

The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

July 2023



Kristy Freame worked as a tour guide in the MAG, and also held the fort for the roadhouse/post-office during COVID days in January.

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Kristy and Brad welcomed **Emmett Knox Pietraszek** on 9th May at KEMH in Perth.

Emmett was a healthy 3.24kg, or if you are metrically challenged: 7lb 2oz. He was 48cm long.

Brad's young daughter Violet, the "big sister" is also enjoying her new role in life.

Welcome to the world.

It is with a great deal of thanks and joy that, as a community, we celebrate with two of our Museum and Art Gallery (MAG) family members in recently giving birth.

As a community we congratulate Kristy, Brad and Violet, and Brian and Nora.

Nora McGee is a long term member of the MAG family, and greatly loved around the place for her bright and breezy personality.

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Nora and Brian welcomed TWINS on 13th June at KEMH in Perth. Ladies first!!

Ava Bridget Linke

was a petite 2.13kg or 4lb 11oz

Isaac Gregory Linke

was slightly bigger at 2.76kg or 6lb 1oz.



The heritage farm collection moves to a new home.

The machinery display near the Art Gallery/ Museum/Visitor's Centre has been closed to the public for a number of years now, owing to health and safety concerns.

The decision to relocate the collection having been made, we commenced the tricky process of moving old, fragile, heritage farm equipment to its new home, in the restored Blacksmith's Shop, where it will soon again be open to the public for viewing.

The Machinery Shed has a collection in three parts: farm equipment, other equipment including woodworking and wine making, and a collection of old catering equipment including domestic stoves, kero fridge and the like.

Problem solving was the order of the day. How to best move the old equipment without damaging it, then how to get it into position in the blacksmith's shop.

We had a greeting from Abbot John as we passed the admin office with the beautiful old horse drawn cart (in this case – fork lift pushed cart!)



The new tractor towing the old Lanz Bulldog tractor.

Pushing the old Newmann tractor with the skid loader



Pictured above is the majority of the farm collection in place in the Blacksmith's shop.



Our thanks to Dave (L) who came up from Bindoon for the day and provided great assistance and expertise. L-R: Dave, Abbot John, Ian and Alex.

Glass Houses

The Music of Philip Glass

2 SEPTEMBER 2023 | NEW NORCIA HOSTEL

Philip Glass (b. 1937) is one of the most prophetic and popular composers of our times, whose influence has given birth to entire genres of music. Much of his work (including the pieces performed in this concert) is pervaded by a kind of hypnotic and transcendent mysticism, absorbing the spirituality of Eastern and Western traditions.

This recital will feature New Norcia's Fr Robert Nixon performing the major piano works of Philip Glass, including the epic *Trilogy Sonata* and the transcendent *Mad Rush*, as well as other popular pieces by this composer.

The evening will commence at 6.30pm, and a light supper and drinks will be served. Tickets are \$90, all inclusive.

TO BOOK, PLEASE VISIT NEWNORCIA.COM.AU





New Norcia has a range of products which can be purchased in the town. There is something from our product range to tempt everybody!

A Special Visit from Newman College Students

On Tuesday, 13th of June we had 150 students from Newman College come to New Norcia for a day visit.

After morning tea on arrival, they then proceeded to the Abbey Church to listen to Fr. Robert give a talk on St Benedict, Salvado and also how New Norcia came to be. He made special mention of the Marist Brothers teaching at St Ildephonsus' College (connection to Newman College). The students and teachers were also treated to a performance on the organ by Fr. Robert.

After the talk, the students had a chance to reflect at the Rock of Remembrance and then proceeded to split into two groups for a town tour.

They concluded the day with lunch and a quick look at the Prendville Room and 6 Seasons Art Panels.



Social events at New Norcia

A Latin American Fiesta

Late last year, this concert of Father Robert's had to be cancelled because of COVID, so it was with great expectation that the people whose tickets had been rolled over arrived in New Norcia for the soiree.

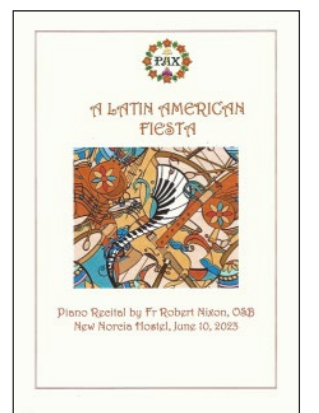
As always, the soiree was held in the hostel bar areas, and Abbot John was in full swing behind the bar making cocktails.

Fittingly, we had three people attending from South America: Paula who is a regular New Norcia attendee and is Columbian, and two ladies from Venezuela.

Benita and Victoria Molinos are sisters. Victoria lives in Perth these days, but Benita was out from Venezuela to visit her sister. It's a long way! She told me that she had flown from Caracas to Madrid, on to Doha and then to Perth. All in all, 36 hours on planes, not to mention the hour and a half from Perth! She has to earn the honour of having travelled the furthest to attend a New Norcia soiree!

The music was an absolute treat, from largely 19th century Latin American composers, and the sumptuous supper, prepared by Abbot John and served as a buffet was delicious.

All in all, a wonderful night.



The Porsche Club returns

On Sunday 18th June...a particularly chilly day... log fires were lit in both the dining room and the parlour, but cocktails gave way to Abbey Pale Ale and lemon, lime and bitters for 60 responsible Porsche drivers, who enjoyed a monastery meal, which, on Sundays, is always a delicious roast.



Seeding celebration

Enthusiastic local Tracy Sievwright arranged an evening for 40 or so local women at the Hostel on Thursday 15th June to celebrate the end of seeding – a season in which these women provide support to our local farmers eager to get their crops in.

Tracy is one of our tour guides and works part time in the Museum and Art Gallery, and is also a local farmer's wife.

They enjoyed catching up with one another with a cocktail (or two) in the candle-lit lounge before enjoying a hearty winter meal in the dining room (complete with ambient log fire) prepared by Marlon and his team, and served under the direction of Joyce and her team.

We look forward to hosting many of these local gatherings, so important in rural life.

Treasuries of Ragtime Piano

16 DECEMBER 2023 | NEW NORCIA HOSTEL

Ragtime piano was a genre of music which evolved in the southern states of the USA, drawing together African rhythms with Western harmonies. Centred around the piano, it produced much lively and exciting music with catchy syncopations and memorable melodies, which is still enjoyed by listeners to this day.

This soirée will present an array of ragtime music (including pieces by Winifred Atwell, Scott Joplin and many others), performed by New Norcia's Fr Robert Nixon. The evening will commence at 6.30pm, and a light supper and drinks will be served. Tickets are \$90, all inclusive.

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Moora Lions Club Lunch

On Saturday, 24th of June we welcomed the Moora Lions Club to the newly refurbished St Ildephonsus' Large Dining Room for lunch. We had a total of 31 guests who enjoyed pre-lunch drinks and an a-la-carte lunch.

Guests commented on how amazing the renovations looked (some of them had seen the previous state of the rooms) – a perfect venue for their lunch and they would be returning!

2023 One-Day Retreats

Deepen your Spirituality with Thomas Merton at New Norcia

New Norcia is pleased to be hosting a series of one-day retreats in 2023 conducted by Sylvia Grevel, a theologian, writer and researcher on Christian spirituality. The retreats days will be based on the writings of Thomas Merton.

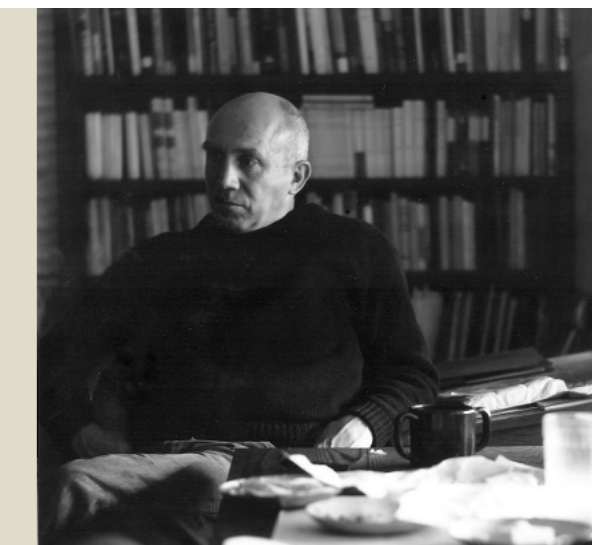
Merton was a Trappist monk, who wrote countless books and articles on the spiritual journey within the context of our Christian traditions. He also engaged deeply and fruitfully with other religious systems and the creative arts.

Thomas Merton and the Mystical Christ

The last two retreat days of the series will concentrate on Merton's very open, creative and life-giving understanding of Christ. According to Merton, the world is in desperate need of wisdom, a sapiential knowledge and contemplative awareness. These are at the heart of Merton's mission: to be a Christian soulful counterforce to a global culture of profits, pragmatism, violence and exploitation.

Therefore, on 22 July we will explore Sophia, Wisdom and the female divine. On this day we will be guided by his prose poem Hagia Sophia, about divine Wisdom as the feminine manifestation of God. We will deepen our understanding of his 'play in creation' theology and reflect on our personal relationship with these divine essences.

On 30 September we learn about Merton's journey into other world religions (mainly Zen Buddhism), leading to an interreligious understanding of contemplation as a unifying characteristic, and what it means to be a true self – fully human. The latter as a result of a life long journey of self-emptying, mirroring Christ. One session on this last day in the series will be a creative workshop, led by Emma Tucek.



The retreats will each be on a Saturday, from 9.30am – 3.30pm, with morning and afternoon tea and lunch included. The reading texts for each day will be provided.

The cost is \$70 per day, with numbers limited to 20 people.

Both days can be attended separately. The content will slightly overflow between the two days.

For enrolment contact Sylvia directly: The Blessed Tree info@sylviagrevel.com.



Monastery Roof Repairs

My old dad had a saying “Terra Firma, the more firma the less terra.”



The west end gable of the southern monastery building, one of the original buildings at New Norcia, recently lost a sheet of corrugated iron on a windy night. The monastery building roofs were all clad in corrugated iron in the period 1900-1904 when the second abbot, Fulgentius Torres, was building the rear west end building and closing in the cloister area. In those days sheets were nailed, but after 120 years the nails and timber battens part company, and that results in lost sheets on windy nights.

As a result, we have hired a cherry picker and Ian and Alex are “taking the high ground”.

They are removing all the nails from the west gable end and screwing the sheets. It is not a job for everyone, but such is the life of a maintenance person.

Coming Events

From July 2023

22 July 2023

Thomas Merton: Answering in Wisdom –
Hagia Sophia

28-30 July 2023

Benedictine Experience Weekend III

12 August 2023

Centenary of New Norcia’s Pipe Organ

19 August 2023

Abbot’s Table: Winter 2023

*Visit our website for a complete list of
Coming Events - [newnorcia.com.au/whats-on/
events-calendar/current-events](http://newnorcia.com.au/whats-on/events-calendar/current-events)*

Liturgical Calendar

July 2023

Sunday 2 July

Thirteenth in Ordinary Time

Monday 3 July

St Thomas (Feast)

Sunday 9 July

Fourteenth in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 11 July

OUR HOLY FATHER BENEDICT
(Solemnity)

Wednesday 12 July

St John Gaulberti (Optional
Memorial)

Saturday 15 July

St Bonaventure (Memorial)

Sunday 16 July

Fifteenth in Ordinary Time

Saturday 22 July

St Mary Magdalen (Memorial)

Sunday 23 July

Sixteenth in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 25 July

St James (Feast)

Wednesday 26 July

Ss Joachim & Anne (Memorial)

Saturday 29 July

Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus
(Memorial)

Sunday 30 July

Seventeenth in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 1 August

St Alphonsus Ligouri
(Memorial)

Thursday 3 August

St Dominic (Memorial)

Friday 4 August

St John Vianney (Memorial)



NEW NORCIA
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

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