

# The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

May 2024



## New Norcia has been nominated as a finalist for the 2024 7NEWS Top Tourism Town Awards

**Vote now for your chance to win a \$5,000 WA travel voucher or a 2 nights' stay at RAC Karri Valley Resort for two adults**

The 7NEWS Top Tourism Town Awards recognise and reward WA towns that encourage tourism to their destination.

New Norcia is amongst nineteen towns from across Western Australia which have been named finalists across three categories in the highly coveted Awards programme. The public can vote online for their favourite town or city and go into the draw to win a \$5,000 holiday in Western Australia or a 2-night stay at RAC Karri Valley Resort.



Scan the QR code to vote,  
or visit [toptourismtownwa.com.au](https://www.toptourismtownwa.com.au)  
Voting closes 5pm, May 22.



RAC Karri Valley Resort



# A Special Celebration

*On Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, family and friends came from Alice Springs, Sydney, Esperance and Perth to join Kath Moore in celebrating her 80th birthday.*

Kath had been to New Norcia previously for various events and decided that the Hostel would be the perfect venue for her special celebration.

With pretty flowers to decorate the tables and little thank you cards with pictures of the paintings that Kath creates, the dining room looked beautiful. The special cake was made by Kath's husband, Richard.

Guests enjoyed a wonderful buffet lunch followed by dinner prepared by Marlon and his team, and an overnight stay.

Kath had some lovely words for us after celebrating her birthday.

*"I can't thank you enough for making my 80th birthday truly memorable and a wonderful family time for all of us.*

*It was really special because of the lovely setting and building and the care taken with the table settings and the delicious food.*

*We were very comfortable in the hostel. All our needs were met and there is an atmosphere of generous hospitality which encouraged us just to relax and enjoy it all. We had time to chat to each other. That's very precious when the guests came from Alice Springs, Sydney, Esperance and Perth.*

*Thank you for the extra touches. I loved the teapots!!*

*And the gift bag! How kind!*

*None of us will forget the lovely time we had together.*

*With very warm regards and heartfelt thanks."*

*Kath*





# Dominican Sisters

*We were delighted to offer hospitality to a group of Dominican Sisters from New Zealand, Solomons, Eastern Australia, South Australia and Western Australia, who paused their Dominican Federation meeting at the St John of God Retreat at Shoalwater to experience monastic life at New Norcia.*

Arriving just in time for Midday Prayer, the Sisters joined the community for lunch in the refectory (the kitchen put on Sunday fare) and enjoyed a short tour of the monastery, which included a short twinkling of the ivories with Fr Robert.

After viewing such treasures such as Salvado's hand-written diaries in the library, they paid a visit to the abbey church and the museum and art gallery.

Senior Mary Ryan OP had a few lovely words to say about the visit:



*“On behalf of all the Dominican Sisters who visited New Norcia last week, I want to thank you so much for the hospitality shown to us – joining for Midday prayer, lunch in the refectory and the inspirational – and educational – tour of the monastery.*

*Everyone was so impressed and loved seeing your ‘treasures’ in the different rooms and library, not to mention the beautiful piano playing from Fr Robert – what a treat! We all appreciated the service at dinner, please thank the monks involved as it surely was a real mark of Benedictine hospitality. The Sisters were also surprised and grateful for your thoughtful gift, which will be a reminder of their visit. It truly was a wonderful day. We have made a \$500 donation for your Monastery library – to use in whatever way you need, as we recognise the work involved in keeping sacred things so carefully. With much gratitude and a remembrance in our prayers.”*

Sr Mary Ryan OP

**Music**  
from the  
**Movies**

Saturday 3rd August  
6.30pm start

*Enjoy a selection of musical masterpieces performed by Fr. Robert Nixon, accompanied by dishes prepared by Abbot John.*

This soirée will feature a selection of musical masterpieces from the movies, ranging from epic neoclassical pieces, to haunting soundtrack themes, to unforgettable popular songs, taken from movies including *The Piano*, *Titanic*, *Top Gun*, *The Bodyguard*, and countless others.

This is a rare opportunity to hear works, in unique piano renditions by New Norcia's Fr. Robert Nixon. Fr. Robert will be joined by some of New Norcia's talented singers for some items to make this soirée truly a night to remember. Requests from guests are welcome- please email these before 14 July 2024 to [organist@newnorcia.com.au](mailto:organist@newnorcia.com.au).

Guests are invited to come dressed as their favourite movie character!

The evening will commence at 6.30pm and will be accompanied by dishes prepared by Abbot John.

Please contact Joyce to book your accommodation for the night. This is for the following venues: Hostel, Guesthouse or Old Convent. Joyce's details will be sent to you in your confirmation e-mail when you have purchased your tickets.

Accommodation is \$130 per room (including continental breakfast).

# Cecilia takes her Hairdressing on the Road

Cecilia Bova, member of our parish choir, has been a hairdresser since 1988. With many clients in Calingiri and Bindoon, now less able to travel to Perth, she has set up "Cecilia's Salon on Wheels."

The van is fully fitted out for purpose, including a wheelchair access ramp at the rear, air conditioning, a wash chair, and a cutting chair.

The monks, at least those with hair, are looking forward to joining Cecelia's list of happy clients.



*Cecilia showing off her new salon on wheels after a recent Sunday Mass, which called for a spontaneous blessing from Abbot John.*

## Groups Bookings at New Norcia - Suggested Day Programme 2024

- 10:00am** Arrive at New Norcia
- 10.30 pm** Private Tour  
1 hour with a tour guide dedicated to your group. An opportunity to see 'behind closed doors' in Australia's only monastic town. Your guide will introduce you to New Norcia's eclectic Monastic, Aboriginal and European heritage as you see some of the town's richly decorated buildings, 27 of which are listed on the National Trust and not otherwise accessible to the public. Other highlights include the Flour Mill, Abbey Church and beautifully frescoed college chapels.
- 12.00 pm** Monastery Oratory (optional)  
Join the monks for midday prayers inside the Monastery Oratory. All faiths are welcome.
- 12.30 pm** Lunch (optional, not included in price)  
Experience old world grandeur by having lunch in the dining room of the beautiful New Norcia Hostel. Please inform us of your meal preference at least 7 days prior to your visit and if there are any dietary requirements.
- 1.30pm** Museum & Art Gallery  
New Norcia is home to one of the finest collections of moveable heritage in Australia. Gifts from the Queen of Spain and a fascinating array of artefacts tell the story of New Norcia's 170-year old history. The galleries feature religious paintings by Spanish and Italian Masters and Australian Contemporary Artists.
- 3.30pm** The Gift Shop  
Free time to browse our shop and pick up last-minute gifts and goodies. The shop offers a range of local produce including New Norcia Abbey Wines, breads, Nut Cake, Pan Chocolatti, New Norcia Olive Oil, art, books and music.
- 4.15 pm** Leave New Norcia  
Taking with you some special lasting memories. Have a safe journey home and thank you for visiting our beautiful town.



Bookings can be made through the New Norcia Museum.  
Please call 08 9654 8056.  
Special group rate for the town tour and museum entrance is \$20pp.



# Bienvenue Julian et Iness

Welcome to New Norcia Julian and Iness.

Julian and Iness are backpackers from Paris and have been with us for nearly a month now, Julian as part of the Grounds and Maintenance team and Iness as part of the Roadhouse team.

They have been in Australia for 3 months, intending to stay for 12 – 24 months. In ordinary life, Julian is an IT consultant and Iness is an accountant and runs her own small business. You may see Julian running from time to time, to keep fit for his Tae Kwan Do. Iness says she prefers more sedentary pastimes, that include vin, and movies. Iness wants to her improve her English (which I must say is already really good). We hope that you have a wonderful time while you are with us at New Norcia.



## Major Upgrade to the Visitor Centre Entrance

*The entrance to the museum, art gallery and visitor centre has undergone a welcome transformation, replacing old, deteriorating and uneven concrete slabs with a fresh new expansive seamless concrete surface, laid by the very energetic team from Limestone Craft.*

Early April saw lots of hard work from our equally energetic grounds and maintenance team, removing offending trees, boring holes and setting posts for new shade sails which will protect our visitors from the harsh summer sun and winter rains.

Such developments contribute to our ongoing commitment to providing a memorable and positive experience for the thousands of

visitors to this iconic site, and certainly well worth any inconvenience experienced in the process.

We are also very excited to announce that work has begun on the Old Trading Post, which will become The Mandorla Centre and Artist in Residence (2025)...a feature story for a future edition!



# Food Safety Management

*With new food safety standards legislation in place, we have been busy ensuring we maintain a high level of compliancy.*

Recent projects have included:

- Replacement of the kitchen floor in St Ild's kitchen
- New stainless-steel shelving in the hostel kitchen and old hygiene equipment has been replaced
- Heavy-duty contractor cleaning of exhaust canopies, splashbacks and filters in all kitchens across the site
- All staff involved in the preparation and serving of food have completed food handling safety training
- Abbot John has completed the food safety supervisor course, and this training will be extended to the managers of each department preparing and serving food

The implementation of a comprehensive ongoing food safety management plan will contribute to the fine tuning of our food safety policies and procedures.



*Abbot John making a Traditional Persian curry. As part of the food safety supervisor training, he was supervised by central catering manager Marlon Victoriano.*



## Shade Sail Installations

*We are committed to continual improvement of facilities to create a better experience for our tourists.*

Having recently completely renovated the Visitor Centre entrance, a series of overlapping shade sails have been installed, and picnic settings moved into the area for the use and convenience of our considerable the increasingly large number of passing tourists.

The sails have greatly added to the amenity of the Visitor Centre and Museum and Art Gallery, and create a very welcoming area.

On the northern side of the roadhouse, a shade sail has been installed to upgrade the outdoor seating area for patrons wanting to drink their tea and coffee, eat a meal, or enjoy a cold drink in the fresh air and gorgeous weather that we are currently enjoying.

Both installations were supplied and fitted by Shade Solutions of Osborne Park.





# Community Gathering

On the evening of the April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Benedictine community hosted a gathering at the New Norcia Hostel, including all staff and monks, to celebrate our special community. We enjoyed an open bar and delicious finger food from central catering. It was great to catch up outside "the office", with lots of laughter and a real sense of "family".

There were a number of community events to celebrate:

Beginning with the retirement of Heather and Rose. Heather a long-term member of the roadhouse team and Rose, long term community cook, working out of the St Ild's kitchen.



We then turned to some milestone birthdays that occur around this time, beginning with those turning 50.



Rolly, Marlon, Fr Robert and Melissa cutting the cake.  
Then those turning 60: Bruce and Mary cutting the cake.



We then welcomed new members to "Team New Norcia": Shelly (Roadhouse), and French backpackers, Iness (Roadhouse) and Julian (Grounds and Maintenance).



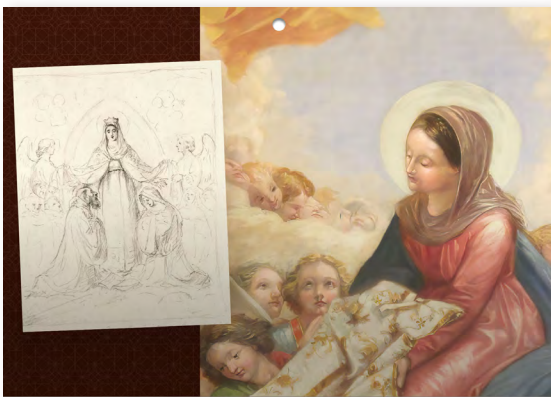
And what would a community celebration be without a song. Rolly, Tracey and Melissa, (following the score on their phones) accompanied by Fr Robert





# Calendars now available

Hot off the press - the 2024 New Norcia calendar features the works on paper of Fr. Lesmes Lopez OSB from an exhibition in St Ildephonsus' large and small dining rooms.



This calendar shows the liturgical calendar as celebrated by the Benedictine Community of New Norcia. Purchase the calendar online at: [shop.newnorcia.com.au/products/calendar-2024](http://shop.newnorcia.com.au/products/calendar-2024)

# Coming Events

From May 2024

18th May 2024

One-Day Workshop: St. Hildegard - Her Life and Visions

18th May 2024

Abbot's Table: Autumn 2024

25th May 2024

New Norcia Studies Day

7th June - 9th June 2024

Benedictine Secrets For Balance and Serenity - Weekend Retreat

28th June - 30th June 2024

Letting Go - Weekend Retreat

13th July 2024

One-Day Workshop: St. Hildegard - Her Art and Healing

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

May 2024

Sunday 12 May

Ascension Sunday (Solemnity)  
*(Seventh of Easter)*

Tuesday 14 May

St Mattias (Feast)

Wednesday 15 May

St Pachomius (Memorial)

Sunday 19 May

Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)  
*(Ordinary Time resumes, Week 7)*

Friday 24 May

Our Lady Help Of Christians (Solemnity)

Saturday 25 May

Venerable Bede (Memorial)

Sunday 26 May

Trinity Sunday (Solemnity)  
*(Ordinary Time, Week 8)*

Monday 27 May

St Augustine of Canterbury (Optional Memorial)

Friday 31 May

Visitation of Our Lady (Feast)

Saturday 1 June

St Justin (Memorial)



**NEW NORCIA**  
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

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