



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

The Chimes Newsletter



December 2017

A SILVER JUBILEE: The Georgian Singers' 25th Ecumenical Carols at New Norcia

At 5.00 pm on 30 December 2017, the annual Ecumenical Carols will be held in the Abbey Church at New Norcia for the 25th time, with The Georgian Singers providing the carols and other music, as they have done every year since the service was first held on 2 January 1994.

The service takes place in late December or early January, and is a celebration of Christmas and Epiphany. It was developed by Rev Anthony Bolt, the former Precentor of St George's Cathedral, Perth, when he was Rector of Holy Trinity, York, and took place there between 1991 and 1993. On his retirement the service moved to New Norcia. The small group of singers that assembled at York in 1991 became formally established as The Georgian Singers in 1995.

The theme of the service is borne through the readings, which tell the story of the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary, her visit to her cousin Elizabeth, the birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds and the journey of the wise men, ending with the well-known prologue to St John's Gospel: "The Word became flesh". The service has developed an ecumenical focus, and the Rev Canon Kathy Barrett-Lennard, former Rector of the Anglican Parish of Wongan Hills-Dalwallinu, regularly joins Abbot John in presiding at the service. Over the years the choir has sung well over a hundred different Christmas carols and settings of other seasonal music. A particular feature of the service is the singing of the Magnificat after the reading recounting Mary's visit to Elizabeth, and the Nunc Dimittis after the Prayer for the New Year. The choir has performed settings of these canticles by Gibbons, Morley, Stanford, Sumsion and Walmisley.

The Georgian Singers were founded by Dr Andrew Gardner, and since 2003 have been conducted by John Beaverstock. The choir's name recognises that most of the original members – some of whom are still with the group – sang in the Occasional Choir of St George's Cathedral when Gordon Appleton was Director of Music from 1986 to 1993. Other singers have come to the choir through their association with choirs such as the Perth Undergraduate Choral Society, the Royal School of Church Music and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra Chorus.

The New Norcia service is the second of two carol services sung by the Georgians each year. The first is the Service

of Nine Lessons and Carols, which takes place on the Monday before Christmas Eve. First presented by the Georgian Singers in 1995, since 2003 this has been held at St Patrick's Anglican Church, Mount Lawley. Another regular date in the choir's calendar is a performance of Faure's Requiem in a service to mark All Souls' Day. Occasionally, the choir gives concerts, as it did in August this year when it performed English madrigals, part songs and other music from the 16th to the 20th centuries, concluding with Benjamin Britten's 'Rejoice in the Lamb'.

The choir's association with New Norcia includes singing at the installation of Abbot Placid in 1997 and at his Requiem Mass at St Joseph's Church, Subiaco in 2008. However, on 30 December next it will renew its oldest association, when it returns to the Abbey at New Norcia to sing the Ecumenical Carol Service, carrying on a tradition which has now been maintained for a quarter of a century.

The Carols are always a popular event (despite very hot weather some years). In accordance with the Benedictine tradition of hospitality, those attending are invited to afternoon tea in the Monastery Parlour at 4pm – welcome refreshment for travellers from afar.



The Georgian Singers performing at New Norcia

New Norcia Aboriginal Corporation

On the 21st and 22nd of October the New Norcia Aboriginal Corporation welcomed Stolen Generation survivors of both St Mary's and St Joseph's Orphanages to their annual reunion at New Norcia.

The NNAC, in conjunction with the Benedictine Community and other supporting organisations, coordinate annual reunions for all Stolen Generation members and their families. The focus for this year's Reunion was one day of yarning and sharing family information and connections, families who were separated from their families and extended families who were lost as part of the separation process.

The second day focused on attending Mass in the church which included a blessing from the Abbot. This was followed by a shared lunch provided by the Benedictines. This year we greeted family members (some whom have never been back to New Norcia since they left); they were seeking family information. One of those was Ursula Indich (née Taylor/Cuimara). Ursula is 82 years old and has returned to the orphanage grounds for the first time since she left New Norcia. She was joined by other family members and with another 82 year old who was in St Joseph's Orphanage with her. Ursula and Angie Ryder yarned to younger people about their time in the Mission. They accompanied the group to the Prindiville Room where they viewed and took photos against a life size photo of them when they were children. They shared the names of other girls in the photo with extended family which also included Tom Taylor's mother - Beryl Jackamarra (RIP). The group, along with Manager of Bringing Them Home WA, visited a number of significant sites including the Orphanage buildings, the Cemetery and the Old Cottages sites. The role of the New Norcia Aboriginal Corporation is to work in conjunction with other organisations and agencies to support Stolen Generation survivors and their families. The Corporation will continue to coordinate Healing Spaces that allow people to start or continue their healing journey. It will also continue to provide access to family information which supports individuals to reconnect with their family and extended families.

By Margaret Drayton, Chairperson NNAC

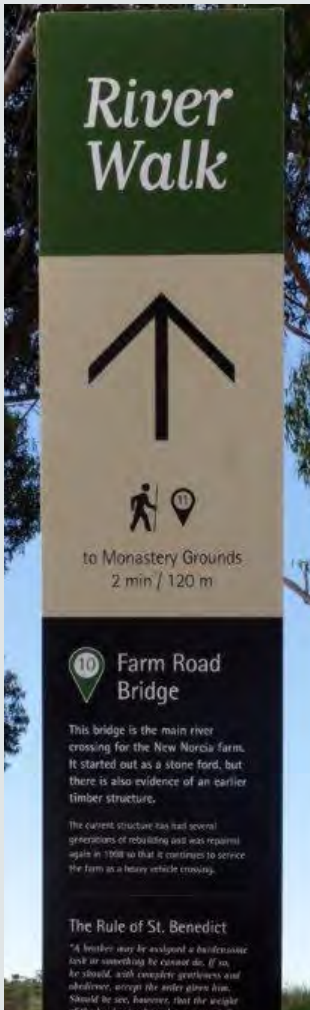


Ursula Indich née Taylor next to a photo of herself as a child in St Joseph's



Tom Taylor standing in front of a picture of his mother

River Walk Project Update



Example of a River Walk sign



Apiary and tree planting

The upgrades to the River Walk project have been going well, the ground was cleared, the native trees planted and are being regularly watered, the new gates installed and the picnic tables placed in position.

The interpretative signage is being fabricated and will be installed before the end of February 2018.

Our thanks goes to the Wheatbelt Development Commission Community Chest for partially funding this upgrade.



Shady and Stephen installing one of the tables

Robin McKellar Campbell (1934 – 2017) MArch, DipConsStudies, ARIBA, ARAIA

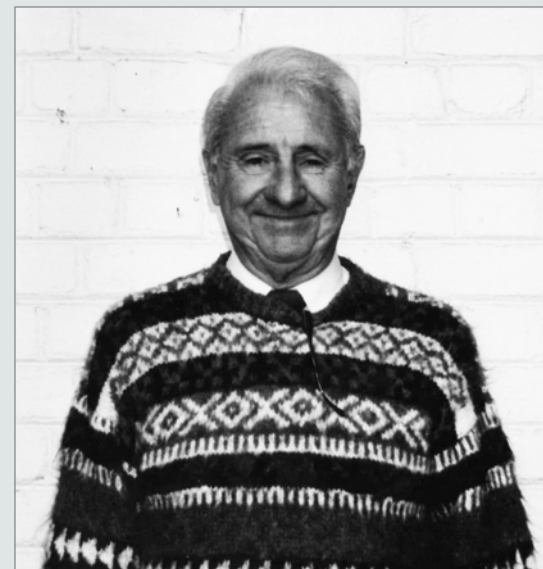
Robin was New Norcia's consultant conservation architect from 1984 to 2012.

As such he was one of a small number of external experts from a diverse range of fields who helped the monastic community better understand and care for New Norcia's multi-layered heritage over many years.

As New Norcia's conservation architect, Robin was directly involved in the maintenance and conservation of the town's 27 historic buildings and objects. However, over time and with the assistance of his partner, Dr Ingrid Van Bremen, his involvement grew to include virtually all the buildings as well as the town's landscape architecture, services and planning.

From Robin we learnt the importance of taking a big picture view and thinking of the site as a whole, that the first principle of good conservation was "as much as necessary, as little as possible" and that wherever possible, practical work should be complemented and informed by thoroughgoing historical research. From the earliest days of his involvement, he set about compiling a master-plan for the town – the New Norcia Conservation, Design and Development Plan.

Robin was a generous and regular contributor to New Norcia Studies Days and to our annual journal New Norcia Studies. However he was rarely an easy consultant – his standards were of the highest and he cared intensely about his work. His contribution to the heritage of New Norcia was invaluable.



Robin Campbell

New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies

Retreat and Study Weekends 2018

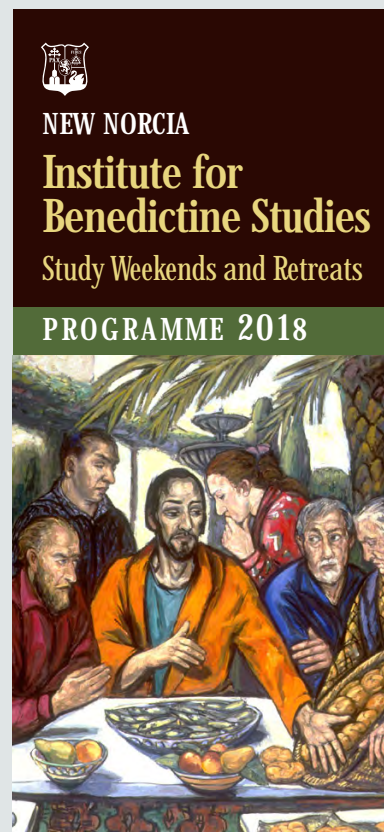
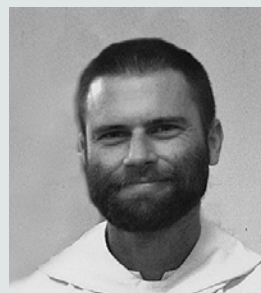
It is a great and humbling privilege for me to assume the role of Director of the New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies (NNIBS). In 2018, the Institute will be offering a truly fantastic range of opportunities, including both retreats and study weekends, focusing on different aspects of our monastic heritage. I have been very keen to foster a closer relationship between the Institute and the monastic community, and consequently many of our retreat and study weekends will now be lead by the monks of the community themselves. A number of distinguished external scholars and religious will also be involved at various times throughout the year.

Our study weekend opportunities will cover a wide range of areas, ranging from New Norcia history, to religious art and literature, to elements of the Rule of Benedict. Our retreats will cover a similarly rich range of spiritual areas. For details of our programmes for 2018, please visit: www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au/education-research/institute/programmes/2018-programme.

Any enquiries may be addressed to me, at institute@newnorcia.wa.edu.au.

I do hope that that some of our programmes will be of interest to you, and look forward to seeing you at one of our study weekends or retreats.

Dom Robert Nixon, osb,
Director, New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies



Royalties for Regions Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant - Visitor Centre and Museum Upgrades

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).

The grant, of just over \$39,000, as well as additional funds from New Norcia will be used to upgrade the exterior and interior of the visitor centre. Picnic tables and shade umbrellas will be placed on the grassed area, the fences repainted and pot plants purchased to freshen up and create a more useable outside space for visitors.

Upgrades to the interior include the design, fabrication and installation of way-finding signage, repainting the ground floor museum, upgrades to the lighting in the area, a refurbishment of the ground floor displays, plus a brochure about the Museum and Art gallery exhibitions.

The project will be starting in the New Year and be finished by June 30th 2018. Updates will be given throughout the project so watch this space....!

By Lucy Nicholson, Communications Manager

News from Collections

Over the Christmas/New Year period, when summer heat and family holidays keep visitors to a minimum, the Curatorial and Collections staff of the New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery will be working with the Maintenance and Grounds department to shift, clean, catalogue and assess all items presently on display on the ground floor of the Museum.

Furniture will be shifted, repairs undertaken, painting and LED lighting put in place, followed by a new installation concerning the life of Rosendo Salvado and the founding of New Norcia. The display will be modelled on the very successful 2014 exhibition celebrating the Bicentennial of Salvado's birth and plans to be open in early March 2018.

By Marina Baker, Museum Collections Manager

The main ground floor area of the museum exhibition will be closed from mid January - 1st March for these works to occur, excluding access to the *Remembering Them* exhibition which will remain open. The 1st floor will remain open via the lift and stairs. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

From the Guesthouse

December is upon us and thoughts turn now to 2018. The 2018 programme for organised retreats is available on the website at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au. For further information please refer to Dom Robert's article on the previous page of *The Chimes*.

2017 has been a mixed bag for the Guesthouse. We began very quietly with a few guests stopping for a night or two. There were a couple of small retreat groups in January to prepare us for the larger groups in the coming months. This year we hosted at least 26 retreat groups and a number used the whole guesthouse area.

Besides the major works on the town footpaths and car parks, a few smaller landscaping tasks have been accomplished this year. The small pond in the guesthouse courtyard has been revitalised with some gold fish and a water lily. A small solar fountain adds charm to this area (when it is working!). The garden along the side wall has had all the old straggly geraniums removed, the

soil revitalised. New red Geraniums have been planted. The clumps of irises were thinned out and spaced along the front of the garden bed. Thank you to Geraldine and Dom Chris for the hard work put into this.

Looking for something different as a Christmas gift? Gift vouchers which can be customised for your requirements are available for a stay at the Guesthouse. For more information please give Bernadette a call on (08) 96548002 or 0429 919 000.

Christmas greetings to all from the Guesthouse staff. May you have a safe and happy holiday period and we look forward to welcoming you in the New Year.

Bernadette and Guesthouse staff

Studies Journal launch 9th November 2018

On Thursday 9th November, the 24th edition of New Norcia Studies Journal, entitled *More Voices* was launched at The Palms Community Centre in Subiaco. This issue continues the theme started in last year's issue *Voices from the Archives*.

Associate Professor John Kinder from the Department of Italian at the University of Western Australia gave a wonderful and often humorous speech to an audience of an estimated 85-90 people. John has been a supporter of New Norcia's archives for many years and has not only contributed to the Journal himself but has managed to coax many of his students into doing the same.

We were delighted that former Mayor of Subiaco, Heather Henderson, very graciously accepted our invitation to say a few words too. We hope that Heather will continue to attend the event that she has done so much to encourage and foster over the years through her extremely generous contribution to New Norcia in the provision of not only The Palms as a venue but also the catering, staffing, music and so much more.

Also launched was Fr Román Rios' *History of the Benedictine Mission and Abbey Nullius of New Norcia*. It was originally written in English in 1924 but improved in its English expression by Fr William Gimenez in 1943, and it is this 1943 revision that was launched on the night. Both the *History* and the *Journal* sold extremely well at the launch and subsequent comments indicate that Fr Román's book is enjoying considerable success.



Associate Professor John Kinder. Photo: Justin Bianchini (Community News)

The Archives Research and Publications Committee would like to thank everybody at the City of Subiaco for making this evening the wonderful success that it was, and also all those involved in the publication of both the *Journal* and the *Rios History* for two more excellent publications, both of which can be found on our web shop at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au.

Peter Hocking, Archivist

I came across a great perspective as I was cataloguing:

Be yourself. Everyone else is taken.

(No one's really sure who said this).

Spiritual direction : a beginner's guide / Richard G. Malloy. Preface, p. vii.

Carolyn Talbot, Librarian



CHRISTMAS *at* NEW NORCIA

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, 24 December 2017

6.30pm Vespers

8.15pm Vigils

10.30pm 'MIDNIGHT' MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, 25 December 2017

7.45am Lauds

9.00am MORNING MASS

12.00noon Midday Prayer

5.30pm Solemn Vespers
with Exposition & Benediction

ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE

Saturday, December 30, 2017

4.00pm Afternoon Tea in the Parlour

5.00pm Service of Readings and Carols



Great Northern Highway, New Norcia WA 6509



NEW NORCIA CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Roadhouse

Christmas Eve: 7.30am - 5 pm
Christmas Day: closed
Public Holidays: 7.30am - 5 pm

Museum

Christmas and Boxing Day: closed

Admin

3pm December 22nd - 2nd January: closed

Hotel

Christmas Eve: bottle shop only 11-3pm
Christmas Day: closed
Boxing Day: closed
New Years Day: 12 - 9pm.

Guesthouse

Christmas and Boxing Day: closed

We wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas!

New Norcia Roadhouse

New Roadhouse Managers, Dave and Marilyn Betteridge, have made a few changes. The Roadhouse is now offering fresh scones with jam and cream on Saturdays and Sundays; trialling new menu items such as a seafood basket, quiche and garlic prawns; and as of 7th December, freshly roasted chickens will be available!

The chickens will be available to order on 9654 8020 (please order at least three hours prior to pickup) and will be ready to be collected after lunch.





Christmas Gift Ideas at New Norcia

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Museum and Art Gallery Gift Shop!

With carefully selected pieces perfect for Christmas gifts, why not drop in and peruse the items available for sale.

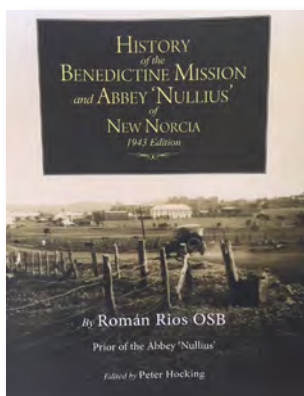
You could do a tour while you are here, or sit on the Hotel's beautiful veranda and enjoy a coffee and treat.

If you cannot make it to New Norcia, all items are available online at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au.

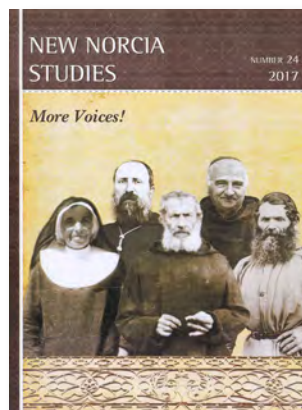


Two New Norcia Books - Just Launched!

Fr Roman Rios, *History of New Norcia and the Abbey Nullius, 1943 Edition* - \$29.95



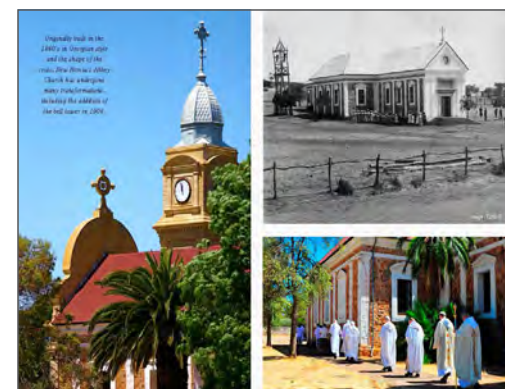
New Norcia Studies, Edition 24, *More Voices!* - \$29.95



New Norcia Calendar

Including liturgical dates, school term dates, public holidays and dates of importance - this practical calendar makes the perfect Christmas gift.

\$9.95 from various places in town, or online at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au.



The New Norcia Hotel!

As the year draws to a close and harvest starts to wind down, the New Norcia Hotel is the perfect place to meet friends and celebrate the festive season.

- Monday to Friday: Happy Hour 5pm-6pm
- Wednesday: Steak Night \$18.90
- Friday: Chase the Ace 6pm - 8pm
- Saturday live music commences again in mid January (5pm-8pm, \$12 cocktails and \$7 pints)
- Sunday - Rib Night (BBQ, sweet chilli or mango)
- NEW MENU LAUNCHED 31st DECEMBER: with local produce and suppliers



Abbey Press Workshop & Volunteer Day

The Abbey Press is not just a museum exhibit but is now a working letterpress print shop.

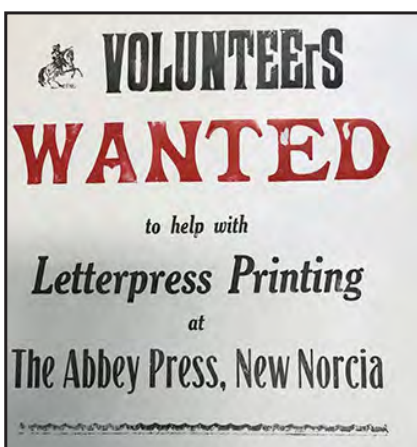
To learn how to hand typeset using a variety of typefaces and print using at least two different presses there will be an Abbey Press Workshop on March 10th. Students will also learn how to lock up type in a forme, roll out ink and ink up a press. There will be only eight places available.

The Abbey Press also needs volunteers so it can be open and seen in action more often. So on 9th December Claire Bolton will be running a volunteer day to familiarise attendees with the equipment and the history of the press. Places also limited to eight. You do not need to be able to print, although some experience would be helpful.

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 Volunteer Day or the Workshop, please contact Lucy Nicholson on (08) 9654 8018 or communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au.



Adoration of the Magi. Fr Lesmes Lopez OSB (1874–1945). New Norcia Museum & Art Gallery

The monastic community
and everyone at
New Norcia,
wish you a very happy and
holy Christmas,
and abundant blessings
in 2018.

