

**Do check the Mothers' Union Websites regularly** - for the latest news both local and overseas.

There is much to encourage us in our thinking about what MU is involved in. On the Australian site — there is the *Thought for the Week*, and you can also access the latest Mia Mia online. If you know of members who cannot access the internet, hold an “internet party” at your next branch meeting or gathering.

We encourage you to use all the tools available to help promote and further AMUA. If you didn't receive the latest Prayer Diary - download it from the website. You can still stay in touch. Stay up to date with what is happening.

[mumelbourne.org.au](http://mumelbourne.org.au)

[muaaustralia.org.au](http://muaaustralia.org.au)

[mothersunion.org](http://mothersunion.org) (worldwide)

Things to do...

Knitting/crocheting rugs and beanies for premmies and still-born babies [these go to the Royal Women's Hospital and Geelong Hospital.] [baby clothes are also acceptable]

Beanies, Scarves, gloves for Mission to Seafarers

Making fiddle rugs for aged care facilities. You could also send “thinking of you” cards to the residents on behalf of MU

Organise a guided tour of the Cathedral—or Bishops court

The theme for 2023/24

**"Transformation—NOW!"**

To survive, Mothers' Union needs to be transformed into a more vibrant organization - reaching out to those who need to hear that there is hope in these troubled times. Please think about it, and let's work together on how to achieve this. Please use or theme as you see fit for publicity.



**Melbourne Diocesan Newsletter  
June 2023**

Contact: Diocesan President  
Karen Hayden: 0488 904 865  
amua.melbournedp@gmail.com

**All Mail to :** PO Box 11265  
Frankston 3199

ph. 0491 604 006 : Mon/Tues 10am-1pm  
email: office@mumelbourne.org.au

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

## From the President

Hello MU Members,

Well, we are half way through the year!

Since our last Newsletter, I have been visiting branches. I have spoken at Holy Trinity Balaclava, where the 1<sup>st</sup> MU branch in Melbourne started in 1895, but unfortunately does not have a presence now, and earlier in June, I have also visited St James' Dandenong, where I connected with the MU members who, whilst they do not meet formally, are financial, gather after a church service, and where I was invited to speak to the Congregation.

As I think about our theme, “Transition – Now” I ask myself what that means to me. I don't think it's about changing what we do, or how we do it, but rather how we promote ourselves to attract new members. People who are already so busy with life, time poor, would probably need an attractive, valid reason how, and why, would they want to fit anything more in. How do we do that??

Speaking to St James and Holy Trinity about MU, and at my own Church, St Nicholas, of our prayer life, our projects, in particular the Karen Nursery School Project, I found people more than willing to donate/support our projects, or ask about subscribing, but less inclined to enquire about branch meetings/gatherings.

With my travels to MU branches, and now having spoken to a couple of Churches, I think of MU as a “two tier” organisation:

1. Our meetings/gatherings, so rich in sharing, support and prayer life, for each other, and those around us.
2. Our social justice, and project work, both local/national, and international.

The conundrum is, as I see it, is that these two “tiers” do not always both fit in with what people want/are able, to do. How and when can we promote each of these interwoven aims/goals of MU, with people we are trying to attract to join us? It’s been a constant topic at Exec meetings, and I am more than happy to hear your views and ideas.

Nuts and bolts stuff: After quite a mammoth task, and with still some loose ends to tidy up, **the MU shop at Frankston is Closed.** That does not mean we do not have MU items for sale, just not from a dedicated shop at the moment. Margaret Dunbar is storing what items we took with us, so please contact her if you need some wares. She is still very active with her travelling suitcase so you may very well see her around the different events held by branches. Items from the shop that still need to be housed are the Diocese President’s chair, and the memorial books, which I am endeavouring to organise, and will keep you all informed.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please talk to me.

Peace and blessings, Karen

**Please continue to support the Karen Nursery School project.** Funds were recently sent to them but it fell short of what we have promised for this year. Our Diocese is the only MU Group supporting this group — they can do so much with so little.

### **Vacant: MU Melb Diocese Treasurer Role.**

We are saddened to advise that Hlish Jobby, our recently appointed MU treasurer is unable to continue in this role, due to considerable health issues.

As such, we are in need of a new Treasurer. This person will need a knowledge of accounting software, and approx. 4 hours a week to dedicate to MU accounting responsibilities.

If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in supporting MU in this invaluable way, or would like more information as to what is entailed, please let us know.

Please pray for Hlish, her family, and the doctors who are endeavouring to find a cause and remedy for her ailment.

### **This is your newsletter—can you contribute?**

"We would love to hear what branches have been doing so that we can share with each other.

Just a short summary of Who/What/When/How would be great

Next Newsletter will be in September, so if you would like to speak about your event/project just get it to us by the 1st of Month." [amua.melbournedp@gmail.com](mailto:amua.melbournedp@gmail.com) or [elongford@sme.com.au](mailto:elongford@sme.com.au)

### **How do we get MU publications now the shop has closed?**

Margaret is still actively displaying wares via the "travelling suitcase" and happy to attend any gatherings and fundraisers with MU goods, just invite her/let her know of your event.

She will have the "travelling suitcase" at Mt Waverley's 65th Anniversary and fundraiser on 26th June.

***Please contact Margaret Dunbar about your next event/gathering and she can be there and will organise what you would like displayed: [dunbarm@netspace.net.au](mailto:dunbarm@netspace.net.au)***

Please let us know if you have any questions to ask next Newsletter - chances are, someone else needs an answer to the same question.