



# The Chimes

Newsletter

August 2016



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

## Wheat belt Community Chest Funding Announcement

New Norcia is delighted to announce that it has been successful in its bid for Wheat belt Community Chest funding to help with the cost of installing a lift in the Museum and Art gallery. The lift will increase access to the significant exhibitions and facilities that are housed on the first floor. We received \$49,950 in funding towards the project and would like to thank the Wheat belt Development Commission for this great initiative.

New Norcia would like to congratulate all the other projects which have been supported. In 2016, the Wheat belt Development Commission's 2016 Community Chest Fund supported 22 projects in the Wheat belt, sharing in \$555,555 of the State Government's Royalties for Regions funding. With a strong focus on supporting local-decision making, improving services and growing prosperity in regional WA, the allocations of funding will support initiatives for planning, community enhancements and events.

## Mandorla Art Award 2016



Fr Chris Ross and Abbot Bernard Rooney with the People's Choice prize-winner work; Julie Davidson "Don't be afraid"

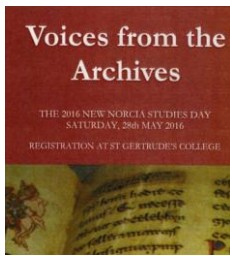
After a celebrated opening at the Linton and Kay Galleries in Perth, a selection of artworks from the 2016 Mandorla Art Award opened on the afternoon of Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July at the Museum and Art Gallery of New Norcia. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> presentation of the prestigious award, with this year's theme *The Resurrection*. The installation of 22 artworks at New Norcia was the opportunity to announce the People's Choice prize, sponsored by the Benedictine Community of New Norcia. The Melbourne-based artist Julie Davidson received the people's vote and the award, with her large painting 'Don't Be Afraid' depicting the discarded funerary cloths of the risen Christ transformed with a dazzling light.

Although unable to attend the exhibition, Julie contributed a statement to thank everyone involved and to clarify her intention in the work, "to capture the atmosphere after the physical resurrection of Jesus. The dazzling white light ... both illuminating and terrifying, is accompanied by the words spoken to the women who arrived at the tomb 'Do not be afraid.' Fr Chris Ross, involved with the Mandorla Art Award since its inception in 1985, spoke to the assembled crowd about the symbolism both of the Mandorla and of the winning People's Choice painting, articulating the need for hope and transcendence in a challenging world. The overall winner of the Mandorla Art Award is also displayed at New Norcia, 'The Bread Basket at Emmaus – then Flesh returned to the Word' by Megan Robert, a large basket formed from bible paper and thread. The exhibition is now open until 28<sup>th</sup> August before touring St John of God hospitals until October.

*Contributed by Marina Baker, Collections Manager*



Julian Poon "He is risen"



## ***New Norcia Studies Day, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016***

This year saw the resumption of New Norcia's Studies Day after a two year gap caused by the celebrations for the bicentenary

of Salvado's birth in 2014, which spilled over into 2015. However this year we were back on track with a very successful Studies Day entitled *Voices from the Archives*, which had nothing to do with the Archivist pleading to be let out, as the Abbot suggested in his opening remarks. It was a glorious day at New Norcia when just under 100 guests arrived for the Day to be greeted by a superb morning tea laid on by Marlon in Central Catering; the excellence of the morning tea was later repeated at lunch and again at afternoon tea.

We were extremely fortunate this year – even more so than usual – in having four excellent papers. The first was from Odhran O'Brien (Heritage Officer for the City of Claremont and PhD student) who gave a most interesting and innovative talk, using multimedia, entitled *Cash for convicts* which essentially looked at the church's response to "convictism" during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Dr Peter Price, from Melbourne's University of Divinity, was sadly experiencing health issues at the time and was unable to be with us, so his paper, *Australia's Spanish bishops at the first Vatican Council*, was very ably read by Dom Robert Nixon. Peter's paper focused on Bishops Salvado and Serra from New Norcia and Martin Griver, the second Catholic bishop of Perth, and Vatican 1 as seen through their eyes.

After lunch, Dr Stefano Girola of the Australian Catholic University in Queensland gave us a very entertaining

presentation on Bishop Salvado's 1900 Report to Propaganda Fide. Stefano has already translated and published Salvado's 1883 Report so was able to draw some very interesting parallels between the two. The titles are perhaps a little dry, but the content is far from it as Salvado, in both reports, gives a very candid view of life in the Colony, including all the scandals in church society at the time. The last paper was from Ross Bertinshaw, a mining engineer who has developed a keen interest in the huge number of wells sunk by the monks of New Norcia throughout the Victoria Plains. Despite this esoteric area of interest, Ross gave a very animated and interesting talk.

To the many people behind the scenes who made this day such a success, I pass on my very grateful thanks for a job very well done, especially to Toni, Lucy and Janine, Nigel and Ian, Michael, Marlon and Central Catering and Nicky, as well as all the other volunteers and helpers who played such an important role.

We have not finalised our plans for Studies Day 2017 yet but we hope that it will be every bit as interesting as this last one, and its predecessors, have been. If you are interested in attending, information will be gradually released via the website ([www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au)) as details are confirmed. What is confirmed is that the 2017 Studies Day will be held at New Norcia on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, the launch of the Journal containing the papers from this Studies Day together with other papers on a similar theme will be launched by Kathrin Cassarchis, the State Archivist, at the **Palms Community Centre, Subiaco, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November later this year.** Watch the website for further details. Hope to see you then!

*Contributed by Peter Hocking, Archivist*



***Remembering Them: New Norcia and WW1*** explores the impact of the First World War on the four communities that made up the local population of New Norcia from 1914-1918 – the monks, the Aboriginal people, the college students and the local farming community. Each group experienced the war in different ways and to varying degrees. For a small country town, the story of the war years and their aftermath at

New Norcia is both complex and unusual. This display is a collaborative project between the Western Australian Museum and the Benedictine Community of New Norcia.

**Open; New Norcia Museum Hours 9.30am-4.30pm daily 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017**

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people please be aware that this exhibition may contain images of, or reference to, deceased people.



Winter at New Norcia Hotel is always a popular time for guests and tourists to come and stay. During our peak season we try our best make the place welcoming, warm and friendly, our roaring fires are a very popular place to relax with a glass of wine on a chilly evening. We have a new range of West Australian wines on our wine list plus the brand new rosé in the New Norcia Wine collection, so why not pop in and sample

them. **CHASE THE ACE** is in its 6<sup>th</sup> week at the Hotel; we have been pleased to see so many of our locals coming in each Friday night from 6-8pm for a drink and a laugh. Each week the prize jackpots \$50, with one lucky person eventually taking out the prize once the ace card is revealed! Our bar is currently undergoing a facelift; freshly painted walls and a new colour scheme have really brightened the place up, the work is still underway and we are all excited to see the end result. If you are looking for something different to do on a Friday night, we have a **live band** playing on the 5th of August, from 7-9pm. Come down, have a dance or maybe a meal and a drink while enjoying the music. *Contributed by Tara Maynard*



Jeronimo Tejada restoring the wood panelling, and painting the bar area at the Hotel.

### Celebrating the Year of Mercy in the Institute

The *New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies* got in on Pope Francis’ focus on “Mercy” this year. The Pope called on us to deepen our understanding of mercy and our practice of it in everyday life.

We ran a Reading Weekend: *Living a Life of Mercy* from 29-31 July. Margaret Malone sgs, led a group of thirteen willing participants through Cardinal Walter Kasper’s recent book, entitled: *Mercy: The Essence of the Gospel and the Key to Christian life*. Cardinal Kasper writes this moving description of a God whose name is Mercy:

“To think that God – all powerful and holy concerns himself with the distressing situations of human beings, hears the wretchedness of poor and miserable people, hears their lament, bends down in condescension, descends to persons in their need, and that despite every human infidelity, is concerned with them again and again, forgives them and gives them another chance. All this exceeds human experience and expectations and transcends human imagination and thought.”

The group had quite a task ahead of them, as the book was 218 pages of very solid material. But Margaret is an expert hand in making such an important work accessible to people from a wide range of backgrounds. They certainly had a lot to talk about over the intensive two days as well as many challenges to take home with them at the end.

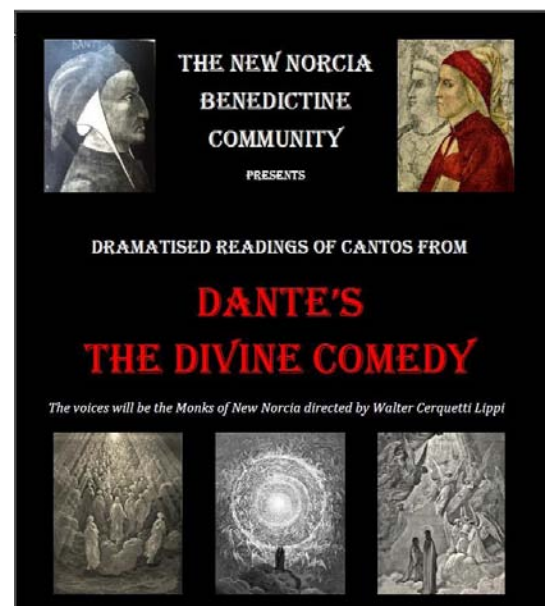
*Contributed by Carmel Posa sgs, Benedictine Institute of New Norcia.*

### Dante performance

In a special cultural and religious event associated with the Year of Mercy being observed by Catholics around the world, the monks, sisters and staff of New Norcia will present dramatised readings of selected cantos from Clive James’ highly-acclaimed translation of Dante’s “The Divine Comedy”.

Directed by Walter Cerquetti Lippi, this will be a progressive event with three sessions corresponding to the three parts of the work, Hell, Purgatory and Heaven, and using the beautiful frescoed chapels and heritage rooms New Norcia has to offer.

A delicious Italian lunch will be provided. Tickets are \$80.00 and include the performances, lunch and morning and afternoon teas. For more information contact Lucy Nicholson on [communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au)





## ***"In the Sprit of Hands" Photography Exhibition, Melbourne***



Earlier this year *Linda Espie, a photographer from Melbourne*, came to visit New Norcia. She spent time with the Monks and staff to gain a deeper insight into their work, life in community and their individual reflections regarding their roles and mission. Linda has a passionate interest for photographing the ordinary aspects of everyday life. With a strong spiritual focus, she believes that photography is a powerful avenue of expression, one that offers contemplative opportunities and potential for expanded personal awareness and community engagement.

Her time at New Norcia culminated in a photography exhibition ***"In the spirit of hands"*** held at the **Australian Catholic University Gallery, Melbourne** in July. Associate Professor Katharine Massam, University of Divinity, Melbourne opened the exhibition and congratulated Linda on making a

valuable contribution to the photographic history of New Norcia. Katharine is a long standing oblate and member of the New Norcia Archives, Research and Publications Committee and among many other things was responsible for organizing the 2014 ***"Ways of Telling"*** symposium at the State Library.

The exhibition was well received and some wonderful feedback given;

"Congratulations Linda on another wonderful exhibition that evokes such thoughts and emotions. I love the mandolins. "

"Thanks for a beautiful journey. You have captured "the essence" of a stunning community. Well done Linda. "

*Contributed by Linda Espie,*



**Local News.....** After many years as a JP, **Keith Hunt** has hung up his pen! I am sure the whole community would like to thank him for his service over the years. For your information the other JP's in the Shire are;

Rex Glass - Calingiri

Brian McGill – Bolgart

Gary Manning – Yerecoin

**MUSEUM NEWS.....** We are delighted to announce that long time New Norcia resident, Carmel Murray, stepped into the role of Museum and Art Gallery Manager last month and has made a few changes, so she invites you to pop in for a visit. One of her initiatives is an **"Artist of the Month"**, showcasing different artists whose work is displayed in the museum shop. This month New Norcia resident, Garry Rogers, steps into the limelight. His work incorporates beautiful she-oak shingles from a cottage built in New Norcia in the 1850's, on which he places a *corpus of christ* which is then blessed by the Abbot.



The work is unique and beautiful, his combination of local wood materials and religious icons connects the local natural environment with the religious spirituality and aspirations of the New Norcia Benedictine Community. Garry was born in Adelaide and grew up in England, the youngest of four children. He studied 3D Industrial Ceramics Art & Design at Stafford Art College. After living in many different locations around the world, Garry moved to New Norcia in 2012 and works as a Tour Guide in the Museum and Art Gallery.



## New Norcia Bypass – a pictorial update.

The New Norcia bypass is well underway despite one of the wettest coldest winters for years, as you will see from the photos, it is a little boggy but work continues.....!  
Thanks to Nigel cooper for providing some great images from his drone.



## Around Town.....Property News



Newly painted bar, at the Hotel.



Steve and Shady with more concrete!

As well as the great painting and renovation job in the Hotel, there has been quite a lot of new concrete poured around town. The monk's car port now has a floor, the concrete path behind the Hotel has been upgraded and a new pathway laid between Benedictine Institute and the public conveniences.



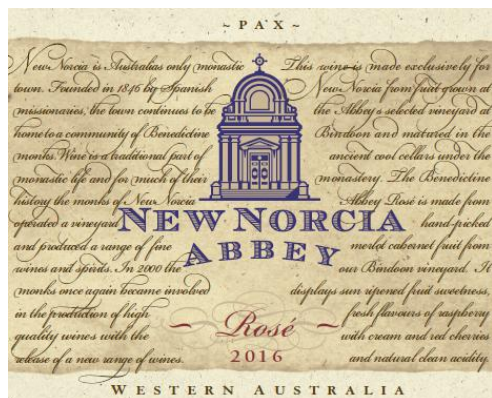
The monk's carport gets a floor!



Sumith, Steve and Taffy (Decmil) laying concrete!



## NEW NORCIA ABBEY WINES 2016 WINE BOTTLING – ROSE LAUNCH



New Norcia Abbey Wines has recently completed this season's wine bottling. This time we bottled Rosé (Merlot Cabernet), Shiraz and Chardonnay. It is the first time that we have produced a rosé. The exercise has been interesting and rewarding. The Merlot and Cabernet grapes were hand-picked at optimum ripeness (considering sugars, acidity, tannins, flavour, etc.), crushed at the winery and the fermentation commenced, creating the wine must. After a short period (as in days) the must is then pressed and the skins (responsible for colour) are removed to produce the required pink colour. The remaining wine juice continues fermentation (absorbing the sugars) until it is checked to preserve fruit sugars desired to give the wine its level of sweetness. This in turn leads to a lower alcohol wine and ultimately achieves the balanced wine

required.

The result has been a gentle wine with depth of flavour, real fruit characteristics and an alcohol level of 11.1%: Perfect for long lazy lunches in the sunshine! Now Available at the New Norcia Hotel and the New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery.

Contributed by Nick Humphry

**NEW NORCIA**  
WRITERS FESTIVAL 2016

*books poetry music history food conversation*

Saturday 13 August

**Guests include Natasha Lester, John Kinsella, Tracy Ryan, Rashida Murphy & Ron Elliott**

\$80 all-day ticket includes 4 sessions, museum & art gallery entry & morning & afternoon teas. Buffet lunch available at an extra cost.  
Bookings: Lucy Nicholson on (08) 9654 8018 or email communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au.  
Places strictly limited. For details visit newnorcia.wa.edu.au.

**NEW NORCIA**  
PERENNIAL COMMUNITY

**CROW**  
BOOKS