



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

# The Chimes Newsletter June 2015



## Spanish Consul-General visits New Norcia.

New Norcia was honoured by a visit from the Spanish Consul-General Juan Carlos Gafo Acevendo in May, popping over from Melbourne on a private visit. Arriving on the day of the Mandorla Art Exhibition opening, Mr Gafo Acevendo was kind enough to embrace the occasion by cutting the ribbon, formally opening the exhibition. He seemed delighted to find himself in the middle of a buzzing crowd of art-lovers enjoying fresh, contemporary, Australian religious art put together over 30 years.

After a hearty afternoon tea in the parlour, the Abbot gave an impromptu tour of the monastery for the gathering, showcasing the recently renovated Spanish Chapel, the monastery Library, the stunning Music Room and the monk's refectory. Dom Robert Nixon delighted the gathered throng with a short concert on the grand piano, even the monastery goldfish were introduced! Mr Carlos seemed to enjoy the visit and hopes to be able to spend more time at the community when he next visits.

## MANDORLA ART EXHIBITION.

The Mandorla Art Award is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a Retrospective Exhibition currently showing at the New Norcia Art Gallery & Museum. It is housed within the former convent on the grounds of the New Norcia monastery, Australia's only monastic town. The exhibition, which opened in May, exhibits all 18 previous winners' works that have been acquired through the award's history of 17 exhibitions, plus a selection of finalists' artworks from the New Norcia collection, many of which were graciously donated by the artists. A series of screens allows exhibition goers to meander through the award's history within the heritage building. Joy Legge is the curator of the New Norcia collection and has previously curated several of the Mandorla Art Awards. At New Norcia on a private visit, Spanish Consul-General Juan Carlos Gafo Acevendo was kind enough to declare the exhibition open with an official ribbon cutting. Father Chris Ross, who has been involved with Mandorla since shortly after its inception 30 years ago, gave an insight into how the Mandorla Award has evolved and developed over its lifetime. Acknowledging previous curators and reflecting on previous exhibitions that have taken place in a variety of galleries in Perth, he painted a picture of an award that has grown from grass roots into a polished gem. The relevance of the Mandorla Art Award can be measured by the consistency and excellence of its winning works.



*The year after Julie Dowling won the Mandorla Art Award 2000 with "Born for you" (above), she was announced as one of Australia's most collectible artists in Art Collector magazine.*



The 1985 inaugural winning work "Re-creation" by Theo Koning (above) showcases the distinctive figurative style that defined Theo's paintings in the 80's. Theo continues to be one of Perth's most respected artists and is represented in many important Australian national, state, private and corporate collections.

This exhibition charts the artistic development of many high profile artists; John Coburn, John Paul, Annette Allman, Concetta Petrillo, Michael Kane Taylor, Brian McKay, Julie Dowling, Ron Gomboc, Nigel Hewitt, Ivan Bray, Alan Baker, Michael Iwanoff, George Gittoes, Theo Koning and most recently Paul Kaptein. Though several of these artists have sadly passed away, for the majority of these artists their practice is flourishing; Kaptein has continued to excel in his sculptural practice and, shortly after his Mandorla prize, he won the Mid-West Art Prize as well as exhibiting in the Bank West Art Prize, the Melbourne Art Fair and several international group shows.

While the retrospective documents the history of the Mandorla Art Award, it also demonstrates the strong foundations that have paved the way for Mandorla's future, and since St John of God Health Care has confirmed their long-term support as its major sponsor, the future is looking bright. The Mandorla Art Award will continue to build on its past as it looks to the future,

embracing the best contemporary works inspired to create an artistic response to a religious theme. Artists working in all media are encouraged to apply for the 2016 Mandorla Art Award – the 2014 award saw Kaptein's 3D artwork take the \$25,000 main prize while a combination of 2D, 3D and multimedia works were seen in the selection of winners and finalists.

The 2016 theme has now been set as "The Resurrection" artists can visit [www.mandorlaart.com](http://www.mandorlaart.com) for more details. The Mandorla Art Award Retrospective Exhibition is currently on show in the New Norcia Gallery & Museum until March 2016

## Melbourne's Trinity College Choir to sing at New Norcia

New Norcia Benedictine Community is delighted to announce that the renowned Choir of Trinity College, Melbourne, will be singing Ugis Praulins', *Missa Rigensis*, at the Benedicts Day Mass on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am, in the Abbey Church. The Choir is acclaimed for its collaborations with the world's leading musicians, and each year has a busy schedule of concerts and tours across Australia and overseas. A frequent guest in concert halls and cathedrals across Australia, the Choir has performed regularly as featured artist of Musica Viva and broadcast on ABC Classic FM, and in 2013 collaborated with Eric Whitacre on his first visit to Australia. The Choir has undertaken eight international tours, visiting England, Germany, the Baltic States and Russia, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, and performances at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral (London), National Cathedral in Washington, and St Thomas's, Fifth Avenue (New York), St Thomas's, Leipzig and in St Peter and St Paul Lutheran Church in St Petersburg.

The choir's Director of Music is English conductor and chorus master, Jonathan Grieves-Smith. One of the world's leading choral conductors, renowned for compelling performances and artistic leadership, Jonathan has trained choirs for some of the world's finest musicians. We look forward to July 11<sup>th</sup>.



"A wonderful place- both as a museum and a living breathing , pulsing centre...MUST BE CONTINUED as a centre for prayer, the arts and Aboriginal Culture"

*Visitor from the South of WA*

## British Ford Car Club's visit



A grey day in May welcomed the British Ford club's visit to New Norcia. Every two years the club comes together from all over Australia. This year Terry and Barbara Bates from Western Australia organised the event. One car came from as far as Queensland, taking ten days to get here at an

average speed of 70km an hour, a memorable journey I am sure, but perhaps not the most comfortable! The town and its visitors were treated to the sight of over 25 classic cars driving all over the town. We look forward to their next visit.

*Contributed by Lucy Nicholson, Communications Manager*

## News from the Property Department

In the past few months New Norcia has continued with the completion of the Emergency Lighting and Fire detection in the two Colleges and the Administration building.

### New Norcia Hotel



The next building to undergo a planned upgrade was the New Norcia Hotel. This project was expected to be a lot easier than the two Colleges and Administration building. The contractors Williams Electrical, PWI Fire and New Norcia Services' maintenance staff were about to start the 4 week project when it was discovered that the Hotel's electrical wiring needed to be upgraded. This increased the scope of works but the completion date stayed the same. A project plan was implemented and agreed upon by contractors, staff and consultants. The Hotel only had to close the doors for trading one day for 6 hours. The project ran on time and the New Norcia Hotel now meets the Australian Standards for the emergency lighting, fire detection and electrical wiring.

### Restoration of the brick wall outside St Gertrude's College



Image above; the full extent of the restoration needed.

Restoration of the brick wall to St Gertrude's oval has started. The wall was originally built in the early 1900's in the Torres period, using bricks that were made and fired onsite. New Norcia Services (NNS) staff member Shane Gilmartin is undertaking this project, under the supervision of NNS Heritage Architect Chris Williams from the Buchan Group.



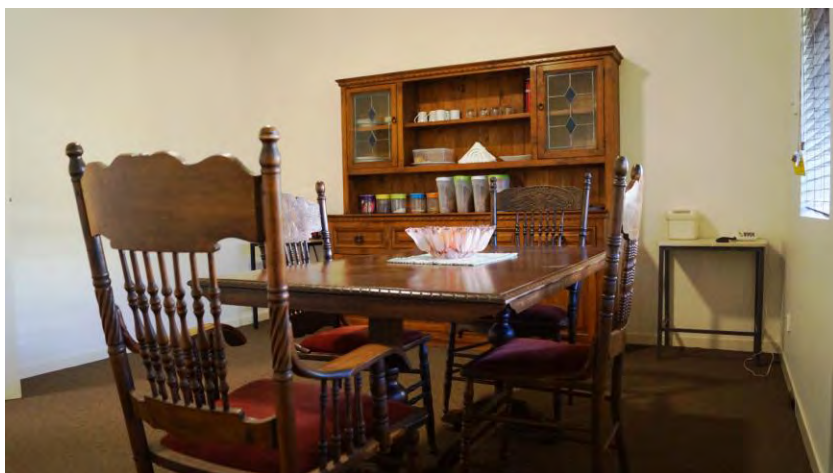
Image above; Shane working on the wall. See left of the image for a finished piece of restored brickwork.

It is a painstaking job, Shane will have to chisel out every damaged brick, replace it and cement it in using a special

lime and mortar mix. I have a feeling Shane may become a familiar sight at the wall for a good few months to come! NNS approached The Geraldton Brick Company to manufacture and supply the bricks, which have turned out to be a good match to the original early 1900 bricks.

### Monastery Renovation

The main 1903 monastery building is in very poor repair and in urgent need of an upgrade; it is so bad that when someone has a shower on the top floor any one below also has a shower! Before work could start on this beautiful building later this year, the 1980's monastery wing had to be upgraded so that the monks could relocate allowing the main body of work to start. So, for the past two months the New Norcia Maintenance staff and contractors have been busy upgrading the accommodation for the monks in the Northern Cloister. This project included Gyprock to be installed over the internal masonry walls as well as painting, and new carpets. The old plumbing fixtures were removed and replaced with modern water saving fixtures. Staff member Graham Edward's (Shady) has completed the final fix out, installing timber blinds, cupboards and tiling the bathrooms.



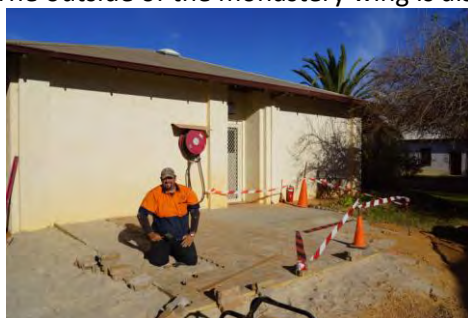
*The breakfast room in the Northern Cloister accommodation wing*



*Blessed sacrament/meditation room in Northern Cloister*

The outside of the monastery wing is also getting some attention, Jeronimo Tejada-Marquez is paving around the northern entrance, creating a small terrace so that the monks can sit in contemplation during their rare rest periods.

*Contributed by Ian Smith, Property Manager*



Left; Jeronimo busy paving the terrace



## Roadhouse News...

Our new warming winter soup is flying out the door as well as the other delicious homemade food we serve...hot chips, fish and chips, burgers, toasties, pies, sandwiches and sweet treats....come in to grab a bite!

The new postal services are up and running; you can now do your banking, recharge your mobile and buy prepaid cards as well as enjoy all the services we have always catered for. Come and say hello to your friendly road house staff.

## ***Treasure Ships: Art in the Age of Spices*** – Art Gallery of South

Australia. A small drawing from New Norcia's large works-on-paper collection is currently on display at the Art Gallery of South Australia as part of a new exhibition entitled *Treasure Ships : Art in the Age of Spices*.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century pencil, pen and inkwash attributed to the Roman artist, Pietro Gagliardi, features the famous 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish Jesuit priest, St Francis Xavier, surrounded by people from Japan, China, India and South East Asia. The curators were keen to include it to show that the ships not only carried spices, slaves and pirates but sometimes missionaries too like Francis who pioneered the preaching of the Christian gospel in Asia. The exhibition features extraordinary artworks from Asia, Europe and America.

According to correspondence held in the New Norcia Archives, our modest drawing, along with more than seventy others, was purchased by New Norcia's second abbot, Fulgentius Torres OSB, from the Roman artist and dealer, Giuseppe Gonnella in 1913.

*Treasure Ships* will run from 13<sup>th</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> August at the Art Gallery of South Australia and from 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 at the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

*Contributed by Dom Christopher Power*



## **New Norcia Studies Day – an Update**

Owing to the Bicentenary celebrations last year, New Norcia's Studies Day schedule has been derailed this year but will return to its normal time and place in 2016. The two day *Ways of Telling* Symposium, held at the State Library last November, effectively replaced the one day event at New Norcia in June, as well as the Studies Launch which normally takes place at the Palms Community Centre in Subiaco on the first Thursday of November.

The holding of the Symposium in November inevitably delayed the publication of New Norcia Studies, Issue 22 (the papers from the Symposium), but the Palms has been booked for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November this year when we will see the launch of Issue 22. Additionally, the fourth book in the Archives series will be launched then too; you may remember that the correspondence of Canon Martelli and Léandre Fonteinne and the translation of Théophile Bérengier's *History of New Norcia* were all released last November. The fourth book in the series of the Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship research work is Dr Stefano Girola's translation of Bishop Salvado's 1883 Report to Propaganda Fide; it may sound a little dry but it is actually a fascinating first-hand account of not only the history of the monastery but also the intrigues and scandals that were being played out in Perth society between 1847 and 1883.

Next year's Studies Day will return to its usual spot in May (the 28<sup>th</sup>) but further details concerning that and the launch in November will be announced closer to the date.

*Contributed by Peter Hocking, Archivist*

## *New Norcia's Writers Festival 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015*



We are delighted to announce that in conjunction with The West Australian Newspaper, New Norcia will be hosting a Writers' Festival in September of this year. Below is the days programme.

- **9.00am** Registration - St Gertrude's Entrance Hall.
  - **9.30am – 10.30am** First Session - **In Love and War**; Liz Byrski and William Yeoman. St Gertrude's Wooden Hall.
  - Acclaimed WA author Liz Byrski and the West Australian's Literary editor William Yeoman present readings with music from Byrski's moving new book *In Love and War* and Richard Hill's *The Last Enemy*, followed by an Q and A.
  - **10.30am – 11.00am** Morning tea in St Gertrude's where a small display of New Norcia's rare book collection will be on show.
  - **11.15 am – 12.00 noon** Second session – **Beautiful Witness**; Stephen Scourfield and Floeur Alder - St Ildephonsus' Honour Hall.
  - The West Australian's Travel Editor and award winning novelist Stephen Scourfield collaborates with dancer and choreographer Floeur Alder to bring alive the very spirit of journeying, of exploring the world and ourselves. They dip into countries and cultures from Oman to Lesotho and Kyrgyzstan.
  - **12.00 – 1.30 pm** Lunch time – Buffet lunch served in St Ildelphonus' for \$25.00 The New Norcia Abbey Press will be open to browse around.
  - **1.30 pm – 2.30pm** Third Session – **Travelling South and Beyond**; Deb Fitzpatrick, Abbot Rooney and Niall McIlroy – St Gertrude's Chapel.
  - Join Deb Fitzpatrick, Abbot Bernard Rooney and West Australian travel journalist Niall McIlroy as they discuss the importance of place in fact and fiction with Will Yeoman.
  - **2.45pm – 3.20pm** Fourth Session - **Around and Over the Rim** - Stephen Scourfield and William Yeoman - St Ildephonsus' Chapel. Accompanied by Will Yeoman's music, Stephen Scourfield's hypnotic words take us on a poetic journey from Cape Leeuwin around the world and back again.
  - **3.30pm** First monastery tour leaving from Monastery gates (Library and Music room)
  - **3.50pm** Second monastery tour leaving from gates.
- During this time the Abbey press will also be open for Writers' Festival participants to browse.
- **3.30 – 4.15 pm** Afternoon tea.
  - **4.30pm** Fifth session – Dom Robert Nixon – Organ Recital – Abbey Church.
  - **5. pm** Conclusion of the day

This schedule is subject to change.

There are only very limited spaces so please book early.

Email [communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au) to secure a place. Tickets for the day are \$70.00. This includes the five sessions, a twenty minute tour of the Music room and Library in the monastery and a light morning and afternoon tea. Buffet lunch may be booked for \$25.00 extra.

## Mercedes College – Pilgrimage to New Norcia.



Fifteen fit, hardy Mercedes college students recently walked the 145km trail from St John's pro cathedral to New Norcia, following in the footsteps of Dom Rosendo Salvado. Ursula Frayne, sister of Mercy and founder of Mercedes College came to Western Australia on the same voyage as Salvado in 1846, beginning a long running connection between the Sisters of Mercy and the Benedictines. The trek, based on the pilgrim's walk Camino de Santiago in Spain, has been adapted slightly by the school and renamed Camino de Merced or *path of mercy*. It is believed that this is the first time a school has

completed the entire walk. The year twelve students arrived in New Norcia last Wednesday in high spirits, elated by their achievement and full of the spirit of comradeship. On arrival the whole cohort of Mercedes year twelves met them amidst squealing, fist pumping, ringing bells and the odd tear. Abbot John Herbert greeted them in the Abbey Church and performed the traditional pilgrims' welcoming ceremony, washing their feet. An Ursula Frayne commemorative cross had accompanied the students and teachers on their walk, being held at some point by each and every



pilgrim. On arrival at the Abbey Church the cross, which had been engraved with a special inscription to New Norcia was presented to Abbot John Herbert. Touched by the gift, he told the group that the perfect spot for it would be to hang in the recently renovated monastery wing.

Apart from suffering the expected blisters the students revealed that the walk gave them great spiritual insight, a chance for reflection and a great sense of achievement. Well done Mercedes!

*Contributed by Lucy Nicholson and Toni Tejada.*

## FARM NEWS .....



The 2015 seeding programme is finished! This year Peter Grainger and the farm employees seeded 5040 acres of wheat, 2400 acres of canola and 395 acres of lupins. The lupins will be harvested to feed the sheep and the wheat and canola will be sold. This last drop of rain was desperately needed; the crops are now growing well and looking healthy. The 2015 lambing season has started, there are 2400 merino ewes to lamb; other jobs on the go are the never ending job of picking rocks and spraying the crops.

*Contributed by Peter Grainger, Farm Manager*

## Introduction to Letterpress Printing Course



**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015**

Tutor Claire Bolton has been a letterpress printer for 40 years and has taught workshops for over 20 years; at her Alembic Press in the UK, in the US and Australia, and at the London Rare Book School. Claire has offered her time and expertise to restore the Abbey Press to working order.

This workshop offers the unusual opportunity to learn letterpress printing at the recently restored Abbey Press at New Norcia, Australia's only monastery town.

**Places are limited to 6 people so book early.  
\$595.00.**

For registration & further information, please contact the Group Accommodation Manager.

Tel: 08 9654 8018 Fax: 08 9654 8097 E: [groups@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:groups@newnorcia.wa.edu.au)

### The workshop includes:

- Full board for 3 days and 2 nights at the Monastery Guesthouse.
- Tuition and an illustrated lecture from printer and printing historian Dr Claire Bolton.
- Participants will learn how to set type and lock it up in the forme ready for printing. Different styles of printing presses will be introduced and a small booklet will be printed over the 3 days.
- Heritage Town Tour – Discover the hidden treasures of this unique town and learn about its unique European, Monastic and Aboriginal heritage.
- Talk by a Benedictine monk - An opportunity to meet a monk, hear about life in the monastery and ask lots of questions!
- Visit to the New Norcia Museum & Art Gallery

## Salvado College

The construction of the new Salvado Catholic College in Byford is in full swing with steelworks recently erected for the Administration building. There has also been a great deal of development for the teaching blocks and covered assembly area with the completion of concrete pads and steelworks due to be completed shortly. The College website [www.salvado.wa.edu.au](http://www.salvado.wa.edu.au) has been live for the last two months and contains information on the progress of the buildings, enrolment information and other exciting College details. The College Foundation Principal, Santino Giancono, recently held an Information Evening in Byford that was well attended by many interested families. "It is exciting to see the build progressing and enrolments coming in for students from Kindergarten to Year 2," said Santino.



Keep up to date with all that is happening at Salvado Catholic College by visiting the College website. We look forward to seeing further progress of the buildings in the coming months and the shaping of what promises to be a wonderful college community.

*Contributed by Santino Giancono*



## 2015 Olive Harvest.



*The cement grinding stone made by the Bianchini family and used for many years*

The domesticated olive tree has existed for over 8000 years, revered for its numerous uses. The bible mentions the humble olive well over 200 times, a fact that New Norcia's founder Dom Rosendo Salvado would have been well aware of when he planted 3000 olive trees in late 1846. It seems that not many of these survived as in 1866 four hundred cuttings were bought from the Swan River area and planted. The first mention of olive oil in Salvado's diaries was in 1899 when an entry indicated that the

olives were crushed using the large flour mill stone put on its side and pulled by a horse. Ninety litres were produced that year using between 3-5 tonnes of olives. By 1896 the production had increased to 250 litres. Skilled in agriculture, the Benedictine monks established an olive grove to produce table olives and oil for their own use and later to sell for income. New Norcia olive oil has been for sale since 1926, when 200ml cost one shilling and sixpence! There are many types of cultivars grown, but the New Norcia Mission Olive seems to be prevalent within the grove.

In the spirit of monastic collaboration, countless people have worked in the groves over the years. The renowned Spanish monk, Dom Paulino Gutierrez, honed his oil making skills there producing quality oils for over twenty-five years. More recently New Norcia farm manager Peter Grainger, formally of Frankland River Olives, (the Jingilli oil brand) added his substantial expertise, but due to scheduling issues – the olives are normally ready to harvest at the same time as the cropping programme is due to be seeded – a new Olive Grove Manager has been appointed, Nigel Cooper. Nigel is looking forward to extending his knowledge base and skills in the craft. He will be attending a convention and workshop later in the year. The convention will be showcasing the newest research and techniques which Nigel hopes to bring back to New Norcia to streamline the process, enabling the production of the best possible oil. In addition to monks and staff, volunteers have had a large input over the years too. A group of past students from St Ildephonsus' College, *the Catenians*, volunteered their services in the year 2000 and since then have worked alongside New Norcia staff, pruning, picking and generally maintaining the historic grove.



*Hand sorting the olives ready for pressing*

Flash forward to the 2015 harvest and, as you can imagine, health and safety regulations have changed the process slightly! The olives are still handpicked and hand sorted by the monks, volunteers and staff, but it is taken to the York Olive Oil Company for processing. The large cement grinding stone made by the Bianchini family stands silent in the olive shed. This year's

harvest has been the best for many years, partially due to the late rain in March. Over 400 trees were picked producing 5296 kg of olives which, after pressing, created 993 litres of oil with an average oil content of 17.5%. After being allowed to settle for a couple of weeks the oil will be hand filtered, bottled and labelled, again by the monks, volunteers and the staff. We are estimating there will be around 3500 bottles for sale!



*Contributed by Lucy Nicholson, Communications Manager*

So impressed with the developments and improvements since my last visit 10 years ago. Quite fantastic!

*Fremantle visitor*

## BOOK REVIEW HELD AT THE CHRIST CHURCH ETHICS CENTRE.

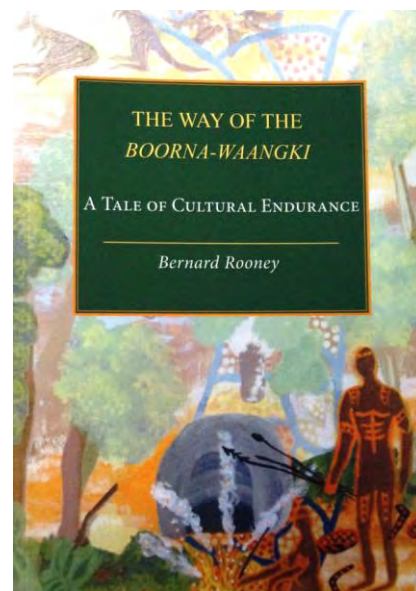
Abbot Bernard Rooney's latest published work, *The Way of the Boorna Waangki: A Tale of Cultural Endurance*, was the subject of a special Book Review held at the Christ Church Ethics Centre, Claremont, On Thursday, 30 April. The event took place under the chairmanship of Professor Bob Reece, ably replacing Professor Geoffrey Bolton who was unfortunately prevented by illness from attending. Inspired and organised by well known author and Friend of New Norcia, Geraldine Byrne, the occasion attracted a representative and varied assembly which included a number of Aboriginal people and academics.



Abbot Bernard began his discussion by referring to the recent launching of his book by the Hon. Fred Chaney on Thursday, 13 November 2014, together with three other new books dealing with aspects of New Norcia's history, as part of last year's Salvado Bicentennial celebrations. The speaker

continued his presentation with a brief outline of the missionary history of New Norcia. He went on to re-assert his own firm conviction, born during the latter years of his tenure as ruling Abbot of New Norcia's monastic family, regarding the need to re-establish and reinforce the monastery's ongoing commitment to the Yued people who belong to the area and for whose benefit the New Norcia Mission had been established. It was this same conviction, he proceeded to explain, which inspired him to undertake the many years of participant observation and research amongst the Aboriginal people which ultimately brought the book to fruition.

In accepting the invitation to chair the meeting at short notice, Professor Reece had been entrusted by Professor Bolton with the task of reading the address which he himself would have delivered had he not been prevented by illness from attending. In concluding this prepared address, Professor Reece repeated the final appraisal of Professor Bolton: "This is a story that needs to be widely known and appreciated, not least because it demonstrates that the founding principles of racial cooperation on which New Norcia was founded more than a century and a half ago, still retain their relevance and their vigour."



The evening was successful in attracting upwards of seventy people who manifested their approval and sealed their appreciation with the purchase of over 40 copies of the book, each personally autographed by the author.

***The Way of the Boorna Waangki: A Tale of Cultural Endurance* is currently available and may be purchased at New Norcia's Museum-Art Gallery Bookshop.**

*Contributed by Abbot Bernard Rooney*

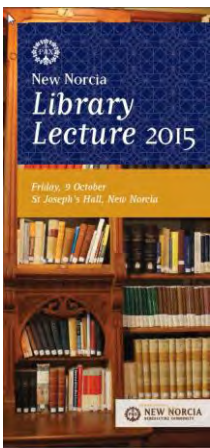
We loved it all..... the peaceful location, the extremely informative tour and the helpful ladies at the Roadhouse where we had lunch.  
Visitor from Port Kennedy



**New Norcia** has just set up a face book page, for information about events, what's happening and New Norcia related stories, find us on

<https://www.facebook.com/NewNorciaWA>

## New Norcia Library Lecture 2015 - Friday 9th October 2015



### Keynote speaker:

Ross Harvey is based in Melbourne. He is an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University, current Editor of the Australian Library Journal

**Topic:** Finding, losing, and misreading digital stuff: new roles for libraries

### Guest speakers:

Lesley Dubois; Coordinator of Library Services and Local History for the Shire of Roebourne.

**Topic:** Karratha libraries – the real jewels of the Pilbara

Lynne Vautier; Associate Director, Curtin University Library, W.A.

**Topic:** That is why you are an architect and I am a Librarian ...

Dinesh Burah; Manager of Accessible Information Services for VisAbility

**Topic:** Beyond books beyond barriers

The Benedictine Community is pleased to provide access to the ESA Room and the Prindiville Room, as part of this year's New Norcia Library Lecture.

The ESA Room offers glimpses of European Space Agency activities that involve the nearby deep space antenna, located 8km south of New Norcia to the west of the Great Northern Highway.

The Prindiville Room depicts the inter-active 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century relationship between local Aboriginals and immigrant European monks.

**The cost is \$80, [\$40 for students], and includes morning tea, a buffet lunch, and afternoon tea.**

Please contact Carolyn Talbot on [library@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:library@newnorcia.wa.edu.au) if you are interested in attending.

### Old Treasure – New Information

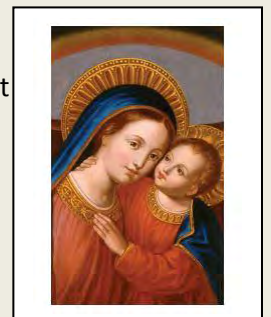
Thanks to a recent visitor's research, some interesting new details about one of the town's most important cultural icons, the painting of *Our Lady of Good Counsel*, have come to light.

This small oil painting of the Madonna and Child, which often features in New Norcia publications, hangs in the Abbey Church where it has been an object of special veneration for well over a century.

While its importance derives, in part, from being the first recorded artwork to arrive at New Norcia, the painting made its name in dramatic fashion when it was involved in turning back a bush fire in 1847, thus saving the fledgling mission from disaster. When Governor Frederick Weld visited some twenty years later, he was so impressed with the story that he commissioned a new carved gilt frame from England which continues to house the image today.

Some details about the painting's provenance have long been known at New Norcia. From both an inscription on the verso of the painting, probably by Salvado himself, and from a note he penned in an early copy of his *Memorie*, we know the title of the painting is *Our Lady of Good Counsel*, an old and popular devotion based on a late mediaeval fresco in a church at Genazzano, about 50 kilometres from Rome. From the same sources we also know that the painting was given to Serra and Salvado in Rome in June 1845 by Saint Vincent Pallotti, the founder of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines) when they were first leaving for Australia. Pallotti had a reputation for kitting-out departing missionaries with devotional objects for their work, including images of Mary under his favourite titles. However there have also been long-standing gaps in our understanding. Most importantly we didn't know the artist's name – the painting is unsigned and no mention has emerged from the archival holdings over the years. The matter is of interest as the painter was more than a simple copyist. From a comparison of our work with the original fresco it is clear that ours is an interpretation of the original image, "improved", most probably, to appeal to later popular tastes. Given Pallotti's generosity, there was also the lurking suspicion that our picture might not be a one off.

*Contributed by Dom Christopher Power*



## 2015 BENEDICTINE INSTITUTE EVENTS;

**Annual Institute/Theology Day - Saturday 8 August 10.00am—3.00pm**

**Title: TAKING HISTORY SERIOUSLY-The Wisdom of Monastic Theology in the Light of the II Vatican Council**

**Guest Speaker: Fr Luigi Gioia osb**



Fr Luigi is a monk from the Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore in Siena Italy. Fr Luigi is Professor of Systematic Theology and Monastic Studies at the Pontifical University of San Anselmo in Rome. He completed his doctorate in Systematic Theology at the University of Oxford with a thesis on Augustine's *De Trinitate*. His examiners were Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams, archbishop of Canterbury, and Professor Oliver O'Donovan.

The thesis was published by the *Oxford University Press* in 2008.

Our Guest will focus on the relation between monasticism and the Church, history and the world

Cost: \$50 (concession \$35) Includes morning tea and lunch

**For Bookings for the Annual Institute/Theology Day please contact Carmel Posa sgs or Jill O'Brien sgs**

**Phone: 08 96548371 Email: [carmel.posa@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:carmel.posa@newnorcia.wa.edu.au)/  
[jill.obrien@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:jill.obrien@newnorcia.wa.edu.au)**

**Saturday 29 August - Studies Day/Benedictine Union**

**"Light and Darkness: Exploring Truth and Meaning in the Universe"**

2015 has been officially proclaimed the "International Year of Light" by the United Nations. To celebrate this event the New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies will host a "Studies Day" exploring truth and meaning in our Universe through ethics, theology, art and music

### Guest Speakers



**Professor Philip Matthews-Meaning In The Universe**

Dr Philip Matthews, BTh, PhD, is presently the acting Dean of Theology and Philosophy and Notre Dame University.

**Fr Denis Edwards TITLE: Where is God at Work. TBA** Fr Denis Edwards, is a Senior Lecturer in Theology at the Adelaide College of Divinity, Flinders University.

**Dr Angela McCarthy-Light and Meaning in Art**

Dr Angela McCarthy is a lecturer in Theology for the School of Philosophy and Theology at Notre Dame and coordinator of the core unit, Introduction to Theology.

**Dom Robert Nixon The Music of the Spheres**

Dom Robert Nixon joined the New Norcia community in 2012, where he is currently liturgy coordinator.

**The day begins at 10am Includes Morning tea, Lunch and afternoon tea, Cost \$60/Concession \$35**

For Bookings please contact Carmel Posa sgs or Jill O'Brien sgs

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