

# expression of interest

applications close 31 August 2019

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Particular area of interest  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Terms and Conditions\*

*The Scholar will*

have some means of financial support (additional to the Scholarship) for the duration of the research project and can not be in receipt of any other scholarship or bursary that will be concurrent with the APSMS (except government or university higher degree by research living allowance / grant);

visit New Norcia as often as needed to complete the research, complete the work required to address adequately the research topic and produce a body of research that is capable of being published within the negotiated time-frame;

maintain confidentiality concerning any sensitive archival or other records or information he/she comes into contact with during the time of the research and thereafter;

participate in promotional activities about the Scholarship and present a paper at the New Norcia Studies Day if the topic researched is suited to this.

*The Benedictine Community of New Norcia will*

provide accommodation and meals when the Scholar is resident in New Norcia;

provide what materials are reasonably required by the Scholar in the pursuit of his / her research. This includes access to archival records and to general resources;

reserve the right to revoke the Scholarship if some critical element not be achieved or sustained.

\* Full details of the Terms and Conditions are contained in the Application Pack

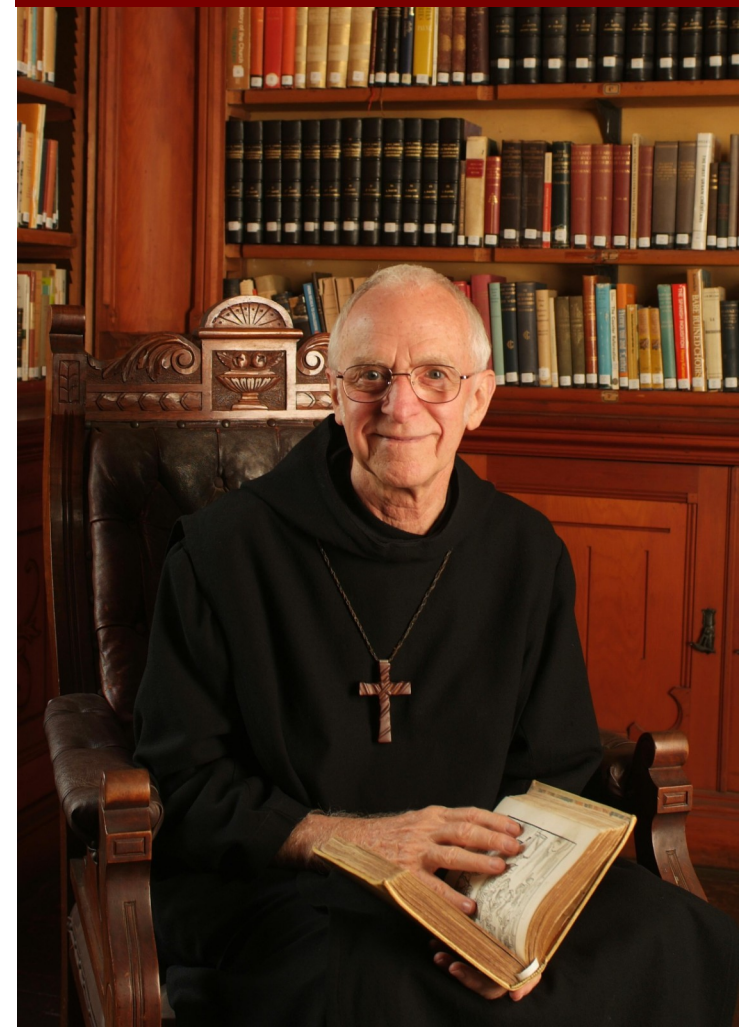
## New Norcia

Located 130km north east of Perth in the Australian bush, New Norcia was founded in 1846 by Spanish Benedictine monks who came to work with the local Aboriginal peoples. They named the place after Norcia in Italy, the birthplace of Saint Benedict. Over its history, New Norcia has been an Aboriginal mission, a centre for education and a place of hospitality and culture. Today it continues to be the home of a small community of Benedictine monks.



# 2020

## Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship



An application form and further information will be forwarded on receipt of this expression of interest.

Please return this form to:

The Archivist,  
Benedictine Community,  
New Norcia, WA 6509

Phone: 08 9654 8018

Fax: 08 9654 8097

Email: [archives@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:archives@newnorcia.wa.edu.au)



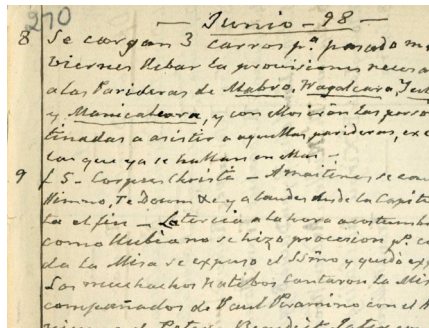
Selwyn Spearritt was born in Queensland in 1933. Taking the name Placid, he was professed at Ampleforth Abbey in England in 1960.

He was appointed Prior Administrator of New Norcia in 1983 and was elected as its Abbot in 1997.

Placid was a monk, a scholar, an ecumenist and a rebel. From his days as a teacher at Ampleforth College to his election and years as Abbot of New Norcia, he was known for his independent attitude, his deep faith and his rigorous intellect.

Placid led the way in making New Norcia what it is today—a heritage site of national importance, a place of inclusive spirituality and a retreat for anyone seeking space and peace. Under his leadership, New Norcia gradually discovered a new identity as Australia's only monastic town.

New Norcia is known for its buildings and art collection, but it is the Archives which lies closer to its heart. In the Archives resides a collection of diaries, chronicles, photographs, maps, letters, reports and records that hold the story of New Norcia since its foundation in 1847. The story reflects the great themes of Australia's history—agriculture, immigration, education, religion and our interaction with the indigenous peoples and culture. Unusually, the story is told from a European perspective, not from the more customary Anglo-Saxon point of view.



The 2020 Scholarship is now open and suitably qualified persons are invited to apply. Essential qualifications for the 2020 Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholar are: minimum of a bachelor's degree and a demonstrated proficiency in Spanish and / or Italian. It is also desirable for the applicant to have experience in historical and / or linguistic research.

Images from the Archives: (top left) Rosendo Salvado's diary, written in a miniscule hand over fifteen volumes and covering the Monastery's first fifty years; (bottom left) Fr. Emiliano Coll, teacher, seated at his desk with Aboriginal pupils on 22nd October 1867; right: a letter from Queen Isabella of Spain to Salvado, dated 2nd May 1883. Isabella was a benefactor of New Norcia.

Because of this, the riches of the New Norcia Archives remain largely unexplored and, in many cases, locked up in foreign languages, predominantly Spanish. Abbot Placid appreciated the importance of the Archives and had planned to learn Spanish in his retirement years and translate some of the vast body of material. But, it was not to be: Abbot Placid passed away unexpectedly in October 2008.

In memory of Abbot Placid, New Norcia has established a scholarship that aims to bring a scholar to New Norcia each year to work in the Archives on a specific project. The resulting research would then be made available to anyone interested in Australian history.

Research to date has seen the translation, from French, of the letters of Théophile Bérengier, the Sub-Prior of the Monastery in Marseille, and his hitherto untranslated *History of New Norcia*. This was intended to be a follow-up to the *Memoirs* of Bishop Rosendo Salvado, the founder of New Norcia.

The correspondence of Léandre Fonteinne, a French novice who came to New Norcia with Bishop Salvado, has also been transcribed and translated as has the correspondence of Canon Raffaele Martelli, a long time friend of Bishop Salvado and parish priest in Toodyay and Fremantle. These three works were published during the Salvado Bicentenary commemorations in 2014.

Other research work has been responsible for the transcription and translation of Bishop Salvado's 1883 Report to the Vatican (Propaganda Fide) and the translation of Salvado's letters to Théophile Bérengier

