mother's Union. It is the 145th anniversary of our founding and the centenary of the passing of our founder.

As a movement, started and sustained by the strength of Mary Sumner's vision of women supporting one another, we continue to thrive all these years later.

This summer, we also mark 100 years since her death, making remembering her remarkable, inspiring life all the more poignant.

Mary Sumner led a true breakthrough for women, who in her time were mainly seen to play supporting roles in the Church, work and society. She made sure women's voices were heard, and their own rights and needs recognised.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO A SUMMER OF HOPE

Some amongst our fellowship have suffered great losses over the past 18 months. Yet what has been most powerful in recent times has been the comfort provided by fellow members, family, friends and

strangers. We hold this goodwill in mind as we look forward to the warm and pleasant months of the summer.

Whilst things may not be entirely back to normal for some time, we hope that you will be able to come together for garden parties and cream teas. Make sure you take a look at our Summer of Hope activities page for input and ideas.

We also invite you to get involved with MU On The Move - a fundraising initiative taking place across Britain and Ireland which aims to assist you in being active. Get your friends and family involved, and run, jog or walk in support of Mothers' Union!

Keep your eyes peeled for our 31 Days of Inspiration when we will hear daily from members all around the world about how our movement inspires them today. Towards Mary Sumner day itself, and particularly in the month of August, we will have exciting updates to share with you.

More incredible stories can be found @ mothersunion.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

August	OVERSEAS & NORTHERN OUTREACH LUNCHEONS		
	2 nd	All Saints, New Lambton	9.30am
	3 rd	St James, Wyong	9.30am
	9 th	Mary Sumner Day	
	16 th	Executive Meeting, Cardiff (TBC)	9.30am
September	7 th	Anglican Women Annual Service St Peters, Maitland	10.30am
October	11 th	Executive Meeting, Belmont Nth/Redhead	9.30am
	DIOCESAN QUIET DAYS		
	8 th	All Saints, Belmont	9.30am
	19 th	St Johns, Taree	10.30am
November	19 th	AGM - St Augustine's, Merewether	10.00am



DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 19th OCTOBER 2021

Please send your Mothers Union News/Photos
for the next edition to:

Please send text in word format and photos
as a jpeg by email if possible.
I will acknowledge your email.
No reply, your email has gone astray,
please re-send.

WEBSITE:
www.munewcastle.org.au

