

The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

September 2023




Rosendo Salvado in the centre of the audience.


100th Anniversary of the Moser Organ Celebration

On Saturday 12th August 2023, we were treated to a wonderful all day celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first playing of the Moser organ on 2nd September 1923.

The organ had been purchased by the then organist, Fr. Stephen Moreno OSB under the authority of the third abbot Anselmo Catalán. It was under construction for five months in 1923, under the direction of Moreno with assistance from members of the community.

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 The Benedictine Community of New Norcia in co-operation with The Organ Society of Western Australia
Centenary of the New Norcia Moser Organ
August 12, 2023



10.00am Morning tea in the Monastery Parlour
10.30am Talk/performance by Fr Robert Nixon, OSB with Mary Barrett-Lennard
Adoro Te, Stephen Moreno, OSB (1849-1931)
Tantum Ergo, Rosendo Salvado, OSB (1849-1931)
Fantasia, Variaciones y Final, Rosendo Salvado
To the Queen of Heaven, Robert Nixon, OSB
Improvisation on 'The Follies of Spain'

11.05am The Distinctive Features of the New Norcia Moser Organ, Patrick Elms
12.00 noon Lunch, St. Ildephonus' College



1.30pm Recital
Andrew Brown
Salvado's Shearing Pulka with Variations, Andrew Brown
Meditation, Stephen Moreno
In the Mystic Land of Egypt, Albert Ketelbey (1875-1959)
Variations on Moreno's 'St. Benedict', Denis Beadart

Samuel Yeow
Organ Sonata, Op. 65, No. 4, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Mary Barrett-Lennard and Fr. Robert Nixon
Gloria in Excelsis, Robert Nixon

John Beuwerstock
Chorale Prelude 'Herzlich tut mich verlangen' (Passion Chorale) Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 98, Josef Rheinberger (1829-1901)

2.30pm Afternoon tea (Monastery parlour)
3.00pm Session at the organ, for musicians
3.30pm Close of Day

 Rosendo Salvado, OSB
 Stephen Moreno, OSB

✉ in omnibus glorificetur Deus
www.newnorcia.com.au

100th Anniversary of the Moser Organ Celebration

(Continued)

The concert programme honoured the long tradition of fine musician composers at New Norcia from our founding abbot Rosendo Salvado right up our current liturgist, Fr. Robert Nixon.

Patrick Elms delivered a very comprehensive and engrossing description of the organ from his perspective of having maintained this beautiful instrument for so many years...



...ably assisted by John Beaverstock at the keyboard, demonstrating the many voices and features of the organ.



Samuel, Fr. Robert, Mary and Andrew.

The 70 attendees were treated to an excellent smorgasbord luncheon in the two newly renovated dining rooms of St Ildephonsus' college.



The Abbot's Table – Winter 2023

The winter Abbot's Table, held on 19th August at the New Norcia Hostel was another huge success with great food, conversation, wines and entertainment.

It is not uncommon for the Abbot to ask himself (out loud) "what was I thinking?" when it comes to the long preparation process for these dinners, resulting from his menu selections.

For this Abbot's Table, that question centred around the entrée where there was a lot of preparation and fiddly assembly work with the spring rolls and ravioli.

Here Abbot John is pictured rolling his pasta dough and assembling the ravioli.

If you look carefully at the photo, you will see that the Abbot was working so fast that his hand fell off!!

Just joking.

The entrée was worth all the hard work.



'La Table de l'Abbé'
The Abbot's Table

Winter
Saturday 19th August 2023

Le Menu

New Norcia Bread
A selection of hand-rolled bread baked in the monastery wood-fired oven. New Norcia over centuries has produced a range of breads, including wine, and French bread.

Entrée
Tête de veau
Spring roll of roasted veal head, duck breast, spring onions & bean sprouts with apricot plum sauce, ravioli of duck leg, pork, chicken & sage with duck jus and of pan-fried duck liver, risotto, orange segments, and black garlic dressing.
Vino: Toscana Pinot Grigio, 2021

Plat Principal
Côte de veau
Pork and veal on the bone, roasted in New Norcia salt-cure, lemon and fresh thyme, bread and slow-cooked with winter vegetables in a hearty red sauce flavoured with Polso Xibulna abbey, and served with crispy fried potatoes and petit pois raised in butter.
Vino: Cabernet Sauvignon, Colares, 2022

Musical Interlude

Fromage du Jour

Dessert
Tarte aux fruits d'hiver
A warm winter tart of banana and pear, served with Finesse Williams extra-ripe pear & mandarin compote, and Chantrelle cream.
Vino: De Bortoli D'oro, 2022

Café Gourmand
Coffee or tea, New Norcia Abbey Port or Tignone Moscato, treats from the monastery wood-fired oven.

Welcome to the Winter Abbot's Table

It seems to me, if one is going to kill a bird to eat, one should at least give homage to the beautiful creature by utilizing all its parts. The evening's entrée of duck, cooked in three ways, gives witness to the great tradition of never throwing anything away. I don't know what surprised its members (thankfully it came to me already cooked) but I'm sure they'll think of it as a success because the head has been used, and the neck, which is full of gelatin, is used for which the French would consider to be its prime feature, and I don't suppose you can say with a few tasty morsels and tossed into a salad, and, since in the days of the well and truly over the wings and other bones were cooked, thrown into a pot with a mixture of things not to be thrown away, and reduced into a sauce.

Another notable feature of morale is its inebriation. It has been described (and expressed) as the most intoxicating form of life. Inevitably, that, in a special kind of way, it such intoxication is directed towards the service of God, then perseverance in the morning, in the company of others, and with an occasional picnic some the way, the beauty and the joy of the sacramental life, always, but not only. The analogy could be applied to the present culinary treat of slow-cooking, which has been substituted for our modern ways. The slow-cooking process allows the unique flavour of each ingredient to form a harmonious dish.

If all that fails, we have the comforting assurance of a warm winter hat, the glow of log fires, the gentle art of conversation, and wine, as the pastor says, "to cheer our hearts."

Ben Appleill

Geraldton Probus Club Visit

On Tuesday September 5th, sixteen members of the Probus Club Geraldton arrived for an overnight stay at the Hostel.

Guests started the afternoon with a look through the Museum and Art Gallery, followed by pre-dinner drinks in the Hostel bar and a Monastery dinner in the Hostel dining room. Guests concluded the night with a cake and champagne to celebrate one of the member's birthday.

On Wednesday morning, after breakfast, the group enjoyed a two hour private town tour before their departure.

Guests said that the overnight stay exceeded their expectations, the hospitality, open fireplace, venue, meals and friendly staff made for one of the better outings they have had in a long time.





Scott in the final stage of the initial screed for the Blacksmith's shop.

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 soir ee 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.

TO BOOK, PLEASE VISIT NEWNORCIA.COM.AU

Upgrading Access

The old blacksmith's shop.

Over the last few weeks, we have been moving more of our large artefact displays into the old flour mill, blacksmith's shop and olive shed, ready to open these three new displays.

The old blacksmith's shed needed the entrance way upgraded so, between local contractor Scott Metcalf and Moora BGC, a new entrance path was laid.

The monastery guesthouse.

Concreting the new access pathway from the bottom of the oratory steps to the kitchen was a far more difficult job, on several fronts. The only access for the BGC truck was the road below the lower guesthouse so all the concrete had to be barrowed uphill by the grounds and maintenance crew, Ian, Shady, Alex and Chris. Scott then had the additional complication of laying the concrete downhill, rather than uphill. After a few hours the team completed the task and the monastery guests are now much safer as they traverse uphill from prayers, particularly when it is dark.

Left: Shady on the barrow, Scott screeding the new pathway.
Below L-R: Ian, Alex and Chris take their turn on the barrow.



An appreciation of our volunteers

Part 1: The Archives

The Archives, Museum Collections and the Library (now jointly known as ACL) have enjoyed the goodwill, enthusiasm and generosity of volunteers for many years but have not perhaps received the acknowledgement and gratitude they fully deserve.

Without our volunteers, our work would have been immeasurably more difficult and protracted and some of the grand visions for projects that we aspire to, and have aspired to, would never have materialised without their help. In many instances, volunteers have simply shared the workload of the various managers in the past, performing routine tasks such as shelving books in the Library, helping move artefacts and vestments in the Collections area or scanning the seemingly endless documents, maps, plans and photographs that are to be found

in Archives. Other volunteers have brought specialist skills to New Norcia such as a proficiency in another language to Archives, professional cataloguing skills to the Library or previous museum experience and valuation expertise to Collections.

I should like to start our appreciation of volunteers with the Archives for two reasons: firstly, it begins with an A! (as in ACL) and secondly, as archivist, I have enjoyed their company most over the last sixteen years. Among our earliest volunteers, all those years ago, were Barbara Young and her husband Mike

Keenan (who volunteered in Grounds) and Christine Dale. Barbara was one of the earliest to work on the photographs whilst Chris created a Salvado education resource for the (then) Education Centre. Others that followed were Michelle Levings, an archives student at Curtin on work experience, Lillian Bellandi and Diana Davies (also photographs).

Transcription of chronicles is still a very important facet of archival work and we are grateful to Larrie Strautmanis (a retired Adelaide lawyer) and Rob Hart for their early work on the later English language monastery chronicles and to Patricia Fuster for continuing the projects, though Patricia is both transcribing and translating the Spanish language chronicles but from Argentina! Another overseas volunteer, Sonsoles Lopez from Colombia, volunteered at New Norcia too and was very much appreciated for her translation work on the Spanish letters.

We seem to have been blessed with international visitors for, in 2012 and again a year or so later, I was indeed fortunate to have Leen Charles as my locum archivist when I was off work for health reasons. Leen was the former City Archivist for Ghent in Belgium who ran our archives like clockwork while I was absent – a true godsend! Her partner, Marjan, did a brilliant job too, volunteering for the Education Centre.

More recently we have had longer term volunteers such as Andrew Walton who sorted the archives' extensive map

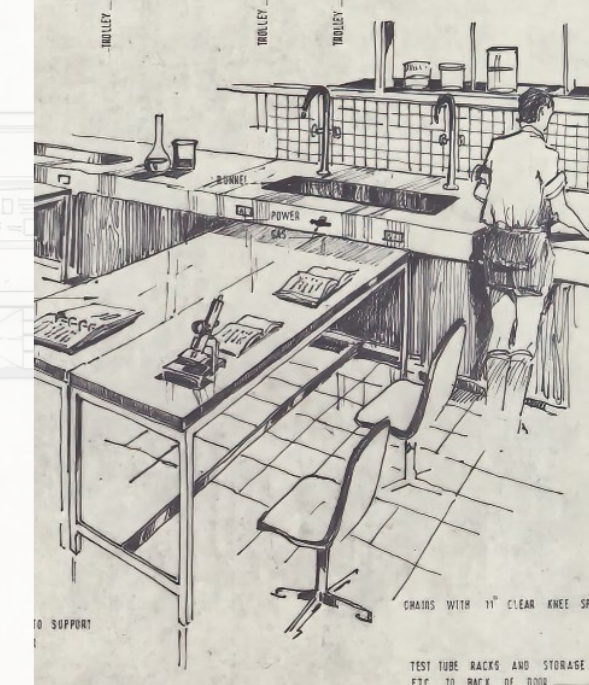
collection as part of an Abbot Placid Scholarship. Two long-term volunteers I would like to mention especially are Geraldine Byrne who spent eleven years analysing some 20,000 photographs and adding tags to them on their digital reverse – a fantastic accomplishment which has proven so useful in so many ways. And Christine Choo who, over ten years, built up a family tree database of over 2,500 names from New Norcia's records so that we now possess a very powerful tool for family history research, particularly for Aboriginal families.

Lastly, chronologically speaking, but by no means least, are Vida Whale and Jim Longbottom, both of whom volunteered not only in Archives but also Collections (Vida) and the Library (Jim). Vida was with us for three years during which time she scanned all the Salvado correspondence collection which amounts to thousands of letters, many of the Salvado era registers, finalised the sorting of the photographs and, amongst other things, wrote an instruction manual for the overhead A3 scanner we procured for all those Salvado era registers.

Jim has been with us for three years now, mainly in the library and grounds but also, on occasion, in the archives where he has proved to be a skilled and accomplished photographer, recording both artworks and maps and plans.

In the second part, we will pay tribute to the volunteers who have contributed so generously to the other areas of ACL – Museum Collections and the Library.

Peter Hocking
Archivist



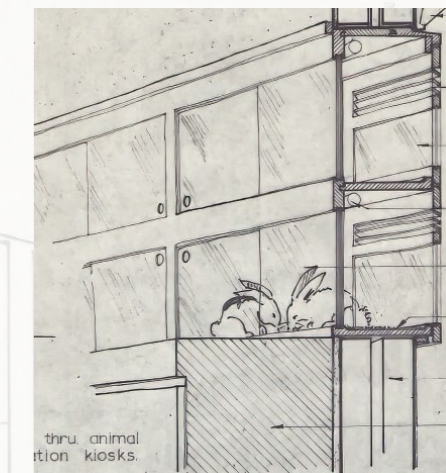
New Norcia Archives - Ongoing work - Digitising the collection

Over recent years photographic works have been undertaken by the New Norcia archives to progressively digitise the collections. Vida Whale spent three years here and scanned many documents and small photographs. Jim Longbottom photographed the nearly 900 works on paper by Fr. Lesmes Lopez, and we have captured some precious audio from Dame Maria Boulding when she presented a series of lectures here at New Norcia many years ago.

It is quite clear from the 1905 image of Torres' design of the façade of St Ildephonsus College why we need to be about the work of digitising such precious images. This image has been hermetically encapsulated, but the decay of time is eminently apparent.

In recent months we have been capturing our collection of plans (as distinct from maps) and to date some 760 of them have been photographed and processed. (about halfway)

In the process certain images do cause delight and amusement. Here are a couple of playful images from the pen of a graphic artist from an architectural firm. I just love the rabbits!



Welcome Old Friends

On Thursday 24th August, we were blessed with a visit from our dear friends and annual Paschal Triduum Pilgrims, Neil and Ann Anderton.

They brought with them two German priests, Fr Thomas (a relative) and Fr Christian, who are enjoying a holiday down under.

On the journey from Perth to New Norcia, they were struck by the Australian landscape, the luscious crops, and the intensity of the blue sky.

After enjoying the treasures of the museum and art gallery, we were pleased to have them join us for Midday Prayer in the oratory and lunch in the refectory.

Abbot John treated them to a short tour of the monastery, including the hall, library, archives, Spanish chapel and the bakery, still warm from the daily bake.

FR ROBERT NIXON, OSB



FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2023

7:30 PM

ST PATRICK'S BASILICA,
FREMANTLE

47 ADELAIDE ST

Performing original compositions from his new album *Celestial Void*, as well as beloved works of Chopin and Liszt

Entry by Donation

If it's not the roof... it's the boiler!

Along with the insurmountable challenges of conserving one of Western Australia's most significant heritage sites, daily life at New Norcia includes ongoing maintenance.

Lead by property manager Ian Smith, our skilled grounds and maintenance team, and often times the expertise of specialist contractors, all manner of jobs are undertaken to keep the place ticking. Pictured: in-house scaffolding has been assembled to repair the boiler servicing the cells of two monks, the abbot's suite, and the bishop's room, presently occupied by retreat master Fr Bede.



Coming Events

From September 2023

22-24 September 2023

New Norcia Guesthouse:
Benedictine Experience Weekend IV

30 September 2023

Thomas Merton: Answering in Inclusivity –
Interreligious Dialogue

6-8 October 2023

Guesthouse Retreat: St Francis of Assisi –
Prophet of Freedom and Peace

20 October 2023

Library Lecture Day 2023: Thinking outside
the box/library building

*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

September 2023

Sunday 3 September

Twenty-Second In Ordinary Time

Friday 8 September

Birth Of The Blessed Virgin Mary
(Feast)

Sunday 10 September

Twenty-Third In Ordinary Time

Wednesday 13 September

St John Chrysostom ((Memorial)

Thursday 14 September

Exaltation Of The Holy Cross
(Feast)

Friday 15 September

Our Lady Of Sorrows (Memorial)

Saturday 16 September

Sts Cornelius & Cyprian
(Memorial)

Sunday 17 September

Twenty-Fourth In Ordinary Time

Wednesday 20 September

Ss Andrew Taegon, Paul Hasang
& Companions (Memorial)

Thursday 21 September

St Matthew (Feast)

Sunday 24 September

Twenty-Fifth In Ordinary Time

Wednesday 27 September

St Vincent De Paul (Memorial)

Friday 29 September

Ss Michael & All Holy Angels
(Feast)

Saturday 30 September

St Jerome (Memorial)



NEW NORCIA
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

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