



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

The Chimes Newsletter



October 2019

Fr Anthony Lovis OSB

Eulogy, by Fr David Barry OSB

The task of saying some words in remembrance and appreciation of Fr Anthony has been entrusted to me. I think there are several major groupings of people to keep in mind as I speak and as you listen. You may identify with more than one group, and I hope I can say something to you or on your behalf about Fr Anthony. There is a psalm that we pray at the Office of Vigils early every second Monday morning, which is proposed as a prayer in old age. Verses from it take on special significance as we think of Anthony in his last weeks. For example:

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, *
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my
birth; †
from my mother's womb you have
been my help. *
My hope has always been in you.

There is first of all Anthony's family. Some siblings have predeceased him: a brother Darcy and four sisters, Veronica, June, Jennifer and Vicky; present with us today are brothers Neville, Rex and Bob, his one surviving sister Frances, and nephews and nieces. Neville was his brother's chief carer in the family home during the time doctors were finalising their diagnosis of Anthony's liver cancer and while he was being fast-tracked for Aged Care Assessment before being admitted to the brand new complex at the Home of the Little



Fr Anthony Lovis OSB. Photo credit: Julian Masters

Sisters of the Poor at Glendalough, where he spent his last two and a half weeks receiving palliative care and preparing for the end he knew to be not too far off. During that time he had many visits and received much comfort from family, friends and acquaintances, and from parishioners and staff members. How appropriate to Anthony in his situation was a later verse of the psalm: *Do not reject me, now that I am old; when my strength fails do not forsake me.*

Then there is our Benedictine monastic community which he joined in 1976, during Abbot Bernard's time as abbot, doing his novitiate under Fr Anscar and making his first profession in 1977. Some of the following years were spent in Melbourne doing studies for the priesthood; there he lived with the Carmelite Friars at Donvale and attended lectures at the

Yarra Theological Union in Box Hill. A couple of years after ordination in December 1982, Fr Anthony spent a year in Sydney following the course at the Centre for Christian Spirituality in Randwick, founded by Fr David Walker, who was later the second Bishop of the Broken Bay diocese in Sydney, since retired. At the time, Fr Walker was the Australian specialist in the writings of the 4th-5th cent monk, John Cassian. Anthony would have come to a richer appreciation of the psalm verse recommended by Abba Isaac to the monks of Cassian's time for constant repetition, helpful in dealing with and overcoming any temptation, a verse St Benedict placed at the beginning of the hours of the Divine Office: *O God, come to my aid; O Lord, make haste to help me.*

Among the variety of works that belong to the NN monastic

community, apart from the regular liturgical roles associated with the daily Conventual Mass and the Divine Office, reading and serving in the refectory and domestic duties around the house there is that of offering hospitality to guests and visitors and leading retreats for individuals and groups. One of our priest visitors this morning remembers making his pre-ordination retreat with Fr Anthony in 1984. He gave some retreats in our Guest House to groups of religious sisters and groups of people from various parishes in Perth. Another community work that Fr Anthony was asked to take on and which he did for several years was to be director or chaplain to the lay-people who belong to our group of Benedictine Oblates.

Perhaps Fr Anthony was best known to people outside the monastic community for the two stints, each of several years, which he had as parish priest of New Norcia in the 1980s-90s and again in the early years of the present century. It was in the earlier period that the three state primary schools on the west side (first Mogumber, then Wannamal and finally Gillingarra) closed down and pupils in those places went by school bus either to Moora or Gingin. The Catholic community in those parts diminished in numbers, as did the monastic community here in New Norcia, to the point that services could no longer be held in the one remaining Mass centre: St Paul's Community Church, Gillingarra. The parish priest at that time, with the agreement of school principals during school hours, or with the support of parents outside school hours, provided basic religious instruction and sacramental preparation to Catholic children on the west side and on the east side in the centres of Calingiri and Yerecoin. I mention all these names because there are those in the congregation who remember well those past decades which saw unprecedented changes in so many areas of faith life and social life. For

a few years, Fr Anthony had the NN Parish Pastoral Council's approval for using some of its hard earned funds to offer a stipend to a Perth Sister of Mercy, Sr Margaret Tallon, or one of the Good Samaritan Sisters then living in New Norcia, Sr Teresa Hyland, as a part-time pastoral assistant. Anthony had a very good pastoral touch in dealing with young and old in the parish, readily ministering the sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist and a scriptural word of encouragement to those in difficulty. He baptised a good number of children from within and outside NN parish, officiated at a number of weddings and performed numerous funerals for members of his family and for parishioners. All this was much appreciated. Many messages of condolence confirm this view.

Fr Anthony had a special ability to listen sympathetically and provide encouragement to people who for various reasons were finding the going tough in their lives. Some of those people are most likely here this morning. We know they will miss his cheerful demeanour, his friendship and his compassionate concern for them.

Many of our NN staff over the years came to have a soft spot for Fr A., as he was often called. This may have resulted sometimes in his having too easy access to items of food that were not to be recommended for someone suffering as he did from diabetes.

With regard to sport, as a former player now restricted to the role of spectator, Anthony maintained a keen interest in competitive sport, particularly football and cricket. He wanted his team – his local team in the WAFL, WA against other states, Australia against other countries – to win. He was also something of a film buff, a keen watcher of videos on tape transitioning to DVDs, but from what I can gather, mainly along the lines of Star Wars and X-Files.

I don't think Fr Anthony's last years were among his happiest. A slow decline in health, energy, and I would say in self-confidence, led to his declining to take up the role of parish priest for the third time when Abbot John asked him to early in his time as abbot. He was able to do some useful work in archives, scanning photographs and later painstakingly transcribing (his typing was slow) some of the monastery chronicles. He was also a keen believer in deterring swallows from nesting under the monastery verandas and leaving their trademarks along the walkways. The 'Showings' of Julian of Norwich was one of his staples for nourishing his faith and hope in God, in Christ our Saviour, and in the Virgin Mary. Our prayer is that he now enjoys what Julian wrote in the final chapter of the long text of her work: "From the time these things were first revealed I had often wanted to know what was our Lord's meaning. It was more than fifteen years after that I was answered in my spirit's understanding. 'You would know our Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it you? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why did he show it? For love. Hold on to this and you will know and understand love more and more. But you will not know or learn anything else – ever!'

So it was that I learned that love was our Lord's meaning. And I saw for certain, both here and elsewhere, that before ever he made us, God loved us; and that his love has never slackened, nor ever shall. In this love all his works have been done, and in this love he has made everything serve us; and in this love our life is everlasting. Our beginning was when we were made, but the love in which he made us never had beginning. In it we have our beginning. All this we shall see in God for ever. May Jesus grant this. Amen."

Fr Anthony Lovis

Requiem Homily, by Abbot John Herbert OSB

The imagery we find in the first reading from the prophet Isaiah (35:3-10) is rather fitting as we ponder the reality of death – in this instance a monastic death. The transformation of the desert from an arid, life-threatening place to a fertile, life-supporting place is a common biblical image of salvation, and we could say it encapsulates the essence of the monk's journey towards God – a journey of transformation. While on the one hand the desert is perceived as a place of dryness, temptation and fear, it can also be experienced as a place of silence and solitude; a place where we can hear the gentle voice of God speaking to us in the wilderness of our hearts.

Although our faith assures us of the transformation of our lives through God's promise of salvation, we do have a part to play in that dynamic relationship. For Fr Anthony, this was made evident in one of the promises he made on the occasion of his monastic profession – *conversatio morum* – the daily conversion of his life. While at times he (and every monk who makes such a radical promise) found this difficult, his promise of stability was a sure sign that he never gave up trying. The other promise Fr Anthony made at his profession was *obedience*. Since I was his abbot, I don't think we'll go there!

Seriously though, even if Fr Anthony did find obedience to his abbot a little challenging – and who wouldn't? – perhaps he had a deeper understanding of obedience – the type of obedience St Benedict was on about in his rule – mutual obedience – that is, a desire to discern what is best for the *whole* community.

In verse 7 of the reading, Isaiah tells us there will be a highway in the wilderness, a road leading us to a better place, a place of everlasting joy. In his own unique way, Fr Anthony knew, like St Paul speaks of in the second reading (Philippians 3:7-11), that knowing Christ was his greatest value; the road that would lead him in joyful trust through any suffering and death to share in Christ's resurrection. Fr Anthony's jovial nature, his empathy, his recognition of the good in others, his moral values, his sense of justice, and most of all his *love*, were sure signs that he saw Christ's resurrection as something we can experience *now*; that is to walk in the *newness* of life, which is a gift Christ gives us to sustain us till we share in the *fullness* of life after our death.

In the gospel (Matthew 6:25-34) Jesus is assuring us that God knows our needs and provides for them. This assurance does not however advocate passivity; that is, doing nothing and expecting that God will provide. Nor does it make a judgment on the faith of those whose daily



Fr Anthony Lovis

reality is a desperate struggle to survive. The point is that when disciples' attention is centred on seeking God's reign and right relation with all creation, then those who have enough of life's necessities do not become obsessed with the quest for material possessions. Rather they cooperate with God in actively providing for others. Although Fr Anthony could at times be rather preoccupied with the footy score and what we might be having for supper there is no doubt he was seeking God, because in that seeking he reached out to others in so many ways, most especially he *listened* to them with the ear of his heart.

In saying "do not worry" Jesus is encouraging us to make an attempt to let go of obsessive anxiety about subsistence or our fixated desires for possessions. Fr Anthony accepted that in the monastic tradition of holding all things in common he would be provided for and could let go of wanting more; and he did, because his true desire was for the kingdom. He did at times though worry about tomorrow, particularly in regards to his health. Be that as it may, he was a monk of faith with a deep conviction that, as his favourite spiritual writer Julian of Norwich attested – *all will be well* – and it is.

And so Fr Anthony, just as in every Mass you celebrated, you prayed for *healing and wholeness*, our last words to you, come from her:

Our soul's continual searching pleases God greatly, for we cannot do more than search, suffer and trust. And this comes to fulfilment in everyone to whom it is given by the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit's grace, when it is his will, finding brings enlightenment. Our searching with faith, hope and love pleases our Lord, and finding pleases us and fills us with joy...it is God's will that we go on searching until we see him. (Chapter 10)

Fraternal Visit

The monastic community was very pleased to welcome Abbot Primate Gregory Polan from Sant' Anselmo in Rome, who made a short two-day (27-29 September) fraternal visit to New Norcia while in Australia to open an education conference in Sydney.

As well as joining us in our seven-fold liturgical celebrations and recreation after meals, at which he gave us news from the world-wide Benedictine Confederation, the Primate met with us formally to encourage us in our monastic vocation, most particularly in applying ourselves to listening to the voice of God through our daily prayerful reading of the scriptures (lectio divina).



Fr Robert Nixon, Fr Anscar McPhee, Dom Chris Power, Abbot Primate Gregory Polan, Dom Peter Stefanski, Dom Michael Tunney, Dom Paul Forster, Abbot John Herbert, Dom Daniel Meers, Fr David Barry.

Abbot Gregory was very impressed with what he saw and experienced at New Norcia and extended his congratulations to the monks, staff and volunteers. We in turn were blessed to have him visit.

Abbot John

Institute for Benedictine Studies, 2020

We are pleased to announce the programme for the 2020 Institute for Benedictine Studies is now available. New Norcia provides the perfect environment for a spirituality retreat - away from noise and distraction, and into a place of spiritual refreshing and renewing.

To book, please visit our website at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au.

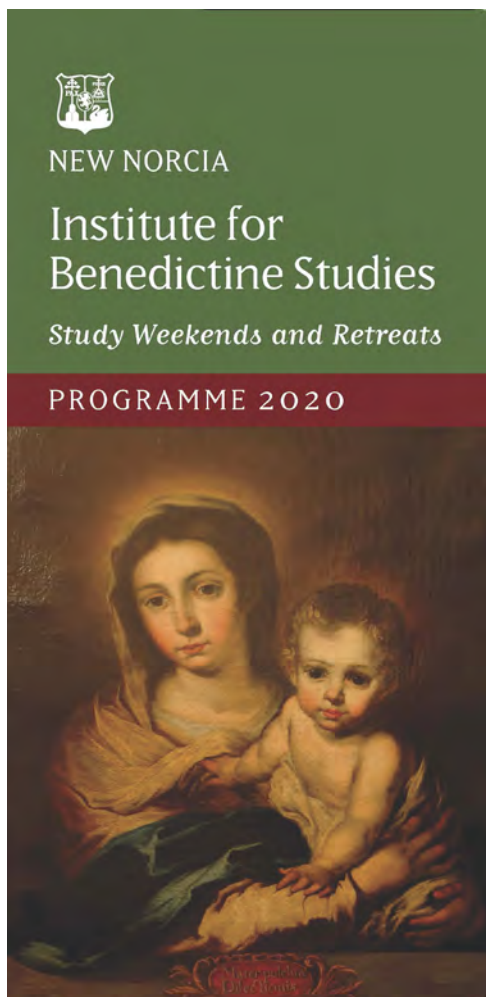
A Message from The Director

The ministry of hospitality is one of the key elements of the Benedictine monastic charism. This hospitality assumes many and diverse forms; but one of the most significant and fruitful expressions of it in recent times is the offering of opportunities for spiritual development, for study and for prayerful reflection. The various retreats and study weekends offered by the New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies continue in this tradition. Participants in our weekends have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the tranquillity, peace and beauty of a traditional monastic environment, and to encounter God- and themselves- in a renewed way.

Our offerings for 2019 generated much enthusiastic appreciation, and attracted very strong attendances. We are confident that our programme for this year will build upon this, and continue to address the needs and interests of contemporary spiritual seekers in an engaging and reflective way.

We hope that you will find something of interest here, and look forward to your visit to New Norcia in 2020.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Robert Nixon, osb



BI CALENDAR

February 28 - March 1
Lenten Retreat

March 27 - 29
Study Weekend
Cardinal Newman and the 19th
Century Revival of English
Catholicism

April 17 - 19
Study Weekend
Middle English Spiritual Writings

May 15 - 17
Benedictine Experience Weekend

May 29 - 31
The Sacrament of Silence-
Meditation Retreat

June 19 - 21
Benedictine Experience Weekend

July 10 - 12
Female Benedictine Mystics of the
Middle Ages

August 1
Annual Institute Day

August 14 - 16
Retreat: 'Letting Go'

September 25 - 27
A Course in Reading Gregorian
Notation for Musicians

November 6 - 8
Benedictine Experience Weekend

French Connections

I was delighted to accept an invitation from our friends Mark and Lesleyann Smith to travel to France to preside at the renewal of their marriage vows on the occasion of their tenth wedding anniversary, 25th September.

With business meetings scheduled in Melbourne the week before coincidentally postponed, I seized the opportunity to spend these rare diary-free days in Paris on the way to their beautiful home *Le Hamel de Bas* (a three hundred year old stone farm house) at Le Gast in the north-west region of Normandy. Having seen the main attractions on a previous visit to Paris, I chose to spend this time gently immersing myself in a typical Parisian neighbourhood in the 10th arrondissement. Food is at the heart of French culture, but one doesn't have to spend a fortune to enjoy their fine cuisine. I enjoyed a *baguette jambon Emmental* at Jean Noël Julien Boulangerie for breakfast, sampled amazing cheeses and cured meats and fish in one of the many *fromagerie* and *charcuterie*, and savoured *Ris de veau laqué*, *lardo* (sweetbreads) and a glass of house red in a delightful tiny restaurant bar two doors from my hotel on the Rue des Petites Ecuries...all within a monastic budget.

These were blessed days filled with special moments – praying before the Blessed Sacrament at Basilica Sacré-Coeur, reading a book in the warm autumn sun in the Jardin des Tuileries, contemplating life and death on a stroll through the Cimetière

de Montmartre. As I made my way through the streets of Paris on the day of my departure to catch a morning train from Gare Montparnasse, I was reminded of the sacredness in the ordinariness of daily life – an old man sitting on a bench winding his fob-watch, an apron-donned *épicerie verte* meticulously inserting peaches into his *mélange de fruits*, a fleuriste manoeuvring her pots of flowers creating a magnificent display of colour (a work of art), a street-sweeper contemplating the fallen autumn leaves – all giving witness to the sacrament of the present moment, the gift of a new day.

My days in Normandy with Mark and Lesleyann, their delightful friends (both local French and English expats) and dog M. Henri – were filled with generous hospitality, local culture, rustic food and wine and stunning countryside. This enriching experience included a visit to the ancient monastic site of Mont-St-Michel, Midday Prayer with a small community of Carmelite nuns at Le Carmel de l'Hermitage of Saint-Sever Calvados, but the highlight of course, was the joyous occasion of the renewal of vows, a true celebration of love, commitment and stability.

*La route qui mène à la maison d'un ami n'est jamais longue...*the road to a friend's house is never long!

Abbot John



2019 Studies Launch - An Invitation

The 2019 Studies Launch will be held at the Palms Community Centre on the corner of Rokeby and Nicholson Roads in Subiaco at 6pm on Thursday, 7th November. As in years past, the City of Subiaco are very generously hosting this event so, if you would like to attend, please RSVP Diane Scott at the City of Subiaco (dianes@subiaco.wa.gov.au or ring her on 9237 9219) before Monday November 4th. Subiaco always do a fantastic job so you can be assured that the catering, the wine and the music will be excellent and, even better, it's free!

In view of New Norcia's decision earlier this year to bring Archives, Libraries and Collections into the one department, we thought it would be most appropriate to invite Associate Professor Kerry Smith, former head of Information Studies at Curtin University (now retired), to do the honours and to share her thoughts on the challenges involved in managing three separate, yet in many ways similar, disciplines. Kerry will also be launching the first in what we hope will be a series of books entitled *Early New Norcia*. This first volume - *The 1867 photographs of W W Thwaites* - has been written by Emeritus Professor Bob Reece, formerly of Murdoch University.

Our Guest Speaker, Dr Kerry Smith, B.App.Sc. (ILS), MA, PhD, retired as an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Information Studies at Curtin University, Western Australia in 2013. Before joining Curtin in 1991, she worked as a special and one-person librarian in the geosciences and this encouraged her research and interest in geoscience information. Kerry was made a Fellow of the State Library of Western Australia in 2014 and, in 2016, was awarded the AM (Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia) 'for significant service to library and information sectors as an academic and researcher and to professional organisations'.

Kerry was elected as a Councillor for the newly formed Town of Cambridge in 1995, was its Deputy Mayor 1997-98, and re-elected as a Councillor from 1999-2003. After leaving local government and to celebrate her love of WA's native flora, she became involved in the Wildflower Society of Western Australia, was elected its President from 2007-2009, is its Honorary Librarian, and became its Honorary General Secretary from 2012. She was also involved at a committee level with the Royal WA Historical Society from 2013-2018.



Dr Kerry Smith

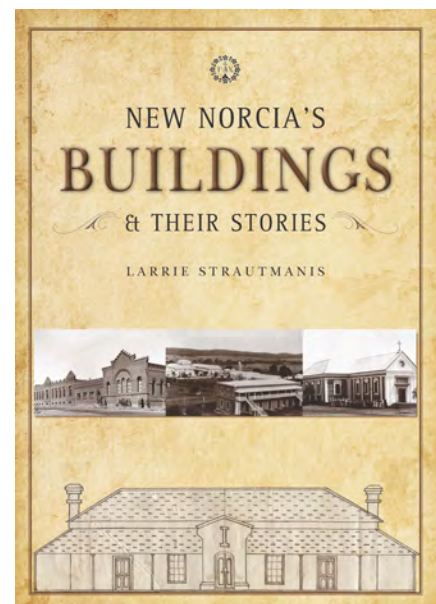
Peter Hocking, Archivist

NEW BOOK RELEASES!

A new thoroughly researched and fascinating book is available for purchase at New Norcia.

New Norcia's Buildings & Their Stories, written by Larrie Strautmanis, documents the stories of New Norcia's buildings: the ones that are still there, the ones that have gone, and the ones which didn't even come into existence. It delves into the people who built and used these buildings, from New Norcia's beginning settlement with two huts, to the town it is today with at least 20 buildings classified by the National Trust.

This interesting and resourceful book is available at New Norcia's Museum and Art Gallery, or on our webshop at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au.



7 November will see the launch not only of no. 26 of *New Norcia Studies* in Subiaco, but also of Professor Bob Reece's riveting new book about New Norcia's first photographer, Walter William

Thwaites. This enterprising English-born itinerant practitioner came to Western Australia from Adelaide with his two sons (whom he had also trained as photographers) in January 1867 to establish a business here. Finding that there was little doing in Perth, he bought a horse and cart at Geraldton and toured the Victoria Plains and the Avon Valley in search of commissions from the landed gentry. Unannounced and uninvited, he turned up at the Monastery gate on 23 August offering cut-price *carte de visite* (calling card) size group portraits and panoramas at a time when New Norcia was virtually unknown beyond Rome. Prior Venancio Garrido snapped up this God-given opportunity to show the world what was happening there and to solicit local support as well as from benefactors in Spain, France and Italy where most of the prints ended up with relatives of the monks and wealthy patrons. The outcome of his six-weeks stay was a collection of almost forty images of this unique Hispano-Aboriginal community, which promised to fulfil Bishop Rosendo Salvado's vision of a self-sufficient monastery-cum mission set in the still-isolated Victoria Plains district. Previously attributed to the Bishop's elder brother, Dom Santos Salvado, who lived at New Norcia between 1869 and 1879 and was its unofficial photographer, closer examination has shown the on-the-spot photographs to have been Thwaites' unique work, guided by Garrido's wishes. To call them 'iconic' is an under-statement. Bob Reece was able to carry out his research to support from the Dom Placid Spearritt Scholarship fund.



New Norcia Olive Oil. Liquid Gold.

We are delighted to announce the following results at the West Australian Olive Awards 2019:

Best In Show

The highest scoring Extra Virgin Olive Oil selected from Classes 2, 3 and 4 with commercial volumes greater than 200L.

Best WA Oil of Show

The highest scoring Extra Virgin Olive Oil selected from Classes 2, 3 and 4 with commercial volumes greater than 200L.

Gold Medal

Class 2: Extra Virgin Olive Oil Commercial Volume 200L-4,999L from a single grove.



And the following two awards at the Australian International Olive Awards 2019:

Champion Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Silver

With judge's comments: "Interesting aromas of bamboo shoots, star anise and fresh mint. Good transfer to palate. Light mouthfeel with balanced pepper and warm ginger heat pungency".

Well done to Ian and the grounds team on these outstanding results! This award-winning olive oil is now on the shelves in the Museum and Art Gallery. It is also available to purchase on our webshop at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au. Due to the season, yields were lower than average - so make sure you get some before it all runs out!

New Norcia Writers' Festival

What a delight to see that the New Norcia Writers' Festival, now in its fifth year, continues to attract an enthusiastic and diverse crowd. Not surprising this year, given the line-up, which included authors, poets and performers Steve Hawke, Amanda Curtin, Bindy Pritchard, Jon Doust, Michael Levitt, Annamaria Weldon, Stephen Scourfield, Steve Richter, Robert Hofmann and Tommaso Pollio.

The day began gently and magically, in the Spanish Chapel, with Annamaria Weldon talking about, and reading from, her luminous poetry collection *Stone Mother Tongue*. The anarchic humour of Jon Doust as he revisited his memoir *Boy on a Wire*, and the outrageous carryings-on of operatic baritone Robert Hofmann as cabaret sensation and relationship councillor Helmut Wunderlicher, were the complete opposite - but just as captivating!

There was much between these two extremes. Writer and performer Stephen Scourfield and percussionist Steve Richter delivered a powerful, moving performance of *Elsewhere*, based on Scourfield's own relationship with his elderly mother. Bindy Pritchard spoke eloquently to Portland Jones about her debut short story collection, *Fabulous Lives*. Doctors Michael Levitt and Michelle Johnston delved into Levitt's important book, *The Happy Bowl*. Johnston spoke with Steve Hawke about his timely new novel, *Out of Time*. Will Yeoman and Amanda Curtin explored the life of acclaimed artist Kathleen



Dr Micheal Levitt & Michelle Johnston

O'Connor, in words and pictures, as they discussed Curtin's book *Kathleen O'Connor of Paris*.

Throughout, artists and audiences alike were also able to enjoy the beautiful architecture and culture of New Norcia - its halls, its chapels, its museum, its gallery, its Abbey Press and more - as well as fine food and drink offerings. We're already planning next year's, which will be in September, as wildflowers blossom everywhere. We look forward to seeing you there.

William Yeoman
Travel Journalist, The West Australian & West Travel Club

WANOSG Field Trip

A group of eight Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (WANOSG) members met up with Mel George at New Norcia at 10 o'clock - thank you to the Roadhouse for the great coffee. We were joined by Lester, who was to guide us through the paddocks, and Lucy Nicholson. With all present we set off westwards from New Norcia township to the Westminster Reserve, driving along the edges of wheat paddocks before being amazed by the carpets of cowslip orchids (*Caladenia flava*) in the bush. Morning tea, sandwiches and wraps supplied by Mel were enjoyed before we set off looking for our orchids. Here we found a number of species, including sugar (*Ericksonella saccharata*), sugar candy (*Caladenia hirta* subsp *hirta*) and also one pink form (*C hirta* subsp *rosea*), cowslips in masses, a donkey (*Diuris* sp), greenhoods (*Pterostylis sanguinea*) and some snail orchids (*Pterostylis ectypha*).

After a bit of a delay before all were back to the cars, we headed back into New Norcia, passing Mel's house, along a gravel road, through paddocks and around farm sheds to arrive at Poison Paddock. We set off, Lucy now equipped with radio (thanks Jon), and explored the sheoak scrub area. It wasn't long before lots of stark white spiders (*Caladenia longicauda* subsp *eminens*) were spotted, along with more sugar orchids, one surviving blue beard (*Pheladenia deformis*), a few vanillas (*Thelymitra antennifera*) and two blue chinas (*Cyanicula gemmata*). Also seen were hare leaves (*Leporella fimbriata*) and *Thelymitra* leaves and buds (possibly *villosa* and *benthamiana*).

We then travelled back between the New Norcia buildings and past the hotel to Golf Course Road where Mel had seen a group of red wispy spiders. The little group of spiders was located and provoked a discussion as to what species, but no firm opinion was reached.

Next it was back through New Norcia to Calingiri New Norcia

Road and through a locked gate to Reservoir Reserve for a late lunch. Some explored up the track to the old Hermitage and others north back towards the road in a moist run off area. Large numbers of yellow spiders (*Caladenia denticulata* subsp *denticulata*) singles and in groups were found. In addition, there were more stark white spiders, sugar candies and snails (*Pterostylis setulosa*). The snails were growing out of a pile of old bitumen; orchids can be amazingly resilient.

Three o'clock, and it was time to head back to Perth for the Warrens and Proudfoots. The last two cars (Richards and Foleys) followed Lester and Mel south east, once again through a gate, alongside a wheat paddock and dirt track to Yullens Gate; a junction of properties surrounding a bush reserve. Again stark white spiders, cowslips, sugars and sugar candies were spotted, but in smaller numbers, along with enamel buds (*Elythranthera* sp) and finished donkeys. Going down from the ridge into more of a wash area we were rewarded to find an early flowering bee (*Diuris decremента*), a number of small frog greenhoods (*Pterostylis sargentii*), several common greenhoods (past), two different snails and even a bright red spider of the arachnid type.

All too soon it was 4:30 pm and time to head home. What a great day out - well, except for the mozzies (bitey variety) at the end - and how lucky to have a fine day after the rains and in spite of the forecasts. Our sincerest appreciation to Mel for organising the trip, leading the day and providing morning tea, to Lester for guiding us on his birthday and supplying us with mandarins, and a special thank you to the New Norcia Community for permitting us to visit their properties.

Pat Richards, Secretary
Western Australian Native Orchid Study and
Conservation Group Inc



Ground Work

As always there has been a hive of activity around the grounds of New Norcia, including repairs by John Brassington to the wall outside of the monastery and work by the grounds team to spread mulch and new gravel. Pictures below...



Snake Alert!



There have been snake sightings in the area and we expect to see more slithery friends as the weather warms.

To Avoid a Bite

- Be careful where you put your hands and feet
- Wear protective clothing
- Don't pick them up or interfere with them
- Let them know you're there: make noise and stomp

You've been bitten. What to do now?

Snakebite first aid is simple and effective.

1. Apply a pressure bandage: Wrap a bandage from below, upwards and over the bite site. Extend it as high as possible (e.g. all the way to the groin). Use a T shirt or other clothing if you have no bandages and keep the limb still (e.g. don't remove trousers).
2. Mark the area of the bite on the bandage.
3. Immobilise the bitten area
4. Dial 000, or 112 if you have poor mobile coverage.

For the safety of residents, staff and visitors, please make sure you adhere to speed limits when driving in town. Thank you.

A Message from Salvado Catholic College, Byford

Salvado Catholic College opened in 2016 in Byford with 107 students from kindergarten to Year 2 and 13 staff.

Fast forward to 2019, we now have 335 students from pre-kindergarten through to Year 5 and 32 staff. Earlier this year we saw the completion of our Stage 2 works and we have now completed our Primary Campus. Our new courts and playing fields are also great outdoor spaces for our students. We are now looking forward to the commencement of Stage 3 which will see us commence building the Secondary Campus, ready for students to start Year 7 in 2021.

An initiative that began last year as part of Making Jesus Real, was the introduction of Dom, the Benedictine Monk Bear who visits the Learning Space of the class that displays the following each week:

- Givers - seeing students giving of themselves to help others.
- Positive students who are winners and gridders.
- Seeing students believing in themselves and Greeting, Treating and Speaking to each other and adults in a positive way.
- Teamwork where everyone gives their all!

We are very excited to be bringing our Year 5 students to New Norcia on Retreat for the first time in September.

Peace & Happy Days!
Santino Giancono
Principal



Primary school children playing

Design of the Secondary Campus building



Light

THE WORLD

Presented by The Western Australian Charity Orchestra
Music directed by Samuel Parry

“If everyone lit just one little candle
what a bright world this would be”

Be moved by songs from cultures and religions of the world,
as over 250 performers from all walks of life come together to share
music inspired by light in this unique multicultural, interfaith event.

7:30pm Friday 20 December
Perth Concert Hall

Daana

Missionary Choir, Australia Perth
Mission of the Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Sikh Association of WA

Eastwinds

Natasha Eldridge
Saraswati Mahavidhyalaya
South African Gospel Choir

Fr. Robert Nixon, OSB

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