



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

The Chimes Newsletter



September 2018

New Norcia Bakery in Full Swing

We are delighted to announce that our fine artisan bakers, Terry and Bruce Nuske, are still firing up the monastery wood-fired oven, baking the usual variety of New Norcia Natural Breads – seven days a week!

The ever-popular premium products – New Norcia Nut Cake, Pan Chocolatti and Biscotti – are also back in full production.

With the closure of the Perth operations, our maintenance team have modified part of the former monastery butcher's shop, which has now become the new bakery packing room.

The smell of freshly baked scones has been added to the early morning aromas wafting from the bakery, and the offerings will increase as further work is done on the bakery building.

All these tasty treats are available from the New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery shop, the New Norcia Roadhouse, or through our webshop (www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au).

While we are waiting for the new phone to be connected to the bakery, orders can be made by visiting the Museum or Guesthouse, or by calling 9654 8018.

We are also going to be selling New Norcia Products at Aggies Cottage on 17th November and the Yerecoin Market Day on 24th November – so hopefully we may see you there!

Abbot John Herbert



The new bakery packing room



The bakery from the outside



Fresh bread for sale at the Museum & Art Gallery, and also available at the Roadhouse.

Happy Birthday Lester!

Last Friday marked an important day - Lester Jacob's 70th birthday! Lester has been working at New Norcia since 1968 and attended school here prior to that. Lester has worked in various areas of the town, including olives, making bread, driving machinery and in recent years in the Education Centre teaching students about his Aboriginal culture.

Always with a smile on his face, Lester brings joy to all those around him. We wish him the happiest of birthdays and a wonderful year ahead.



Institute Day

The New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies held its annual 'Institute Day' on Saturday 25th August. Feedback outlined the event as tremendously creative, dynamic and engaging, with presentations of the highest quality generating interesting discussions.

The keynote speaker, Dr Paul Tyson, is a philosopher and theologian who has explored the various philosophical assumptions of modern culture and their relationship to the Christian Faith in depth. He spoke about the need to recover a sense of the reality of value and meaning in modern times. Later in the day, there was a discussion panel at which ideas and comments were circulated freely and with animation. These concerned the opportunities for mutual learning and enrichment which exist between the Christian, and in particular the monastic, tradition and contemporary culture.

The discussion was led by a panel of distinguished contributors from diverse backgrounds, including Dr Angela McCarthy, Dr Liam Lynch, Tom Gourlay and Dr Paul Tyson. The day was rounded off by a musical recital of new compositions by Fr Robert Nixon.

New Norcia Writers' Festival

It was with a slight air of anticipation and apprehension that we held the fourth Writers' Festival at New Norcia this August. We had decided to change the format slightly by running eight sessions, two concurrently, so that guests were able to create their own timetable and choose sessions. Would it be well received? Would the rain hold off? As it turned out the day was crisp and sunny and everything ran smoothly.

The guests loved the ability to choose different sessions while enjoying the warm, friendly intimate sessions with the presenters, the wine tasting, the beautiful venues, the lunch, the inclusion of the Museum and Art Gallery, and experiencing the rest of the town during the lunch break – just about everything really. I think my coffee got a bit of a bagging but that was it!

We are proud to be able to promote and support the deep wealth of the WA literary scene on a yearly basis. This year, well-known authors Susan Midalia, Anthea Hodgson, Laurie Steed, Michelle Johnston and David Whish-Wilson were joined by eminent artist Jeremy Kirwan Ward, poet Rose van Son, soprano Katya Webb and pianist Chris Milbourn. All provided thought-provoking and beautiful experiences. The feedback was so positive that we have started to organise the 2019 festival ALREADY....!

Lucy Nicholson, Communications



The panel, from left to right: Tom Gourlay, Dr. Paul Tyson, Dr. Liam Lynch, Dr. Angela McCarthy

Anthea Hodgson and William Yeoman

New Norcia Winter Arts Workshop

Collaborating with local artists Shabbi, Nyree, Shireen and Nicky was a delightful experience. Together we hosted a Winter Arts Workshop at New Norcia using some of the lesser known spaces; the Blacksmith's Shop, the Old Flour Mill and the Olive Shed.

The spaces were perfect for the workshops; the unique history and artefacts definitely inspired the day's participants, and the long lunch looked so picturesque set up in the Blacksmith's Shop (it tasted pretty good too!!).

The workshops on offer included; pottery, acrylic painting, flower arranging and working with charcoals. Everyone had a enjoyable and fun day, finding their inner artist, making new friends, spending time with existing ones and coming out with some excellent creations..... watch out Picasso!! While we cannot get a date organised to hold another workshop before Christmas, there are plans on the cards for an autumn workshop, so watch this space!



Nicky Brennan at her flower workshop



Lunch in the Blacksmith's Shop



Bree and Quinn Cocking at Nyree Taylors' charcoal class

From the Archives ...

Now that Studies Day has passed, it is time to think about the launch of the journal that contains all the papers from the big day, and more. The 25th edition of the New Norcia Studies Journal will be launched on Thursday 8th November at the Palms Community Centre, corner of Rokeby and Nicholson roads in Subiaco. Once again, the City of Subiaco is very generously sponsoring this event and they have already started promoting it in the local media; the evening will begin promptly at 6.00 pm. If you would like to attend – there's no charge and the catering and the music are always excellent – please get in touch with Kerry Plantinga at City of Subiaco on 9237 9219 and let her know that you are coming. As it is a milestone edition – the 25th – we have asked Joan Oakland, the editor of this and quite a few previous editions, if she would do the honours and launch the magazine and she has very kindly accepted.

Every now and then a little gem appears as if by magic in the Archives. Just recently Sandra Whelan dropped in to donate an autograph book that belonged to her late mother, Lorraine Ashdown. Lorraine was at St Gertrude's College from 1932 to 1935 and was taught music by none other than Fr Stephen Moreno, the monastery's acclaimed musician. What makes the autograph book so special is that, quite apart from the signatures and comments from Lorraine's contemporaries, the little book has Stephen Moreno's autograph and a piece of music written specially for Lorraine; the illustration shows the first of three pages.

On the subject of gems, I would like to take this opportunity to record my appreciation for the wonderful work being undertaken by one of our volunteers, Vida Whale. Vida has been scanning the archives' substantial 19th century correspondence collection; her diligence and single-mindedness have made significant inroads into this very important collection. Thanks very much Vida!

Peter Hocking, Archivist



A page of Lorraine Ashdown's book

Around Town, In Pictures



Canola in full bloom is providing a spectacular drive to New Norcia and backdrop around the town.

From the Guesthouse

After some good rains we are looking forward to Spring. The shrubs in the Guesthouse courtyard garden are beginning to show their spring colours. The 28 parrots have taken a liking to the geraniums and trim them quite severely, but they struggle on!

The Guesthouse has been busy with a number of large parish retreats and also the organised retreat weekends for the Institute for Benedictine Studies. If you haven't been able to join us for a retreat earlier in the year, there are still some weekends on the programme with places available. Booking may now be done over the internet by going to the webshop (www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au).

I hope to see you soon!

Bernadette, Guesthouse Manager





Museum and Art Gallery

Among the beautiful range of products on sale at the Museum and Art Gallery are these beautiful goodies - gift packs of New Norcia's very own products.

Included in the pack is Almond Biscotti, Pan Choccolatti, New Norcia honey and marmalade, and Olive Oil.

They cost \$45 each, or \$50 with a New Norcia spoon included. They make the perfect gift or treat for yourself.



Butler College Students Get Busy

A group of year 11 and 12 students and staff from Butler College visited New Norcia in late July for two nights to help to plant trees around the apiary and other River Walk areas. A few thousand trees were planted! The trees selected were one large tree species, Eucalyptus wandoo, two medium sized trees, Acacia acuminata and Eucalyptus drummondii, the rest were shrubs.

The programme was done in conjunction with Moore Catchment Council and Bruce Ivers, Sustainability Specialist.



WA Tourism Conference 2018

The Abbot, two other staff members and I, recently attended the two day 2018 WA Tourism Conference held in Perth at the Convention Centre. The event was opened with an address by the State Premier and included a number of interesting talks and workshop sessions that focused on the challenges and opportunities relating to the Australian tourism market and specifically the West Australian tourist environment.

The Abbot was invited to co-present a session titled “Entrepreneurial, Philanthropic and Community Trends in Nature-Based Tourism” that was conducted on the second day of the conference.

Whilst the conference focused on some of the higher level aspects of the local WA tourist market, such as the need for more frequent direct flights to Perth from overseas to increase in-bound overseas tourist activity, the conference also provided a great opportunity to network among similar tourist operators that are experiencing the same challenges and difficulties as New Norcia in trying to provide a positive and memorable tourist experience for visiting guests.

Perth currently has five direct flights per week from China, one of the fastest growing tourist markets in the world. The WA tourist industry and Perth Airport are working hard to increase the number of direct flights from China and India as this is seen as an important growth driver for the Western Australian

tourist industry. Perth Airport estimates each new direct flight to Perth generates \$70 million dollars of activity per annum.

Another useful component of the conference was the discussion around “Social Media” and its importance in promoting great travel experiences to a wider audience than could ever be achieved through traditional promotions or marketing platforms.

The current Chinese market to Australia is estimated at \$42.3 billion per year, and while this seems a large number, the expectations are that India’s newly emerging middle class who are beginning to travel abroad in large numbers will likely see Perth as a highly desirable destination in the near future should the approval of direct flights from India come to fruition.

The challenge for all of us, including the friends of New Norcia is to continue to positively encourage our friends and visitors to include a visit to New Norcia as part of any trip to Perth and Western Australia to experience the unique and rich history and ambience at New Norcia, so they too can take their memorable experiences and Instagram photos home with them to share with their family and friends.

Roy Gardner, Accountant



EVENTS COMING UP IN NEW NORCIA

- Women’s Prayer and Reflection Day: Saturday 20th October. See the following page for more information.
- New Norcia Abbey Press, Introduction to Letterpress Printing: Saturday 27th October. See the following page.
- New Norcia Studies Launch: Thursday 7th November.
- Institute for Benedictine Studies:
 - 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.

Women's Prayer and Reflection Day 2018

New Norcia

Saturday, 20th October

God who is merciful and gracious. . . .

Mercy is a quality of God and a gift from God, an expression of God's graciousness.

Join us as we spend some quiet time to consider how and where we find and experience mercy in our day-to-day lives—both receiving mercy and extending mercy to others.

Saturday 20th October, 9.30—3.00, Institute Building (western side of Great Northern Highway, opposite Abbey Church).

Bring a plate for a shared lunch, tea and coffee provided.

Please RSVP to Sue: gdsajohnson@activ8.net.au or 9654 5049

New Norcia Abbey Press - Introduction to Letterpress Printing

Saturday 27th October 2018

An intensive 1-day basic course introducing students to letterpress printing. Participants will learn hand typesetting using a variety of different typefaces, and at least two different presses. They will lock type up in a forme, learn how to roll out ink and ink up a press, and print a joint poster and a small card. This workshop offers the unusual opportunity to learn letterpress printing at the recently restored Abbey Press at New Norcia, Australia's only monastery town.

\$145.00. Places are limited to 6 people so book early!
Bookings are available on the webshop at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au.



Tamiaka Preston at a Workshop earlier this year