



**MU Australia**  
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union

**Diocese of Newcastle Newsletter - July 2011**

**MU AUSTRALIA-DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE**

**DIARY DATES 2011**

July	1st	2nd Council Meeting	10am	Southlakes
July	26th	Paterson Deanery Day	10.30am	Raymond Terrace
August	8th	OS&NOR Luncheon	10am	New Lambton
August	12th	OS&NOR Luncheon	10am	Wyong
August	29th	Executive meeting	10am	Kotara South
September	5th - 9th	Anglican Women Spring Celebrations		
September	15th	Newcastle Deanery Meeting	10am	Mayfield
October	4th	Newcastle West Deanery Meeting	9:30am	Lambton
October	13th	Lake Macq, Deanery Meeting	10am	Cardiff
October	17th	Executive Meeting	10am	Cardiff
October	21st	Maitland Deanery Meeting	10am	Morpeth
October	25th	Paterson Deanery Meeting	10.30am	Raymond Terrace
November	18th	AGM	10am	Merewether

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER October 17th, 2011**

**Please send your MU News/Photos for the next edition to:**

**Jenny Whiteman (Publicity Officer)**

**1 Dundas Street, MAYFIELD NSW 2304**

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**Email: whiteman43@hotmail.com**

**(If you are sending by E-mail please save as .doc  
[compatible with Windows XP] thank you)**

Our Theme  
for This Year  
is:

"What does  
the Lord re-  
quire of you,  
but to do  
justice, to love  
mercy and to  
walk humbly  
with your  
God"

(Micah Ch. 6:  
Vs. 8)



**Lady Day 2011**



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

## ***President Laurel writes***

Dear fellow MU members around the Diocese,

As I write this, I pray that Pentecost will be a renewal for all. I always 'feel good' when the Day of Pentecost arrives, I really feel that we enter a new season, of great joy, and enthusiasm, as we once again consider God sending the Holy Spirit to us all.

Since my last letter to you all I have had some very interesting times with some of the branches.

At Gresford, along with Judy Ford and Jenny Dacombe, we met up with the Lone Members there and presented Narelle Bird her 25 year badge. We worshipped in the beautiful church of St. Anne's and then enjoyed lunch together under the trees there - such a great setting.

And a cruise on the Manning River as Taree celebrated a very full 10years of their Branch, the day could not have been better and the fellowship was inspiring as well.

MICA [Mayfield] celebrated their 80th birthday with a High Tea and some wonderful entertainment, with two new members admitted.

It was day of mixed emotions [both highs and lows] at Birmingham Gardens. For many years they had persisted in keeping the Branch going but it was closed in March, along with Barbara Harkin receiving her 25 year badge and celebrating her 90th Birthday.

I ask you to think of the members at Murrurundi, they are not meeting for 12 months, and then they will re assess their situation. With some members not well, and other commitments with their Parish, they felt they needed some time out, we will keep in touch with them over this time.

Lady Day of course was the usual magnificent service, with banners, and Guest Speaker Christine Jensen, who encouraged us all with her talk, and urged us to take a month with 31 days in it to read a chapter of Proverbs each day— have you done that yet, I am making August my month to do this— why not join me!!.



a member in 2006 and Beth Brooker 25 years. What a pity some of the old minutes are mislaid.

The afternoon concluded with a Victorian Afternoon Tea. China crockery, lace tablecloths and dainty food graced our tables, all prepared by the Mayfield ladies. The finale was the cutting of the 80th birthday cake.

Well done MICA, may you continue for many years, encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life in Mayfield.

*Ann Clark*



**The cutting of the Birthday Cake**

## ***OVERSEAS & NORTHERN OUTREACH MISSION LUNCHEON***

Newcastle:	When:	8th August
	Where:	New Lambton Church Hall.
Central Coast:	When:	12th August
	Where:	Wyong

## Mayfield (MI CA) MU 80th Birthday Celebrations

St Andrews Mayfield MU celebrated their 80th Birthday on May 10th 2011. This special event was attended by over 50 MU members and we were honoured by two past Diocesan Presidents, Elizabeth Appleby and Carol Harvey and our current Diocesan President Laurel Brook. Most members wore beautiful hats as we bidden to do. Tis gave the day a festive feel.

Rev. Andrew Knox celebrated the day with a Eucharist and, during the service, two new members, Judith Main and Pam Reynolds were welcomed into MU Membership by President Laurel Brook and Branch President Anna-Gloria Holmes.

We then adjourned to the Church Hall, where Organist Andrew Van Homrigh and his five musicians "The Sophistication" entertained us with delightful music and songs from some famous Musicals.

This atmosphere led us to think of past times in Mayfield. Member Min Knot remembers a time when the branch had 70 members. Joan Winder first joined MU at Mayfield and her mother was also a member. More recently Mary Middleton celebrated her 100th birthday and sheila Richards was presented with her 50 year badge in 2007. Paula Murdoch celebrated 39 years as



Two new members admitted

I am hearing of some good things happening with our Theme, I attended the Lake Macquarie Deanery Quiet Day, with Fr. Daniel, and we were allowed to go for a walk on the Fernleigh Track, or go to the Lake, to contemplate and meditate in the surroundings that Belmont has to offer. It was quite different to the usual Quiet Day, with complete silence etc. but very lovely and meaningful.

My prayers and that of the Executive are with those of you that we have heard are not well, and with those of you who have lost loved ones.

Love and prayers

*Laurel*



## New MU Promotion Kits

By now all branches will have the new MU promotion kits. These are excellent and contain flyers, posters and other interesting information material which will be useful for promoting MU in your parish.

What do you think of the material given?

Will it be useful in your Branch?

How will you use it?

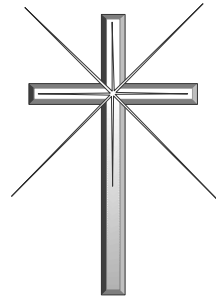
Your feedback is valuable so let us know what you think.

*Editor*



## Chaplain's Message

*The Rev. Dr. Daniel Dries*



Dear friends in Christ,

During the past few months, I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting a number of MU branches throughout the Diocese. The American Army has advertised for new recruits with the slogan, "Join the army, see the world!" I don't imagine that my role as Diocesan MU Chaplain will result in world travel, but I have the feeling that I will see all of our diocese during my term!

As I have been visiting branches as guest speaker, I have reflected on the theme for 2011: "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6.8) Although the prophet Micah's instructions sound relatively simple, we all know that doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with God presents an enormous challenge on a daily basis.

I was recently taken aback by the use of the word 'justice' in the media headlines. On Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, President Barack Obama addressed the American people and proudly pronounced, "Justice has been done!" I found myself wondering if Jesus would have used the term 'justice' in relation to the death of Osama bin Laden. Nobody could ever deny the reality of evil that drove the September 11 attacks. However, I imagine that Jesus would not use the term 'justice' to describe the murder of any individual – regardless of how evil they may have been. When we pray for peace in our world (which we need to do unceasingly), surely we are praying for the day when violence and acts of revenge are no longer necessary. Surely this is what the Prophet Micah had in mind when he told us what God requires of each of us, "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

ers

## Lone Members

A mail out to all Lone Members has been sent with news of Lady Day. I assured members that I carried the Lone Members banner very proudly. I have had a few notes from members and their families with current news and I have replied to all of these.

I joined Laurel, Dorothy and Janice for a final MU Service at Birmingham Gardens. This was an emotional time as not everyone wanted the branch to close. Numbers and attendance being what they were, closing was really the right thing to do. Four of the ladies became Lone Members.

Thursday 14th April saw Laurel, Judy and I visiting East Gresford to present a 25 year badge to Narelle Bird. We gathered at the lovely old church of St Ann's and had our MU service followed by a picnic in the grounds. It was a sparkling day and a time of good fellowship was enjoyed. For me it was a chance to meet more Lone Members, church members and ladies from Dungog who Joined us. It was a day I shall remember.

*Jenny Dacombe (Lone Members Coordinator.)*

## Vale Mary Prince

Mary died very suddenly after a severe stroke on 1st March 2011.

She is remembered for her important role in Hamilton MU Branch as a hospital visitor where she visited the new mums and their babies for many years.

She knitted, on average, a pair of booties a day and sent a bag of them to each Council Meeting up to only several years ago.

Mary is sadly missed by branch members.

*Rewa Richardson*



## Member Celebrates 100 Years

It gave me great pleasure to send greetings, on behalf of all MU members, to Jessie Keegan of Singleton on her 100th birthday on 15th January 2011. What a delight to receive her hand written thanks a few days later.

(As follows).

Beth Weeks

(Diocesan Birthday Card Secretary).

Dear Mrs. Weeks,

Many thanks for the card and congratulations on my 100th birthday on behalf of the members of MU Newcastle diocese. Please excuse writing but I am almost blind now.

With love

Jessie Keegan.

**P.S. I enjoyed the day with all my family & relatives.**

## Let

A Prayer for Peace (from *A Prayer Book For Australia*)

*God of the nations, whose kingdom rules over all, have mercy on our broken and divided world. Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all people and banish from them the spirit that makes for war; that all races and people may learn to live as members of one family and in obedience to your laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

With every blessing,

*Fr Daniel Dries*



## Thoughts on

### **'A Worship and Prayer Book for MU Australia'**

What an asset our new MU prayer book has proved to be! The more you use and search through it the more you find.

The prayers cover every subject. Especially enjoyable and appropriate are the seasonal prayers (for both the Churches' year and the seasonal year). Likewise the prayers for natural disasters which have been many this year and these are easily adapted to the individual situation which needs to be prayed for.

Recently I received a letter from an MU friend in Birkenhead, Cheshire UK to whom I had sent a copy of our book. She lent it to her branch leader who loved it and has already used some of the prayers.

So we can feel very proud of this special book with grateful thanks to the compilers.

*Rewa Richardson*

*(Hamilton MU branch President)*

What do think is special about our MU Worship and Prayer book?

Or, do you have any favourite prayers?

Send in your thoughts to share.

*Editor*

## Vale Patricia Bailey

Patricia Bailey was a member of Belmont Nth/Redhead MU Branch for 35 years. She was a loving, dedicated lady who was a tremendous help in so many ways in our MU and Church life. Sadly she was in very poor health these past 3 years and was resident in Amity Nursing Home at Waratah.

Patricia 's funeral was on 18th March 2011 and se is now resting with her Lord and reunited with her beloved



husband.

*Alma Irons.*



**The banner procession**

## Lady Day

The 25th March 2011 (Lady Day) was a beautiful sunny day with a light breeze to keep us cool. We all felt uplifted by the gathering together of MU members at the Cathedral where we shared in the Eucharist. Fr Daniel Dries gave us much to think about in his homily about two 'dangerous' women who have influenced history, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Mary the Mother of our Lord. Both of whom were brave and 'dangerous' for different reasons.

Elizabeth conveyed a message of hope by being among the people and smiling in the face of evil during the London blitz and Mary, who was pregnant outside of marriage bravely accepted God's will even though she was afraid of the consequences. Both were prepared to live dangerously in a hopeless situation inspiring others to also hope. Does our faith inspire us to live dangerously for God?



**Elizabeth Lindquist (President/Secretary of Gosford branch) and Kerry Kear (Diocesan Secretary) with Gosford banner. Christine Jensen took this photo and E-mailed it to Elizabeth.**

After the Eucharist we welcomed our guest speaker Christine Jensen (Sydney Diocesan President) who had journeyed from Sydney to be with us. Her talk was inspiring and she challenged us to think about Proverbs as a series of connected sayings about being wise. She also challenged us to pick a month with 31 days and read a chapter of Proverbs each

## News from Swansea Branch

Salutations from Mothers Union Swansea Branch. Last year we lost two dear members who departed this earthly life, to be with our heavenly Father.

We farewelled Jean Harris who moved to a nursing home in Woolgoolga. Jean was a dear lady sometimes affectionately known as 'the Queen' who insisted we had cake forks for our sweets and we presented her with a toy jeweled crown as a parting gift. Our links secretary Heather Cherry kept in touch with Jean by post as a lone member but not long after her move she passed away in August 2010.

Another member, Shirley Hammond, was a dedicated knitter of hundreds of baby booties for MU. She became quite frail and Her husband, Mervyn went from dropping and collecting her to and from MU meetings to sharing lunchtime with us and eventually attending our meetings. Shirley passed away in December 2010, only a short time after attending her last MU meeting.

At our meeting on 8th June 2011 our MU President Laurel Brook was present to share with us in the admission of three new members: June Howard from Gwandalan, Mervyn Hammond and Julie Mc Kay.

We were glad to welcome Mervyn as a MU member. In our MU, prayers I always try to include the prayer for husbands which we were given at the Cathedral in 2010.

Mervyn's wife Shirley had been in MU for over 50 years and so he was presented with a posthumous 50 years service badge for Shirley. At the close of our meeting Mervyn also with us a prayer which he found in Shirley's diary.

MU holds a very special place in my heart. Isn't it wonderful that we can pray for MU worldwide. I'm looking forward to our coming MU Wave of Prayer time.

I'm fairly new to MU and still have my "L" plates and, on a light note, I left the three badges for our new members at home ... so had to rush to retrieve them just in time for the service!

Thanks to the Swansea members and Laurel for helping to make the day a wonderful MU celebration.

In Appreciation and 'Walking Humbly'

*Jackie Patricia Williams,  
President MU Swansea Branch.*



**Presentation to three new members**

## Mary Summers own personal prayer



*All this day Lord  
Let me touch as many lives  
as possible for thee;  
and every life I touch do, thou  
by thy Spirit quicken;  
whether through the words I speak,  
the prayer I breathe, of the life  
I live  
Amen*

## Publications news

(from Executive Meeting Minutes)

Robyn Southerden has agreed to be overseer of Publications Dpt. and will be organizing the stock and ordering and finances. Janice Proud will be responsible for ordering and selling cards and Barbara Watts will handle the book and gift lines at Council Meetings. Barbara will also look after the MU stock and all ordering and purchasing of the books and gift lines.

We are very grateful to Robyn for taking on this very important organizational task. Thank you Robyn.

It was agreed at the meeting that MU donate a MU Worship and Prayer Book, Baptismal Kit, MU promotional leaflet and a covering letter from the Diocesan President to all Stipendiary Candidates for ministry and a MU Worship and Prayer Book and MU promotional material leaflet to Ordinands in Local Ministry (O.L.M.s)

*Editor*

**Editor's Note:** Please would all contributors include their branch (Parish) name when submitting articles for the newsletter.

day for the month. In the light of Proverbs 31 Vs 30 "Charm is deceptive, beauty is fleeting but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised". (NIV)

She asked the following questions:

- How do we see ourselves and how do others see us?
- How important is our relationship with God?
- Are we men and women who fear the Lord?



**The commissioning of our new President Laurel Brook**



**The commissioning of the new executive**

- Are we becoming more like Jesus?  
Christine also challenged us to know God better using tools like the MU Wave of Prayer and exercising His gift of the ability to pray

After the formal proceedings we were all able to catch up with friends over lunch.

All in all a very enjoyable day for everyone.

*Jenny Whiteman*



**More of the banner procession**

# Mary Sumners' Memorial at Alresford Hampshire

## A Letter from Philip Kinder

Unit 16 Francis Village  
Gleeson Crescent,  
Eleebana, N.S.W. 2282  
25th June 2010

Dear Mary, (does anyone know who Mary is?)

*I have just found this little treasure (a postcard -see picture) after finding it in our family archives and then losing it for several months. It came from my mother who, with my father, was a missionary in Tanganyika - Tanzania now - and she established the Mothers Union there. I have left it in the envelope that it was in when I found it with the address on it in her handwriting. Mum died in her eighties in 1980. Now I'm nearly in my eighties so I hope I don't go too soon!!*

*I will send it to Denise Brown,... at the address on the back of the Newsletter you sent me at some stage when I was trying to find someone in the Mothers Union to send it to. The Newsletter has the name 'Mary' hand-written on it so I am hoping that you will receive it eventually. I don't remember how I made contact with you and presumably asked you to send me an address to enable me to send this little document to Mothers Union somewhere, because I'm sure it will be treasured by members of MU. I have read the Newsletter and found some lovely articles in it. Thanks for sending it and enabling me to get this treasure to someone who will, I'm sure, value it.*



*Lots of love,  
Philip Kinder,  
Son of Archdeacon Harold  
Stuart Kinder and Winifred  
Kinder, missionaries in the  
Church Missionary Society  
based in Sydney.*

## St Mary the Virgin Church, Old Alresford, Hampshire

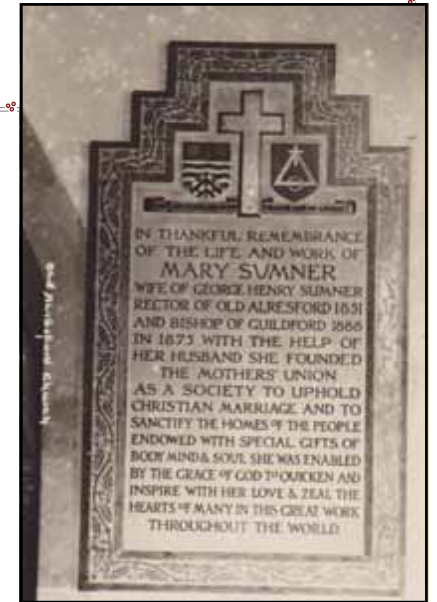
In 1850 the living of Old Alresford was divided into three parishes; Medstead, New Alresford and Old Alresford. The new Rector of Old Alresford was the Reverend George Sumner, son of the then Bishop of Winchester and husband of Mary, the founder of the Mother's Union.

The Sumners immediately began changing the Church, and by 1852 had added a Caen stone font which replaced the basin previously used. By 1859, at the expense of Sumner and his friends, a new vestry had been added to the north and, to the south, a transept had been built; the windows of the Church had been replaced and stone mullions added and the east window was filled with the present stained glass.

The Sumners were also interested in music, and in 1864 added a pipe organ to replace the clarinet, fiddle and flute. Major works were undertaken in 1870/71 when the stone floor was removed, the gallery and Church re-floored and re-seated, the vestry completely rebuilt to allow for a chamber for the organ, tiles laid in the nave, and the heating apparatus placed underground.

The Church having been closed for the major alterations, was reopened by Bishop Wilberforce of Winchester on 24th April 1871. Mary Sumner, writing about their time in Old Alresford, remarks on her husband's distress when during the service snoring was heard. The Bishop however, was not concerned as he said he knew about the snoring of owls in the Church tower. During her time in the village, Mary organised a monthly meeting for local women and, from this beginning, the Mother's Union grew. The Sumners were concerned for the welfare of the whole family and in 1878 a Working Men's Reading Room (now a private residence) was built and opened in the village with gifts from the Rector's family making it more comfortable. The Sumner's left in 1885 and in 1888 George Sumner became Bishop of Guildford.

(Reference: <http://www.southernlife.org.uk/stmary.htm>) (used with permission)



Mary Sumner memorial at St. Mary the Virgin church Old Alresford Hampshire UK.