

The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

Vol. 25 No. 5 – July 2025

The restoration of an architectural jewel of New Norcia:

The 1862 Old Police Station

The old cottage was constructed in 1862 in the time of our founding abbot Rosendo Salvado OSB, typical of the construction of the era, using fieldstones rendered and unrendered and plastered inside using a mud and horsehair mix.

The building is part of the same building phase as the two-storey monastery building (given a third storey in the first decade of the 1900s) which was called the north wing after the three-storey south wing was built (1874–79). Both it and the abbey church were built in 1861.

The cottage was rented by the Governor and occupied by the police. Later, near the turn of the century, it was the New Norcia Post and Telegraph Office. When the Postmaster-General informed Abbot Torres in 1907 that the Post and Telegraph Office was to be closed, Torres arranged for it to be installed in the monastery, where Br Anthony Donnellan was postmaster and phone operator until the Office was moved in August 1909 to the new Lanigan's store. Who occupied the P&T Office in the thirty or so years after it closed is not known in



detail yet, but the farm's stock manager Jack Thompson and his wife Mary resided there from some time in the 1940s until Jack died in 1963. In 1967 Pat and Dolores Kelly moved in with their youngest son Gerard. Pat died in 1885, and Mrs Kelly continued to reside there until in 1996 she moved into care with the Little Sisters at Glendalough, dying there in 2008 at the age of 92. In recent years it has housed New Norcia employees until sitting vacant for some years now. There

was a vision to refurbish this old jewel of the New Norcia architecture and add it into our accommodation offering, particularly targeting families.

The first restoration works were undertaken in February 2022 replacing the ceiling in the kitchen area.



Other priorities interrupted continuing work until mid 2024 when our Grounds and Maintenance team got to the serious work of the renovation, both inside and outside of the building, aided by contractors doing wall works, plumbing and electrical works.

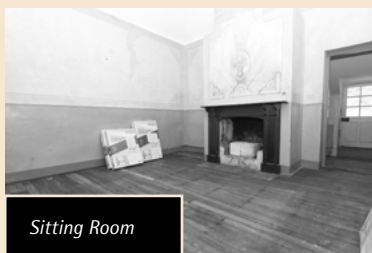
As that work began to take shape, Abbot John, Carmel and Joyce were making decisions related to the décor and presentation of each and every room. In places, that restoration work required gentle and careful cleaning of, for instance, the sitting room walls, to remove years of smoke and grime without removing the delicate old lime washed decorations.

The work was completed this year just before the last Abbot's Table and, fittingly the Abbot's brother and niece were the first occupants.

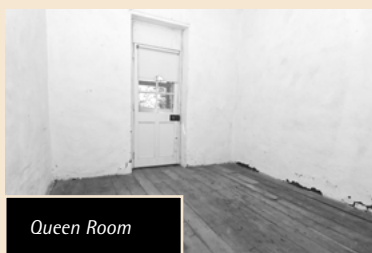
The restoration and decoration of the building is a triumph and a credit to all involved. The easiest way to depict its former state and current glory is through the photographic record... The images speak for themselves.



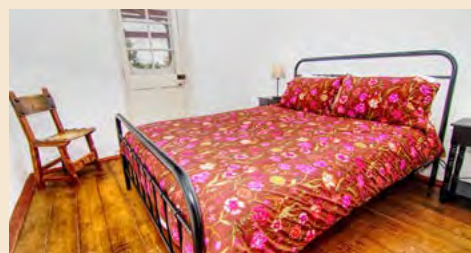
Abbot John & Family



Sitting Room



Queen Room



Twin Room



Parents' Retreat



A huge part of the renovation was in the installation of the kitchen and the bathroom.

Kitchen renovation stages: The design team of Abbot John, Carmel and Joyce chose the colours and styled and selected all the hardware. Our Grounds and Maintenance team then undertook all the installation work from fitting cupboards to all the tiling works.

Bathroom: As with the kitchen, the design team and installation team, plus Matt from Northern Valley Plumbing produced a gorgeous transformation.

And finally, the completed dining room and laundry transformations.



Bathroom

We acknowledge the expertise of the contractors involved in the restoration works:

Matt from Northern Valley Plumbing.

Mick from Little Mick's Electrics.

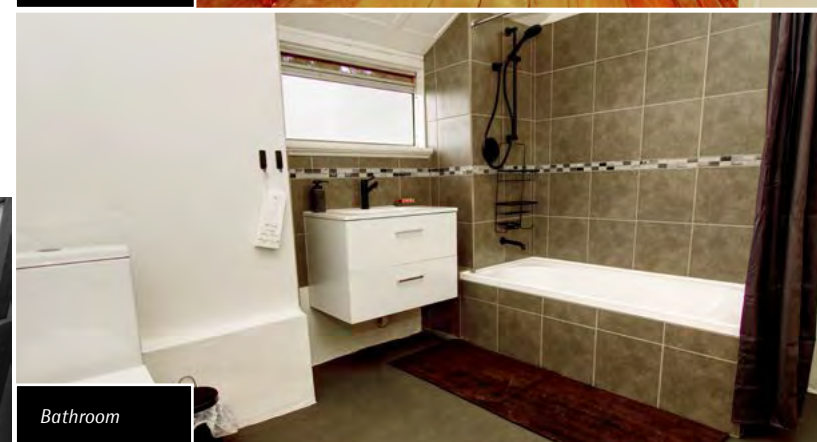
Pauly and Co electrical.

Bruno working for John Brassington.

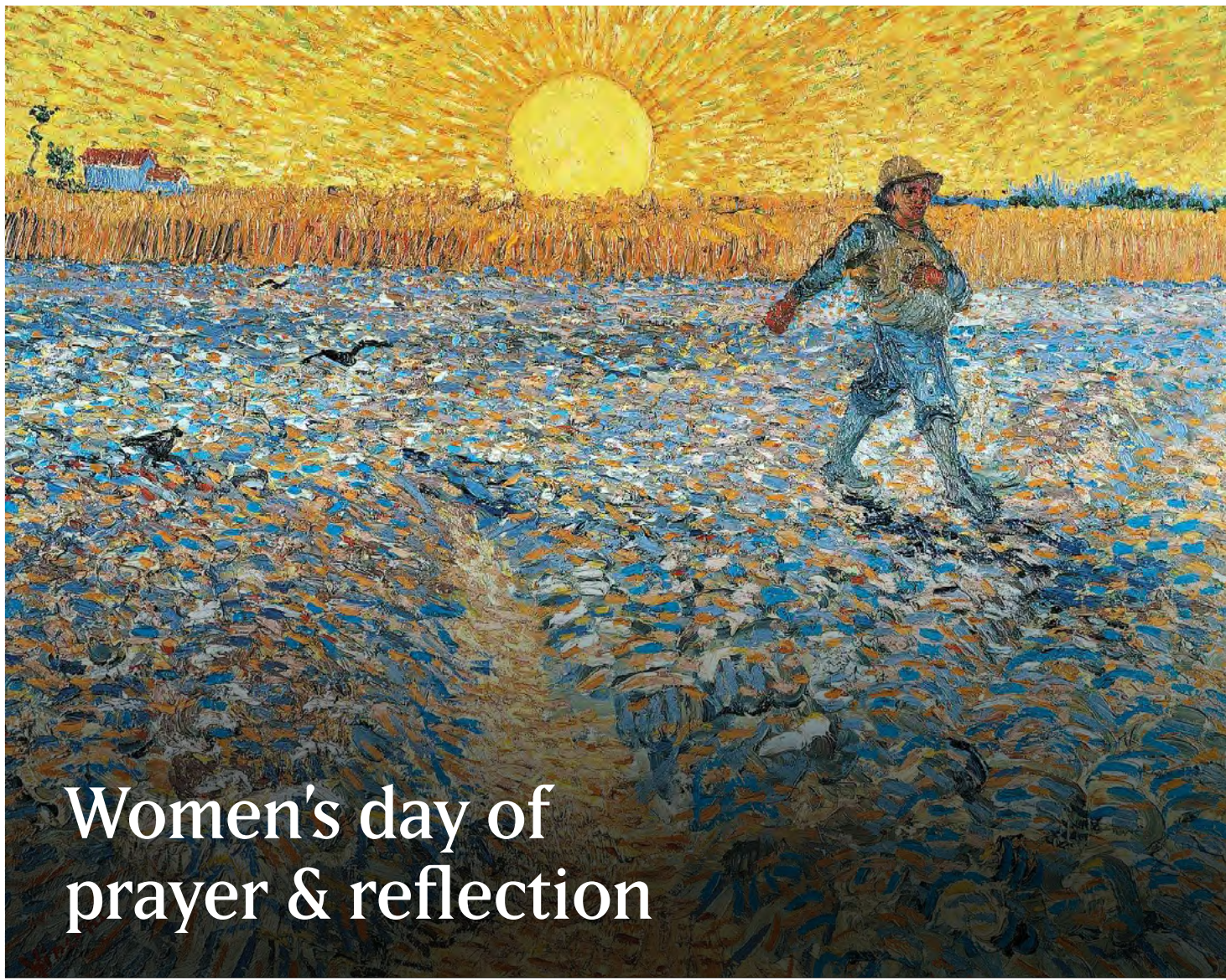
Darren from DNA Decorators.



Dining



Laundry



Women's day of prayer & reflection

As the certainties of our world become more doubtful and unsure, eighteen women came together on Saturday 7th June at New Norcia to ponder and pray about Christian hope.

Carmel Ross had prepared an extensive programme of prayers, art works, and biblical and spiritual readings, which made us think deeply and uplifted our spirits.

We were particularly enriched by the encouragement of Isaiah 55, and our consideration of the parable of the Sower.

We concurred with Pope Leo's recent homily that Van Gogh's painting of The Sower at Sunset shows that God is generous and that sooner or later his seeds will blossom.

The group of women included women from the parish, and others from as far away as Perth, Dowerin and Moora. Many had been to this annual day of reflection in previous years and expressed their wish to come next year as well. Everyone said how much they appreciated the generous spirit of the women present, which was particularly expressed in the shared lunch.



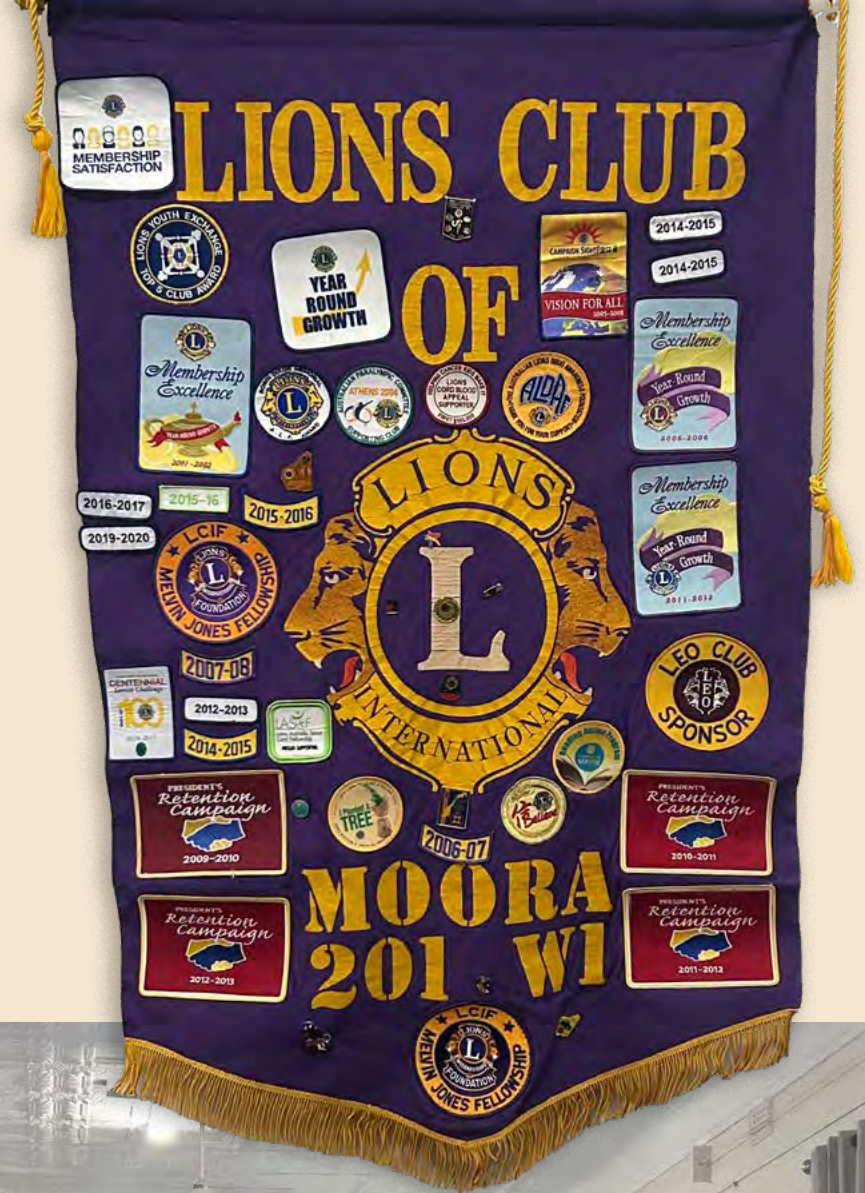
Roger, one of our Accommodation team members has been busy making improvements to the Guesthouse courtyard furniture – a wonderful transformation!

Annual lunch for the Moora Lions Club

On a wet and cold Saturday in June we welcomed twenty-one members of the Moora Lions Club to St Ildephonsus' Dining Room for their annual lunch.

With the heaters on to keep the cold at bay, the guests all enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by Marlon, Kevin and Mel.

Many guests commented that they would like to return in the future for other functions.



Claremont Concert Band at New Norcia

A MONASTERY OF MUSIC

Location: Abbey of the Most Holy Trinity

Day & Date: Sunday the 31st of August, 2025

Start: The Concert Begins At 2pm

Tickets: \$10 Door Fee per Person

Featuring The



Hosted By





Parish Life

On Sunday 22nd June – the feast of Corpus Christi – two young parishioners Lara and Jack Botha-Kelly received their First Holy Communion.

Guided by their parish priest, parents, and older sister Charlize, Lara and Jack prepared to receive the sacrament by working through excellent work books from Liturgy Brisbane.

During the Mass, Fr Robert, as principal celebrant, administered the sacred hosts and Abbot John and Dom Paul, the sacred chalice.

The monks, parishioners and guests enjoyed a festive morning tea in the monastery parlour afterwards.

All three Kelly-Botha children now have a new set of sacramental preparation resources to work through as they prepare to receive the sacrament of confirmation at Pentecost next year.



A Visit from Calingiri Primary School

On Thursday, 26th of June, seven students and three teachers/parent helpers came to New Norcia for a town tour.

The students were wonderful, asking lots of interesting questions. This was also an opportunity for two new team members of the Accommodation department, Daniel and Marie, to learn how to do the town tour.

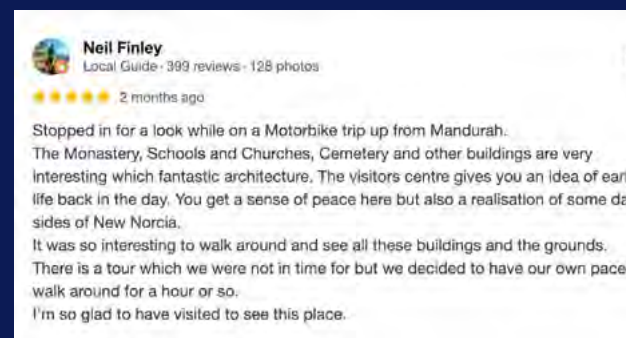
We look forward to Daniel and Marie leading school town tours in the future.

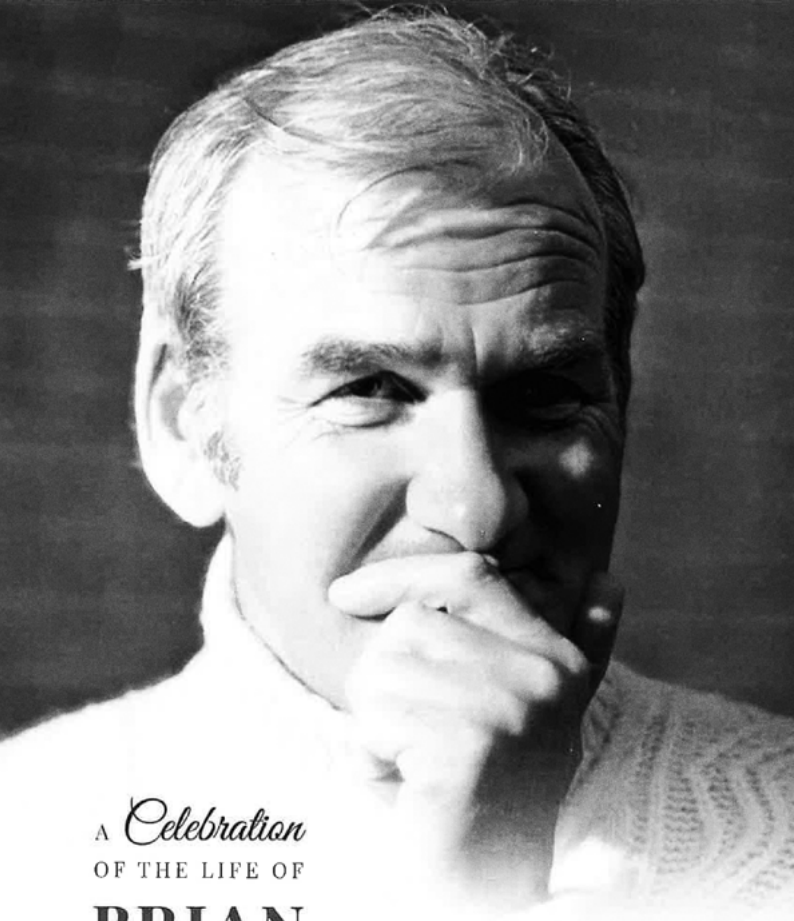
We value your feedback

At New Norcia, your feedback helps shape a better experience for every visitor. We actively listen through a variety of channels:

- Our in-house visitor survey
- Reviews on TripAdvisor and WikiCamps
- Conversations and comments on Facebook and Instagram

Whether it's a suggestion, a story, or a snapshot—every bit of feedback helps us grow and improve.





A Celebration
OF THE LIFE OF
**BRIAN
STITT**

26.01.1930–02.06.2025

19th of June 2025 at 2pm
Living Grace Church of Christ
Dianella

A Celebration of the life of Brian Stitt

On 19th June Abbot John represented
New Norcia at the funeral of our
dear long-time friend Brian Stitt.

Brian and his wife Patricia made many retreats at
New Norcia with groups from Dayspring.

We are grateful for Brian's spiritual wisdom and
prayerful presence. May he rest in peace.

Coming Events

From July 2025

16th August 2025

Abbot's Table: Winter 2025 (SOLD OUT)

22nd–24th August 2025

Letting Go (Sr. Lilian Bong, SJA)

31st August 2025

Claremont Concert Band at New Norcia:
Monastery of Music (\$10 door fee per person)

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

Liturgical Calendar

June – July 2025

Friday 1 August	Tuesday 19 August
St Alphonsus Ligouri	St Bernard Tolomei
(Memorial)	(Optional Memorial)
Sunday 3 August	Wednesday 20 August
Eighteenth In Ordinary Time	St Bernard (Memorial)
Monday 11 August	Thursday 21 August
St Clare (Memorial)	St Pius X (Memorial)
Tuesday 12 August	Sunday 24 August
Anniversary Of Dedication	Twenty-First In Ordinary Time
Of Perth Cathedral (Feast)	Wednesday 27 August
Thursday 14 August	St Monica (Memorial)
St Maximilian Kolbe	Thursday 28 August
(Memorial)	St Augustine (Memorial)
Friday 15 August	Friday 29 August
Assumption Of The Bvm	The Passion Of St John
(Solemnity)	The Baptist (Memorial)
Sunday 17 August	Sunday 31 August
Twentieth In Ordinary Time	Twenty-Second In Ordinary Time

Correction Note:

In the article, "A very special gift to the Benedictine Community" in the last issue of The Chimes, it was stated that the painting had been donated to the monastery by Teresa Reha. The donor's name is in fact Theresia Riha, to whom we extend our apologies for the mistake.



NEW NORCIA
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

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email publications@newnoria.com.au.

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