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2021



Rebuilding hope  
and confidence

**Do you check the Mothers' Union Website 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.

Do 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.

The theme for 2021 is

**"Re-building hope and confidence",**

a most appropriate theme as so much needs to be done at home and all over the world.

**AMUA Melbourne Council Meeting**

**is on MONDAY 22nd February**

**via zoom**

**At 10.00am**

please contact [contact@mumelbourne.org.au](mailto:contact@mumelbourne.org.au) for access details.

**You are welcome to join in!**

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

### From the President

I do hope you have been able to maintain contact with your MU group during this Covid-19 year. Some have managed to have face to face meetings and many have continued via zoom or phone.

Acknowledging that things can change suddenly, we still have to make plans for the future.

One of the events planned for this year is our **Annual Lady Day service..** The Dean has kindly offered that MU can celebrate **Choral Evensong at the Cathedral on Thursday 25th March at 5.10pm.**

This service will then be **broadcast on Channel 31 the following Monday at 2.30pm** which would mean that people without internet access would also be able to participate the next week. Maybe your group could meet and see the service together.?

The recording is open to the public, so up to 450 people can attend! **Those attending will need to book via trybooking — on the St Paul's Cathedral website.**  
**Please be aware that these plans can change!!**

Initially we were to have a service on the previous Sunday afternoon at 4pm, but we realised that a large number of members would not feel comfortable or able to travel to the city. This new solution should suit most members.

**A message from our Treasurer** — The annual membership fees are now due [same as last year- \$45] and it asked that they are paid as we do have to send money on to Australia Council **before April**. The branch affiliation fee remains at \$30.

**The MU Office** has re-opened after the January break and Helen is available in the office Monday and Tuesdays 9.30am to 2.30pm. **If you are sending mail, please use the P O Box as we don't have a letter box at the church and it could be lost.** If you require an item from the Bookshop, please contact Helen or Margaret Dunbar

**A message Kaylene — Website co-ordinator.**

Kaylene would welcome photos/stories of what branches are doing during this Covid-19 time as well as advance notice of events coming up. [It pays to advertise!]

**Robin Ray reports in her ONO newsletter:**

**PNG Parenting Program** - As you can all imagine, little progress has been made on the Parenting Program project itself as Mary Sumner House staff have been restricted in the work they are able to undertake especially work that would normally require them to travel overseas. Please be assured, the money raised for this project has been quarantined by MSH so it will be available to use once the COVID pandemic is under control. In conjunction with the PNG leaders, the worldwide manual for parenting will be adapted for the local context and local facilitators will be trained. In the meantime PNG MU leaders are drawing on the resources of programs like UNICEF that are locally available. Also their Provincial President Rosa Sitae with a few other leaders have been traveling in PNG where possible, to implement strategies to address gender based violence.

**Zone C zoom meeting with Mary Sumner House Staff.**

In December leaders from all the dioceses in the region were invited to participate in a meeting via zoom. Those attending included all the Australian Dioceses as well as New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Goroka PNG as well as Jeanette Lawrence, Rob, Naomi and Abi from Mary Sumner House

The staff from MSH were all working from home and for them it was quite late at night - for Western Australia it was quite early! The MSH appeal at that time was £872,000 and they were very grateful for the support they had received from Australia. Members were invited to speak about the conditions and what was happening in their area.

Pamela spoke from Solomon Islands. Dorothy spoke on the Parenting Program in PNG and she told of walking four hours in the dark to get to one of their meetings — there was a utility truck to take them on part of the way, but when the road was steep or rough they had to get out and walk as the wheels couldn't get traction! At one time they walked to the meeting place hours before the truck arrived as it had become bogged. [And we complain if a train is late!] [see Robin's report on previous page]

When it came to Melbourne's turn, Bev Cottell spoke about our distribution of Christmas Cards to the Women's Prison. This received a good reception, even from MSH who thought it might be a good outreach for members in UK.

It was good to hear from other Dioceses and we plan to have another meeting soon.