



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

The Chimes Newsletter



November 2017

Official Completion of the New Norcia Bypass

The completion of the New Norcia's Bypass was officially acknowledged on Monday, 9th October, by Main Roads Director of Major Projects, Norm Fox, Shane Love MLA, and Abbot Bernard Rooney. Unfortunately Abbot John was sick, so Abbot Bernard Rooney came to his aid to deliver his speech, which you can read below.

At the turning of the sod for this project, I mentioned three outstanding reasons why the New Norcia bypass was so important for us: spiritual, historical and safety.

The completion of this beautifully built road and bridge has meant that a sense of peace and tranquillity has been restored to the town; the risk of further damage to the fragile fabric of the site has been reduced; and all who live & work here and visit this special place are much safer.

So, all the boxes have been ticked – literally so, because the comments on our visitor response cards has been overwhelmingly positive.

On behalf of the Benedictine Community, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to federal, state and local Governments.

Although we still have a few outstanding issues to resolve regarding accommodation works we thank Main Roads, Jacobs, Arup and Decmil for the design, planning and construction.

An added bonus to this project has been the upgrading of most of the roads, paths and car parks within the village precinct, carried out by Decmil and their sub-contractors in exchange for goods and services during construction. The place is looking very smart indeed.

I would also like to acknowledge the remarkable effort and support from the local monks and staff. Pretty well every department got dragged into the affair, especially Admin, Grounds & Maintenance, the Hotel & Roadhouse, and Group Accommodation.

At the turning of the sod we prayed together that all aspects be carried out efficiently and safely, and that we work together in harmony and peace.

On this happy occasion of the completion of the project, we can now confidently thank God in gratitude for what we have achieved.

In his Rule for monks, St Benedict suggests that 'in all things, God may be glorified'...God has indeed been glorified, so we pray together:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

By Abbot John Herbert



PICTURED ABOVE: Drafts of the Interpretation Signage to be placed at the lookout. The first a Yued history of NN and a depiction of the six Yued seasons (Mary Nannup, Gloria Egan, Fatima Drayton and Deborah Nannup were the artists), the second a Benedictine history of New Norcia from Rosendo Salvado to the present day, and the third a map of the town.

Above left: Abbot Bernard Rooney delivering the Abbot John's address for him



Above right: Fatima Drayton, with her grandson, Lester Jacobs and Deborah Nannup



In St Joseph's Hall - speaker Toni Young with New Norcia's Dom Robert Nixon

New Norcia Library Lecture

Much of the focus of this year's presentations addressed issues of how to preserve the treasures in collections. The collections may include but are not limited to archival, local history and library. In today's world, access is being improved whilst safe guarding the actual document/artefact through digitisation.

Guest speakers promoted awareness and some of the advantages of digital documentation as one way of promoting access to fragile documents, artworks, artefacts, photographs, oral histories and a myriad other treasures.

Toni Young and Cristina Albillos detailed how the State Library of Western Australia has redeveloped its care of Battye Library treasures. Many of the ideas can be scaled up/down and therefore utilised by smaller, local/community collections.

Bob Pymm of Charles Sturt University focused on the local content of home movies. No matter how the content is recorded in today's world, the content has implications for local history collections.

Using her recently published book *Agents of empire : how E.L. Mitchell's photographs shaped Australia*, Joanna Sassoon demonstrated what happens if we regard photographs solely as images -- we often lose the context of the situation seemingly represented by the image.

Ginetta Evans detailed the outcome of the thirty-year promise to build the new Greenmount Library. Again, consideration for the care and utilisation of the community's treasured stained glass window demonstrated the need for planning, as well as a creative approach to dealing with cultural heritage.

Laurel Tate took listeners on a retrospective trip into how the Capel Local History Collection has developed from meticulous annotation on catalogue cards to an equally meticulous and ongoing development of computer catalogue records. Karen Dennison anchored the more recent technological developments into planning and implementing digital access to Capel's archival trove of local history.

Digital projects require planning, expertise, time and resources, both monetary and human. If you want to be part of such activities, or you think that you may have local historical information stashed in grandma's travelling trunk, approach your local public library, or local history group, or archives for further information. Get involved, possibly volunteer a few hours a fortnight to whatever is mutually beneficial to you and the local organisation that you approach.

By Carolyn Talbot, Librarian

New Norcia Successful in its bid for Visitor Centre Grant

New Norcia Visitor Centre is delighted to announce that it has been successful in its application for a grant from the 3rd round of the Royalties for Regions regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Program (RVCSGP).

In a joint announcement on Monday, from Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA and Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, New Norcia was identified as one of thirty three regional visitor centres across Western Australia to receive State Government funding for projects to enhance their sustainability.

The Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Program provides \$4.2 million over four years to enable regional visitor centres to transition towards financial sustainability. A funding pool of \$1.05 million was offered in 2017-18 as part of the third and final round of the grant programme.

Since the launch of the scheme, more than 100 grants have

been provided to regional visitor centres across WA, helping to boost tourism and employment.

Tourism Minister Paul Papalia commented "Tourism contributed \$10 billion to WA's economy in 2016, including \$4.7 billion in regional areas, and is a key pillar of the Government's plan to diversify the economy, create jobs and develop business opportunities."

At New Norcia this grant will enable the Visitor Centre to repaint the Visitor Centre Museum, to freshen up the displays, to improve the lighting and to install new way finding and information signage around the whole area. The exterior areas of the Visitor Centre will also be upgraded.

We would like to congratulate the other recipients of this funding.

Announcement of the 2018 Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship

The Abbot and the Archives Research and Publications Committee are delighted to announce the APSMS scholars for 2018. The Committee had more applications this year than ever before, all of them very good and very worthwhile; it was an extremely difficult decision but, in the end, the Selection Committee decided upon Eugenia Schettino and Judy McGuinness as a team and Andrew Walton as the ones who best fulfilled the criteria laid down for the Abbot Placid Scholarship.

Judy McGuinness and Eugenia Schettino are already well known to Archives having worked on the Salvado to Bérengier correspondence and, more recently, on the Santos Salvado letters which Santos wrote during his time at New Norcia between 1869 and 1879. The work that Judy and Eugenia did then comprise a discrete volume in that body of correspondence; this will now be followed by the transcription and translation of Santos' correspondence for the period before he came to New Norcia. Both Judy and Eugenia are accomplished linguists and teachers; Judy in French and Spanish whilst Eugenia, a native Spanish speaker, is an accredited translator of many years' standing. They have been awarded a joint scholarship to continue the work on the Santos correspondence.

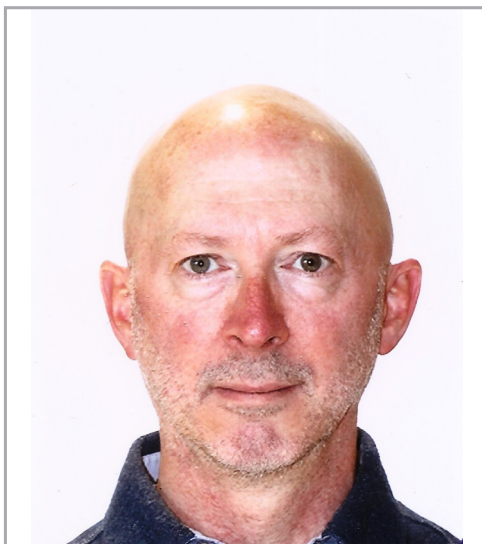
Our other 2018 Scholar has been volunteering in Archives for some time and has been a regular visitor to New Norcia for many years. Andrew Walton is a physiotherapist, and was formerly head of the physiotherapy department at Bentley Hospital. Now semi-retired, he has spent the last year or so working on the extensive map collection which is principally from the Salvado era. The scholarship will allow him to complete this work and conduct further research into the history surrounding the maps as they are frequently mentioned in Salvado's Diaries currently being translated by Dr Teresa De Castro and Fr David Barry. There are also many references to the maps in the correspondence of the period so the very comprehensive database that Andrew has drawn up will accommodate all these references, resulting in a very powerful research tool when completed. Andrew has also devised ways of photographing the maps and incorporating them into the database which has already proved most useful on more than one occasion.

Congratulations to Eugenia, Judy and Andrew – we wish them well in their research. The Abbot and the Archives Research and Publications Committee would also like to take this opportunity to thank once again all those benefactors who contributed so generously towards the Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship. The Scholarship has permitted us to “unlock the Archives” (to use Abbot Placid's words) and this has resulted in the publication of three books in 2014, Salvado's 1883 Report to Propaganda Fide in 2015, and his 1900 Report last year. This year, we are publishing Fr Román Rios' 1924 History of New Norcia, whilst the correspondence between Bishop Salvado and Théophile Bérengier which we hoped to publish last year should be available at next year's Studies launch.

By Peter Hocking, Archivist



Eugenia Schettino



Andrew Walton



Judith McGuinness

The Boarder from Burracoppin

Some readers may recall the article from the Museum Collections department in the *Chimes* newsletter, in July 2017, titled 'A Boarder's Stash c 1949'. In the last paragraph I wondered if the St Ildephonsus' College student, Brian Davies, was still with us and what he would make of our find of discarded letters, school work, lolly wrappers etc from within a crack in the floorboards of the top floor dormitory at the college. Recently I had the pleasure of finding out.

We accompanied the text of the article with a photo titled 'Sons of Old Boys at S.I.C. this year' from the S.I.C. magazine 1949, where one Brian Davies was photographed with one Brian Kelly, amidst other students. Brian Kelly is a well-known Gillingarra farmer and member of the New Norcia parish. On reading the *Chimes* article he thought he'd see if Brian Davies was still also farming, over in Burracoppin, so he checked the phone book and made a call. Brian Davies' wife Bernice answered the phone and said, yes, he's right here, I'll put him on. The two Brian's hadn't met since they were 22 and on holiday in Geraldton. The conversation was as though no time had elapsed.

Brian and Bernice Davies were sent the *Chimes* article and Bernice contacted me, "over the moon". Brian wasn't so sure. He couldn't see what the fuss was about. But eventually he came around and they visited recently with members of their family, to see the find, to climb the stairs to the crack in the floor, and to donate two very special items to the New Norcia collection. Afterwards we all enjoyed lunch at the New Norcia Hotel with Brian Kelly and his wife Pam, an extraordinary reunion.

As we surmised, Brian's bed had indeed been over the crack in the floorboards, which he used as a rubbish bin. We laughed about the varied scores on crumpled school work, and Brian recalled the letter sent to him by family friend and fellow student Gary Meadows, who became a well-known media presenter. It was this letter addressed to Brian Davies that allowed the whole story to emerge. And although he couldn't connect with it in the article's photo, Brian immediately remembered making the little car from a pencil stub when he saw it, and described how the other incomplete stub was to be a plane, and how he carved them with a bit of razor blade. Torn envelopes were addressed in his Mother's hand and his signature on many items was unmistakable.

Brian decided to donate a missal given him by the college brothers to commemorate both his Baptism and his First Holy Communion, which happened on the same day at New Norcia - Pentecost Sunday, Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians 24th May 1947. We know the exact date because the missal is inscribed to him by the Head of SIC Br Ethelred Ferguson, Director of SIC from 1942 to 1947. Interleaved in the missal are 21 holy cards and small prayers, many signed and dedicated on the back, celebrating the day and wishing him well. Brian's mother had treasured the missal when Brian left school and had given it to Brian's new wife Bernice, who has also cared for it all these years.

The second item donated is another handmade gem, a string



Brian and Bernice Davies read the letter

of rosary beads made from olive stones. Brian collected the ripe olives from the ground under the trees on the main road at New Norcia and worked the various stages of skinning and shaping by loading them from one side pocket to the other. Every time he walked past the college wall, Brian ground the stones down so the central hollow core was exposed, by rubbing them along the outer, rough brick walls. He then used paper clips which he bent with his teeth to link, first to a small medal of Mary, then with the crucifix awarded to him by the college Marist Brothers to commemorate his Confirmation. As he had no tools, he said he just had to improvise, and as he was a farm boy, he was bored and liked to make things. In the rubbish found under the dormitory floorboards we had Brian's boarder's list including paper clips amongst the shoe laces, Indian ink and exercise books on order.

With a rich history of over 100 years, St Ildephonsus' College and New Norcia could be literally consigned to the past. But waiting here are many stories that link that past with the present, amazing us when we find the families involved still living in the same areas 70 years after their younger selves attended school at St Ildephonsus' College in the 1940s. We chanced upon rubbish discarded by one of these boarders, Brian Davies from Burracoppin, and then found he was still very much amongst us. I'd like to thank Brian, Bernice and their family, with the Kellys of Gillingarra, for their generosity in revisiting those early times, for sharing their stories and for donating two special items to us - the missal and rosary beads - to form a new display on the ground floor of SIC. It allows us a small glimpse into the boarder's life, from the other side of the official history, literally within the fabric of the place.

By Marina Baker, Museum Collections Manager

ESA Delegates visit New Norcia

In late September, the European Space Agency's Director General, Prof Johann-Dietrich Woerner, travelled to Australia for a conference and visited New Norcia while he was here. Below is the address delivered by Abbot John to Prof Woerner and the other delegates during their visit.

On behalf of the Benedictine Community and the Staff, I warmly welcome you all to New Norcia. We consider you at ESA – and all your associates – our much valued friends – and we always look forward to your visits. It is my great pleasure, on this occasion, to offer a special welcome to the Director General of the European Space Agency, Prof Johann-Dietrich Woerner. Thank you, Professor, for including us in your visit to Australia – we are honoured to have you in our midst. We hope, in this brief visit, that you will experience something of the uniqueness of this monastic town, and see firsthand the significance of ESA's presence here.



Director General of ESA, Prof Johann-Dietrich Woerner in New Norcia's ESA Room. Photo: Tony McDonough

Our relationship with ESA goes back to the very beginnings of the New Norcia Satellite Tracking Station when, in 1999, Valeriano Claros came to explore the site. From that moment on – through the building of the station and its ongoing operations over the years – we have met some very impressive and colourful characters – of whom many have become long time friends of the community.

Among the many events and initiatives throughout the life of ESA at New Norcia, this exhibition where we meet today has become an integral part, not only of our Education Centre, but of the site as a whole. We are grateful for the ongoing development of the informative interpretation material we see around us, and we can assure you that the many school groups, visitors and tourists who access this wonderful exhibition are both fascinated and impressed by it.

While on the one hand we could say your world of science and our world of religion are two very different things, the relationship between us questions that notion – we are both indeed in the business of seeking and discovery – we are both at home with mystery and finding answers. The late Jewish theologian Abraham Joshua Heschell however, offers us a sobering thought if either discipline – science or religion – gets too sure of itself: “We can never sneer at the stars, mock the dawn or scoff at the totality of being. Sublime grandeur evokes unhesitating, unflinching awe. Away from the immense, cloistered in our own concepts, we may scorn and revile everything. But standing between earth and sky, we are silenced by the sight...”

If I may, I would like to take this rare opportunity on this very auspicious occasion of the Professor's visit to sincerely express our desire, not only to continue our association with ESA, but also to strengthen it. We hope this is your desire too, and we look forward to exploring new ways in which we may develop our relationship.

As a small token of that desire, I would like to present you, Professor, with a gift of two of our publications: the first, the Memoirs of our founder, the Spanish monk Dom Rosendo Salvado who came to this place to proclaim the message of Christ to the Aboriginal people, who in turn showed us that they had a message of their own to share. The second, the 11th issue of our New Norcia Studies Journal, features Valeriano's story of the establishment of the ESA Deep Space Antenna in New Norcia. We hope that in reading these, and in your experience here today, you will witness a much greater story, a story we hope will continue to be told for many years to come.

By Abbot John



The ESA delegates and Abbot John gather at the ESA satellite dish, just south of New Norcia. Photo: Tony McDonough

Around Town...



A student from Holy Cross College displays her project

Holy Cross School Visit

Twenty Year 8 students from Holy Cross College in Ellenbrook visited the monks to present the culmination of ten weeks of work on their “New Norcia Projects “. After a mouth-watering morning tea the monks and students were treated to four video presentations centred on the four landscapes of New Norcia; spiritual, aesthetic, emotional and economic. Impressed with the quality of the students’ work, there was a short discussion period before heading back to Ellenbrook for afternoon lessons.

By Lucy Nicholson, Communications Manager

Guesthouse Update

Another year has almost disappeared. The Monastery Guesthouse has seen many busy days and also some very quiet days. If you haven’t been able to visit us earlier in the year, now may be the time to have a break before the festivities of Christmas. There are still a couple of organised retreat weekends with vacancies - a lovely way to round off the year!

On the 17th-19th November Sr Carmel Posa leads the retreat “The Coming of the Lord”.

The last Benedictine Experience Weekend for the year will be led by Dom Christopher Power and Sr Margaret Malone on the 24th-26th November.

During September and October we have welcomed a number of retreat groups to the Guesthouse. Some of these include Catholic Earthcare, Uniting Church Ministers, Mt Pleasant Baptist Church, Anglican Clergy and Dayspring.

St Ildephonsus’ Cottage has proven very popular since it has been returned to the Guesthouse for family and small group accommodation. The cottage had been used as accommodation for the bypass road workers for the early part of 2017. Originally surrounded by a hedge of rosemary, the cottage now has a new front paved area and native plant garden.

By Bernie Taylor

Abbey Press Workshop Story

Claire Bolton led two workshops at the Abbey Press this October; both were an “Introduction to Letterpress Printing” in which the students learnt hand typesetting using a variety of different typefaces and to print using at least two different presses. They learnt to lock up type in a forme, how to roll out ink, ink up a press and to print a poster and a small card. The students seemed to enjoy the day and were proud of their creative handiwork. Claire plans to hold a one day workshop in March of next year.

By Lucy Nicholson, Communications Manager



Tamieka Preston learning the ropes

Monastery Courtyard

The monks have finally beaten the parrots by putting strips of silver paper up which scares the parrots off, now the roses are blooming!





Riders from Chain Reaction Training gather outside the New Norcia Hotel

Riding Enthusiasts

Chain Reaction Training (CTR) riding club from Subiaco visited New Norcia for a cycling getaway.

We cycled around the Shire of Victoria Plains for the weekend taking in the quiet country roads and all the green cropping scenery.

A big thank you to the New Norcia Hotel for hosting morning tea for over 50 cyclist after their 100km ride - Waddington/Piawaning/Yerecoin/Calingiri/New Norcia/Waddington.

The hospitality, service and venue was very much appreciated by all.

By Jane Graham

Local Wedding, 23rd September

Dear Abbot John

We would like to thank you for allowing us to be married at your beautiful New Norcia church. You conducted a perfect service and one that both Malcolm and I and family and friends will never forget. Everyone was talking about your service and loved being part of our special day. We are truly grateful for what you have done. Thanking you and the Benedictine Community and staff.

Kind regards

Nikole and Malcolm McQuoid



Nikole and Malcolm McQuoid in St Ildephonsus' College chapel

Olive Oil Takes Home Silver

The Australian International Olive Oil Awards were held in Adelaide in early October and we are pleased to announce our 2017 New Norcia Olive Oil has won Silver in Class 1: Delicate Oils.

There were international exhibitors from Argentina, Chile, China, New Zealand, North America, as well as Australia.

We are very proud of this achievement and thank all those involved in the process.



Mandorla Art Award

Entries for the 2018 award are currently open and will close on 12 March.

A selection panel consisting of two arts professionals and one theologian will choose a selection of artworks to be shown in the finalist's exhibition, to be held at Turner Galleries in Perth from 1 – 30 June 2018. Artists working in a range of mediums are encouraged to enter. Following the finalists exhibition, selected works will be chosen to tour to New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery, St Mary's Cathedral Perth and St John of God Healthcare.

For more information, visit www.mandorlaart.com.



NEW NORCIA HOTEL ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT

The New Norcia Hotel has been a hive of activity.

Come and join us for these activities:

- Wednesday – Steak Night \$18.90
- Friday – Chase the Ace
- Saturday – Live Music 5pm-8pm, \$12 cocktails and \$7 pints
- Sunday – Rib Night (BBQ, sweet chilli or mango)
- Monday to Friday – Happy Hour 5pm-6pm

Volunteer Day at the Abbey Press

The Abbey Press is not just a museum exhibit but is now a working letterpress print shop. However, it needs volunteers so it can be open and seen in action more often.

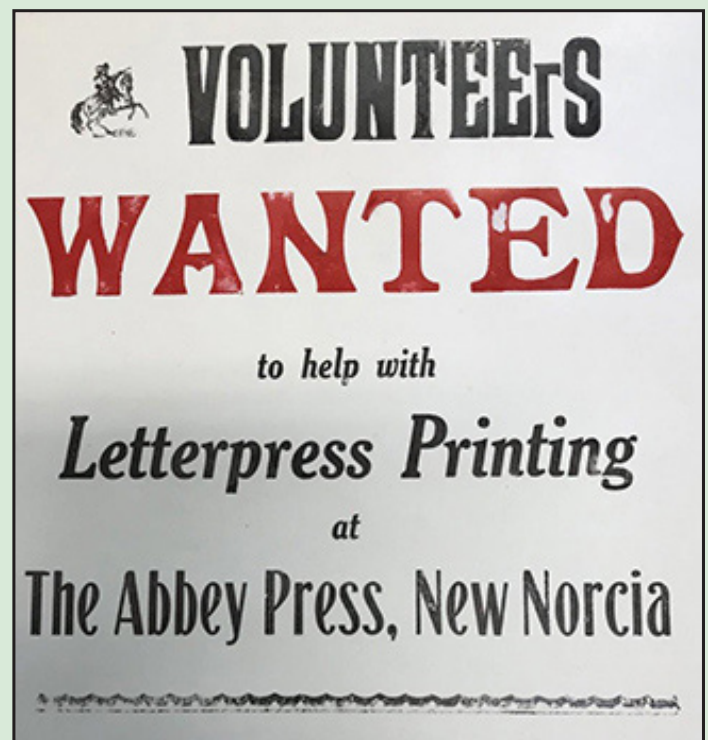
On 9th December Claire Bolton will be running a volunteer day so you can find out what is involved. You do not need to be able to print, although some experience would be helpful. It would be a requirement to become a New Norcia Volunteer, information about this will be available on the day.

This day is to familiarise attendees with the equipment and the history of the press. Places are limited to eight.

SCHEDULE OUTLINE

1. History of the Abbey Press
2. Tour: looking at items of historic interest and where things are stored
3. Jobs for volunteers: what to do with tours/visitors and when there are none
4. Notices and information
5. Practical: printing a card
6. Discussion

To register yourself for the day, please contact Lucy Nicholson on (08) 9654 8018 or communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au.



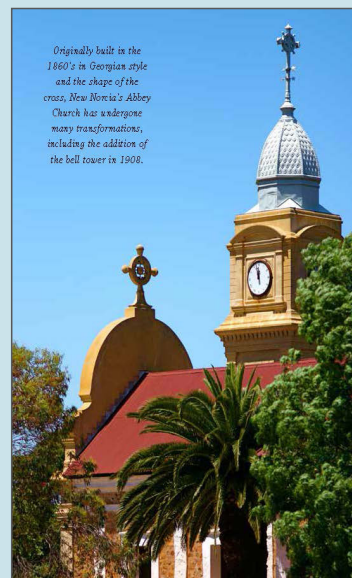
New Norcia 2018 Calendar

With stunning 'then and now' photos of the historic buildings which make up New Norcia, our 2018 calendar is now available.

It includes liturgical dates, school term dates, public holidays and dates of importance - this practical calendar makes the perfect addition to your home, or gift for someone special.

The calendar is available at the low price of \$9.95.

It is available from the Roadhouse, Guesthouse, Hotel and Museum & Art Gallery Gift Shop. Or you can purchase it online at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au.



Originally built in the 1860's in Georgian style and the shape of the cross, New Norcia's Abbey Church has undergone many transformations, including the addition of the bell tower in 1908.

