



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

# The Chimes Newsletter



June 2021

## The State Premier and Ambassador for Spain Visit New Norcia

Among our many recent guests and visitors, we were pleased to welcome HE Alicia Moral, Ambassador for Spain, together with her daughter Lucia and the Honorary Consul of Spain to Perth, Eric Tarraso Letang (Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May), and the Premier of Western Australia Hon Mark McGowan, in a party of eight, including some of his staff and Legislative Council representatives, Darren West and Sandra Carr (Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June).

On both occasions our special guests particularly enjoyed meeting the New Norcia monks and staff. They were treated to a short piano recital by Fr Robert and an excellent meal in the Monastery refectory, prepared by Marlon Victoriano.

Peter Hocking displayed treasures from archives in the monastery library, and Carmel Murray concluded their visits with a short tour of the upgraded Museum and Art Gallery and the presentation of a token souvenir of New Norcia and some renowned New Norcia products, the Premier receiving the first bottle of new season olive oil.



*Top: Darren West, Carmel Murray, Abbot John, Hon Mark McGowan, Sandra Carr, Roy Gardner & Peter Hocking.*

*Middle: Abbot John, HE Alicia Moral, Fr David Barry, Eric Tarraso Letang, and Lucia Moral.*

*Bottom left: Darren West, Hon Mark McGowan, Fr Robert Nixon, Abbot John. Bottom right: HE Alicia Moral, Eric Tarraso Letang & Lucia Moral (Premier's photos by Jim Longbottom).*

# EASTER 2021: ENTERING DEEPLY INTO THE SACRED PASCHAL MYSTERY

The celebration of the Easter Triduum was a particular occasion of grace this year for our community.

In 2021, the outbreak of Covid resulted in the cancellation of public liturgies. While this was experienced by many as a time of intimate prayer in a domestic environment, the resuming of public celebrations this year was the source of great joy and renewed and enthusiastic appreciation of the Church's liturgy.

New Norcia was delighted to welcome a 'full house' of guests, many of whom experienced the Triduum here for the first time. As always, feedback from those who joined us expressed the feeling that the celebration of this sacred time of the year at New Norcia was a unique and moving experience for all those present in every respect.

The monastic community and parish extends its sincere thanks to all involved, and hopes to welcome you again in 2022.

We thank Greg Smith for his photos of the event.



# New Norcia Studies Launch, 27 May 2021

After a twelve-month break, it was good to be back on familiar ground again, albeit at a different time of the year. The launch of the 27<sup>th</sup> issue of *New Norcia Studies* took place at the Palms Community Centre in Subiaco, now the traditional home of the launch, on Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>. The City of Subiaco again excelled in their organisation of the event and for this we are most grateful to Diane Scott for her faultless co-ordination of the event, bringing together old friends By-Word-Of-Mouth Catering, Jolimont Liquor and Très Classique, who provided the musical entertainment for the evening. Whilst we did not equal our all-time attendance record of 2019, this year's numbers were still amongst the best we have had.

We were delighted that former mayor Heather Henderson, now a Freeman of the City, accepted our invitation to give her talk on the link between the modern city of Subiaco and the New Norcia mission.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Daniel Lynch, the Executive Director of the Office of the Archbishop (Timothy Costelloe). Daniel has recently been appointed to this important post, having previously been the Deputy Principal at Newman College in Churchlands. In his address, Daniel made some very pertinent observations about some of the papers in the Journal, whilst exploring the ideas of spirituality to be found within those papers. It was an impressive, insightful speech and we are delighted to be able to reproduce the text in full in the next Friends' Magazine.

The papers in this year's Journal were a good reflection of the ethos of the new Archives, Collections and Libraries department (ACL), covering the art of Lesmes Lopez, the life of Judith Butler, Salvado's careful and thoughtful choice of words to describe the indigenous population of the time, Abbot Torres' final years and his funeral, a look at the organisation of the monastery's photograph collection, a report from the current Abbot Placid scholar on the Marsa Diary, and a look into Isidro Oriol's arrival in 1849 by a descendant. Sadly, it includes an obituary to Joy Legge, the monastery's consultant curator since the 1980s who passed away last Christmas and who played such an important role in New Norcia's art collecting and collection.

Daniel also launched the first volume in a new series entitled *The Chronicles of New Norcia*. This volume covers translations from Spanish for the years 1901-1906. The Chronicles were (and still are) the daily entries, not only about life in the monastery, but observations on events elsewhere, whether in Australia or overseas; they provide a fascinating commentary on life at the time. Abbot Torres initiated The Chronicles which were written in Spanish until the mid-1950s when the narrative changed to English.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who came to the launch and who made it such a success – I understand that sales that night of the Journal and the Chronicles were exceptional. Thanks go too to Carmel and Joyce for selling the publications and to Lucy Nicholson who also came along and volunteered her help in the sales department. Amazingly, the electronic credit card reader worked this year! Finally, but not least, I would like to express New Norcia's gratitude to Mayor Penny Taylor for once again hosting the Launch.

Peter Hocking, Archivist



Above: Daniel Lynch. On the right: Carmela Del Alamo, Peter Hocking and Marta Pérez-Rey (photos by Jim Longbottom)

# New Norcia Retreats Bringing Inspiration to Many

Providing spiritual retreats is a vital part of the ministry and mission of Benedictine monasteries. In his Rule, St. Benedict emphasises the importance of offering hospitality—in our busy modern world, serving as a place for quiet reflection, prayer, learning and sharing is one of the most useful and needed ways in which we can fulfil this charism.

This year, 2021, has proven to be a time of unprecedented support for New Norcia's retreat programme. Not only have we programmed more retreats and study weekends than previously, but the vast majority of events have been fully booked several weeks (or even months) in advance. We have been delighted to welcome back our regular guests, and also to have many new visitors come to experience the spiritual treasures of our Benedictine heritage. The monastic community always appreciates the presence of visitors and retreatants, and warmly thanks our guests for their support and prayerful presence.



On the weekend of June 4-6, a special retreat for New Norcia oblates will be held, reviving a popular practice from the past. Limited places are still available for our retreat on The Blessings of Life's Eventide on June 25-27 and our Benedictine Experience weekend on July 16-18, bookings for which may be made through the New Norcia webshop. New Norcia is also able to offer 'custom retreats' on a variety of themes to groups of six or more, subject to availability of accommodation. Please do not hesitate to contact me on [institute@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:institute@newnorcia.wa.edu.au) with any enquiries.

Fr. Robert Nixon, osb

## 2021 Retreat Tickets Available

- July 16-18: Benedictine Experience Weekend
- August 6-8: St. Bernard of Clairvaux: A Spiritual Luminary of the Monastic Tradition (Fr Joseph Chua, ocsa)
- November 5-7: Benedictine Experience Weekend

*Please visit our website at [www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au) for more information, or to book.*

# Tourism WA Conference in Geraldton

On 3-5<sup>th</sup> of May Carmel Murray, New Norcia's Museum and Art Gallery Manager, and Joyce McKee, Group Accommodation Team Leader, attended the 2021 Perth Airport WA Regional Tourism Conference in Geraldton, along with 300 other industry representatives.

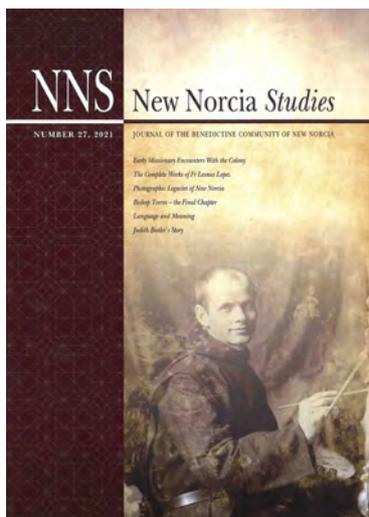
During the two days they attended Visitor Centre information sessions and heard from representatives from Tourism Australia, WA Tourism, Qantas and other industry leaders.

Carmel and Joyce had the opportunity to network with tourism officials and Visitor Centre Managers from around the state, discuss New Norcia and what the town has to offer, and discover marketing tools to help promote it.

The conference ended with a tour of Geraldton and an awards night which showcased local foods and experiences that the region has to offer.

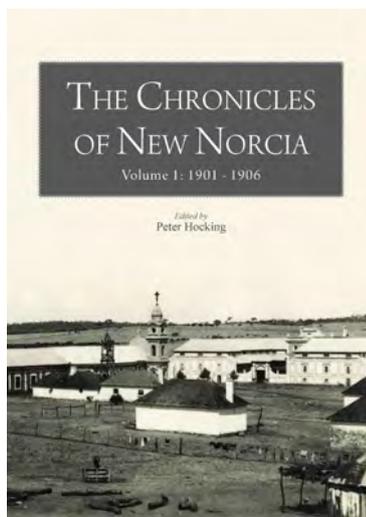


## New Books Now Available



### New Norcia Studies Journal 27

This 27<sup>th</sup> volume of the *New Norcia Studies* contains stories – told through both words and song – of rich human experience – stories of the Yuat people of this ancient place, stories of the monks with whom they partnered, and stories of men and women who have engaged with the site in a multitude of ways. \$35.00



### The Chronicles of New Norcia

In 1901, Abbot Torres initiated a monastery diary to record daily life at New Norcia. The resulting entries, written by different people in their own styles, not only record life within the monastery but offer commentary on events unfolding in Western Australia, nationally and globally; they are frequently amusing and surprisingly frank in their observations. \$29.99

*Both books are available from our Museum & Art Gallery Gift Shop or online at [www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au).*

## Mandorla Art Award 2021

Winning and selected works from the Mandorla Art Award are on display at St John of God Hospital in Subiaco until 13<sup>th</sup> June. The winning piece, *8200 Souls*, will then be permanently housed at New Norcia's Museum and Art Gallery. Desire Ferreira, the winner of the People's Choice Award with *Oremus*, has generously agreed to allow her piece to be permanently housed at New Norcia also. Below is more information about each of the pieces.

### Winner, Mandorla Art Award 2021

Britt Mikkelson (WA), the winner of the Mandorla Art Award \$25,000 Acquisitive Prize, created her sculptural work, *8200 Souls*, to represent the volume of homeless people in Australia. The work consists of a found blanket, shaped to elicit the form of a human body, which has been pierced with 8200 holes, one for each homeless person in Australia. Each hole is highlighted by a series of LED lights shining through them.

Mikkelsen says she is emotionally attached to the work and will be sad to see it go. "However, I am so proud to have created an artwork which sheds light on such an important issue, and moreover to have that work recognised by the judges."

### Winner, People's Choice Award

*Oremus* by Desire Ferreira depicts a young woman focused in wordless prayer. The limited palette of grey and black is highlighted by a central impression of a cross in red and gold leaf.

Ferreira says she is deeply honoured to receive the Award. "I wanted to create an artwork that would immerse the viewer into a deep encounter with the heart and mind of God and I am pleased to have achieved this. The Award will certainly propel me forward and help me stay inspired and motivated as an artist."



*Top image: Dr Angela Ryan, Chair of The Mandorla Art Award Committee, and new Curator Lyn Di Ciero address the gathering (Photo credit: Jim Longbottom)  
Bottom image: Desire Ferreira, with artist and mentor D'hange Yammanee, and Abbot John (photos by Jim Longbottom)*

# Events at New Norcia

New Norcia has been fortunate to host some exciting events in the past few months. On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May, a Mother's Day lunch was held at the New Norcia Hostel. Guests enjoyed a delicious three-course meal cooked by Marlon and his team in the ambience of the New Norcia Hostel, freshly cut flowers on the tables and a range of wines and cocktails from the bar.

Abbot John's third 'La Table de l'Abbé' - Abbot's Table, was held in the Hostel on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, this one in the seasonal theme of Autumn. Below is the menu prepared by Abbot John for the evening.

## *Le Menu - La Table de l'Abbé*

### *Entrée*

*Une petite assiette de fruits de mer*  
*Barbecued tiger prawn with aromatic tomato relish;*  
*Salmon gravlax with shaved radish and mirin & dill vinaigrette;*  
*Smoked trout mousse on toasted New Norcia zucchini loaf;*  
*grilled new-season sardine marinated in chili oil.*  
*Vin: New Norcia Abbey Chardonnay, 2017*

### *Plat Principal*

*Poussin rôti*  
*Whole baby chicken roasted with truffle oil and fresh herbs,*  
*served with lardons, Ottolenghi's miso butter onions, marinated*  
*artichokes, autumn portabello mushroom stuffed with chicken*  
*liver pâté, and a chicken-parsley jus.*  
*Vin: La Vieille Ferme Cotes-Du-Ventoux, 2019*

### *Dessert*

*Tarte aux poires*  
*A tart of autumn pears poached in pear cider and Chartreuse,*  
*served with bitter-sweet chocolate sauce and New Norcia honey*  
*and cardamon house churned ice-cream.*  
*Vin: New Norcia Abbey Rosé, 2017*

New Norcia is excited to host Music of the Roaring 20's in mid-June, with fun, music and food of the 1920's in the New Norcia Hostel - which was fittingly built in the 1920's - as well as a Chinese themed dinner in July. More information regarding our events and to purchase a ticket, please visit our webshop at [www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au).



*The tables set up for the Mother's Day lunch at the Hostel*



*The fire was roaring during the recent Abbot's Table Dinner*

## National Youth Choir Concert at New Norcia Abbey Church

The National Youth Choir of Australia (NYCA) will present a concert at New Norcia Abbey Church, on Friday, July 9 at 12pm. The concert will commence with monastic midday prayer led by the monks and choir, followed by a wonderful and varied programme of sacred vocal music, including items by New Norcia's own Dom Stephen Moreno. The NYCA consists of 28 of the best young choral singers from around Australia who come together in July each year to be directed by a conductor of international renown. This year, the conductor is Warren Trevelyan-Jones, chorus master of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Admission is \$20 (\$10 concession), and tickets may be purchased at [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com) or at the door via cashless sale.

**NATIONAL**   
**YOUTH**   
**CHOIR OF**   
**AUSTRALIA** 

# A Beautiful Baptism

In May, New Norcia celebrated the baptism of Paiyten Tia-Anne Foster, daughter of Courtney Payne and Corey Foster and great-grand-daughter of Bobbie and Keith Hunt, long-time manager of New Norcia's farm and members of the parish.



Courtney Payne, Abbot John, Paiyten Foster and Corey Foster.

I recently spent two nights at New Norcia - I was overwhelmed and intrigued by this beautiful and interesting settlement.

Here is a poem I wrote about just one of the many startling impressions I had of the place during my short stay.

## *Bird Song at New Norcia*

*Winged creatures screech to awaken the day  
They swoop and flock amongst mottled gums  
Rejoicing with discord and fervour  
As red dirt and smoky green scrub  
Emerge to face the endless sky*

*The same deafening chorus  
Repeated at dusk  
Scolding the sun and chasing it over the horizon  
As darkness gently edges out the light*

*Sunrise, Sunset  
Each bright, burning day  
Each cool, star-lit night  
Hysterically heralded by these feathered creatures  
Comical and beautiful - as if angry angels  
Oversee the life of this ancient, vast land*

By Sarah Anderson

## Magazines Now on Sale at the New Norcia Roadhouse

- New Idea
- Woman's Day
- That's Life
- Take 4
- Women's Weekly
- Pat Cullen 4x4 Adventures
- 4x4 Australia

## Casual All-Round Cleaner

New Norcia is seeking a casual all-round cleaner to help with various buildings in town. The successful applicant will need to be within commuting distance from New Norcia.

The role requires:

- A very high levels of fitness
- A current manual driver's licence
- A current police clearance

Award rates are paid. If you are interested, please contact [hrmanager@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:hrmanager@newnorcia.wa.edu.au) with a copy of your resume.



# CHINESE DINNER

AT THE  
NEW NORCIA HOSTEL



**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

\$50 per adult & \$25 for children under 16

Drinks available to purchase from 6pm

To book, please visit [www.newnoria.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnoria.wa.edu.au)

Numbers are limited



EXPERIENCE  
**NEW NORCIA**  
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

# *“Spring”*

*Music Concert  
at the New Norcia Hostel  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October*

The season of spring is one which has inspired a rich and varied multitude of musical compositions over history. In this concert, Fr. Robert will showcase a selection of them on piano, in a range of styles. Spring is a beautiful time of year at New Norcia, with lovely weather, the blossoming of wildflowers and paddocks of golden grain. This musical soireé will be an opportunity to enjoy music celebrating spring in the historic Hostel. Creative drinks and foods will be served.

Guests will meet at 6pm at the Museum & Art Gallery to get an exclusive insight into the town’s Charles Gardner Art Collection. Charles Gardner was WA’s first Government Botanist and had a long association with New Norcia.

**Tickets \$80, all inclusive**

To book visit

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



EXPERIENCE

**NEW NORCIA**

BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

# Mary Magdalene – First witness to the Resurrection...

Mary Magdalene is one of the most misunderstood people named in the gospels. The gospels all place her at the foot of the cross during the crucifixion and John's gospel describes her encounter with the Risen Lord near the empty tomb. Yet despite this, over the 2000 years since her life, she has been the subject of much misunderstanding and confusion.

Our day of reflection and prayer will look at the scripture passages that relate to the life and faith of Mary Magdalene to clarify what we know about her and consider the inspiration we might draw from her in our lives now, as Christian women in the twenty-first century.

Women of all Christian denominations are welcome to join the women of New Norcia parish for a day of fellowship, reflection and prayer, where we will explore the life of Mary Magdalene – sometimes referred to as the 'apostle to the apostles.'



- Date** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00 – 3.00 (morning tea at 9.30)
- Venue** New Norcia Institute of Benedictine Studies (western side of GNH, across from Abbey Church)
- Catering** There is no charge for attendance, but if you can bring a plate for a shared lunch, that will be appreciated
- To register** Please email Carmel at [carmelmo8@bigpond.com](mailto:carmelmo8@bigpond.com) or call 0408 124404 by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July.