



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

# The Chimes Newsletter



**April 2017**

## Dom Robert's Solemn Profession

On January 28<sup>th</sup> this year, I made my Solemn Profession as a monk at New Norcia. This is a promise to God of a definitive and irrevocable nature, to serve Him and His Church through prayer and the observance of monastic discipline within this community, for the rest of my life. In making monastic profession, a commitment is made of 'stability' (to remain faithful to the particular community to which one has been called), obedience (to the Abbot and to the Rule of St. Benedict, in the service of the God, the Church, and the brethren), and *conversatio morum* (or 'conversion of life'- the undertaking to live the Christian and monastic life faithfully, aspiring more fully to embrace Gospel values).

This step represents, for me, part of a long vocational journey towards God, guided always by the light of Faith. I feel particularly blessed to have become a part of the family of St. Benedict within the community of New Norcia, and here to follow, by the grace of God and with Our Lady's assistance, the call of Christ.

*By Dom Robert Nixon*



Image by Peter Quinlan

## International Women's Day Celebration

Forty women and men gathered at the New Norcia Hotel on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate International Women's Day. Guest speaker Vanessa Thiele spoke with passion about the personal qualities and habits that characterise resilient women, using well-known women around the world who exemplify resilience in action.

Guests were from shires across the region: Chittering, Victoria Plains, Dandaragan, Moora and Gingin, and the vibrant buzz of conversation showed the sundowner was achieving its aim of linking people in business across the north-west area of the Wheatbelt.



The sundowner, organised by the Chittering Chamber of Commerce and hosted by Bindoon Estate wines, also raised over \$400 for Mercy Secondary School in Yarapos, PNG, to assist with building new dormitories for female students.

Feedback from guest Jill O'Brien of New Norcia summed up the impact of the evening. "It was wonderful to be with such a vibrant group of women. And the younger ones were most impressive- juggling so many complex things and still smiling."

*By Carmel Ross*

## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

After months in the pipeline New Norcia now has a new and exciting website!

This is the place to visit for up to date information about the town including events, products for sale, the Hotel menu, accommodation, heritage information and so on.

Please come and have a look at: [www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au).



## Parish News

After the final parish meeting of the year (Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016) New Norcia parishioners gathered at the New Norcia Hotel for drinks and a delightful buffet lunch. Parish Chair Keith Hunt gave his annual speech and Santa (this year, looking rather like Sr Jill O'Brien) handed out Christmas chocolates to the children. The arrival of several young Filipino families in the district in recent years has given new life to the parish. Although New Norcia is one of the smallest parishes in the Archdiocese of Perth, it enjoys an extraordinary level of participation and a good spirit of community. The next exciting event for the parish will be the Episcopal Visitation in July 2017.

*By Abbot John*



*Parishioners enjoying lunch at the Hotel*

## 2017 Community Chest Funding Grant

It is with great pleasure that we announce New Norcia has been successful in its bid for a grant through the Royalties for Regions Wheatbelt Development Commission's 2017 Community Chest Fund.

Shane Love MLA and Wendy Newman, CEO of the Wheatbelt Development Commission, came to New Norcia on January 30<sup>th</sup> to formally announce the grant and present the certificate to Abbot John Herbert.

The \$50,000 grant will provide the opportunity to enhance visitor experiences within Australia's only monastic town. Consisting of two parts, the first part of the project includes an upgrade and extension of the existing River Walk including interpretative signage, reflection areas and native planting, the idea being to create spaces for reflection and nature-watching. Cultural, historic and spiritual information will be placed along the route to further enhance the experience and the extension will enable wet and dry season options.

The second part of the project involves the development of an Indigenous archaeological display in the old Apiary building, enabling visitors to see Indigenous artefacts that have been collected from the immediate vicinity, which was originally a Yued Clan campsite. The building needs repairing and then museum grade display units and interpretative signage will be installed.

In its entirety the project will cost in the region of \$90,000 with New Norcia committed to supplying the additional funds necessary.

The River Walk and archaeological display will be open to all visitors as well as being an important resource for New Norcia's education department, allowing school children to better understand the unique Indigenous, natural and built heritage of the town.

*By Lucy Nicholson*



*Shane Love MLA, Abbot John & Wendy Newman*



## New Norcia Library

Preparations are well underway for the annual New Norcia Library Lecture on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October. Five guest speakers will share and explore aspects of dealing with books, photographs and other artefacts that appeal to people. These aspects frequently beset us with unease; the "us" all too frequently including everybody from "self", to experts, to decision makers. The programme is accessible on the New Norcia website.

This year (10-13 July), it is Western Australia's turn to host the ANZTLA [Australian and New Zealand Theological Librarians Association] Conference - our once every seven year participatory contribution. The Benedictine Community of New Norcia is pleased to host the conference attendees' day trip (11 July). This is an exciting opportunity to showcase some of New Norcia's treasured books, and to hear some of Stephen Moreno's piano music.

On a business as usual note, ongoing volunteer assistance is required in the Serials Collection. If you think you have a talent for organisation, combined with the ability to meticulously record data, please consider volunteering. To register your interest please send an email to [communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au).

*By Carolyn Talbot*

## Benedictine Experience Weekends

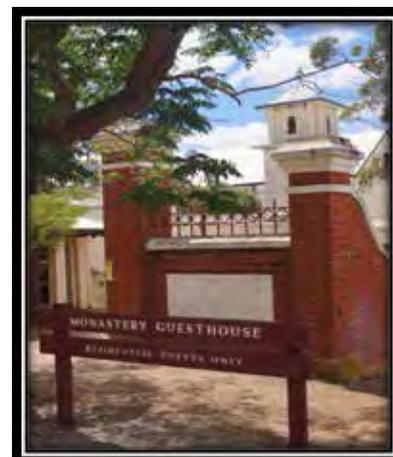
Benedictine spirituality is more readily experienced than defined. These weekends in the Monastery Guesthouse (beginning with Vespers at 6.30pm on Friday and concluding after lunch on Sunday) provide the opportunity to enter fully into the monastic rhythm and balance of prayer, work, lectio divina, hospitality and community life. There will be opportunities to ponder the riches of the scriptures and monastic literature, both in group discussions and personal silence and solitude, bringing from the “storeroom, things both new and old.” Participants are also invited to join the community for silent meals in the refectory, one of many invitations to listen with “the ear of the heart.”

Benedictine Experience weekends will run on the following weekends in 2017:  
May 19-21 | July 28-30 | September 29 - October 1 | October 13-15 | November 24-26

There is a maximum of 12 guests for these weekends so advance booking is recommended. Booking may be made by contacting the Guesthouse manager on (08) 9654 8002 or by email: [guesthouse@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:guesthouse@newnorcia.wa.edu.au).

Suggested donation: \$250 (for those who can afford it). This includes accommodation, meals, retreat sessions and entry to the New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery.

By Bernadette Taylor



## Cycling for Youth

The Hawaiian Ride for Youth group arrived at New Norcia after having cycled almost 140km from Dalwallinu, on the third day of their 700km ride from Geraldton to Perth. They encountered a slight headwind which slowed their progress but they seemed remarkably enthusiastic and energetic on their arrival, or maybe that was due to the sight of the delicious spread the Hotel had put on for them!

The Hawaiian Ride for Youth began in 2003 when a small group of recreational cyclists decided to combine their resources and raise funds for Youth Focus to assist in the prevention of youth suicide, depression and self-harm. Knowing that each and every teenage suicide affects hundreds of people; families, friends and neighbours, the riders felt this issue was a concern the whole community needed to address. Incredibly, from humble beginnings in 2003, the event has raised more than \$17,000,000 to assist young West Australians in need. In 2017 the goal has been surpassed and so far the total amount raised is \$2,402,184. What an amazing feat, congratulations to the whole group.



## New Norcia Studies Day 2017

This year's Studies Day, titled *More Voices!* continues the hugely successful theme from last year – *Voices from the Archives*. Again, we have a mix of archival documentation, research and something not quite archival, but which nevertheless draws on archives documents both here and in Perth.

The event will be held in the usual venue, St Joseph's Hall, with registrations taking place in St Gertrude's College; the date is Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

This year we are very pleased to be able to welcome Associate Professor Katharine Massam from the University of Divinity in Melbourne, who will be presenting a paper on the Spanish Benedictine women at New Norcia. Katharine is followed by Lawrence Rhoads, a recent Honours graduate and former student of Professor John Kinder's at the University of Western Australia; he will be talking about the correspondence of a hitherto unresearched monk, Mauro Rignasco. After lunch, Judith McGuinness, the recipient of the 2013 Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship discusses the correspondence between Bishop Salvado and his great friend in France, Dom

Théophile Bérengier and, like last year, we will finish with something quite different. Retired orthopaedic surgeon, John Kagi, will share with us his research into the contributions the New Norcia blacksmiths made at not only New Norcia but at the Bishop's Palace in Perth. He should be able to shed some light on the mysterious case of the vanishing balcony!

Lunch will be held in St Gertrude's College and the menu will cater to those with special dietary requirements. If you would like to come, please contact me on 08 9654 8018 or, even easier, go to the New Norcia website and book online.

Looking forward to seeing you all again,

*Peter Hocking*





## New Norcia Farm Clearance Sale

The bleak and blustery day did not affect the turnout to New Norcia for the farm clearance sale, the crowd being around 400 strong. The move to leasing the farm signifies a radical change in the 170 year old farming history, which started in 1847 by New Norcia founder, Dom Rosendo Salvado. In his opening speech, the Abbot reflected on that history and what the lease will mean to the community.

“It’s an amazing history and we were delighted that Salvado’s remarkable achievements were recognised when he was inducted into the WA Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2013. We have much to be grateful for in these past 170 years of farming at New Norcia – the farm, of course, has made (and will continue to make) a significant contribution to our economic sustainability, allowing us to live our monastic life here in Australia’s only monastic town”, said Abbot John.

“We are so grateful to many people – too many to name:

- The monks and laymen who have

managed the farm

- The multitude of monks and staff who have worked hard season after season
- Our consultants – we especially acknowledge the late David Bedbrook who served us for the past 35 years or so – and we thank Tim Johnson who has taken us on since David’s death
- The endless list of suppliers and business associates
- Our neighbouring farming families and the countless locals who have supported us along the way

The leasing of the farm hails an exciting new era on the farm, and we look forward to working closely with the Manning and Brennan families as they begin their work in this very special place,” he said.

“We thank Peter Grainger and his team, Jeff Brennan, and all those involved in today’s clearance sale...we appreciate

your hard work. And finally, we thank all

of you for coming today...we hope you find the bargain you’re looking for!”

Many of the potential buyers were familiar faces; locals or long standing friends of New Norcia. Tasty, homemade food was provided by Yerecoin Tennis Club- nearly 300 rolls were sold in total!

After the sale, long held clearance sale tradition prevailed, with the monks of New Norcia putting on beers and nibbles for the attendees at the New Norcia Hotel. Over 100 people packed in giving the new managers James and Roisin a great opportunity to meet everyone. James mentioned that “the locals seem great; very friendly, we had a bar tab organised by Abbot John and after that had finished the locals stayed right until 11pm. We served our new and soon to be famous pork ribs, canapés and hot nibbles.”

The lease started from March of this year.

*By Lucy Nicholson*

We would like to congratulate New Norcia volunteer Claire Bolton on being awarded first prize in the 2016 City of Busselton Art Awards. In collaboration with Molly Coy, Claire created an artist book *Handscapes*, inspired by stunning local landscapes and the desire to integrate text and image. It is designed in five sections, each one reflecting different aspects of the landscapes in the southwest. These hand-crafted landscape pages are printed on a variety of papers, using many different illustrative techniques; collagraph, etchings, linocuts, leaf prints, metal and wood type with hand-painted pages, combined to give a rich indulgence of visual experience and textures. Their book is on view at the Art Geo Cultural Complex in Busselton, where the exhibition Narrative is open from April 8- May 22nd.

*By Lucy Nicholson*



## Staff Update

Over the past year there have been quite a few new faces join us:

**James Kiely**  
Hotel Manager

**Roisin McLoughlan**  
Assistant Hotel Manager

**Jody Burness**  
Group Accommodation Manager &  
Education Centre Coordinator

**Vicky Sims**  
Roadhouse Manager

**Stephen Babb**  
Groundsman

**Carmel Murray**  
Museum and Art Gallery Manager

**Casuals working at the Hotel and  
Other Departments**

Helery Rullingo  
Janeka Kadeja  
Heather Stephenson  
Jody Lenihan  
Lena Turner  
Jannete Tuale  
Natalie Nixon

### SAVE THE DATE

## 2017 WRITERS' FESTIVAL

Make sure you keep Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August free this year. We are working on a diverse and fabulous line-up of authors for this year's Writers' Festival. So far we are delighted to announce West Australian authors, Stephen Scourfield, Toni Hughes d'Aeth and Nicole Williams will be joining us. Tickets are for sale on the website and a programme will be out soon.

[www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au)

## NEW NORCIA WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2017

*A celebration of –  
books, music, dance, history, food and conversation.*

## Exhibition: Remembering Them

**Remembering Them: New Norcia and WW1** explores the impact of the First World War on the four communities that made up the population of New Norcia from 1914-1918 – the monks, the Aboriginal people, the college students and the local farming community. Each group experienced the war in different ways and to varying degrees. For a small country town, the story of the war years and their aftermath at New Norcia is both complex and unusual. This display is a collaborative project between the West Australian Museum and the Benedictine Community of New Norcia.

**Open Museum Hours 9.30am-4.30pm daily**

*Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people please be aware that this exhibition may contain images of, or reference to, deceased people.*



# **EASTER 2017 with the BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY at NEW NORCIA**

**+ HOLY THURSDAY – April 13**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm**

**+ GOOD FRIDAY – April 14**

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion 4.00pm**

**+ HOLY SATURDAY – April 15**

**Musical and Dramatic Presentation: T.S. Eliot, *The Four Quartets***

**St. Gertrude's Hall, 10:30am**

**+ EASTER SUNDAY – April 16**

**Easter Vigil 4.30am**

**Mass of the Day 9.00am**

**Solemn Paschal Vespers 5.30pm**

**Location: Abbey Church, New Norcia**

**Enquiries: (08) 9654 8018 or [information@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:information@newnorcia.wa.edu.au)**

**For more detailed information visit [www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au)**



## **Australia's First Motorcycle Friendly Region to be launched in WA**

On Sunday 23rd April 2017 Avon Tourism will launch WA's first Motorcycle Friendly region, Avon Valley.

The Avon Valley region flows along winding roads north-west from Beverley through to New Norcia, taking in the country hospitality of York, Northam, Toodyay, Chittering, Bindoon, Victoria Plains and Goomalling. The combination of stunning scenery and WA's temperate climate offers the beginning of many a great ride.

This regional project was made possible through a \$16,180 allocation from the Wheatbelt Development Commission's 2016, Royalties for Regions supported, Community Chest Fund along with facilitation by the sub-regional tourism organisation, Avon Tourism. Cully's Yamaha also kindly stepped in to fill a funding gap. Each of the seven Shires provided in-kind support to undertake the installation of the eight dozen pieces of signage.

The Shires will be linked with "Avon Valley Region" branded road signage, designed to complement their existing signage, along with "Experience the Avon Valley on Two Wheels" noticeboards at key visitor information points. The regional map, including fuel outlet and rest stop locations, will be made available to riders as a pocket size brochure and also online. It will feature contact numbers for information, towing and assistance, plus tips and techniques for riding on country roads. Another element will be "What's Around The Corner?" asking riders to think in a different way about rural riding and

reminding them to call 138 138 to report unsafe roads.

Avon Tourism Chairperson, Karen Dore, said "We encourage all motorcycle riders to experience the Avon Valley on two wheels and to give our regional motorcycle friendly operators the opportunity to warmly welcome them". Ms Dore, who rides a Yamaha MT07 and is the 'hanging on' half of a road racing sidecar team, says that the initiative has been well-received by local businesses.

A swag of Avon Valley eateries, places to stay and attractions have pledged to be "motorcycle friendly" through the provision of visor wiping and / or gear storage facilities along with easy access to suitable parking. Motorcycle friendly business operators will display their "proud participant" stickers prominently, with a detailed listing available from the website. Many of the operators will also take the opportunity to offer motorcycle rider only offers through the AVMCFR Facebook group.

The 'Official Launch' will take place at 11am onstage at the York Motorcycle Festival. The formal announcement and ceremonial ribbon cutting will be preceded by a number of Avon Valley rides to the event, showcasing the roads on the regional map. Excitingly, there will be a number of incentives offered to ride participants, with over \$1,000 of prizes up for grabs.

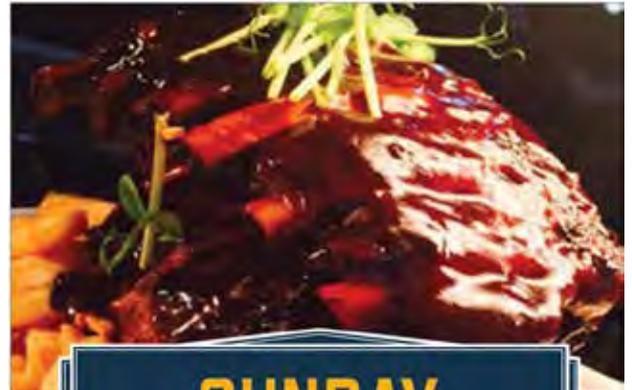
EDITED VERSION OF MEDIA STATEMENT

## New Norcia Hotel

### Bottle-shop Price List

Product	6pk	Carton
Carlton Dry	\$20.99	\$50.99
Carlton Draught	\$20.99	\$51.99
Carlton Mid	\$17.99	\$48.99
Hahn Superdry	\$18.99	\$53.99
Hahn 3.5	\$19.49	\$54.99
Hahn premium	\$17.99	\$46.99
Corona	\$23.99	\$49.99
Pure Blonde	\$20.99	\$50.99
Swan Draught	\$20.99	\$51.99
Tooheys x dry	\$19.99	\$48.99
150 lashes	\$23.99	\$63.99
VB cans	\$20.99	\$57.99
Emu export cans	\$19.99	\$55.99
xxxx Gold cans	\$18.99	\$51.99

See bottle-shop for prices on Wines, Spirits, Mixers and many other items  
Take-away Only

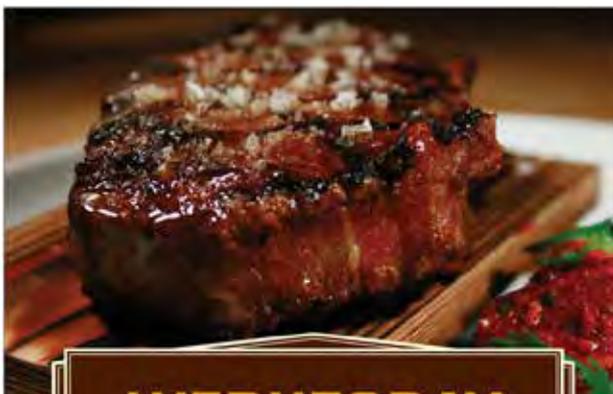


## SUNDAY RIBS NIGHT

BBQ, Sweet Chilli or Mango Ribs

Delicious Pork ribs with our Bourbon BBQ sauce, Sticky Mango or Sweet chilli sauce served with chips & salad

**\$22.90**

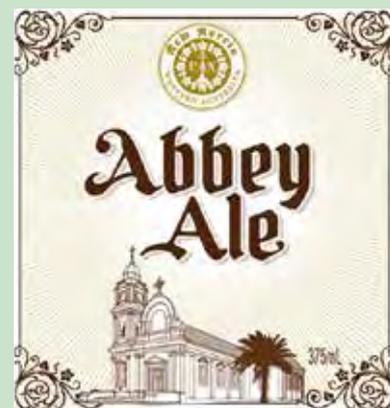


## WEDNESDAY STEAK NIGHT

250g Sirloin grilled to your liking served with chips & salad

**\$18.90**

Available at the New Norcia Hotel 6pm-8pm



### NEW NORCIA ABBEY ALE NOW AVAILABLE!

New Norcia Abbey Ale is handcrafted to a traditional monastic recipe which dates back to the Middle Ages; golden in colour with scents of fruit and spice and a delicious champagne-like finish balanced with a hint of bitterness.

The Ale is a celebration of cultures, aromas and tradition and is made for the monks by Mash Brewery who have a world class, locally built craft brewery in the Swan Valley of Western Australia.

## ANZAC DAY 25TH APRIL 2017

The Victoria Plains Shire Council advises residents that an Anzac Day commemorative service will be held on 25th April 2017 at the Victoria Plains Shire War Memorial, Yulgering Road, Calingiri.

The theme of commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War One (WW1) will continue, acknowledging the 1917 Australian and New Zealand campaigns at Passchendaele, Bullecourt and the Palestinian Desert campaign culminating in the last great cavalry charge at Beersheba.

Residents who have had grandparents or great-grandparents who directly served in WW1 are particularly welcomed to this year's service.

Further details will be provided in the April edition of the Victoria Plains Shire newsletter.

Enquiries to :- Gary McGill - Victoria Plains Shire Anzac Day Council Committee Chairman and Victoria Plains Shire War Memorial Warden.

0427287058

Council Committee:-

Mr Gary McGill - Chairman - Calingiri

Mrs Pamela Evans - Calingiri

Mrs Joely Howard - Yerecoin

Mr Alan Tree - Bolgart

Councillor Stephanie Penn - VP Shire Deputy President

Councillor David Smith



**Anzac Day Service**  
25 April 2017  
11am

**Bindoon War Memorial  
Chinkabee Complex  
Great Northern Highway  
BINDOON**

**The March**  
Those wishing to participate in the March are asked to form up in the Post Office carpark at 10:40am. The March will proceed around the Oval to the Cenotaph.

**Emergency service personnel who are not marching are invited to form a guard of honour in front of the Chinkabee Complex.**

Everyone is welcome to stay for light refreshments following the service. Community members wishing to contribute to the day are asked to bring along a plate of morning tea to share.

Supported by:

- BSAI
- Bowdler SCOUT Group
- Bindoon Sport & Recreation Assoc.
- CWA Chatterbox Bindoon Branch
- Abbotts Jobs - New Norcia Benedictine Community

On behalf of the Bindoon RSL Sub Branch



## Holy Saturday Event

Saturday, April 15, 10:30am

St. Gertrude's College

**T.S. Eliot's**

*Four Quartets*

accompanied by piano music  
of Chopin

T.S. Eliot's literary masterpiece, *The Four Quartets*, explores the themes of eternity, time, life and death, which are at the heart of the Paschal Mystery. A devout Christian, he expressed the mysteries of the Faith in a subtle and complex way, bringing them into relationship with the existential aporias of contemporary humanity.

In this presentation, the piano music of Chopin, with its emotional and spiritual depth, provides apt illustration of Eliot's work.

Presenters: Sr. Marg Malone, sgs & Sr. Jill O'Brien, sgs  
Piano: Dom Robert Nixon, osb