



Pax, a Latin word meaning peace, is the motto of the Benedictine monks of New Norcia

The Chimes Newsletter



July 2018

25th New Norcia Studies Day

After glorious weather the week before, winter and the Studies Day both arrived together at New Norcia on May 26th. The weather seemed to have dampened spirits too, because we had a slightly lower number of attendants than we normally have which was surprising in view of the initial flurry of excitement when *The Bigger Picture* was originally announced earlier in the year.

The decision to name it *The Bigger Picture* came about as a result of a chance enquiry by Dr John Reynolds, curator and founder of the Southern Irish Police Force – the Garda – museum in Templemore, County Tipperary. John was enquiring about a certain Kevin Benedict Walsh who was involved in *The Templemore Miracles* in the early 1920s, and who subsequently fled to Australia. As it turned out, New Norcia's archives had 19 letters by or about Walsh and from there, an extraordinary story developed (which you can read about in the *Studies Journal* when it is launched in Subiaco in November). After John's paper, the others rolled in, all of which seemed to tell a smaller part of a much bigger picture, hence the title.

Professor Ted Snell, Chief Cultural Officer at UWA, took us on a wonderful tour of New Norcia's contemporary religious art collection which even I, a total philistine when it comes to "Art", found utterly absorbing. As someone who usually ends up creating or tidying up Powerpoint presentations, I was very impressed with his Apple equivalent called Keynote. Odhran O'Brien, Director of the Catholic Archives of the Perth Archdiocese, very kindly stepped in to read on behalf of Dr Reynolds' who though invited to give the paper in person, was on doctor's orders not to travel following surgery earlier this year. The story of the Templemore Miracles and New Norcia's involvement, as it unravelled, was as somebody put it, "simply amazing".



Andrew Brown, Grace Feltoe and Fr. Robert Nixon

This being the 25th annual event, the Archives Research and Publications Committee decided that there should be something special as well, so we were delighted to be able to accept Fr Robert's very kind offer to have a musical interlude following lunch. Fr Robert gave virtuoso performances on the piano and his guests, Andrew Brown (organ) and Grace Feltoe (vocalist) kept the audience spellbound for a good half hour.

After lunch, Andrew Walton – one of this year's Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship (APSMS) scholars – gave us a fascinating insight into his scholarship project which is the cataloguing and description of New Norcia's substantial map collection. So far Andrew has catalogued more than 400 of these maps with nearly 5,000 separate entries.

Finally, Judy McGuinness, who has presented papers in the past and is currently working on the Santos Salvado letters with Eugenia Schettino (also APSMS scholars this year), read Larrie Strautmanis' paper on the story of Benedict Cuper and Helen Pangieran. Larrie at the time of the Studies Day was in the Scottish Highlands and, therefore, unable to attend, so we are very grateful indeed to Judy for reading the paper on Larrie's behalf and what a story it was! Larrie, in turn, was contacted as, sadly, Bob Reece who was due to give us a paper on his Santos Salvado research, was unable to do so as a consequence of a health concern earlier, but it was great that Bob was still able to be with us.

And lastly, but by no means least, I would like to thank all those staff and volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this Studies Day a very special 25th event. The Journal, with the papers from the event, along with others will be launched at the Palms Community Centre in Subiaco, at 6pm on Thursday November 8th. See you there!

Peter Hocking
Archivist



Professor Ted Snell presents to the group

NNIBS Annual Institute Day, 2018: *The Encounter of Christianity and Contemporary Culture*

The New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies will be running a very special 'Annual Institute Day' this year, on Saturday, August 25th. The theme is '*The Encounter of Christianity and Contemporary Culture*', and the programme of lectures, discussions and events promises to be nothing less than fascinating.

The keynote speaker for this year is Dr Paul Tyson, a leading Australian philosopher, whose researches have focused on the encounter between Christianity, modernity and post-modernity. His book publications include *Defragmenting Modernity: Reintegrating Knowledge with Wisdom, Belief with Truth, and Reality with Being* (2017), *Returning to Reality: Christian Platonism for Our Times* (2014) and *Faith's Knowledge: Explorations into the Theory and Application of Theological Epistemology* (2013). He has taught at the University of Queensland, the University of Nottingham and the Australian Catholic University, and is currently Director of the Emmanuel Centre for the Study of Science, Religion and Society at the University of Queensland. His lecture is entitled *Real Value and Meaning for our Times*, and will argue the need for a recovery of Christian Platonism to restore the realities of 'meaning' and 'value.'

In the afternoon, there will be a discussion panel on the theme '*What can contemporary culture learn from the Church, and what can the Church learn from contemporary culture*'. A range of experts from diverse backgrounds will lead the discussion, including Dr. Angela McCarthy (Lecturer in Theology, Notre Dame University), Dr. Paul Tyson, Dr. Liam Lynch (Lecturer in Cultural Studies, Curtin University), and Tom Gourlay (President of the Dawson Society for Humanities). It will undoubtedly be a dynamic circulation of ideas and insights!

Following this, a musical recital of original compositions by Fr. Robert Nixon, osb, will round off the day. A splendid lunch and morning and afternoon tea will be included. The day commences with registration and morning tea at 10:00am, at St. Gertrude's College, and will conclude at 3:15pm. Bookings may be made at New Norcia's webshop, at: <https://shop.newnorcia.wa.edu.au/products/annual-institute-day-25th-august-2018>.

By Fr. Robert Nixon



Ambassador to the Holy See visits New Norcia

In April we were honoured to host the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, Melissa Hitchman. It was a flying visit; having given a speech at Notre Dame University in the morning, Melissa was escorted to New Norcia by our friends from The Record for a few hours before heading back to Perth to board a flight back to Rome! While here she joined the monastic Community and invited guests for prayers, a fine lunch in the refectory, recreation, and a whistlestop tour of the beautiful frescoed rooms within the monastery. The Ambassador then kindly addressed a gathering in the Museum and Art Gallery and officially opened the recently refurbished exhibition on the ground floor, which tells the story of the New Norcia Mission era (1847-1900).

We greatly appreciate our on-going association with the Ambassador, which began with the launch of the Francis Xavier Conaci Scholarship for Indigenous Students, attended by Abbot John in Rome (2016).

Lucy Nicholson
Communications



Lester Jacobs, Ambassador Melissa Hitchman and May Taylor.

Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant – Museum and Art Gallery

In 2017, a grant was obtained through the 3rd round of the Royalties for Regions regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Program (RVCSGP).

We have now virtually finished the project with many upgrades being completed. The outside of the Museum was freshened up, the fence repainted, the old straggly rosemary bushes removed and new terracotta pots with olive trees put in their place. Three new aluminium table and chair sets with umbrellas were purchased so visitors can eat their packed lunches, enjoy a cuppa or just relish the peace and tranquillity of the town. Inside there have been enormous improvements made: the ground floor museum space was gutted and replastered in places; repainted; recarpeted; new led lighting installed and two new air-conditioners installed. Cue the curators who then came in and worked their magic on the space, reworking it from the tired 1970's style exhibition to one which is light, bright, easily followed and highlights the focal points well. Axiom Design Partners created way finding signage for the whole three floors of the Museum, Art Gallery and exhibitions and a new Museum brochure gives the visitor additional information to enhance their experience.

The upgraded exhibition guides visitors through the first 50 years of the mission. High art embroidered vestments, paintings and metal work from European benefactors are displayed alongside quieter lithographs, engravings and maps. Early farm equipment, blacksmith's tools (many made by the monks), survey material and telegraphic instruments important to the town's development, together with medical and pharmaceutical goods and equipment are also shown. They sit alongside displays of craft industries including wine making, pasta-making, honey-making and the olive oil for which a silver medal was awarded to New Norcia at the Franco-British Exhibition in London in 1908. Of special interest are the 19th Century photographs of the mission's Yued people and pioneer monks which tell a visual story of early mission life.

Lucy Nicholson



Abbot John at the opening of the new museum exhibition

The River Walk and Indigenous Archaeological Artefact Display

The River Walk and Artefact display project, partially funded by a Wheatbelt Development Commission Community Chest Fund grant, is finished! There were a few last minute hiccups; gale force winds blew the finial off the top of the apiary and when the grounds team went to investigate they found the whole roof had to be replaced as many of the timbers had been affected by white ants and the tin was not weather proof. We then found out Blue Scope Steel had stopped making galvanised steel so some had to be sourced from the Eastern States. I am now happy to report the brand new roof, timber and finial have been installed, the display cases and signage have been fitted and the artefacts mounted. It looks fantastic! Due to the recent wonderful rains the river walk is now lush and green with a myriad of birds chirping along the path. Please pick up a riverwalk leaflet from the Museum and enjoy the walk.

Lucy Nicholson



New Norcia's apiary

Property Update

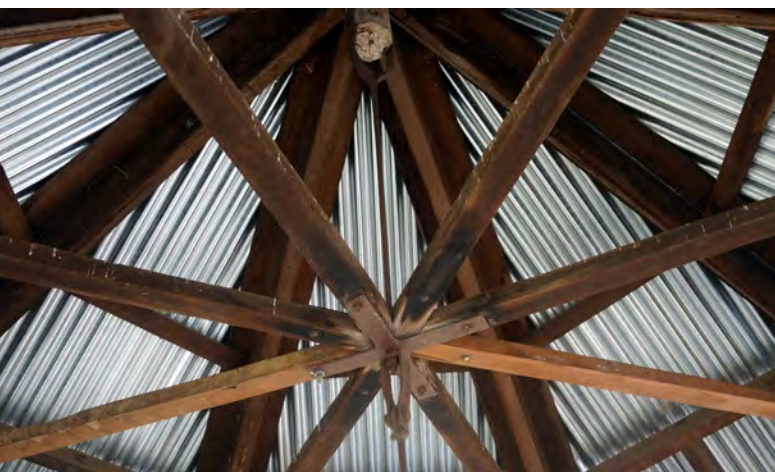
May and June have been huge months for the grounds and maintenance team, so many upgrades have been happening about the town.

The Roadhouse has been getting a lot of attention: a new roof, new bitumen surrounding the building, a new concrete floor, a new cool room plus new internal storage and a new layout!

The Monastery has also received some much needed attention; bitumen has been placed all along the back of the monastery and new ground floor ablutions installed for some of the older monks.

For the Apiary a centuries old lime wash recipe was made up and left to get thicker overnight before liberally brushing the interior of the Apiary, getting it ready for the installation of the new exhibition. New bird netting has been placed on the open area at the top together with a new roof and the finial replaced.

And finally the Hotel is having some hand rails placed up the steps to the main entrance with some new planters making the place safer and prettier!



Images: Top two photos; the New Norcia Roadhouse. Above left; the Apiary roof. Above right; the New Norcia Hotel.

Olive Grove Health Check

Stan Kailis, the Olive guru who ran symposiums at New Norcia in the 1990's came to look at the "new" olive grove that he planted over 20 years ago and which has not been performing as well as it should. His visit coincided with the start of the 2018 picking season, so the volunteers were treated to a informative talk from Stan about olives in general and also in particular the olives that we have at New Norcia. The new olive grove is a mix of six different types of cultivars all well known for the quality of their oil production. We are lucky to be able to have his experienced eye look over the trees and hear the advice that he had for us going into the future of our oil production.

In 2018 the volunteers picked 2.4 tonne of olives yielding 544 litres of oil. York Olive Oil Company said the oil has a "herbaceous fruity aroma with some pungency and bitterness on the palate. A nice oil".

We broke the record this year by having some batches yield 29.25% oil.



Stan Kailis and the group of volunteers

Mandorla Opening

The official opening of the Mandorla Art Award was a lovely occasion at the Turner Galleries in Northbridge. Many people braved the chilly weather to go and see the high quality of the entries this year, all inspired by the passage:

“And then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev 21:1-2).

West Australian artist Mikaela Castledine won the \$25,000 St John of God Health Care Prize at the 2018 Mandorla Art Awards with her work *God is in the House*. The judges commented that the work is a beautifully crafted piece that takes ordinary found objects and through the artistic process turns them into the sacred. The humble materials of glass, beads and thread have been made into something much more significant. The feminine craft of the work speaks to the human desire to create architectural forms. The forms are clearly recognisable as ecclesiastical but from a range of different faiths.



God is in the House by Mikaela Castledine

A further three awards were presented. The inaugural Patricia Toohey Painting Prize was awarded to Julie Davidson for her work *And I Saw* (after John Martin), sponsored by St Joseph’s Parish, Subiaco.

Two highly commended prizes were presented, one to Brian Robinson for his work *Moving with the Rhythm of the Stars* (sponsored by Unity Church in the City) along with Simon and Naomi McGrath with their collaborative piece *The First Earth – Sickness and Death* (sponsored by the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth).

The People’s Choice Award (\$2,000 sponsored by the Benedictine Monks of New Norcia) will be announced at the opening of the first leg of the touring programme at New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery at 2pm on Saturday 7th July, where the exhibition will be open until 29th July.

Lucy Nicholson

New Norcia Monastery Rainfall 2018

Day	Year												Annual
	JAN	FEB	MAR	2018 APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	
1	0.0					1.6							
2	0.0												
3	0.0				1.0								
4	0.0												
5	0.0	0.6				2.0							
6	0.0	0.2	2.0			16.8							
7	0.0				1.2	11.4							
8	0.0				0.2	5.6							
9	0.0												
10	0.0					2.4							
11	0.0					3.6							
12	0.0					1.2							
13	0.0												
14	0.0												
15	18.5												
16	75.0												
17	0.0	0.4											
18	2.0					8.8							
19	1.0					1.4							
20						0.4							
21						2.4							
22				2.0									
23				1.4									
24			0.2										
25		1.0			25.8								
26		19.0			6.2								
27		0.6	1.0		4.0								
28					3.8								
29					0.2								
30													
31													
For month	96.5	21.8	3.2	3.4	42.4	57.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
No.days	4	6	3	2	8	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Total '18	96.5	118.3	121.5	124.9	167.3	224.9	224.9	224.9	224.9	224.9	224.9	224.9	
Monthly '17	122.4	43.8	19.2	0	17.2	18.4	101.2	95.4	55.2	22	13.6	19.8	
No.days	3	5	8	0	9	7	26	16	15	9	6	5	109
Total '17	122.4	166.2	185.4	185.4	202.6	221.0	322.2	417.6	472.8	494.8	508.4	528.2	
Av '16	15.7	17.7	23.4	31.2	70.9	87.5	102.1	86.3	65.8	45.5	38.3	33.7	618.4
Av '17	15.7	17.7	23.4	31.2	70.9	87.5	102.1	86.3	65.8	45.5	38.3	33.7	604.3

EVENTS COMING UP IN NEW NORCIA

- **Winter Art Workshop:** Saturday 28th July. See the following page for more information.
- **New Norcia Writers' Festival:** Saturday 11th August. See the article below.
- **New Norcia Library Lecture:** Friday 5th October.
- **Institute for Benedictine Studies:** Benedictine Experience Weekend: July 13-15
Annual Institute Day, The Encounter of Christianity and Contemporary Culture: August 25
Retreat, Encountering Jesus: October 12-14
Retreat, Praying with the Writings of St. Paul: November 2-4
Retreat, Advent Retreat: November 30-December 2
Study Weekend, The Life and Writings of St. Augustine: July 27-29
Study Weekend, Religious Art and Revelation: September 7-9

See New Norcia's website at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au for more information.

New Norcia Writers' Festival

Now in its fourth year, the New Norcia Writers' Festival offers a varied mix of writers, artists and performers in sessions which take advantage of the unique Wheatbelt monastery town's rich history and beautiful architecture.

This year's guests include authors Anthea Hodgson, David Whish-Wilson, Susan Midalia, Michelle Johnston and Laurie Steed, poet Rose van Son, artist Jeremy Kirwan-Ward, and soprano Katja Webb and pianist Chris Milbourn.

The set price of \$80 includes four sessions, morning and afternoon teas, wine tasting and an open mic event (buffet or picnic lunch options are available for an extra charge). There will be ample opportunities to explore the community's Museum and Art Gallery and other places of interest.

For the first time, ticketholders will also be able to "curate" their own programme by choosing four out of eight possible sessions on the day.

"As most of the venues have limited capacities, allowing concurrent sessions effectively doubles our potential audience," festival director William Yeoman said. "This means greater choice and a real festival buzz."

Will Yeoman, who is also director of Perth Festival Writers' Week, said he was especially excited to be able to feature operatic soprano Katja Webb in performance with pianist Chris Milbourn.

"Katja and Chris performed American composer Aaron Copland's *12 Poems of Emily Dickinson* at this year's Perth Festival Writers' Week to great acclaim," he said. "I'm grateful to them for agreeing to perform this beautiful song cycle again for us at New Norcia."

The link to purchase tickets: <https://shop.newnorcia.wa.edu.au/>.

New Norcia WRITERS FESTIVAL

BOOKS POETRY MUSIC HISTORY FOOD CONVERSATION



Free Department of Primary Industries Workshops

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is running free workshops at New Norcia.

The courses are listed below. If you are interested in attending please contact Nancye Gannaway on 9368 3807 or nancye.gannaway@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Succession A Business Strategy
Thursday 19th July

Personal and Business Effectiveness (A Work Life Balance)
Wednesday 8th August

Planning for Profit
Thursday 23rd August

Sales and Marketing
Friday 24th August





Winter Art Workshop

New Norcia | 28th July 2018

New Norcia is delighted to host its first Winter Art Workshop. The day is about having fun, learning something new, being creative, and escaping from the hum drum of daily life in the historic and creative atmosphere unique to New Norcia. A fabulous grazing-table lunch by Rustic Events included.

Numbers are strictly limited to 15 per workshop so if you are interested book now!!!

CHOOSE ONE OF THREE WORKSHOP OPTIONS:

Workshop 1 – “Learning Mindful Drawing” with Nyree Taylor – 5 hours

To draw from simplicity does not come easily. Our minds race... sometimes with the stress of day to day living, but we also intellectualise moments that should simply be inhaled and exhaled. Drawing can enable us to slow our minds, learn to let go and be in the present. Just like Pilates or Yoga, you just need tools and a space. This two-part class will teach you how to work with charcoal and connect with your own intuition and creative side. In the morning we will work with a clothed figure model to learn new skills and techniques. In the afternoon, we will start to apply these new skills with a still life, and if it is a beautiful day we may work outside. Participants will need to bring a large MDF drawing board (available from Bunnings) and some dog clips.

Workshop 2 – “Working with Acrylics” with Shireen Manning – 5 hours

This painting workshop has been designed as an experiment in mixing colours, applying/layering colour upon colour, and shape next to shape to create a finished acrylic painting. Using a small still life comprising a fresh flower posy, small ceramic objects and beautiful fabric as inspiration, you will first create a series of quick ‘sketches’ using pencil and paper to establish an interesting composition, followed by mixing and experimenting with colour. You will then select your best composition and ‘draw’ it onto your canvas using diluted acrylic paint and brushes. After lunch, we will begin in earnest - creating to your heart’s content...to take home an acrylic still life painting onto a small stretched canvas. Please bring a smock/apron to protect clothing. All materials included.

Workshop 3 – Morning “Hand Clay Modelling” with Shabbi – 2.5 hours

A way of being with clay - we will enjoy the feel of the damp earth and to realise we can create a simple Japanese inspired pinched tea bowl, a functional hand built bowl and a slab formed dish, all with very few tools, enthusiasm and our hands. The required tools, clay and materials will be supplied but if you have a loved doily or piece of lace, this could be pressed in to clay to create a yesterday feel to your dish.

Workshop 3 – Afternoon “Flower Posy Making” with Nicky Brennan – 2.5 hours

Do you love flowers? Do you want to learn how to make them look as beautiful as they should? Join Nicky from Rustic Events in this fun, hands-on workshop. She will teach you the basic techniques for making a spiral hand-tied posy. No floristry skills are needed, as you will be taught all the tricks and tips on how to create, wrap and care for your posy. All materials and fresh flowers are provided and you will take home your own beautiful creation. Enjoy an afternoon of learning, laughs and creativity.

BOOK A PLACE BY 20th JULY! Contact Lucy on 9654 8018 or communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au, or visit the webshop at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au.