

MU SYDNEY

122nd Annual Report



2017



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

From our Chaplain

One of the delights of being part of MU, for me, is the awareness that MU members are believers in God's word as God speaks through His word, by His Spirit.

We recognise that we are dependent on God's self-revelation, to know Him, to love Him, to trust Him and thereby responsively serve and seek to honour Him.

So, for me again, preparing the monthly Sydney Executive Bible Spots/Devotions (this year on some of the Parables in Luke's gospel) have been a privilege as much as a task.

The 6 Area Days at which I spoke on *Forgiveness* was a reminder that MU unites women, whatever their circumstance, in Christian service.

We saw the effort and care that went into preparing the Area Days. Hopefully they can develop and become a focal point to which other women, not just MU members, can come, be warmly welcomed and have Christian fellowship as everyone is encouraged to listen, think, pray, sing and share food.

It was fascinating to realise that although the speakers did not always agree on all points, what was common was the dearly held appreciation that God is the Forgiving God, for all who turn to Him. It's pretty basic as a Christian belief and experience, isn't it?

The annual Festival service held on 31 March was again held in St Andrew's Cathedral with our Sydney MU President, Wendy Mayer, speaking on *Prayer changes us*. This service and the November Advent service at St Philip's Church Hill where Christine Jensen preached on *The Lord's Prayer* were joyful occasions. God's word read and expounded, corporate prayer, taking Holy Communion (at the Advent service), and affirming a commitment to serve God through MU, all make these services rather special.

Can I encourage you to come along in 2018, especially if you've not been before or for a long time? You may well be refreshed in your loving service and loyalty to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

That would be a good thing for all of us.

In fellowship,

(Rev'd) Jan Donohoo

Chaplain and
Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator

From our Patron

As we look back over the many activities and events of 2017 in which members of Sydney MU have participated, there is much to be thankful to God for.

St Paul speaks of the church in Thessalonica saying how much he is encouraged by their work produced by faith, their labour prompted by love and their endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus (**1 Thessalonians 1:3**). I too am encouraged by the good deeds that so many of you carry out faithfully year by year, both in the large events and occasions, such as the Festival and Advent services and the informative February Seminars and Regional days, as well as the small gatherings and the daily private praying in which you participate. These activities are motivated by your faith, hope and love, which is a fruit of the Spirit's work in our lives.

2017 may well be remembered as one of heightened tension, disappointment and difficulty for Christians as the debate on same-sex marriage swept our country with much publicity, passion and some vitriol, culminating in the national postal survey which resulted in over 61% of those voting being in favour of redefining marriage. This result has ramifications in so many areas for Christians, including all members of MU Sydney, whose purpose it is to work towards strengthening and preserving marriage and

Christian family life. We know that this is not the popular view held in our society anymore and attempting to uphold Christian principles puts us in the minority, and perhaps for some, results in alienation of friends and family.

Despite feeling somewhat overwhelmed and feeble as we try to stand up or speak out for what we know is God's good design for marriage and family, we should not lose heart, but *give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thess 5:18)*.

May the God of peace strengthen us so that we might display faith, hope and love in all things: *the one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it (1 Thess 5:24)*.

Dianne Davies

President's Report

2017 marked the beginning of a new triennium for MU Sydney with Joan Tasker and Glenda McSorley joining Executive as Vice Presidents for Wollongong and the Northern Regions respectively. Pauline Burdon continued as Vice President for the Southern Region and accepted the position of Senior Vice President. Suzanne Reimer, having completed her term on Executive, accepted the position of Area President for the Western region and Elizabeth Lowe became Southern Highlands Area President.

Our first major event for the year was our February seminar *Fractured Families* where over 300 people gathered in the Chapter House to hear Archdeacon Kara Hartley speak from the Bible on Forgiveness, followed by Rob and Claire Smith who helped us consider how God would have us act when relationships are stretched and broken. After a break for refreshment Dominic Steele and a team from Village Church Annandale's Divorce Care ministry spoke about their program and shared their experiences in supporting those going through separation and divorce as well as the friends and families involved.

Following on from the lead given by *Fractured Families*, we took the theme of *Forgiveness* for our Area Days this year. This was very well received, and we had the help of Wendy Konemann and Susan Essex from the organisation Peacewise, Archdeacon Kara Hartley, Margaret Fuller, as well as our own Chaplain Rev Jan Donohoo, Christine Jensen and me, who each contributed to several of our Days. These days provide an opportunity to invite others, as well as our MU members to come. The Area Days provide a good introduction to MU for people who don't know about us and help to raise more awareness of MU as an organisation.

2017 was a big year for us concerning our MU Workers. Leah finished as our MU Worker but was able to continue at Cobbitty with church funding. Katie has continued at Greenacre with independent funding and we were able to extend Karen's time at Abbotsford until the end of the year as the Rector, Rev Paul O'Brien, left during the year which left them short staffed. During the year we called for applications for MU Workers for 2018-2019 and received 38 very good responses. That made our task of choosing very difficult, but we have awarded the grants to the parishes of Kingsford, Canterbury and Albion Park Rail. The MU Workers will start during 2018 after the parishes have chosen suitable people for the position.

Marilyn Bennett, Diocesan President of Yangon Diocese in Myanmar, and Rachel Htwe, their MU Worker, visited Australia early in the year at the invitation of Beverley Ovens. They met with our MU Sydney Executive members, attended our Annual Festival Service and visited several branches as well as spending time with Christine Brain, the MU Australian Overseas and Northern Outreach co-ordinator, in Perth WA. Beverley and Christine returned to Myanmar at the end of 2017 to carry out further Bible teaching seminars for women. These have been

arranged by Marilyn and follow on from the work started by Norma Dumbrell.

From 1 January 2017 we have engaged the services of Benkorp to do our book keeping. They provide a monthly statement of our accounts and advise where needed. Our MU Secretary, June Hickey, has liaised with them in her role as shop manager and it has been a work in progress as she and they worked out the best way for us to provide the information they need. June also covered the Treasurer's duties while Karen Watt was overseas during the year.

With the approval of MU Sydney Executive and Council, our President, Secretary and Treasurer investigated different options for investing part of our bequest with the aim of increasing the income from higher interest rates. We chose the investment firm, JBWere, as they have a philanthropic division which ensures that all investments are ethically screened. This was a very high priority for us. We also felt that the provision of an ongoing investment advisor was important in providing continuity for future Executive members. From September onwards \$1million dollars has been invested in a broad ranging portfolio and regular interest payments have been scheduled for December and June each year.

During the year we received a \$5,000 legacy through Olive Dooley's will and were notified that we are one of three residual legatees. We expect that her estate will be finalised in 2018 and we will receive some further money then.

In June 2017 we were sorry to have to accept the resignation of Doreen Pawley from the position of Promotion and Publicity Coordinator on Executive, but we realise that limiting her activities is important for her health and we pray she will have good health and God's blessing in her future ministries. We are also praying for the right person to fill this position.

We are proud to announce that Beverley Dykes was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Awards this year for service to the community. Beverley is a longstanding member of Carlingford MU branch and has been Diocesan Secretary. She has served on countless boards besides MU, including Anglican Board of Mission, Sydney Auxiliary, but in an interview she said her most rewarding role is serving at the Family Law Court in Parramatta which she has done since 1984.

Towards the end of the year Julia Williams requested that her employment in the MU Shop be reduced from 2 days per week to 1. As a result, we employed Linda Wheeler and she is now working Tuesdays, Julia works Wednesdays and Ruth Cunningham works Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. We hope this will provide more flexible cover when the regular staff take leave.

On Sunday 3 September I went to St Thomas' church Auburn to open a new MU Branch and enrol the foundation members. Please remember this new branch in your prayers as they join us in fellowship and work out the best ways for their local situation to share Christ's love through encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life.

The end of year was a busy time for us, with Christine Jensen speaking on *Prayer* at our annual Advent Service, the Market Day stall and our Christmas Gift Wrapping in the Town Hall Arcade. Although the stall and wrapping are predominantly to raise funds, they both also raise awareness of MU and our Shop and give us opportunities to explain to passersby who we are and what we do.

I am very grateful to all members of Executive and to our Area Presidents as we have worked together well this year to support our members and to promote the ministries of MU. I particularly want to thank our very

hard-working Secretary, June Hickey, who quietly keeps the wheels of so many areas turning smoothly. I could not do my job without her enabling.

Being a Christian in public is becoming increasingly difficult in our society, but we are not alone. One of our strengths is our connection with MU as a worldwide Christian organisation. So as we persevere in the ministries God has opened up for us, let us take Paul's advice and keep our focus on Jesus in all we do.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Wendy Mayer

Secretary's Report

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. (Proverbs 16:3)

At each Executive meeting we commence by committing the meeting and the plans that we discuss to the Lord. Our goal is to ensure that MU Sydney will continue to exist and support marriage and family life into the future.

The departmental reports detail the events of the past year and the enthusiasm of our members in supporting the outreach of MU Sydney.

Our Seminar and Area Days have been well received and valued by both members and visitors. Our shop continues to welcome both regular and new customers. Serving in the courts continues to be appreciated and our members and others have enjoyed the 2017 Bible Studies on *The Lord's Prayer*. Support for our overseas project has been fantastic. In some areas there has been change. It has been difficult to continue to visit new parents in some of our hospitals. Some of our

branches have closed but it is encouraging that most members have transferred to become diocesan members, and many continue to attend and enjoy our Festival and Advent Services.

While we aren't reaching as many new parents in the hospitals, our MU Workers, Parenting Courses and Seminars are reaching them in other ways.

Our shop and office continue to be the centre of our ministries. The wonderful hand-made items donated to the shop are very much appreciated and their sale helps contribute to the viability of the shop. Food and craft items donated for our Market Day Stalls again allow us to raise funds to support our ministries and at the same time give us an opportunity to explain Mothers' Union to the passersby in Town Hall Arcade. Thank you very much to those who prepare and donate these items. Also thank you to the people who take cards to be sold at their branch and church.

Our shop staff – Julia, Ruth and Linda continue to keep our shop and office running smoothly and make it a friendly and helpful ministry. My sincere thanks to them for all their efforts.

Please be aware that shop orders cannot always be prepared immediately. We rely on our office volunteers very much to prepare and price items for sale. At the moment we need more volunteers to help with these tasks; they can't be done otherwise. If you can spare one day per month to help in the shop it would be very much appreciated.

Each day please use our *Prayer Diary* to bring our MU members, supporters, projects and ministries to the Lord.

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. (Proverbs 19:21)

June Hickey

Treasurer's Report

2017 saw many changes regarding our financial processes and reporting with our new contract with Benkorp.

It is important at this point to acknowledge the work that June Hickey has done in coordinating our accounts with Benkorp to ensure we have a comprehensive and transparent accounting process in place. June has put many hours into this process and myself and the Executive Committee are very grateful for all the work June has done.

As at 31 December 2017 our financial report shows an overall \$25,057 profit. This has been achieved through successful Market Day Stalls making around \$6,500 and our Christmas gift wrapping which gained \$1,400 in donations. The donations of goods from members has, as usual, made a significant contribution of more than \$25,000. The support of you as members in manning our Market Day Stalls and Christmas Gift Wrapping activities along with the donation of goods is greatly appreciated for without your support our financial position would not be where it is today. As a result of the closure of some branches and the decline in membership our Membership income was down by just over \$700 from 2016. However we do rejoice with the opening of a new Branch in Auburn during the year.

The Egg-A-Day project was very well received by members and this is reflected in donations totaling more than \$15,000.

A bequest from Olive Dooley's estate of \$5,000 was gratefully received.

Our overall return on investment showed an increase on 2016 by around \$10,000 which reflected the diligent re-investment of term deposits under June Hickey's guidance, as well as our decision to employ the expertise of our new financial adviser Renata Das of JBWere. This was a pleasing result as we

have only had investments with them since September 2017.

To date we have been pleased with the support of JBWere and Renata Das (Wealth Management Advisor) and Luke Branagan (Director - Philanthropic Services) in particular. At this point in time we have invested just over \$1million with JBWere. These monies have been invested in a broad ranging portfolio. All investments have undergone ethical screening to ensure they meet our rather stringent requirements. Regular interest payments in June and December will ensure we cover our ongoing costs, particularly those regarding our commitment to our MU Workers.

Despite the added cost of engaging the services of Benkorp for our Bookkeeping needs we have finished the year in a positive position.

I want to thank you for your prayers for the Executive as we move forward into a new year and face the many challenges we will have regarding wise investment and wise sharing of our abundance with those who have little. It will be good if we can say as Paul does in 1 Corinthians 8, *"we want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord, but also in the eyes of men."*

Karen Watt

Diocesan Members Report

I often wonder if Diocesan Members feel as if they still belong to MU Sydney as our contact is mainly by mail or occasionally via the website. What an encouragement it has been through 2017 to receive a number of letters and phone calls from members who are still involved even though they are unable to attend a Branch meeting. As well, I have met members at the Festival and Advent Services and the Area Days.

During the past year some of our branches have closed which has meant that a number

of members have now become Diocesan Members so we still have regular contact with them. We continue to keep in touch regularly through mail-outs and emails of the *Sydney Bridge*, *The Sydney* and *Families Worldwide Prayer Diaries*, a Biblical reflection based on the current MU Bible studies as well as a short letter from me.

The February Seminar continues to bring us in contact with many women who would otherwise have very little knowledge of MU. They are a great opportunity to support marriage and Christian family life where marriages and families are constantly being challenged. We keep in touch through the online news *MUSE*. As we thought about the struggles of *Fractured Families* in 2017 Archdeacon Kara Hartley taught us how the forgiveness we receive through the saving work of the Lord Jesus gives us the foundation to forgive others.

The Area Days focused on Forgiveness, too, and we looked at what the bible teaches and then how forgiveness works out in our lives. Some of us have been through very difficult situations where forgiveness seems impossible, especially if the person who has offended has died and reconciliation therefore may not be attainable. I pray, that in God's mercy, if that is the case for you, he will draw near to you and help you to begin the process. And then, as Margaret Fuller said, "*As with our forgiveness by God through Christ, so between us in our relationships, we are released from fear, guilt, shame and condemnation and can find peace.*"

In 2018 the seminar is *I Feel, I Fear, I Hope - Living for God in a stress filled world*.

Again, I would like to thank June Hickey, our MU Secretary and Ruth, Julia and Linda in the Office and the volunteers who collate the mail-outs.

May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (**Philippians 4:7**)

Christine Jensen

Education Report

The 2017 Bible Studies on *The Beatitudes* were well received throughout the Diocese. I had the pleasure of sharing the first study with several Branches. It is always an enjoyable experience sharing these studies with MU Members and in 2017 I was able to speak to some new Branches as well as most of the ones I have been invited to speak to previously.

It is a privilege to share God's word with members who are eager to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus and his word and I thank you for these opportunities.

The studies for 2018 are on *The Lord's Prayer* and these are now available from the MU Shop. *The Reflections for 2018* have also been completed with much thanks to Wendy who needed to prepare an overview of the studies and in so doing prepared the *Reflections*, only leaving the editing up to me. Thank you, Wendy.

I am looking forward to sharing the 2018 Studies with many of you throughout the year. It is always nice to catch up with people and be challenged by your many questions. Thank you also for the support and encouragement I have received from many of you and for your prayers as I prepare the studies each year.

I will appreciate your prayer support as I prepare the studies for 2019.

Karen Watt

Hospital Visiting Report

During 2017 we continued to divide the work of Hospital Visiting between our ministry of visiting at 19 Maternity departments around Sydney and Wollongong and delivering items we have made to the Neo Natal nurseries at 13 hospitals.

Diane Gold continues coordinating deliveries to the hospitals and has contacted all hospitals that are on our list, making

deliveries to those who needed goods. Diane continues to update our contact information with the hospitals and discuss their current needs, as these change when staff or practices change at the hospitals.

Diane ran a Packing Day in St Andrew's House which was very successful as goods only needed to be transported from our storeroom to the meeting room, packed and returned straight to the storeroom, ready for use. She also ran a Sewing Day at Normanhurst to keep up our stock of Hospital supplies. Details of future sewing and packing days will be advertised through The Bridge, our MU Sydney website and sent to branches.

During the year all Hospital Visiting Branch Coordinators were contacted who confirmed their commitment. These details form part of the Hospital Visiting schedules. Staffing our Hospital Visiting Rosters will continue to be a problem as our current members age and we are not able recruit younger people to help with our Maternity ward visiting. Please pray for this need.

We conducted a stocktake in July 2017 which allows us to see what has been used and what is no longer required, and how much of each item we have and, therefore, how much we are using in a year.

Julie Kerlake

Overseas and Northern Outreach Report

This year we have focused particularly on 2 of our MU objectives:

- 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.

We have claimed the promise God gave to Joshua:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God

will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Northern Outreach

In 2017 Grants totalling \$64,000 from the Northern Outreach Fund were made to the Diocese of the Northern Territory for Domestic violence training and Safe ministry training for clergy; to the diocese of North Queensland to assist members from remote areas to take part in meetings and training sessions; and the diocese of Northwest Australia was assisted in bringing those from isolated areas together for the Fellow Workers Conference.

Training Fund for Indigenous Women

Grants from this fund provided bursaries at Nungalinga and Wontulp-Bi-Buya Colleges and pastoral support for indigenous women leaders, totalling \$13,500.

Myanmar

In December, Beverley Ovens and Christine Brain (Anglican Mothers' Union Australia Overseas and Northern Outreach Coordinator) again travelled to Myanmar to teach at MU conferences.

Sudanese Branches

The 3 branches at Blacktown, Oakhurst and Belmore have continued to meet monthly, coordinated by Beverley Ovens and supported by regular Bible teaching from Christine Jensen, Suzanne Reimer and Helen Cooney.

At the request of the Sudanese members, a Seminar was held at Blacktown in September when as well as Bible teaching from Christine Jensen, Ann Cunningham presented a session on parenting.

The content on relationships was very much appreciated by those who attended.

Wave of Prayer

The Wave of Prayer service was made available again on line. It would be helpful to know how widely this was used.

Links

Jan Boyley continues to find it difficult to establish new links with overseas branches but there is great appreciation of those who still faithfully correspond.

MU Sydney Project for 2017

The Egg a Day Project

MU Sydney partnered with Anglican Aid on this project in 2017 and it was most enthusiastically supported by our members. The funds raised will have had a considerable impact on raising the level of health and well-being of the pre-schoolers attending the Anglican Preschools in Northern Rwanda. The encouragement to concentrate on better nutrition for families in the rural areas involved will continue to have benefits for the future.

Your prayers and financial support for MU's work both in Northern Australia and Overseas is very much appreciated.

Mary Clark

Social Issues & Action Report

Court work

No *Morning Tea Matters* produced – I will aim to produce one, maybe two in 2018.

In Case of Emergency (ICE) details – ongoing work to get all volunteers' details.

Moss Vale – Heather Anderson continues to convene this court. A few ladies have dropped out for a range of reasons. They are actively seeking volunteers. They have a few days covered in the week. They are covering their costs. All are keen to continue in the work.

Parramatta – Continues to be convened by Prue Feather. There remain gaps on this roster – 1st Monday, 4th Thursday and 1st & 4th Wednesday (which are not busy days).

Albion Street, Surry Hills (previously Bidura Court) – Sandra Hugo convened Bidura court and oversaw the closure of this court. The court was temporarily relocated to

Parramatta Children's court while the courts at Albion Street underwent refurbishment. This court will resume in January 2018. Sandra did an outstanding job in sometimes very trying circumstances for herself and for the volunteers with family health issues and changes to transport options through the city. It is with sadness we accept Sandra's resignation from the position of convener and thank her for her faithful service over many years. Until another convener can be found I will take on the role.

The court has resumed operating and they have graciously provided a serving area for morning tea volunteers, which included cupboards, sink and hot water system.

We have a few gaps in our three day a week roster and we also are keen to create a standby list of volunteers for when people are away or unwell.

Sutherland – Margaret Bourne continues to convene this roster. Full roster. No issues to date.

Wollongong – until further notice the service is in recess.

Goulburn street – Prue Feather continues to convene this court. No issues to date.

Campbelltown – This remains non-viable due to the physical layout of the court.

Plan:

- Establish service at Surry Hills – arrangement with court; complete the roster; develop a procedure for the court.
- Monitor Wollongong situation.
- Promote court work to increase volunteer base.
- Produce *Morning Tea Matters 3*.

Families Equip/Seminars

There were 12 *Families Equip* courses run in 2017 including courses run by Kate and Ian Pearse, Anna Davidson, and Wendy Moran and Ruth Sheath. All courses went well with positive feedback.

There were 5 *Parenting the Developing Brain* Seminars.

Understanding Kids. Stages of Childhood Development was run at Katoomba Christian Convention NextGen conference. The Seminar was well received and repeated this January 2018.

A new seminar looking at cyber issues was drafted and is being finalised.

There are two *Families Equip* courses planned – one in Bowral with Kate and Ian Pearse and the other in Hoxton Park with Anna Davidson.

There is one *Parenting the Developing Brain* seminar organised for Wentworth Falls.

Plan:

- Ongoing promotion of the courses and seminars.
- Ongoing review.
- Continued development of seminar materials.

Social Issues

Newsletters – three newsletters were produced on *Fake News, Equality, Standing for Christ*.

I spoke at several MU meetings with the focus on encouraging the members to build relationships with families in their church to encourage and equip them in their role as parents.

Attended the eSafety Conference.

Plan:

- Ongoing newsletters including eSafety conference reports
- Speaking at a number of MU meetings

Ann Cunningham

MU Worker Abbotsford

2017 was a full and encouraging year at Abbotsford Anglican Church, as I completed my second year as their Women's Minister (part-time) with the generous financial and prayer support of Mother's Union.

The Playgroups continue to be the focus of my ministry with 40 – 50 community families attending either our Monday or Wednesday group each week and it has been a great joy to continue to build on these relationships this year and the faithful team of church grandmas have again excelled in the love and care they have shown these families. We have continued to include age appropriate Christian content, through our story, craft and singing time which the families all seem to enjoy.

Through the first two terms of the year we had five Playgroup families come to church, all on separate occasions and so in Term 3 I commenced *Little Kids Church* for 0-5 year olds with singing, story time, craft and prayer. While attendance by some of these Playgroup families has been erratic, those able to attend regularly really enjoy the morning. One young Playgroup mum is planning not only her child's baptism for early this year, but also her own! This new ministry has also created an opportunity for me to encourage and train others in the church willing to support this ministry. Having commenced the Sunday morning children's program for under 5's, I will also have an ongoing role in the oversight of the Sunday morning program for primary aged children.

Across the Parish, I am now leading two bible study groups. A weekly women's group and a fortnightly mixed evening group. So, across the month I have regular contact with about half the regular church members.

Throughout the year women from Abbotsford attended the *MU Fractured Families* seminar, and the *SMBC* and *ONELOVE* Conferences for women and they

were very encouraged in their relationships with each other and more importantly, with God.

I co-ordinated our Family Christmas Celebration in mid-December, a family friendly carols service including the presentation of the Christmas story, complete with colourful costumes and a handmade manger! We had a wonderful response from our local community and Playgroup families who then also joined us for further services over the Christmas and New Year season.

Our minister, Paul O'Brien, has resigned from the Parish and accepted a position at West Pymble. With his departure in late October, Bishop Rob Forsyth returned as our locum minister. This has been most agreeable to the parish as he recently replaced Paul during his 3 months long service leave. It also means that I can contribute to a sense of stability in the leadership of the church during this upcoming time of change.

As this is my last report for MU, I would like to express my sincere and deepest thanks to all those at Mother's Union who have graciously and faithfully supported me financially and prayerfully over the past two years. It has been a great privilege to partner with you in this vital work among the families of the parish of Abbotsford. I look forward to continuing this work for God's kingdom in 2018.

Karen Braga

Australian Church Women (Inc) Report

MU representative on Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc.

The monthly gatherings of ACW NSW State Unit, Inc held at the Wesley Centre, bring together women from different backgrounds and churchmanship but all are

united in the Lord and have a wonderful sense of fellowship and pastoral care.

Representatives from the Salvation Army, the Catholic Church, the Churches of Christ, the Baptist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Uniting Church and the Anglican Church come together to pray, to look at God's Word and to consider the business of the day.

As an ecumenical organisation seeking to promote and support women and families particularly in the Asia /Pacific areas, and to encourage it's NSW members in their faith, Spiritual Enrichment days, Fellowship Days, an Annual Conference are held as special focus. Fellowship of the Least Coin is gathered enabling families to share in resources and so children in need may have access to education. Social issues are discussed, and recommendations are made to the appropriate Government ministers.

The funding of the Winifred Kirk Scholarship allows young women from Asia /Pacific to extend their theological education enabling them to be better equipped to return to their communities. All activities are underpinned with prayer.

ACW is part of an umbrella group partnering with other organisations including the Bible Society, National Church Women, Pan Pacific & East Asia Women's Assoc, World Day of Prayer and Girls Brigade. In 2017 the presidency of Pamela Freeman from the Salvation Army, came to an end and in May 2018 president elect, Peg McEntee from the Catholic Church will have her Dedication Day in St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Wollongong.

It is a privilege to be part of the Anglican representation on ACW NSW State Unit Inc.

Glenda McSorley

National Council of Women of NSW Report

The National Council of Women of New South Wales (NCW) again started their year with the *Celebrate Being an Australian Luncheon* in the Strangers' Dining Room at Parliament House. The Guest Speaker at the Luncheon was Colonel Sue Graham (my daughter).

Twelve young women undertaking tertiary study each received a NCW Australia Day Award Certificate and a cheque for \$1,000 to assist them in their future studies. These young women were selected by their Universities as worthy recipients

The next function was the *25th Anniversary Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon*, again at Parliament House. Twenty-four nonagenarians were acknowledged and thanked for their service to their communities. Judy Nunn AM, actor and writer was the Guest Speaker. Members who had attended the first Jean Arnot Lunch and subsequent lunches were present.

Our Foundation Day Luncheon was held in Cello's Restaurant in the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. At this Luncheon our affiliated organisations nominate members for our Recognition Awards. Four women were nominated by their organisations for their long and faithful service to their organisations. The Guest Speaker on that occasion was Kim Boettcher.

Our final function was our Dame Marie Bashir Peace Awards. Dame Marie presented eight young women who are in years 10, 11 and 12 at their school with a Certificate and a cheque for \$250. These young women were honoured for their efforts in making their schools and communities more harmonious places. Four other young women were given a Highly Commended Certificate. Their School Principals nominated the young women for selection to this award.

In June the National Council of Women Australia's Mid Term Conference was held in Canberra and a number of NCW NSW members attended. At this Conference a sub-committee, the National Council of Young Women, was launched.

Elections were held for Office Bearers at our Annual General Meeting in September. Annie Kiefer was elected as our new President. Annie is the former Secretary of the Country Women's Association.

As well as our major function, a monthly meeting is held on the last Thursday of the month (excepting January and December) at 4.30pm in the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. At these meetings we have enjoyed hearing guest speakers on a wide range of interesting topics.

Many Members and Friends' attend a Morning Tea on the third Wednesday of the month (excepting January), at 10.15am in the Upper Room Café, Wesley Centre, 200 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Tricia Graham



WORLD PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
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AMUA TREASURER: Mrs Kath Glew
 521 Pleystowe School Road, Walkerston QLD 4751

AMUA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: The Reverend Canon Libbie Crossman
 PO Box 1087, Bongaree QLD 4507



DIOCESE OF SYDNEY (2017)

The **Executive Committee** is comprised of

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| President | Patron |
| Vice Presidents | Chaplain |
| Secretary | Heads of Departments |
| Treasurer | Immediate Past President |
| AMUA Executive Members from Sydney Diocese | |

Executive Committee Serving Members 2017

Patron	Dianne Davies
President	Wendy Mayer
Chaplain	Rev'd Janis Donohoo
Immediate Past President	Christine Jensen OAM
Regional Vice Presidents:	Senior VP and Southern Pauline Burdon
	Northern Glenda McSorley
	Wollongong Joan Tasker
Secretary	June Hickey
Treasurer	Karen Watt

Departments:

Diocesan Members	Christine Jensen OAM
Education	Karen Watt
Hospital Visiting	Julie Kerslake
Overseas and Northern Outreach	Mary Clark
Prayer and Spirituality	Rev'd Janis Donohoo
Promotion and Development/Publicity	Doreen Pawley (resigned June 2017)
Social Issues & Action	Ann Cunningham

MU Sydney Court Workers 2017

Coordinator	Ann Cunningham
Court Convenors:	
Bidura (closed July 2017)	Sandra Hugo
Moss Vale	Heather Anderson
Parramatta	Prue Feather
Sutherland	Margaret Bourne
Sydney Family Court	Prue Feather
Wollongong (in recess)	Rona McKenzie Jan Creighton

Office Assistants

Ruth Cunningham

Julia Williams

Linda Wheeler

MU Worker

Karen Braga

Links Co-ordinator

Jan Boyley

MU Sydney Diocesan Council

The **Diocesan Council** is comprised of

Patron

Branch Presidents

Executive Committee

Delegates to other Organisations

Life Vice Presidents

Archdeacon for Women's Ministry

Life Members of the Council

Director of Mary Andrew's College

Mission Area Presidents

Bishops' Wives

MU Australia Executive Members from Sydney Diocese

Life Members of the Council

Gillian Garforth

Pam Goodhew

Sandra Hugo

Shirley Wilson

AMUA Vice President - Junior

Christine Jensen OAM

AMUA Life Vice Presidents

Jan Livingstone OAM

Elizabeth Appleby AM

MU Sydney Life Vice Presidents

Helen Cooney

Jan Harrison

June Hickey

Jan Livingstone OAM

Delegates from Council to Other Organisations

Australian Church Women

Glenda McSorley

National Council of Women

Tricia Graham

MU SYDNEY BRANCHES 2017

By Mission Area

Blue Mountains

Wentworth Falls

Canterbury / Bankstown / Inner West

Bankstown

Enfield

Sudanese Belmore Group

St George / Sutherland

Brighton-Le-Sands

Caringbah

Cronulla

Jannali

Oatley West

Peakhurst-Mortdale

Sutherland / Gymea

Liverpool

Liverpool (closed 2017)

Oran Park

Sadleir

Parramatta / Hills / Hawkesbury

Auburn (2 groups)

Berala

Carlingford

Parramatta

Sudanese Blacktown Group

Sudanese Oakhurst Group

Toongabbie

Southern Highlands

Bowral

Camden

Mittagong

Moss Vale

Sydney City / Lower North Shore

King Street

Lane Cove

Upper North Shore / Ryde

Berowra

Epping

Mowll Village Fellowship Group

Normanhurst

Pennant Hills

Warringah

Dee Why

Narrabeen

Wollongong/Lake Illawarra

Corrimal

Dapto

Fairy Meadow (closed 2017)

Figtree

Keiraville

West Wollongong

Diocesan Members

MU Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who gave marriage to be a source of blessing,
we thank you for family life, with all its joys and sorrows.
May we know your presence and peace in our homes,
fill them with your love and use them to your glory.
Bless all who are married and every parent and child.
Pour out upon us your Holy Spirit,
that we may truly love and serve you.
Bless the Members of The Mothers' Union
throughout the world, unite us in prayer and worship,
in love and service, that strengthened by your grace
we may seek to do your will
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Purpose Of The Mothers' Union Is ...

To be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.

The Aim Of The Mothers' Union Is ...

The advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

The Objects Of The Mothers' Union Are ...

To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.
To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.
To maintain a World Wide 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.

MU Sydney Contact Details

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SYDNEY NSW 2000

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464 Kent Street
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Hours: 9am – 4pm Monday to Friday

Telephone: 02 8030 8970

Email: office@musydney.org.au

Website: www.musydney.org.au



MU Australia Diocese of Sydney Inc
part of the worldwide Mothers' Union
www.musydney.org.au

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