



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

The Chimes Newsletter

December 2014



The figure of Rosendo Salvado, captured in polychrome as he stepped forward purposefully, caught the attention of people passing through the exhibition space in the foyer of the State Library in November. Again and again people stopped to interact with the three dimensional image – to rest a hand on his arm, air-box his hat, have a photo taken, or pause to consider his stance. Some people were also drawn to look more closely at the display of objects and photographs in the Nook that had been installed to coincide with a symposium exploring the various ways of telling New Norcia’s story.

Over the two days of the Ways of Telling event in mid-November a dozen presentations responded to the remarkable images of New Norcia in the nineteenth century that have been preserved in the archives of the Benedictine Community. Members of the New Norcia Aboriginal Corporation, and monks of the Benedictine Community, school students who ‘met’ Salvado on pilgrimage, as well as researchers from around Australia with expertise in history, theology, anthropology and linguistics, all spoke in response to one or other of the images of Salvado and his times. Expertly co-ordinated by Michelle Ebbs, the collaboration was in the

tradition of the New Norcia Studies Days, but also marked a new step in work to understand New Norcia’s history.

As participants recovered from an extraordinary performance of Salvado’s own composition by Dom Robert, and watched a roll of the images that had been considered through the two days the richness and possibility of the archival resources, and the powerful memories and stories they prompt, was clear to everyone. The photographs and the documentation that supports their interpretation is a vital resource not just for local history but also for themes that have national and international resonances. The



Ways of Telling symposium

brought together a range of people with a deep commitment to exploring the historical record at New Norcia so as to build a good foundation for ongoing work towards reconciliation in the mission town and more widely in Australia. We hope it will prove to have been a landmark event in a year of great occasions.

Contributed by Katharine Massam



Friends Project Spanish Chapel Restoration

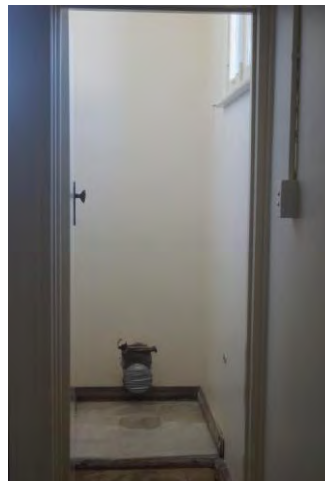
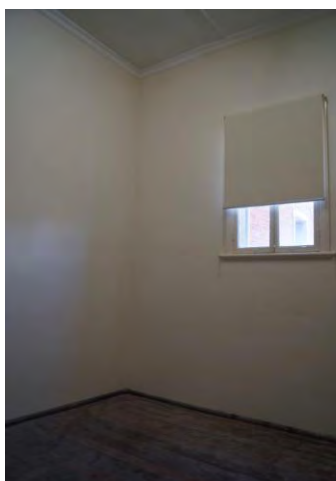
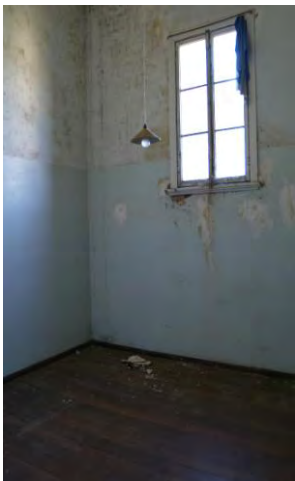
We are extremely pleased to congratulate Van Diddens Painting Australia on being the worthy winners of the Historical Restoration category at the **Master Painters & Decorators Australia (MPA)** Annual Awards 2014 for their exquisite work on the Spanish Chapel. The Judge commented "An extremely impressive project, with a lot of restoration work being carried out to an excellent finish."



Friends Project..... Vestment Storage update.....

*Up to date, the Friends of New Norcia have generously donated over \$19,000.00 towards the new storage facility for the textile collection, the work is progressing well, the rising and falling damp has been rectified; (a fascinating process using sealant and then fibreglass to damp proof the walls before re plastering and painting.) The ceilings and cornices have been made structurally safe and have been painted; the windows have been sealed meaning the rooms are dust free, so important when dealing with the ornate, delicate fabrics of the vestments. Block out blinds have been installed. However there is much more to do , another **\$40,000.00** is needed for remainder of the scope of works. The electricity desperately needs upgrading, power sockets need installing and special light fittings installed to create a safe haven for the 1200 textiles of outstanding heritage value.*

Please make cheques payable to Monochorum Ltd and send to Friends of New Norcia.



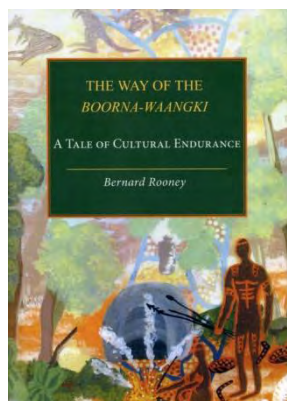
The Palms Subiaco, Perth

Years of work translating, writing, checking and proofreading by a veritable army of people culminated in a highly successful book launch in Subiaco during the recent two day “Ways of Telling” symposium.



The authors with Fred Chaney AO. Left to right: Prof John Kinder, Fr Bernard Rooney, The Hon Fred Chaney, Prof Bob Reece, Dr Peter Gilet, Dr Joshua Brown.

Photo: Lucy Nicholson

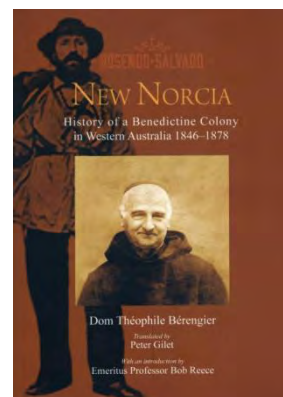


Mayor Heather Henderson, in conjunction with Subiaco Council kindly hosted the launch of four important books from the New Norcia Archives on Thursday November 13th at the Palms Community Centre. The Honourable Fred Chaney AO formally launched the works, describing them as “intriguing and relevant to the present History matters”.

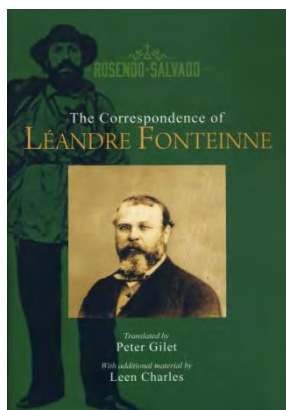
Abbot Bernard Rooney’s book *Boorna – Waangki : a tale of cultural endurance*, a story of one man’s engagement with a proud and cultured Nyoongar, stirred an especially emotive response from Mr Chaney, whose interest in Aboriginal affairs is well documented. “Bernard recounts his stories, describes his educational efforts and tries, as few do, to understand the

parallel universe we describe when we say Australia is the home of the world’s oldest living cultures”.

Peter Gilet’s *History of a Benedictine Colony*, the first modern translation of Bérengier’s 1887 book, is an important contribution to our understanding of the history of the New Norcia mission and of the Catholic Church in Australia. As the Hon Fred Chaney said, “it is a fascinating work in its own right; it gives us a “small window into our colonial minds in the way the population of the colony is described”.

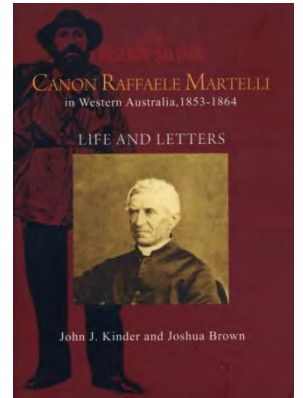


The third book, Peter Gilet’s *The Correspondence of Léandre Fonteinne* Chaney describes as “a more racy read”; the translation of Léandre’s letters describes the New Norcia mission and the mood of the day. We are told that Léandre himself is “self indulgent, highly emotional and self pitying.... but very readable!”



John Kinder’s and Joshua Brown’s translation of Canon Raffaele Martelli’s letters from 1853 to 1864 seemed to strike a chord with Mr Chaney who describes him as “a man after my own heart : a liberal and an activist who risked his position in the Church and the Italian community in the interest of Italian unity”. He became devoted to Salvado and ultimately died where he had wished to serve, at New Norcia.

The last three books are the tangible result of the first four years of research conducted under the Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship. They are particularly important for two other reasons - they are the first books to have been published since the Archives' only other publication, the Salvado *Memoirs* in 1977; secondly, these books see the reintroduction of New Norcia's publishing arm, Abbey Press. The design and eventual printing was executed most beautifully by Morning Star Publications in Melbourne.



Attending by 110 people, the launch was a great success, once again, City of Subiaco (particularly Chloe Jarvis and Sandi Found) organised the evening most efficiently in conjunction with Michelle Ebbs, Word of Mouth Catering provided the sumptuous canapés again, our old friends Trés Classique played for us brilliantly, Nick Humphreys donated the wine and New Norcia Bakery provided the bread. Mayor Heather Henderson not only provided the venue for us but, in what has become something of a tradition, delivered her address on the historical relations between Subiaco and New Norcia. Sadly, in the light of recent developments in council mergers, it seems that this tradition is about to end.

All four books are available from the online shop at <http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au/products>

Great Christmas stocking fillers!

Contributed by Peter Hocking and Lucy Nicholson

TRIUMPHANT VISIT

On a glorious day in October, some 35 classic Triumph sports cars, plus a handful of 2 litre and 2.5 litre saloons, visited New Norcia as part of the Triumph clubs' national rally. Word quickly spread around town that these beautiful cars were parked in front of the hotel and so I, as New Norcia's only Triumph owner (as far as I know but would be delighted to be proved wrong) ventured up to the hotel in my TR6 (see photo) to witness the assembly. All the TR range of sports cars was there from the 1950's 4 cylinder 2 litre TR2 through to the last of the TRs, the 1980-ish 3.5 litre Rover V8 engined TR8. Two or three of the very rare TR5 models (TR4 body with TR6 6 cylinder mechanicals) were present too as well as a handful of the four seater V8 3litre Stag convertible and a GT6 coupe; sadly, there were no pre-War or late 40's cars. Whilst most of the



cars were from WA, it was good to see eastern states number plates as well and one has to admire the courage and stamina of those owners who drove their cars to WA. I find that the two hour drive from Perth and back necessitates multiple checks of all things mechanical, as well as making sure that my RAC card is paid up and the phone is fully charged – and really 2 hours is quite enough to ensure a subsequent visit to the physiotherapist. While I was there, not a single Triumph car owner was spotted and it was later discovered that they were on a town tour – a pity as it would have been fun to have swapped stories about driving a Triumph, especially across the Nullarbor.



Contributed by Peter Hocking, Archivist

Bicentennial Spanish Day – *Flavours and Flamenco*

Abbot John's address at the Mass;

Back in 2010 we commended to the Lord's care our last Spanish monk, Dom Paulino, who died five months short of his 100th birthday. While his death seemed to mark the end of the Spanish era at New Norcia, the legacy of this extraordinary character lives on through the cultural imprint he (and many other Spanish missionary monks like him) made on this monastic township, often described as "a little bit of Spain in the Australian bush."

In Dom Paulino's case he was renowned for his monastic qualities of simplicity and humility and most particularly for his practical loving service to the community both inside and outside the cloister: as cobbler he made sturdy shoes (and repaired them time and time again to last a life-time); as miller he transformed thousands of bushels of home-grown wheat into tonnes of fine flour, which in turn as baker, he kneaded into dough and formed into crusty loaves of bread baked in the monastery's wood-fired oven, bread that filled your belly and warmed your heart; he pressed millions of Spanish mission olives into prize-winning oil. Dom Paulino is in a sense the epitome of what we are celebrating here today – that is, Spanish culture which has influenced New Norcia since its foundation one hundred and sixty-seven years ago.

Although there are some historical moments we are not so proud of, we rejoice and are comforted in the fact that when our Spanish forebears brought their culture to this place they did so by first honouring the already existing culture, the ancient culture of the Aboriginal people they had come to serve. These Spanish missionaries imparted the gospel message and shared their Spanish culture with dignity, integrity and mutual respect.

Although the publication of a definitive history of New Norcia is still quite a way off, recent New Norcia Studies Days, Library Lectures, Academic Research, Symposiums, and so on, continue to reveal the Spanish influence on so many aspects of this unique and special place: mission and monastic life, people and plans, art and architecture, music and literature, farming and food, religion and recreation, education and sport are all infused with delightful and enchanting hints of Spain.

In all this, we have, like Paul in the first reading today (Philippians 4:10-19), learnt to manage on whatever we have; we've known how to be poor and how to be rich; we have certainly never taken for granted the help we have received and the concern so many friends and benefactors have for us. Like Paul, we have throughout our history lived with the strong conviction that there is nothing we cannot master with the help of the One who gives us strength – that is the God we came to seek, the same God we came to proclaim to others. So, like Paul, we'll always have everything we need, and we rejoice in the knowledge that God will lavishly bless those who have blessed us with their encouragement and support. People (not money) are the genuine riches Luke speaks of in the gospel we just heard (Luke 16:9-15).

We began this year of commemoration of the bicentenary of the birth of Rosendo Salvado with our Foundation Day Mass and Opening of the *Searching Salvado* exhibition devoted to him; we've celebrated a very moving Ecumenical Vespers with the wider Church in Perth; our archivist and others have delivered papers at the *Salvado Symposium* in Santiago de Compostela; two groups of pilgrims have walked the *Camino Salvado* from Subiaco to New Norcia; the New Norcia Aboriginal Corporation Reunion and the Benedictine Community blessed the new Mission Cottages Interpretation Centre and the graves of our loved ones buried here...and there's more to come: the Photographic Exhibition *Ways of Telling* at the State Library next week, along with the launching of four Abbey Press books. Again, all imbued with hints of Spain and Spanish culture.

Today, we acknowledge with deep and sincere gratitude, the staff of New Norcia. At their initiative you have been invited here today to celebrate Spanish culture, particularly as it is evidenced and expressed here at New Norcia. As you visit the chapels, workshops and exhibitions; as you enjoy the Spanish music and dancing; and as you savour the sumptuous Spanish fare at lunch, take a quiet moment to give thanks to the God who holds it all, the God who in his infinite goodness gives it to us with unconditional and immeasurable love.

SPANISH DAY FEEDBACK

We had a marvellous time, with the day crammed with wonderful sights, sounds and tastes (commencing with your own warm welcome). The beautiful Mass, the monastery tour led by the very learned and highly entertaining Fr Anscar, the gorgeous Flamenco girls, the delicious feast, that just kept coming and coming, each dish (and the Sangria) a delight, Peter Lynch on guitar, the misting, the chandeliers, the gorgeous keepsakes and finally Dom Robert's extraordinary mastery of the piano – everything was fine-tuned to perfection. A huge thanks to you all. There were warm and friendly faces everywhere, and we felt truly welcomed.

Blessings, Susan and John Clune

Thank you so much for all that you did in facilitating my visit to New Norcia. It was a wonderful experience! Special thanks for organising Ben to pick me up and drop me off. It was such a relief not to have to mess around with car hire. Most importantly, I'd like to congratulate you on your superb organisation of such a memorable day to mark the Salvado bicentenary. It all seemed to go without a hitch and the feedback I received was extremely complimentary as far as you and your team of helpers was concerned. In short: Well done! Fantastic!
Peter Lynch
Guitarist



Jeronimo Tejada Marquez with his famous tapas dish pulpo a la Gallega (Galician Octopus)

Peter and I wanted to thank very much indeed you and all those people who were involved in making Saturday's event the huge success that it was. You must have put an enormous amount of time and effort into the preparations because every detail seemed to have been covered and the whole day was a delight. We, as fairly dedicated Hispanophiles, were impressed by the quality of everything that you offered - the chocolate was rich and hot, the churros were crunchy, the pulpo was even better than the famous pulpo on the road to Compostella!! Visiting the monastery was a privilege and we loved Fr. Anscar's stories! Flamenco and guitar were super, too, as was the use of the Spanish language, but the icing on the cake was the smiling, patient head waiter, Abbot John.

News from the Property Department

December is here and 2014 has flown by with many Lottery funded projects completed by New Norcia Services Staff and contractors.

St Ildephonsus' College



Pave-Mix Bitumen Paving and Earthworks was contracted to upgrade the storm water drainage at the rear of St Ildephonsus' between the Arcades. The drainage is designed to stop the rising damp in the walls of the building. New storm water drainage has been installed; concrete paths and asphalt have been laid. As this area has been upgraded it now allows for better access to functions in the Arcades.

St Gertrude's College

New Norcia Services, with the assistance of the Consulting Heritage Architects The Buchan Group, contracted Top Gun Roofing to replace the roof sheeting and box gutters on the southern roof of St Gertrude's College and the Chapel.

Scaffolding was used which was supplied and installed by Quickscaf. Top Gun Roofing completed the project in four days which was a tremendous effort.

Planned Projects 2014/2015

The next project to be completed is the upgrading of emergency lighting and fire detection in the Hotel, in both St Ildephonsus' and St Gertrude's Colleges. The upgrades will bring these buildings up to the new Australian Standards.

Engineering Technology Consultants, the Buchan Group and New Norcia Services will be project managing these upgrades over the next three months.

General Maintenance

New Norcia Services staff has been painting rooms in the Monastery, preparing garden beds and the reticulation ready for summer (including daily maintenance requirements of the village).

Contributed by Ian Smith, Property Manager



HOTEL NEWS

At the hotel we are constantly looking for new and exciting ways to engage our customers and guests. What better way to do this than by organising a fun and friendly **quiz night!** The hotel will be holding a quiz night in the bar on **Thursday the 18th of December**. People are encouraged to come along with friends and family and join teams of 3-4 people. The entry fees will go towards the prizes. There will also be a consolation prize for the team which comes last. The quiz will start from 8.00pm after dinner service; you can sign your team up at the bar anytime before then or at the beginning of the quiz itself. No team members are too young or too old, so it's a night full of fun for the whole family. If you have any questions about the quiz feel

free to ring the hotel or pop in and ask us. We hope to see everyone there for what we hope will be the start of an ongoing event.

Black dog ride charity function

The New Norcia Hotel always welcomes groups and charity events. On the 12th of August "The Black Dog Ride" visited. A group which began as one man's ride to raise awareness of depression is now a huge biking event circumnavigating Australia. The Benedictine community donated a light lunch to support their cause.

With a background as stunning as the hotel's historic exterior, New Norcia Hotel is a popular choice of venue for many group functions.

October was no exception; eighty-four people arrived in style in their Triumph motor cars for a two course sit down lunch on the hotel's decking area. One by one this group arrived outside the hotel in their classic sports cars adding to the air of a historic setting, not to mention a spectacular photo opportunity for anyone else visiting the area.

At the hotel we can provide service and catering to suit a wide range of events and functions; call us and we would be delighted to help make your event extra special.

Contributed by Nicky White and Tara Maynard



Guesthouse News.....

Another year has disappeared and what a year it has been! The celebrations for the Bicentenary year of Bishop Salvado's birth have encouraged many to stay overnight and more fully enjoy their New Norcia experience. At times the



Guesthouse could have done with another wing - perhaps that's one for the wish list!

There have been a number of improvements made in the Guesthouse area this year. The Guesthouse lounge room chairs, after many years of comfortable service, have been replaced. The new chairs are of a more laid-back style and lighten the room with their paler coloured upholstery.

The Lower Guesthouse has had a facelift with new carpet and new beds. The shared bathroom facility had the old urinal covered up and automatic hand soap dispensers installed above the hand basins.

St Ild's Cottage also had the bathroom renovated and now sports three private shower stalls. These replace the three curtained showers. Auto soap dispensers were also installed in both

the cottage bathrooms.

The biggest renovation was of the Pig Keeper's Cottage, as mentioned in the Chimes - October edition. The ideal place for a truly personal retreat and for those seeking silence and solitude, the cottage accommodates one person in comfort. The quilt on the base of the bed was made by a group of ladies staying in the Guesthouse for a weekend who donated it to the Monastery. A guest staying in the Pig Keeper's Cottage is invited to come across to the Monastery to join in the daily round of Mass and Prayer and to take meals with the Monks or in the Guests' dining room or alternatively take their meal across to the Cottage.



The retreat programme for 2015 is on the web-site. Please don't hesitate to give us a call or send an email to reserve a place on the retreat of your choice.

If you are looking for a unique Christmas gift the Guesthouse has gift vouchers available. You can purchase a voucher for the number of days you think the person would like to stay; the recipient then calls the Guesthouse to arrange a suitable date for their visit.

Contributed by Bernadette Taylor



New Norcia Pool Now Open

The pool is now open for the summer, it is imperative to fill in a registration form before you are allowed to swim; these are available from the Hotel.



**ALL CARAVANNERS AND GUESTS
STAYING AT NEW NORCIA HAVE
ACCESS TO THE NEW NORCIA POOL**

*Keys and access forms are available
from the New Norcia Hotel.*

Museum and Art Gallery

Season's Greetings to you all from the Gift Shop at New Norcia.

We are pleased to announce a new product group to our online store.

Check out our range of Nativity sets for all ages in all styles but be quick as stocks are limited for delivery before Christmas.



Also the Gardner Collection has been added to with our Australian-made range of Bone China Mugs.

Featuring some of the original wildflower works of Charles Gardner, this high quality range has been designed here in town with the help of our Australian partners and is exclusive to the New Norcia gift shop.

The perfect gift for Christmas!



2015 New Norcia Calendar



ON SALE NOW - Only **\$11.95**. A great stocking filler.

Visit the online shop at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au

Contributed by Katie Carter, Museum Manager

NEW NORCIA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION REUNION

One of the important features of the Aboriginal gathering on Reunion Day was The “Bush Babies” activity. This involved the 30 or 40 mainly women visitors, many of whom were past pupils of St. Joseph’s Residential School. These ladies worked together on the Saturday morning at the St. Joseph’s workshop. They worked on their models, weaving baskets and fashioning the traditional Bush Babies, similar to the ones they had made in former days as girls at St. Joseph’s. They sat at trestle tables which had been set up on the veranda of the St. Joseph’s work centre. After lunch at the old Convent they continued with their work and the setting up of a photo exhibition in the St. Joseph’s Hall.



The following day, Sunday, the Feast of All Souls, the numerous Aboriginal visitors attended the Mass in the Church, during which the results of the women’s work were included in the various exhibits which were brought up during the offertory of the Mass.

After Mass, The whole congregation crossed the field outside the Church for the blessing and opening of the new Mission Cottages Exhibition, housed in the former Marian Shrine building. This was conducted by Abbot John and the monks. Graham Taylor, a returned serviceman who had seen action overseas, including Vietnam, had been especially invited to come down from Geraldton for the occasion. Graham, wearing his array of military service medals, gave a heartfelt address to the parishioners and visitors, remembering his childhood experiences when living in the old cottages at New Norcia Mission.

After the opening of the Exhibition, everyone went over to the Cemetery, led by Abbot John, for a general blessing of the graves, with a special focus on the graves of the Aboriginal ancestors. All those present were invited to dip an olive branch into the holy water and to go around within the cemetery sprinkling holy water on the individual graves. One of the people attending remarked that this was a particularly significant event, as the Aboriginal Ancestors had not simply been acknowledged, according to the usual practice. On this occasion the whole gathering had also publicly prayed for their Ancestors and Predecessors and had blessed their graves.

In the time remaining before lunch, the visitors boarded their bus and set off, guided by Lester, to investigate the shearing shed, taking the track a little further north to Fletcher’s Brook and Peter’s Bridge. They also visited “the soak”, which was their traditional venue for “women’s business”.

Contributed by Abbot Bernard Rooney





**CHRISTMAS WEEK
TIMETABLE 2014**

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday till Midday as usual
Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

No Afternoon Prayer

6.30pm Vespers in Oratory
8.15pm Vigils in Oratory
10.30pm Midnight Mass in Abbey Church

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

7.45am Lauds in Oratory
9.00am Conventual Mass in Abbey Church
12.00noon Midday Prayer in Oratory

No Afternoon Prayer

5.30pm Solemn Vespers with Exposition & Benediction in Abbey Church
No Compline in Oratory

Friday 26 December Boxing Day

Timetable as usual

Then normal timetable until

Saturday 3 January 2015

4.00pm Afternoon tea in large parlour
5.00 pm Ecumenical Carol Service in Abbey Church
8.15pm Vigils in Oratory

New Norcia Library Lecture

As most people who attend this event travel more than 100km for the annual New Norcia Library Lecture, the visual glory of the wildflowers, followed by the New Norcia gardens in full bloom was a welcoming prelude to a full programme of interesting speakers and *show & tell*.

Keynote speaker, Carlos Lopez of Dalton McCaughey Library, [theological library in Melbourne], described the enormous project of providing electronic catalogue records for more than 77,000 items. Listeners gained an insight into some of the pragmatic decisions that facilitated this project.

In tribute to New Norcia's celebration of the Salvado bicentennial celebrations, the scholar and author, Fr David Barry, OSB, of New Norcia provided the audience with an appreciation of how archival resources such as letters and diaries give us an insight into the everyday life of Abbot Salvado and the early New Norcia community. These documents brought to life the role represented by books and the essential information required -- everything from how to use a theodolite, to medicine and homoeopathy; from how to teach needlework, to animal husbandry.

WorldCat representative, Susie Thorpe, expanded listeners' awareness of how libraries throughout the world are taking full advantage of today's access to, and sharing of, information. WorldCat is an aggregate catalogue -- this means that libraries worldwide are sharing their catalogue records on an international basis. The result enables libraries to redeploy their employees' time so that projects such as that undertaken by the Dalton McCaughey Library are achievable. Similarly, New Norcia Library's information is also being added to WorldCat, via the National Library of Australia.

Over lunch, librarians and many other attendees had an opportunity to network and share their ideas and experiences. The afternoon's *show & tell* programme divided everybody into two groups so they all had the opportunity to view both the *In Search of Salvado Bicentenary Exhibition* with its artefacts, photographs and magnificent cope, and the ornate Monastery Library. Fr David provided an overview of this part of the Library that was built and decorated in the early 1900s.

The fourth speaker was Rod Riley of Bolinda which is a well known long term Australian publisher of large print books. Bolinda has moved into e-audio books, and is increasingly developing its ebook access to Australian authors. Rod was pleased to announce that Bolinda is working very closely with the State Library of Western Australia so the members of public libraries in W.A. will have greater access to Bolinda's user friendly platform.

Will Yeoman was the final speaker for the day and he explored "reading words on a page" through his pastiche – *Murder in the Library*. With specific regard to reading the word on the electronic page, the phenomenon of *text ebooks* is a growth market that has confounded many expectations. Will contented that *enhancements* such as internet links in e-text actually interrupt and/or negate the reader's desire to bring their own imaginings to the words on the page, and hence the preference for the printed word on a *real* page or a plain text ebook. Extending this aspect of reading words on a page, Will said, "If books offer the freedom to imagine – which is very far from an imaginary freedom – then bookshops and libraries offer an escape from the virtual to the vital."

The professional development opportunities that the New Norcia Library Lecture offers were well represented by this year's speakers and I am sincerely grateful to them. *Contributed by Carolyn Talbot, Librarian.*



Abbey Press Workshop – An Educational perspective.

In October, The Education Centre held the first Abbey Press Workshop. This new venture has been made possible by Dr Claire Bolton, due to her hard work and dedication to the press and materials over the past years.



The attendees travelled from as far away as Kalgoorlie and felt privileged to lay their hands on the original printing machines and type used by the Benedictine monks in New Norcia.

Claire Bolton unveiled her expertise knowledge during the three day workshop and stated “We were delighted to be able to run the first Letterpress Workshop. There were five people printing in the printshop which was quite an achievement. Attendees learnt the rudiments of setting type by hand, inking their type with a hand roller, and printing on three different printing presses in a very busy three days. They produced a joint poster, a business card and a joint 8-page booklet, as well as visiting the Library and Archives to look at some treasures there”.

Contributed by Toni Tejada, Group Accommodation and Education Manager

Abbey Press Workshop – A student’s experience!

The chance to learn the craft and to appreciate the art, of Letterpress printing is not to be missed. There are few functioning collections of type and machinery in workable condition in WA, although worldwide there has been a growing interest in this practical art. Perhaps requiring tortuous patience for some, my fellow students and I accepted the challenge in an introductory workshop with UK expert Dr Claire Bolton in the revitalised Abbey Press at New Norcia in October this year



With 5 students, 3 industry ‘Old Boys’ and our tutor, the workshop felt lively and productive. After a brief tour of layout, content and basic approaches it was down to work to typeset, ink and print name cards, keepsake poster, pamphlet and booklet. Each utilised one of the restored original presses that formerly supplied the New Norcia community with printed material since 1927. In treasure-filled tray drawers most of the original design stamps and second-hand founts (many cast before 1891) remain, so it was a step back into time to take one’s place at the upper and lower cases, composing stick in hand. Although labour-intensive by today’s laptop-printer standards, Letterpress printing is both a highly-industrialised process and a cottage craft, both creative and pedantic, with unique design potential and multiple copies produced. It was indeed satisfying to hear the rhythmic whir of editions slurping through presses, and to feel the deep impress of inky print into velvety card or delicate paper. The smells, sounds, manual labour and the community of printers could become highly addictive...Quick we better sign up for another workshop!

Contributed by Marina Baker, Collections Manager

THE NEXT ABBEY PRESS WORKSHOP IS IN MARCH 2015. ONLY A FEW PLACES AVAILABLE. For more information on this unique course email the Groups Manager on groups@newnorcia.wa.edu.au



Adoration of the Magi

Fr Lesmes Lopez (1874-1945)

Oil on Canvas



On behalf of the monastic community and
everyone at New Norcia,
I wish you a very happy and
holy Christmas,
and abundant blessings for
the New Year.

Fr John Herbert, Abbot