

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

**MU AUSTRALIA-DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE**  
**DIARY DATES 2011**

March 18th	1st Council Meeting	10.00am	Cardiff
March 25th	Lady Day Celebration	10.30am	Cathedral
March 29th	Paterson Deanery Meeting	10.30am	Raymond Terrace
April 6th	Lake Mac. Deanery Meeting	10.00am	Charlestown
April 13th	N'castle West Deanery Meeting	TBA	TBA
April 18th	Executive Meeting	10.00am	Cardiff
May 11th	Upper Hunter Quiet Day	11.00am	TBA
May 12th	Lake Mac. Deanery Quiet Day	10.00am	Belmont
May 27th	Central Coast Quiet Day	10.00am	TBA
May 30th	N'castle/N'castle West Quiet Day	10.00am	The Cathedral
June 20th	Executive Meeting	10.00am	Belmont
June 22nd	Lake Mac. Deanery Meeting	10.00am	Cockle Bay - Boolaroo
June 24th	Maitland Deanery Day	10.00am	East Maitland
	Anglican Women's Conference		
July 1st	2nd COUNCIL MEETING	10.00am	Southlakes
July 26th	Paterson Deanery Quiet Day	10.00am	Raymond Terrace

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER June 6th, 2011**

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

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**MAYFIELD 2304**

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**Diocese of Newcastle**  
**Newsletter - March 2011**

***Our Theme for This Year is***

**“What does the Lord require of you,  
but to do justice, to love mercy and to  
walk humbly with your God”**

**(Micah Ch. 6: Vs. 8)**

***Our New Executive***



## ***President Laurel writes***

This is my initiation into The Newsletter, firstly it is a great privilege to be your President, and I look forward to renewing many friendships made whilst I was Diocesan Secretary, and to making new friends in my new role.

A big welcome to all new office bearers on the Executive, and also to those in Branches who have taken a role in leadership for the very first time. It can be a daunting experience to begin with, but realise that we are among friends, and help is only a phone call away, your Deanery Leader is a good place to start if you need any assistance.

The new Executive, have met, and it was 'good feel meeting', with lots of discussion and sharing. Please continue to pray for your Executive members, as we endeavour to continue MU in the Diocese.

Trusting you are all very refreshed and 'raring to go', after the Christmas & New Year Break. I will be very interested to learn of what is going on around the Diocese in the Branches and what great and innovative program ideas are included in your calendars this year.

What a time it has been since we last met in November, the Queensland floods, and Cyclone Yasi. I guess like me, you were watching the onset of that, wondering what was going to happen and how the residents would fare in its wake. I think in some way we were all touched by the response of those angels of mercy that came from all over to assist the affected people. Those who lost loved ones and property are, I am sure, in the prayers of all MU members, as are also those who have experienced the devastation of the Western Australian Bush Fires.

I have done a little research on our theme. As you know music is one of my 'things' and there are quite a few hymns that I have found to go with the theme. One in particular will be our theme Hymn for the year. It is TIS 618 'What Does The Lord Require?' and is based on our theme text Micah 6:8. I have for some time liked the line which is our bi-line "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God", I hope we all learn much from the Theme this year.



## ***Muswellbrook Branch***



### ***Vale Norma Hurst***

Norma was a loyal and faithful member of St Albans Mothers Union. She passed away on 28th May 2010.

Norma joined M.U. in Armidale in 1965 and was Deanery leader at Grafton. She received the Scroll for 40 years Service from Carol Harvey in 1995.

## ***Merewether Branch Presentations***

At Merewether MU Christmass luncheon we honoured several of our long serving members.

*Elizabeth Powell, Joan Smith and Shirley Hayes* were presented with 40 year + certificates and *Dorothy Bodell, Jeanette Johnston, Jan Letcher, Evelyn Turner and Marie King* were presented with their 25 year badges.

Well done all of you this is a great achievement.



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

## News From the Branches

### ***Gosford Branch***

#### ***A memorable day***

On 7th September 2010 Gosford MU welcomed Diocesan Chaplain Canon Catherine Bowyer and her mother Judy Redden to their meeting.

When Judy Redden was Gosford Branch President, 25 years ago, Elizabeth Linquist who is now Branch President and Secretary was admitted to MU.

25 years later it was time for Canon Katherine to celebrate the Eucharist and present Elizabeth with her 25 year long service badge.

Truly a grand occasion for Gosford Branch.



Canon Katherine presents Elizabeth with her badge



### ***Hamilton Branch***

#### ***A tribute to Sylvie Bell***

Sylvie was a loyal member of St. Peter's MU for over 53 years. She held every position on the Branch Executive and was always involved with everything that concerned Mothers Union, from helping to line up the banner procession on Lady Day to visiting the sick which was one of her strengths.

Sylvie passed away on 19th November, 2009 and the church was full for her Requiem Eucharist on 26th November, 2009. We all remember her with love and give thanks for her life among us.

The Australian Theme is "Faithful Relationships" it sounds a very interesting topic, and one you may wish to contemplate throughout the year. Quoting from Rev'd. Canon Libbie Crossman our Australian President, she says 'If we are to really reflect our vision we must take into our whole being the example of how Jesus related to people and do likewise'.

It is only very early into the year as I write this letter to you, and so I look forward to seeing you at the First Council Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> March, and Lady Day 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Much love and prayers to my fellow MU friends around the Diocese.

### ***Laurel***

## ***\*\*\*Lady Day Service\*\*\****

**Friday 25th March 10.30am at the Cathedral**

**Guest Speaker: Mrs. Christine Jensen**

**Sydney Diocesan President**



### ***OVERSEAS & NORTHERN OUTREACH***

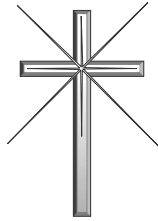
#### ***MISSION LUNCHEON***

##### **Advance Notice**

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

## Chaplain's Message

*The Rev. Dr. Daniel Dries*



Dear friends in Christ,

I am truly honoured to be writing for the first time as Diocesan Chaplain to the Mothers' Union. By way of introduction, I should say that I am currently the Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Belmont. Prior to coming to Belmont, I served as the Assistant Priest at the Cathedral during 2009 and 2010. Before the Cathedral, I spent a year as the Assistant in the Parish of Cessnock Wollombi. The three parishes in which I have served have been greatly contrasted. In fact, one of the few elements that each of these parishes has shared has been the presence of the Mothers' Union. As such, I have developed a great respect and admiration for the ministry of Mothers' Union, both in our diocese and throughout the world. My journey of ordained ministry has been shared by my wife, Peta, and our 2 daughters, Charlotte (aged 5) and Emily (aged 3).

Although I have only been the Diocesan Chaplain to MU for a couple of months, I have already received a number of invitations to visit branches throughout the year. I feel very fortunate that my first year as Chaplain will be spent exploring the very challenging theme of Micah 6.8: "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." These directions are not tasks that can be crossed off a 'To Do List'. Rather, they are ongoing challenges that need to be applied at every level of our lives – from a diocesan or parish level, through to our home and family lives. I look forward to sharing my thoughts on our theme with you throughout the year, and I really look forward to finding out how you interpret this very challenging passage.

## From Barbara Bate (Lakes Anglican M.U.)

### *Advertising for Children's Clothes.*

What are we doing to our children these days? I see advertisements in 'Junk mail' for shirts, ties and shorts for boys size 0 - 2 and one pants and shirt for size 0000 - 0. Why can't babies be babies?

I don't see a return to the early 1900's when 2 year old boys had long ringlets and were dressed in sailor outfits, but can we strike a happy medium. According to commercial advertising babies 'must have' so much these days that it costs a fortune to set up a nursery.

I suggest that local op shops can supply most of baby's needs. Little ones don't wear out their clothes - they outgrow them and excellent bargains can be found for young parents on a budget. A baby won't know if it has the most expensive top brand name items, only if it's loved.

## A Note from Jenny

I have just become a grandmother for the 5th time and before my daughter's son Nicholas was born we had a grand sort out of her elder son Cameron's clothes. Much of what was not needed was given away. Some of the clothes were 2nd or 3rd hand but still good. We kept quite a few of the newer ones, particularly items given as gifts. After the birth many more gift clothes were received. Most of the clothing is 'baby style' but it is interesting to note that fathers like to see their sons dressed as 'boys' from day one so there is absolutely no chance of putting anything 'pretty' on a baby boy. All the pretty knitted jackets got put away in hopes that the next child is a girl.



**Cameron and Baby Nicholas**

## A Celebration of Friendships. (Cont...)

During that time many friendships were formed and interesting Programs, and extra activities such as concerts, car rallies, Diocesan Rallies, camps, fashion parades, and joining in worship were enjoyed.

## Letters

### From our Birthday Card Secretary Betty Weeks

As M.U. Birthday Card Secretary for the diocese I have the pleasure of sending birthday greetings to lots of ladies. Even though I do not know them, I feel close to each one because of the common bond we share as members of Mothers Union. From time to time I receive a letter telling me of that persons involvement in M.U. or some special news of their family which binds us even closer.

Toward the end of 2010 *Merle Morante* celebrated her 83rd birthday but sadly her husband Jim died that day. They had been friends and soul mates for over 60 years and have a close knit family.

Merle was full of praise and thankfulness for the love and care given to Jim by the staff of 'Bupa' where he had spent his last few months.

Their love for God and His Church was reflected in the selection of their favorite hymns sung at Jim's Requiem Eucharist: - *'Breathe on me breath of God'*, *'And now O Father'* and *'Thine be the Glory'*, hymns which encompass the might and majesty of our God as we submit to His all embracing love.

Merle stated that though she doesn't get to M.U meetings these days, her heart is still involved in all that M.U. stands for. She ended by saying that she hoped that we may meet at Lady Day so maybe we will. God willing.

### News from the Branches A Celebration of Friendships.

Cockle Bay Caritas, held a luncheon in February 2011, to officially close the Group after 47 years.



Over that time it was known as Young Members Department, Young Wives, ALF [A Ladies Fellowship] and Caritas. The Parish has had several different titles during that time as well. E.g. The Parish of Boolaroo, Parish of North Lake Macquarie and Cockle Bay Anglican Community.

Please bear with me as I struggle through my first few months as your chaplain. I am very aware that I have big shoes to fill! However, I very much look forward to getting to know you all in the coming months and years.

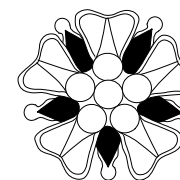
With every blessing,

*Fr Daniel Dries*

### *Vacancies on Executive.*

There are vacancies still to be filled on executive for the positions of:

- Lake Macquarie Deanery leader and Publications Coordinator.
- Barbara Eather has agreed to be Upper Hunter Deanery Leader pro. tem.
- The Publications position has been divided into three for the time being.
  - \* Books & Gifts: Barbara Wattus (ph. 49582374)
  - \* Cards etc.: Janice Proud (ph. 49570378)
  - \* All MU stock is to be kept at Cardiff with Carol.
  - \* A coordinator is still needed.
- Please pray that these vacancies will be filled.



## ***Education Department***

### ***Our Resources at work***

I have a lovely story to share with you from Lola Reinhard of Williamtown/Medowie/Mallubula Branch.

When it was their turn for “The Box”, the MU team at St Saviour’s Church Williamtown displayed the MU resources in the church for everyone to browse among and borrow from. Ivy Collins, who is not an MU member, but who is the sister of Shirley Beaton, formerly from Gloucester, had her eye caught by the book *“How to design and make Banners for Sacred and Secular Festivals”*. She filled in the borrowing card (excellent!), and off she went with the book to tackle the banner pictured on the front – the Peace Banner. And what a success she made of it! Not only is it a beautiful ornamental work about one metre in length, but Ivy has attached the story and symbolism of the art to the back of the banner. It is awaiting a faculty from the Bishop to allow it to hang permanently in St Saviour’s.

So, thank you, Ivy, for your work of love, and thank you, MU members of W/M/M Branch, for sharing our MU resources with others. Perhaps if another Parish does not have a library, its MU Branch, like W/M/M, may consider opening the MU resource box to everyone in the Parish when it becomes available.

### ***Our Resources mislaid***

Quite a number of our resources which have gone out into the deaneries have not been returned, and some have been borrowed without a library card having been completed and left in the box, which means that they are, in effect, “lost”. Three of the latter are the books *“Maalika”*, *‘Mama Jude’*, and the DVD *“Amazing Grace”*, all very popular items with our members. *‘Amazing Grace’* has been replaced, but at a cost, of course. Would you all please have a look at home to see if you have an MU book or DVD lying around, and if so, return it to me or your Deanery Leader as soon as possible? And, when you borrow, please complete the library card and leave it in the envelope in the box. Many thanks.



### ***Our Resources expanding***

Our library of DVDs is growing, and most boxes now contain about 4 or 5. I trust you have **all** had the opportunity to see the DVD featuring MU at work in Vanuatu by now - most boxes contain a copy.

If anyone is “downsizing” and wants to donate some of their personal Christian books to MU, I would be happy to accept books that are in good condition, published within the last 20 years or so, and on subjects appropriate to women and MU.

### ***Our Resources redistributed***

The boxes have been distributed as follows, with a contact person listed, and will remain there until the AGM in November when they will be returned for revamping. Do make use of them when they are in your Branch.

- |          |                |                  |           |
|----------|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| ● Box 1: | Lake Macquarie | Dawn Tulk        | 4975 2824 |
| ● Box 2: | Paterson       | Denise Brown     | 4930 5979 |
| ● Box 3: | Newcastle      | Anne Clarke      | 4963 1672 |
| ● Box 4: | Maitland       | Margaret Dunn    | 4966 3031 |
| ● Box 5: | Newcastle West | Dorothy Harman   | 4950 9932 |
| ● Box 6  | Manning        | Beth Weeks       | 6553 7069 |
| ● Box 7  | Upper Hunter   | Marion George    | 6572 2613 |
| ● Box 8  | Central Coast  | Dorothee Crother | 4392 1884 |
| ● Box 9  | Dungog         | Roslyn Hooke     | 49921669  |

**Jeanette Johnston**

**Education Department Co-ordinator**

**Advance Notice  
2nd Council Meeting**

**At Southlakes  
Friday July 1st at 10am**

**This will be a  
“How to” day  
Byo Lunch  
Meeting will finish by 2pm**