

# WESTERN LINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

PROVINCE 20 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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NAME

## *Cliff Holloway honoured for 50 years of loyal Catenian service*

**It has been widely acknowledged that the birth of Catenianism in Western Australia was due, principally, to the untiring efforts, foresight and enthusiasm of two Catholic men who were members of the Catenian Association in Great Britain before migrating to Western Australia. It was largely through the persistence of these two: Cliff Holloway and Peter Maguire that the City of Perth Circle was formed in February 1977.**

Cliff, who was a member of Bournemouth Circle in the United Kingdom before migrating to Western Australia in 1971, was presented on 12 August 2020 with his 50-year Certificate in his home by the Chairman of Central Council and Province 20 Director, Ralph Fitzpatrick. Four fellow brothers of Fremantle Circle were present to witness the historic occasion with Cliff's wife, Vivienne and two sons, David and Andrew.



*Standing left to right: Kevin Hefron, Dick Finucane and Graham Mahony*

*Seated left to right: Ian Handcock, Cliff Holloway and Ralph Fitzpatrick*

When Cliff arrived in Perth in November 1971 he was given a warm welcome by Peter Maguire who had migrated and settled in Western Australia in 1962 and for six years had lived in Kalgoorlie. Cliff and Peter began recruiting other Catenian expatriates, but it was not until 1975 that a Formation Committee was set up with the addition of Ben Brucciani (Furness Circle in the UK), Bill Kerr (Lusaka Circle in Zambia) and Bernie Crannigan (Fleetwood Circle in the UK). At the outset Peter was asked to become the Founder President of the first Perth Circle and another Australian, Alan Smith with a true belief in the ideals of the brotherhood was nominated to be Vice President.

In the presence of Archbishop Goody, Bishops Peter Quinn and Robert Healy, many priests and senior officers of the Knights of the Southern Cross, the Catenian Association finally made it officially to Western Australia with the inauguration of the City of Perth Circle on 8 February 1977. Grand President, Jack Browning conducted the inauguration ceremony.

Peter Maguire was the Founder President and Cliff was the Founder Secretary.

When Cliff became the City of Perth's third President he set himself three main aims: to increase circle membership to 42; to form a circle in Fremantle; and to hold an ecumenical evening with community leaders of the Jewish Islamic joining with Christians of all denominations. He achieved all three, plus more.

With the support of Laurie Shervington and Brendan McGurk Grand President John Eyre inaugurated two new circles on successive evenings in 1981; Darling Range on Friday 27 February and Fremantle on Saturday 28 February.

A Founder member of the City of Perth Circle, Cliff later joined Como Circle when it was inaugurated in 1984 before transferring to Fremantle Circle on 1 August 1985.

### *The formation of Provincial Council*

As far as the Association's growth was concerned there were liaison problems developing in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Initially the Australian Liaison Council was based in Sydney and between 1977 and 1980 Cliff Holloway attended periodic meetings, but the vast size of Australia led Grand President John Eyre, after the inauguration of the Darling Range and Fremantle Circles to recommend to Grand Council that the Australian Council be replaced with two bodies; the Liaison Council East and the Liaison Council West.

Grand Council approved the proposal and the Liaison Councils were initially given the status of Area Councils and later full recognition as Provincial Councils, Province 20 (Western Australia) and Province 21 (Eastern Australia).

**Cliff Holloway was the President of Liaison Council West in 1981/82, Area Council West in 1982/83 and later Province 20 Provincial President in 1985/86.**

### *Visitors Cup*

Cliff Holloway introduced the Province 20 Visitors Cup, awarded to encourage inter-circle visiting. The perpetual trophy he donated is still keenly contested each year.

### *Honorary Life Membership*

**In 2007 Honorary Life Membership was awarded to three Brothers who worked with enthusiasm and perseverance to establish and grow the Catenian Association in Western Australia. These Catenian Brothers were: Laurie Shervington (deceased), Cliff Holloway and Brendan McGurk (deceased).**

## Directory

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Dianella	Norm Thompson
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Joondalup	Peter Johnston
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## Sharing the joy of the Rosary

### The power of prayer

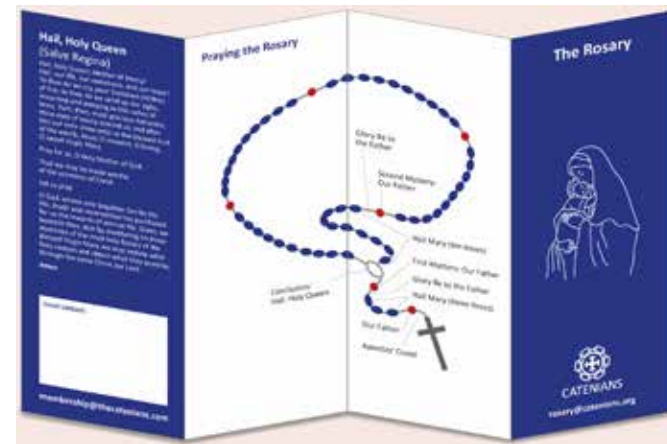
A recent initiative of Catenians in the United Kingdom to produce a leaflet 'Praying the Rosary', has been taken up by Province 20 with 4,000 leaflets printed locally for distribution by circles to parishes and schools within their areas. The sharing process in Province 20 has already begun and is expected to gather momentum in forthcoming months.

The initial idea came from a UK membership work group meeting, much like the membership and expansion workshop conducted by Province 20 at St Thomas More Parish in Bateman in October 2020.

The aim of the UK project was to find a way that the Catenian Association could interact with RCIA groups and engage with parish priests and schools to demonstrate how Catenians can help strengthen faith.

Most Catholics have experienced the power of prayer, but there is evidence that the praying of the Rosary has declined significantly over recent years.

This creates an opportunity, which has been extensively taken up in the UK with promising results with a similar outcome considered likely in Province 20.



### The aim of the Rosary leaflet

The intentions of the project are:

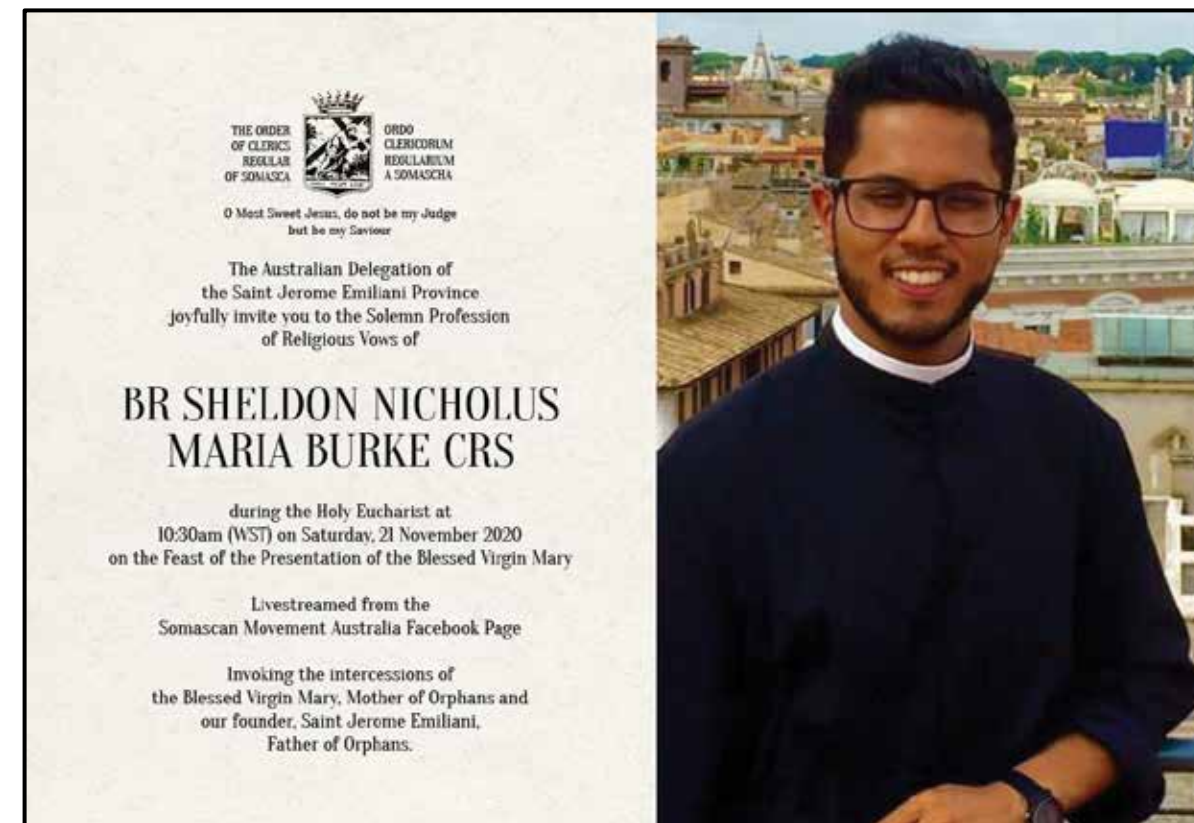
- To promote a better understanding of the Rosary as a prayer and an aid to meditation, thereby encouraging an increase in its use;
- To build improved Catenian relationships with parish priests by using the Rosary leaflet to help others; and
- To increase awareness of the Catenian Association by raising our profile which needs reinforcement in some parishes.

The Rosary leaflet is part of the process of engaging with the parish and schools by building relationships, by offering something extra, rather than asking for more.

The Catenian Rosary leaflet is available from:

**Provincial Secretary, Harry Muller**  
Telephone: 0408 193 664  
Email: [mullerhp@me.com](mailto:mullerhp@me.com)

## An important day in the life of a Religious



In November 2012, the Province 20 Youth Support Fund awarded a grant, sponsored by Canning Circle that set a young man on the path to the life of a Religious.

SHELDON BURKE was given a Catenian grant to attend a Youth Leaders Formation Course hosted by the Archdiocese of Sydney. He was one of 20 participants, comprising 12 girls and eight boys from the ages of 18 to 27 that shared a month-long journey that involved daily Masses, Divine Office Prayers and two lectures per day given by inspiring local and national speakers. It was this fruitful course that exposed him to young seminarians and religious life that, in his own words: "Started a fire in my own heart and allowed me to discover the unique calling towards holiness Our Lord has called to me."

After completing his studies in 2014 Sheldon began a process of vocational discernment with the Somascan Fathers in Rockingham/Spearwood parishes and in 2015 he left for northern Italy to complete his novitiate and professed his first vows in September 2015. Since then Sheldon has been based in Rome where he completed his philosophical studies.

Throughout his journey towards a vocation in religious life, Sheldon has often acknowledged the support given to him by the Catenian Association both financially and with their prayers and encouragement.

In a recent letter, Sheldon announced with great joy that he had made his Solemn Profession with the Somascan Fathers on 21 November 2020.

"It was the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where I handed over my life forever to be consecrated by Him through the vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience," he writes. "This was an occasion when we were united through the Holy Eucharist which transcends all physical boundaries and unites us as the one body of Christ. Please keep me in your prayers."





# Wonderful support for Commemorative Mass

A pleasing turnout of over 150 brothers, wives, widows and family attended the Province 20 Commemorative Mass held at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth on Sunday 8 November 2020.

The Mass was offered in memory of deceased Brothers and deceased wives of Brothers in Province 20, including those who passed away during the last twelve months Alan Hall, Ben Paul, Peter Colleran, Emeric Fonseca, Colin Johnson, Ged Kerrigan, Gerry Brennan and Con Schaper.

The Celebrant was Father Sean Fernandez, Dean and Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral.



Readers, Liana Fitzpatrick and Lou Daily pictured with Father Sean Fernandez and the choir in the background



Chris Downey

# Provincial President's luncheon

Following the Mass the Provincial President's luncheon was held at the Mt. Lawley Golf Club in Inglewood with a pleasing attendance of 128, an increase of almost 30 per cent on the previous year.

Special guests were Sister Frances Maguire and Sister Dora Maguire of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, South Perth and Stephen and Jane Johnston. Stephen was thanked for his valuable IT and computer design contributions to the Province over many years.



Pat McManus (Former Provincial President, Como) said Grace at the luncheon

Eleven of the 12 Province 20 circles were represented at the lunch including former members of the disbanded City of Busselton Circle, George Bazzica and his wife Elizabeth and Bill Middleton and his wife Kaye who made the journey to Perth for the occasion.

## Seen at the luncheon:



Francis and Daryl Barr (Liwara)



Lorraine and Kevin Parker with Taiwo Sanusi (Swan Valley)



Roselyn and Rocco Rechichi (Swan Valley)



Mike and Margaret Rushack (Liwara)



Maree and Peter Johnston (Joondalup)



Mary and John Carey (Liwara)



Norm Thompson (Dianella) with John and Sandy Weselman (Liwara)

# Special welcome to widows

Provincial President Lou Daily extended a very special welcome to the luncheon to several widows of deceased brothers, Pauline Herrington and Beryl Fitzgerald (City of Mandurah Circle), Roslyn Paul (Avon Valley Circle) and Jan Coffey, Patricia Hanrahan, Judy Humphris and Margaret Kerrigan (Fremantle Circle).

Lou emphasised the importance of inviting widows and providing transport to all circle and Catenian social functions, including the special annual Widows Luncheon coordinated by Pamela McKechnie and held at St Mary's Cathedral.



Left to right: Judy Humphris, Patricia Hanrahan and Jan Coffey



Left to right: Marie Finucane (wife of Fremantle President Richard Finucane), Margaret Kerrigan and Jan Bourne (visitor)





## The life of Saint Mary MacKillop

The guest speaker at the Provincial President's luncheon was Sister Frances Maguire, accompanied at the annual function by her elder sister, Sister Nora Maguire of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Mary MacKillop Centre in South Perth.



**Sister Frances at the Provincial President's luncheon**

Sister Frances traced the life of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop from the date of her birth in Fitzroy in Melbourne on 15 January 1842, the eldest of eight children of Scottish immigrant parents Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald. Sister Frances spoke of Mary's family responsibilities and her journey as a teacher leading to her opening the first St Joseph's school in a disused stable in Penola in South Australia and the establishment of the new Congregation of Sisters, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1867. Other young women came to join her and together they opened schools for working-class children in the poorer parts of cities and in isolated towns and communities across the newly emerging colonies in Australia.

With the help of the Sisters other centres of care were established such as orphanages, refuges and houses of Providence for the destitute, lonely and sick. Mary MacKillop brought hope and love to those considered least in the Australian colonies of this period.

**On 19 January 1995, Mary MacKillop was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Sydney and on 17 October 2010 was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome.**

With the blessing of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop became a Patron Saint of the Catenian Association in Australia, formalized at a Mass in the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney on her Feast Day 8 August 2020, the Solemnity of the Saint.



**Pat McManus (Como) with Sister Dora Maguire**

## Dianella Circle, winner of the Kevin Brady award

**Congratulations to Dianella Circle; the 2020 winner of the Annual Kevin Brady Award presented to the Province 20 Circle that recruits the most new members in the 12 months ended 30 September each year.**

With four new brothers installed by the circle in 2019/20, the award was presented to a delighted President, Vern Scanlan and Membership Officer, Lou Daily at the Provincial luncheon held at the Mt Lawley Golf Club on Sunday 8 November 2020.

It's the fourth time that Dianella has won the keenly contested award. Dianella's outstanding success in recruiting new members was previously recognised worldwide when the circle won the International trophy for 2016/17 presented at the Great Britain National Conference in Bristol, England.

Kevin Brady passed away in 2005. A member of Como and Fremantle Circles, he is remembered as a hard-working, committed brother who embraced the spirit of the Catenian ethos and was a regular visitor to all circles in the Province.

The award given by Province 20 comprises a perpetual trophy in Kevin's honour plus a signed citation.



**Dianella President Vern Scanlan and Membership Officer Lou Daily**

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## Visitors Cup stays portside

Represented by nine brothers (about 21 per cent of the 43 visiting brothers from circles in Province 20), it was no surprise when Dianella Circle President, Vern Scanlan announced that Fremantle was the winner of the coveted Visitors Cup on Wednesday 30 September 2020. This is the second straight victory for the portside circle, however Fremantle will host the next Visitors Cup at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle on 18 March 2021 denying it the chance of recording an unprecedented "hat trick" of victories.

Dianella hosted the September event at the Mt. Lawley Golf Club in Inglewood with a total attendance of 75 brothers from 10 circles including 32 from Dianella. The outstanding success of the evening was due to the good work of Vern Scanlan and his hard working Council.



**Fremantle President, Dick Finucane (left) receives the trophy from Provincial President Lou Daily and Vern Scanlan**



**The victory speech given by a proud Fremantle President Dick Finucane**



**Winners are gridders, left to right: Michael Yap, Alex Banovich, John Sutton, Frank Alilovic, Dick Finucane (holding the trophy), Peter Golding, Graham Mahony, Peter McCutcheon and Kevin Hefron**

"It was a remarkably interesting and enjoyable evening with all brothers given pre-selected table seating for the dinner to encourage a good interchange of conversation between members of different circles," writes Dianella Publicity Officer, Norm Thompson. "An enjoyable night was had by all with the hosts making sure that all visiting brothers were well provided for."

## New brother welcomed

The formal meeting was kept as simple as possible with brothers from all circles given the opportunity to provide input. The highlight of proceedings was the installation of a new member to Dianella Circle, Glenn Dhue who was a little overwhelmed to have been enrolled on such a special night before such a large gathering of Catenian brothers.



**Dianella President, Vern Scanlan, Chairman of Central Council and Province 20 Director, Ralph Fitzpatrick, Glenn Dhue, sponsor Bob Burns and Provincial President, Lou Daily**

Following dinner the Vice President of Dianella Circle, Peter Kora, who is well known by many Catenian brothers for the help and advice he has provided through his tourist travel business, *Au Revoir Travel*, gave an entertaining talk full of good humour about early days in the travel business.



**Peter Kora donned the furry cap that he wore on a trip to Europe with a host of Catenian Brothers many years ago**

## Archbishop Costelloe to attend next Visitors Cup

Fremantle Circle is busy planning and organising the next Province 20 Visitors Cup, which will be held on Thursday 18 March 2021 at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle.

Guests of Honour at the function will be the Most Rev. Timothy Costelloe, Archbishop of Perth who has accepted an invitation by Fremantle Circle to attend.

The evening will also be unique in so far as it will be a joint meeting between four Province 20 circles, Canning, Como, Fremantle and the City of Perth.

All circles in Province 20 are strongly encouraged to make an extra effort to have as many brothers as possible attend this very special and unique event.





## Visitors Cup March 2021



*Strengthening family life through  
friendship and faith*

**Fremantle Circle No 291**

**Joint meeting with Canning, Como and City  
of Perth Circles**

**Province 20  
VISITORS CUP**

**Swan Yacht Club**

**Riverside Road, East Fremantle**

**THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021**

**6.15 pm for 6.30 pm meeting**

**\$45.00 per head**

**Circle treasurers to collect payment from their  
brothers attending the Visitors Cup and submit  
to the Fremantle Circle Treasurer, Kevin Hefron.**

***Lists and payment to be submitted no  
later than Monday 8 March 2021***

## Programme

- ❖ 6.15 pm Registration
- ❖ 6.30 pm Meeting
- ❖ 7.30 pm Dinner
- ❖ Grace: Most Rev Timothy Costelloe  
Archbishop of Perth
- ❖ 8.30 pm Presentation of the Visitors Cup to  
the winning circle

### Guest of honour

- The Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB DD  
Archbishop of Perth
- Ralph Fitzpatrick, Province 20 Director  
and Central Council Chairman

### Table settings

- Eight or nine per round table
- Table numbers and free raffle ticket will be  
issued at registration
- Red and white wine and water provided at  
tables
- "Cash only" bar service

### Free door prizes

Prize winners of the 20-bottle\* free door prizes  
will receive wine vouchers for collection from any  
Dan Murphy outlet to conform with regulations  
imposed on the Swan Yacht Club by WA Liquor  
Laws

\*Prize numbers may be varied, depending on attendance

### Profit

Fremantle Circle will share any profit (after  
expenses) made from the Visitors Cup function  
with the Province 20 Youth Support Fund

## Structure in place for the development of International Regions

The inauguration of the International Regional Council in July 2020 will provide the framework for the development of the Catenian Association outside Great Britain. It was the first major initiative since restructure in 2016 and recognises the potential of the International Regions together with the responsibility of delivering those expectations for the Association.

With more than 800 members and 32 circles (just under 10 percent of the Association), the International Regions cover all areas outside Great Britain and Australia. The international areas comprise Zimbabwe, South Africa, Malta, Ireland, India, Nazareth and Bangladesh and plans are in place to double membership over the next three years with a goal of having more than 40 circles.

The President of the International Regional Council, John Rayer said at the inauguration ceremony in July 2020 that the formal bringing together of the circles outside the existing National Councils is an historic moment.

"In broad terms," he said, "we shall be identifying the opportunities in Europe, Africa and Asia and agreeing priorities and actions fully aware that the areas in the International Regions are diverse and bring their own opportunities and threats."

The Catenian Association has a rich history when it comes to expanding overseas. The first circle outside Great Britain was Bulawayo in April 1959, closely followed by Harare, both in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

In 1968 the first circle in Ireland was created in Dublin; the second in Cork two years later.

Mensija Circle was inaugurated in Malta in 1981 and Malta went on to develop six circles and became a Province in 2019, the first one in the International Regions.

Panjim in Goa was the first Indian Circle, inaugurated in 2009 with more circles following. Malad Circle in Mumbai was formed in 2014 and further expansion followed resulting in circles in three states. Then followed Dhaka in Bangladesh in 2015 and Nazareth in 2016.

### Members of the International Regions Council

**JOHN RAYER** is the IRC President. He has visited all the regions where there are circles and was present for the inauguration of the first circle in India.

He is a Past Grand President who was involved in the restructure and, with an Australian Catenian developed the existing *Handbook and Manual of Procedure*. He was part of the team reviewing the Association's financial systems and was Director for development areas.

Other members of the Council are:

**Joe Delia** (Vice President), Director of Province 23 Malta  
**Bernard Noakes**, recently the Association and GBNC Secretary  
**Gerry Barton**, (Treasurer), Province 20 Perth  
**Eugene Das**, President Area Council 31 Mumbai  
**David Brinkley**, Former Director for development areas  
**Brendan Leer**, a Director of GBNC  
**Kim Robertson**, Harare North  
**Peter Woodford**, Past Grand President

### IRC plan

The formation of the IRC is the first major initiative since restructure in 2016. It recognises the potential of the International Regions together with the responsibility of delivering those expectations for the Association.

The initial IRC plan, subject to the limitations and uncertainty created in the regions by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, include the following:

- ❖ Controlled expansion into neighbouring countries building on current circles;
- ❖ Bringing India to National Council status within the decade;
- ❖ Having Europe or Africa (or both) growing when India becomes a National Council and leaves the IRC;
- ❖ Agreeing a standard methodology;
- ❖ Noting that all the regions started with an existing Catenian or Catenians with links to or having a base in the potential country (the size of the Catholic community in the country did not appear to matter);
- ❖ Awareness that opposition can come from non-Catenian Catholic fraternities already established in the selected location; and
- ❖ Awareness that the support of the hierarchy is essential to overcome barriers, open doors and identify potential leaders and members.

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# What the members are thinking

## Liwara brothers’ responses to questionnaire

In the October edition of the Western Link, Liwara Circle shared a 12-point discussion paper that was distributed to their brothers seeking opinions about the conduct of meetings, dinners and social functions in a post-COVID-19 environment.

Liwara President Terry Dwyer reports that the feedback from the paper was positive and the circle has already complied with the wishes of members and made changes to the conduct of meetings.

Dianella Circle has also taken up the initiative with some modifications to questions. The responses of the 21 members who responded to the Liwara exercise are summarised below for the benefit of other circles in Province 20.

### REGALIA. Should regalia only be used for formal meetings (AGM's and joint meetings) and otherwise only worn by the President?

Yes:	17
Neutral:	3
No:	1

### DRESS CODE. Should the circle adopt a smart casual dress code except for formal meetings?

Yes:	17
Neutral:	2
No:	2

### PRAYERS. Should the circle continue to say prayers for our sick, families and deceased brothers with the President able to choose one of the three bidding prayers or choose an alternative prayer?

Yes:	17
Neutral:	2
No:	2

### SHOULD WE HAVE A SHORT REFLECTION presented by the President from time to time?

Yes:	19
Neutral:	0
No:	2

### CIRCLE CHAPLAIN. Is there a need or appetite for this appointment?

Yes:	5
Neutral:	0
No:	16

### OUR LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL. Should the circle be more involved perhaps with a “teachers night” involving the Principal and RE coordinators?

Yes:	10
Neutral:	1
No:	10

### MORE INPUT FROM LONG-STANDING CATENIANS about how they think the circle is going, particularly if they are thinking about resigning?

Yes:	15
Neutral:	1
No:	5

### SEEK SUGGESTIONS FROM “NEWER” MEMBERS about how they are finding Catenians?

Yes:	18
Neutral:	3
No:	0

### RECRUITMENT. Is what we are offering adequate to make a potential new member happy to join us?

Yes:	11
Neutral:	10
No:	0

### SOCIAL EVENTS. Are there enough?

Yes:	20
Neutral:	0
No:	1

### MENTORING OF NEW MEMBERS. Is it the responsibility of the sponsoring brother to mentor a new member for at least 12 months?

Yes:	17
Neutral:	3
No:	1

### KEEPING IN TOUCH BETWEEN MEETINGS. Should this responsibility be kept ad-hoc as at present or more formally as the circle did during the COVID-19 lockdown?

Yes:	21
Neutral:	0
No:	0

# Positive vibes from membership workshop

Twenty-two brothers representing most Province 20 circles came away from a membership/expansion workshop held on Saturday 31 October 2020 with renewed confidence about the future.



Facilitated by Provincial Vice President and Chair of the Provincial Membership and Expansion Committee, Chris Downey, brothers shared a range of successful approaches to recruitment and retention pursued by their own circles generating a free exchange of established and fresh ideas.

Despite the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, all circles reported some

recruitment activity during the calendar year, with several circles achieving exceptional results.

## Personal approach yields best results

Shared experiences from circles were consistent that formal presentations at Masses did not bring about positive results immediately, but were useful in raising the Catenian profile within parishes. Most success was brought about by personal approaches followed up by an invitation to attend a circle meeting soon after the contact was established.

Other useful techniques included Catenian support of parish activities such as morning teas and working bees with brothers wearing name badges.

## Financial incentives

Brothers were reminded of an ongoing commitment by Central Council to provide financial assistance of \$150 to circles for every new member installed with no restrictions on how these funds were to be utilised whether in funding recruitment expenses such as complimentary dinners or reduced subscription fees in the initial period of membership.

## Successful recruitment processes

Current and former membership officers who had achieved success in their roles willingly shared useful techniques that resulted in the recruitment of new members, including involving wives when potential members were considering joining.

Informative statistics provided by John Sutton and Ralph Fitzpatrick revealed that the current average of age of members is around 73 years, highlighting the need to target men 10 years or more below this average.

It was agreed that, given the average age of the existing membership base, it is imperative that during the next twenty years the Province needs to actively recruit younger men for the survival of the Association.

## Retention

The vital necessity of mentoring new members, retaining their interest and invigorating long-established members whose interest may be waning was identified at the workshop as a process that needed to be actively pursued by all circles.

It was acknowledged that to ensure circle meetings and activities are relevant and appealing to members it is important to regularly determine their interests and “likes” and “dislikes” about meetings, dinners, events and social functions. In this regard in September 2020 Liwara Circle surveyed brothers with a discussion paper inviting responses to a 12-point questionnaire and where relevant comments and opinions. Dianella Circle subsequently carried out a similar exercise. Some of the responses in both circles were implemented immediately, particularly relating to formality, dress code and regalia. A summary of results from the Liwara Circle survey has been included on the facing page.

There was general consensus from workshop participants that circles need to be “in-touch” with their members about meeting processes, dinners and social functions and to be responsive to meeting their needs.

## Diversification of membership

Cliff Chalon presented statistics on Australia’s population, both post-WWII and in more recent years including immigration from all sources, but especially Catholic countries.

In the course of discussion, it was generally agreed that the Association needed to be more diverse, moving from the traditional Anglo-Saxon base to recruit more Catholic men from parts of Asia, Africa and the sub-continent. With diversity comes inclusiveness and it was stressed that all new members need to be welcomed and included in circle activities and Council roles.

## Expansion plans

Chris Downey provided details of the Provincial Membership and Expansion Committee’s plans for expansion into urban growth corridors, leveraging off existing circles. He said that the geographic areas to be targeted for growth and expansion had been identified in the committee’s 2019 “Recruitment and Expansion Report”.

It was noted that some area of circle growth are “near-city”, but most are in the extensive population growth corridors north and south and southeast of Perth where new housing, schools, some parishes and Mass centres now operate.

Chris outlined how satellite circles close to or aligned with growth corridors could adopt these areas for expansion and then form Catenian Groups with a later view of them becoming new Circles. He said that this would be a medium to long-term proposition.

## Action plans for 2021/22

Workshop participants were challenged to prepare and adopt an Action Plan for membership within their region; a leadership task for Circle Councils to draft and then present to members with three targeted dimensions:

## Recruitment

## Retention

## Expansion





# Silent nights in Bethlehem

**The Christmas season is approaching and Bethlehem's hotel rooms would normally be full by now. The city would be looking forward to over a million tourists and pilgrims coming to visit the Church of the Nativity and enjoying the unique experience of Christmas in the Holy Land, but this year the hotels are empty and the streets are silent.**

For the families living in Bethlehem and in tourist sites across the Holy Land it's a disaster. Eighty percent of Bethlehem's residents depend on tourism for their daily bread. They are the artisans who make souvenirs, the shop workers who sell them, the taxi drivers, tour guides and photographers who look after the pilgrims.

Nobody could have predicted the COVID-19 pandemic or that this total collapse of tourism could last until Christmas. The whole of the Holy Land is now suffering from a lack of visitors that is set to continue deep into 2021.

Thanks to the generosity of Catenian Association brothers, their families and other donors who responded quickly to a campaign in March, Friends of the Holy Land have been doing what they can to look after our Christian families caught up in the COVID-19 crisis.

Friends of the Holy Land has increased its emergency grants by 75 percent so far this year to meet the needs of 450 households around Bethlehem and a further 300 families elsewhere in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan who have all suddenly lost their income.

Majdi Fleifel is one Bethlehem Christian who has lost his job at a souvenir shop and has come to Friends of the Holy Land for help. He is a Christian father of two from Bethlehem. The shop is normally packed, especially in the run-up to Christmas. This year COVID-19 restrictions have locked the doors and it's eerily silent. Majdi has been laid off with no government support. He has travelled all over the city and even to Jerusalem looking for any kind of work, but the story is the same everywhere; nobody is hiring and he's getting deeper into debt.

As COVID-19 closures go on the need of Majdi and others keeps growing. Large numbers of desperate people are now coming to the Bethlehem office of Friends of the Holy Land every day and more funds are desperately needed to get families through the empty Christmas period and the next six months before pilgrims hopefully come back to the Holy Land.

Thanks to COVID-19 Christmas around the World will certainly look different this year, but the difference in the Holy Land will be dramatic; from a time of plenty to a scramble to survive the season.

So brothers of the Catenian Association are asked to turn their thoughts to Bethlehem this Christmas and New Year and remember the Christians who have lost everything and send a gift to get them through.

When pilgrims do begin to return it will take some time for these families to recover.

Perhaps circles in the Catenian Association will consider the work of Friends of the Holy Land as a worthy beneficiary of their President's Charity for 2020/21 and the following Catenian year, 2021/22.

Many thanks and Christmas and New Year blessings are extended to all brothers, ladies and their families from the team at Friends of the Holy Land.

## Donations

Christmas 2020: COVID-19 has completely shut down the Holy Land's tourist industry.

No Christmas tourism means no income for 80 percent of the people of Bethlehem.

Could you support a Holy Land family through the crisis with a special Christmas gift?

Until the pilgrims return it may be the only lifeline they get.

THANK YOU

Make a donation now by visiting:

[www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/Christmas](http://www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/Christmas)

## Reflections on the Catenian journey with St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop

*By Ralph Fitzpatrick  
Province 20 Director  
Chairman of Central Council*

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop became a Patron Saint of the Catenian Association in Australia at a Mass of Solemnity held on her Feast Day on 8 August 2020 in the Chapel in her name in North Sydney. For the Sisters of Saint Joseph this was a particularly joyful celebration because it fell in the tenth anniversary year of the canonisation of the Founder of their Congregation.

In his welcoming address to the Mass of Solemnity and Ritual of Dedication to the Saint, the Chairman of Central Council, Ralph Fitzpatrick said that for Catenians this was not only a celebration of the holiness and heroic virtue of a woman who lived the Gospel in a uniquely Australian way, but also a celebration of reaching a milestone on the Catenian Association's journey, which in 2021 reaches yet another milestone – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation in Australia.



"It was not until her beatification in 1995 that St. Mary MacKillop became part of the Catenian journey in Australia," Ralph said. "By the end of that year most if not all circles in Australia had spontaneously included Blessed Mary MacKillop in the intercessions that conclude prayers at every meeting."

"In the years since 1995 many circles have had the benefit of at least one dinner at which a Josephite Sister had spoken eloquently of the life and ministry of Blessed Mary and, after her canonisation, St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop."

"These encounters while we gathered in Christ's name have enriched the spiritual life of our brotherhood and opened us to the possibility that our lives as Catenians could be lived with a uniquely Australian spirituality within an international context."

"Our individual and collective spiritual life was further enriched by having placed before us the example of the faith of St. Mary MacKillop and trust in a loving and provident God; her response to God's call to provide for those in need, her reverence and respect for the dignity of all and her affection for her Sisters and for those she served. As Catenians we were prepared for the period of discernment on which we were to embark by her example of attentively listening for the movement of the Holy Spirit in her life."

"Our journey to discerning that uniquely Australian Catenian spirituality began in earnest at the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian National Conference held in Sydney in 2014. That conference commenced the process of discerning the direction of the Association in today's Australia by reflecting on and responding to the questions posed by Pope Francis in his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*."

"Through successive Australian National Conferences, workshops, surveys, discussions and prayerful contemplation the journey has woven its way through and into the wider currents of discernment and renewal within the Catenian Association. A renewal that has brought us new Constitutional Documents enunciating the Catenian principles and establishing the Central and National Councils and more recently, the future focused Woodford Report by the Strategic Work Group of Central Council."

"It is the discernment of our Australian National response to that report that brings us to the latest milestone in our Association's Australian journey."

"The Catenian experience has always been one of friendship, faith and respect for our Catenian brothers. The Spirit moves us to provide practical support for brothers in difficulty, our departed brothers' widows, young Catholics, the clergy and the wider community."

"It is in our experience of faith based friendship that we discern the spiritual dimension of the Catenian experience."

"In Chapter 15 of St John's Gospel Jesus speaks to His disciples about His relationship with them. It is a relationship as intimate as that of a vine and its branches, it is a relationship of divine and perfect love, it is a relationship in which His disciples are His friends. It is a relationship which He commands they are to have with each other; a relationship of interdependence in which each is as dependent on the other as a branch is to its vine."

"The milestone that we now celebrate is our acknowledgement that our Australian expression of Catenian spirituality is a spirituality of interdependence; one lived through faith, friendship, respect and service".

"That acknowledgement calls us to its proclamation by placing our brotherhood under her patronage as our Australian Patron Saint."

"During this Mass celebrating St. Mary MacKillop's Feast Day we gather at her tomb and make that proclamation in the presence of the Congregational leaders of the Sisters of Saint Joseph who, by their ministry, live the charisma of St. Mary MacKillop before the Church and, particularly, the people of Australia."

"May our Catenian brotherhood reflect her charisma as authentically".

*Welcome address given by Ralph Fitzpatrick  
Catenian Association in Australia  
at the Mass of Solemnity of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop  
and Ritual of Dedication to the Saint*



# My 40 years in the travel industry

by Peter Kora  
Dianella Circle  
Au Revoir Travel

This is my travel industry story going back to 1980 when I was appointed State Manager of ANZ Travel, writes Peter Kora. At that time I knew nothing about travel having not been overseas since I came out to Australia from Budapest as a young child.



To start with I soon learned that you had to attend a lot of luncheons and more importantly, learn the jargon used to communicate with others in the travel industry. As an example Qantas was called "Quaintass", British Airways was called "Bugger All", Air India was "Scare India" and "Overrides" were the extra commission we received from airlines.

Two months after taking on my new job I had a call from the Air India representative who asked if he could drop into the office as he had an *override* for me. The Rep came in with a brown paper bag that contained my *override* or commission of \$2,000 in cash. I was very surprised, but this was how the industry worked. I had to accept it and share it around.

In 1982 I was a guest of Qantas with other agents to watch the AFL Grand Final at the MCG. The game was between Carlton and Richmond and we had excellent seats right on the boundary. A memorable highlight was when a blonde "streaker" jumped the fence on the other side of the oval and ran straight towards us grabbing Bruce Doull's headband on the way. With the police in pursuit".

My first overseas trip was to Yugoslavia for 10 days in 1983 visiting magnificent places like Split, Dubrovnik and Plitvice Lake. That trip really got me more attuned to our travel business.



One story I must tell was about my trip to Bombay in 1984 travelling with Air India. Behind the takeoff area where our plane was lined up ready to depart Bombay there was a ditch about 100 metres long. Near the ditch there was at least 100 Indian children and adults with a long rope with recently washed wet clothes on it.

When the pilot started to rev up the aircraft engines and slowly taxi down the runway the Indian locals would run behind the plane to dry their wet clothes in the hot exhaust airflow.



Indian locals drying their clothes on the airport takeoff area

Then in 1984 I went back to my birthplace, Hungary. Both of my parents were on the "Russian blacklist" and not allowed back into the country due to their escape out of Hungary during the Second World War. When I arrived at immigration the officer said to me in Hungarian "where are you staying?" I replied in my broadest Aussie accent "sorry mate, I don't speak Hungarian."

The officer looked at me and said in English: "Mr. Kora please answer the question. We know you speak Hungarian." I had chills up and down my spine and was told I would be required to report to the police station twice a week. I learned the lesson quickly. Always cooperate with Immigration when entering their country.

In September 1989 I was escorting a group of five corporate clients to the VFL Grand Final in Melbourne between Hawthorn and Geelong. It was the year of the pilots' dispute. We were due to fly with Ansett and I knew Sir Peter Abeles who came from Vienna and Budapest and became CEO of the airline. I phoned Sir Peter and asked him how long the air strike might go on for, and he said it would be at least until Christmas.



With this inside information I immediately booked seating on the interstate train from Perth to Adelaide and then through to Melbourne, first Class for all of us. On the Saturday we watched the "best ever" Grand Final with Geelong down eight goals at the third-quarter break and then Gary Ablett Snr. kicked seven goals in the last quarter for Geelong for them to go down to the Hawks by just one goal.

On the Monday we drove to Adelaide, spent two nights in the Barossa Valley and then flew Adelaide to Perth with British Airways who were picking up passengers going to Singapore. This diversion was due to all domestic travel being on strike, but international airlines were not involved in the pilots' dispute.

In 1992 I was appointed State Manager of Traveland who had 70 franchises and eight agencies owned by Ansett, which they wanted to sell. In 1997 my partner and I met with Sir Peter Abeles and purchased their travel business.

We had a great time in this business from 1997 through to 2001 then the 9/11 terrorist attack happened in New York and travel came to a standstill followed by the Bali bombing in 2002 and travel was in crisis. After a lot of consideration, I made the decision to sell my share of the business to my partner and in 2003 joined *Au Revoir Travel* part time as a shareholder.

A few year later in 2006 I escorted 40 people to Eastern Europe where we then boarded our own Insight Travel Coach starting in Vienna then to Warsaw, Cracow, Belarus, Moscow, St Petersburg, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Berlin, Budapest and then back to Perth in a grand total of 21 days.



Out Insight travel coach

Some major highlights of that tour were watching the West Coast Eagles win the 2006 AFL Grand Final against the Sydney Swans live in an Irish pub at 6.00 am and visiting the Hill of Crosses in Vilnius; ten miles of large and small crosses (over 10,000 of them) along the roadside where Russians demolished all Catholic Churches.



Crosses in the hills of Vilnius

There were many more exciting parts of our journey, of course. One of the benefits of this trip was that everyone on the coach new each other before the journey started and this is what made it so special. All our tourists aboard the coach told me that it was one of the most interesting trips they had ever done and at the same time, gave them a far greater in-depth view of life on the other side of the world.

Contributed by Peter Kora  
Dianella Circle

## Australia, a great place to visit

Contributed by Norm Thompson,  
Dianella Circle

When you start thinking about holidays again, you might reflect on how many Australians go overseas and ignore travelling around our own beautiful country, through all the States to enjoy the unique beauties our wonderful nation has to offer.

We have all been limited in our holiday options due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State of Victoria has been particularly hard-hit but it really has some wonderful places to visit and should be included on our travel lists while overseas destinations are closed.

We have all heard of the Dandenong Ranges. Situated less than an hour from the Melbourne CBD amid cool ferny glades and lush towering native forests, *SkyHigh* is one of Victoria's premier tourist attractions with magnificent views to be experienced day or night over the Melbourne skyline.

You can stroll through the beautiful landscaped gardens, take a forest walk under a canopy of Australian Eucalypts and visit the *Australiana Tree*.



There you will also see and wonder at some delightful Australian arts carved into the Eucalyptus trees by renowned artist Leigh (Roy) Conkie. These are a couple of his creations, a Kangaroo and Koala Bear:





## Where have all the golfers gone?

The cancellation of the annual Liwara golf competition in November 2020 due to a lack of entries was very disappointing, not just because the event was cancelled, but because in the past golf has been an important component in the promotion of inter-circle comradeship. Not the only part, but shared with the Visitors Cup, Day of Reflection, Provincial Mass and luncheon, circle visits and joint meetings.

Competitive golf was first introduced by the City of Perth Circle around 1980, escalating to when the Province 20 Catenian Golf Society was formed conducting five golf competitions a year with a membership of about 40 under the leadership of Gerry Emslie (Como Circle) who passed away in 2016.

In those halcyon days the City of Mandurah, City of Perth, Liwara, Dianella, Como and Swan Valley hosted competitions under the banner of the Catenian Golf Society reaching a peak, as far as records show, of eight events in 2004. Each year's events culminated with a Provincial competition at the end of the calendar year with individual stableford and teams competitions.

In those days, the records show that Catenian latecomers had to be turned away when competition golf was held at the Rosehill Country Club and a course *quota* of 36 players was reached.

After 20 years the Catenian Golf Society was disbanded in 2010 after which circles were required to organise and run their own competitions. Province continued, however to run its own end-of-year individual stableford and teams competition, then organised by Provincial Secretary Rolf Bank.

The final Provincial competition was held in November 2013 when Joondalup won the individual stableford and perpetual team trophy, which are still in the loving care of the circle until, hopefully, one day with the drive of an enthusiastic, dedicated convenor golf reemerges as a regular Catenian event in Province 20.

In the meantime, Dianella, Darling Range and Liwara continue to hold annual competitions and are anxious to attract players, experienced, novices or "hackers" it doesn't matter.

***Liwara Circle has scheduled its next competition for May 2021 and will be circulating details early in the year.***

## It's time to write your life story

***Some very sound advice from a Dianella Catenian brother, Norm Thompson***

With the self-isolation and restrictions on outside activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic it has been a good time for me to have a look at old family photos and letters and then relax in the privacy of my home office to update my life story.



Some five years before my father passed away in 1984 (that makes it around 1989) I decided it would be best to listen to his life story and at the same time record his very numerous good and bad times, including the Second World War, before his memory started to decline. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

***Norm Thompson***

In a previous edition of the *Western Link* I was able to provide a very brief summary of my life story, but had I been able to include my story to date in full it would have taken a further 96 pages along with photos, which I believe provides readers a greater depth, understanding and involvement in your own stories.

The main reason I mention this to all Catenian brothers is that we are all getting a bit older and if you haven't started, I strongly suggest that you take action now so that your family including children and grandchildren will be able to reflect back on the family history going back well into the 1800's at least.

If you're not a computer literate person, then the easiest way to get started is to write down a few notes on specific events and when you get together with a family member, get them to take a recording of your various life history reflections, which can then be updated in written format with any related photos on a computer document.

Once you start to get involved in your life story you will find it gives you great satisfaction and you will then find that small things come to mind that relate back many years in your earlier life.

If you have any concerns about how to get started, I am sure there will be a few Catenians in your circle that could provide support.

***Norm Thompson***

## St. Mark and the first Gospel

***Written by Barry Drew***

As the year 70AD approached Christianity faced crises on several fronts. The church had no writings of its founder, no list of teachings and not even an account of his life or teachings. There was no structured organisation. If anyone had a question it was referred to the founder of that community, e.g. Paul. The number of people with first hand experience of the life and teachings of Christ was thinning rapidly. The apostles Peter and Paul had recently been executed in Rome and James had been executed in Jerusalem. Most of the other apostles were probably dead or had moved to remote parts of the known world, like Andrew and Thomas. Christianity had expanded very rapidly but now needed to consolidate.



***Barry Drew  
Darling Range Circle***

The community in Jerusalem faced many problems. Christians were very unpopular with the Jews because of their belief that Christ was equal/one with the Father. Many had moved out including St. John and Mary, Christ's mother who had moved to Ephesus in Turkey.

More seriously, in 70AD there were rumblings of rebellion against Roman rule. The Scribes and Sadducees felt that the temple was the centre of their religion so the infidels must be driven out. The Zealots still believed that they were God's chosen people so God would protect them in their uprising. The Pharisaic sect was based on the Scriptures, which were portable, so they moved out rather than risk dying for the defence of the temple building. Likewise the Messianic Jews (Christians) had no great love for the temple or the establishment so they also moved out. Only these last two groups survived the Roman siege and the dispersal that followed. In the uprising the temple and all of its contents were destroyed or taken to Rome as spoils.

Mark had recently arrived in Rome as Peter's scribe. Peter probably could speak Aramaic, Latin and Greek but it is unlikely that he could read or write. With the death of Peter pressure was applied on Mark to write an account of the life of Christ.

"Mark" was a common name so we are not sure which Mark was the author of this first Gospel. It may have been the young man who followed Christ and the apostles as they went from the supper room to Gethsemane. It may have been the young man John Mark who accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey, but then moved off with his uncle, Barnabas. While in Prison in Rome Paul named Mark as his most faithful follower. Our Mark may have been

any or all of these. We are told that Mark never saw or heard Christ but knew most of the apostles.

So, many years after the death of Christ when Mark started to write his gospel nobody could recall the exact sequence of events in Christ's public life, nor was that considered important. Mark decided to present his gospel as a mystery story rather than a chronological account and arranged the events to suit his theme. Christ is the mystery. It is presumed that we, the readers, know whom Christ is or we would be reading the account. It is the role of the apostles to find the answer. Mark depicts them as slow learners. Foreigners, demons and pagans all declare Christ to be the Son of God but the apostles do not grasp it.

The general outline of Mark's gospel is from the baptism of Christ to his burial. Christ appears by the river Jordan where John is preaching and baptising. There is no family tree in this account; unlike Matthew and Luke's accounts and as was normal in Jewish literature. Christ is a mysterious person who just appears in public. There is no account of his life before his baptism.

Mark introduces Christ as the Son of God but also a man who experiences strong emotions. Malachi foretold the coming of a prophet, Elijah who would be a "voice crying in the wilderness", sent to cleanse the chosen people. John is the new Elijah. He preaches by the Jordan and baptises those who listen. Among the Jews baptism was normally reserved for converts to the Jewish religion. John exhorts all to be baptised to prepare themselves for the coming of the Holy One.

Mark's whole account portrays a struggle between the Son of God and unclean spirits. From the start the reader knows that Jesus is divine. So also do the demons, but not his apostles. The only human to recognise Christ and proclaim his divinity is one of his executioners.

Christ is a preacher who teaches in parables and works miracles to prove that his actions and teachings have God's endorsement. But, using his theme of mystery, Mark has Christ's parables causing more confusion than clarity. "*The sower went forth to sow his seed.*" Mark tells us that neither the audience nor the apostles understood the parable. Christ takes the apostles aside and explains it to them, and therefore to us. He even implies that the audience is not meant to understand the parable! The message of the parable seems to be that salvation is not a birthright of the Jewish people, his audience, and that different people respond differently to the Word, thereby meriting different rewards.

In Mark's gospel not only did Christ teach in parables, his whole life was a parable. His life is a struggle between the Son of God and the forces of evil. Despite appearances, Christ is in charge at all times. He heals those who are sick but he himself suffers and dies. Christ's baptism by John the Baptist, a ceremony for converts and repentant sinners is used by the Father to proclaim Christ's divine mission. When Christ heals the daughter of Jairus the faith of her father contrasts with the imperfect faith of the apostles.

Miracles are central to any preacher's mission. Most healers/magicians of ancient times claimed one miracle during their careers as proof of their healing powers. Mark goes to great lengths to point out that Christ performed many miracles and sometimes spent a large part of his day healing the blind, the sick and the lame. Curiously, Mark suggests that sometimes Christ had to have two attempts to heal some people. When he heals the blind man, at first his subject see people moving like trees. Christ touches him again and then he sees properly.

Mark gives a selection of Christ's miracles. He heals a man with an unclean spirit (mentally ill) to show that Christ has power over demons. He heals the leper showing that he has power over illnesses. He heals the paralytic showing he has power over





physical disabilities. He quells the storm at sea showing that he has power over the forces of nature. He multiplies the loaves and fishes to feed the multitude showing power even over the essentials of life. When he unknowingly heals the hemophiliac woman he shows that he can heal just by having his clothes touched.

Mark sometimes adds some controversial details. Before Christ heals the blind man he spits on the ground and makes a paste of clay, which he puts on the eyes of the blind man. When he heals the deaf man he spits, puts his fingers into his ears and shouts out in Aramaic “Ephphatha” which means, “be opened.” These theatricals sound suspiciously like the antics of a magician/healer. Matthew and Luke conveniently omit such details.

When Christ came to the land of the Gerasenes he was confronted by a man possessed by a legion of a thousand devils (i.e. severely mentally disturbed), but who proclaimed Christ to be the Son of the Most High God. When Christ prepares to heal him the demons (unclean spirits) ask if they can go into a nearby herd of about two thousand pigs (unclean animals). Christ accedes to their request and the herd immediately charge down a slope, plunge into the sea and drown. It seems unlikely that such a massive herd existed. Probably Mark is underlining his assertion that the demoniac was possessed by a legion (a thousand) unclean spirits. Matthew simplifies this story by saying that there were two demoniacs each possessed by a single unclean spirit. Luke says that there was only one, possessed by a single unclean spirit.

As Christ prepares to enter Jerusalem he predicts three times that he will suffer and die for others and three times his disciples show that they have no understanding of what he is saying. Three times Christ explains what it means to be his disciple. He gives them power to work wonders but warns that a prophet is never accepted in his own country and will often suffer persecution.

Mark gives a detailed account of Christ’s passion and death. This is the major portion of his gospel. The other three evangelists follow his account very closely.

The older version of Mark’s gospel finishes with the women going to the tomb and finding it empty except for a young man sitting there who told them that he had risen and gone to Galilee. Matthew points out that it was an angel not a young man. This is an appropriate ending for a mystery story. The tomb is empty and the body has mysteriously disappeared. As believers we know what has taken place. As an account of Christ’s life and death it lacks the essential element, his resurrection, which is the miraculous proof of all that he taught and promised.

Probably, pressure was applied to Mark or one of his followers for an ending that covers the events after Christ’s death and resurrection. The second ending provides such details.

The primary importance of Mark’s gospel is that it was the first gospel. It is the closest we will ever get to a biography of Christ. The other evangelists quote it, often using Mark’s exact words. It reveals Christ as both God and man.

*“I hope that this article provides readers with an insight into Mark’s gospel and inspires them to read it again in the near future,” writes the author, Barry Drew.*

*Written and contributed by Barry Drew  
Darling Range Circle*

## The Church, post COVID

*Contributed by Terry Dwyer*

There have been a number of discussion papers circulated throughout the Church on what we are going to look like post COVID-19. This article is a synopsis of some of those papers and is just a sample of some of the discussion that has been going on in the Church about our response to the crisis.



*Terry Dwyer (President Liwara Circle)*

Bishop McElroy of San Diego in the United States of America writes: “The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the landscape of church life in ways that will permanently change the nature of pastoral action and evangelisation. Patterns of parish life that

have sustained the community for decades have been ruptured by the months of isolation and the individualisation of all social life that we have witnessed. There is a great danger that the pandemic is creating a culture of increased disengagement within the life of the Church that will persist long after a vaccination is found.”

The United States Catholic priests group state that: “If we do not take the time, post COVID-19 to promote our Catholic social teaching rooted in Christ, our country will continue to move towards more inequality through white privilege, more climate deterioration, more sexism, more fear, all leading to violence and race riots in our cities.”

Father J.P. Grayland from Palmerston in New Zealand states: “Never let a good crisis pass you by without taking advantage of the opportunity to change, learn and evolve. It is becoming evident that many people are not returning to their habitual Catholicism. It is also becoming apparent that some people want more of parish life than ‘default Catholicism’. A ‘business-as-usual-approach’ will see the continuation of traditional worship and our descent into organisational farce, as we continue to prop up Church systems and structures that struggle to be envangelising in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

Bishop Guy de Kerimel of Grenoble and other French bishops are concerned for the welfare of their priests. “The situation is completely abnormal for us and some priests are expressing impatience and even negative reactions. I don’t know if I’m going to hold up the morale of my troops. What if we use this crisis to rediscover what it truly means to worship God and re-experience the profound meaning of the Eucharist as bread that is shared?”

Father Bill Grimm, a Maryknoll missionary in Tokyo, says there are three basic types of people in our parish. Firstly, there are those who participate in the liturgy as part of their individualistic piety rather than participation in a communal event. Secondly, those who seek and find a community of faith, worship and service within the framework of the Church community. This group needs to be encouraged by the leaders and the structures in each community. The third group is one most likely not to return in great numbers because they have gone to church as a habit and not actively engaging in the liturgy; they have now gotten into the habit of not going to church or simply watching it on television.

*Contributed by Terry Dwyer, Liwara Circle*

## Gerard (Gerry) Brennan

**1925 – 2020**

Members of the City of Perth Circle of the Catenian Association were saddened by the passing of their long-standing Brother Gerard (Gerry) Brennan who died peacefully at home on 5 October



2020, just a week before his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Gerry was a member of the circle for 40 years. A large number of Catenian brothers from the City of Perth Circle and other circles in Province 20 joined with family and friends to celebrate the life of Gerry at a Requiem Mass held at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in City Beach on 12 October 2020.

Gerry was born on 11 October 1925 into a large family. He was the sixth child and fourth son and was followed by five more boys. The three oldest boys, Mick, John and Jeff were left to look after the dairy farm at Rosa Brook near Margaret River while their father Patrick, who was a teacher lived closer to his work with his wife Lucy and younger children. This left Gerard as the oldest boy at home to step up and give his mother a hand to raise those five boys, and that’s exactly what he did.

His parents Lucy and Patrick were very devote Catholics and Gerard was devoted to his faith throughout his life.

Gerard was only 14 years of age when the Second World War began, but was old enough to join and serve in the Royal Australian Air Force towards the end of the war. After the war he furthered his education and became a qualified schoolteacher. It was at Teachers College that he met Betty and so started a love that endured for more than six decades. Betty was aged 30 and Gerard was 31 when they married, raising a family of six children, Mary, Tim, Sue, Lucy, Gay and Pip all under the age of eight before they called it a day.

Gerard and Betty purchased their war service home in Scarborough, which is one of the few old houses still left on the street. Gerard was dedicated to the upkeep and beautification of this house. He was an enthusiastic “Do-it-Yourself” man affectionately given the name “The World’s Most Practical Man.” In 1969 he built a beach house (again with his own hands) where the family spent every school holiday for the following 20 years, swimming, fishing, playing in the creek and sharing a single bike amongst the six of them.

Gerard was the grandfather of Matt, Chris, Rose, Gerard, Angus, Hugo, Zoe, Georgie and Robert and great grandfather of Will, Ivy and Coen. He loved all his grandchildren and great grandchildren dearly instilling in them a passion for the arts and encouraging them to pursue with love and an uncompromising work ethic and attitude.

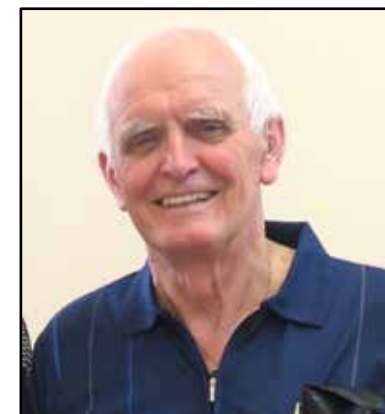
Gerard will be remembered as a kind, generous and inspirational man devoted to his family, his Church, poetry, football and caring for others. He was deeply loved and will be missed so much.

*May he Rest in Peace*

## Cornelis (Con) Schaper

**1937 – 2020**

Bouvard Circle members, partners and friends extend sincere condolences to the family of Con Schaper on their sad loss. Con passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on 9 October



2020. He joined the City of Mandurah Circle in October 2002 and was a founder member of Bouvard when the circle was inaugurated in February 2005, serving as President in 2006/07, 2010/11 and 2013/14 and as Provincial Councillor from 2017 to 2020.

Con was the devoted and loving husband of Lynne (deceased) and cherished father and father-in-law of Peter and Sue, Steven, Andrew and Sharon and Theresa; the loved Grandad of Dane and Jani, Jordan, Dakota, Ellen and Joshua and Great Grandad of Scarlett and Taj. He was a special friend and companion to Olga Reid.

A large gathering of Catenian brothers from the City of Mandurah and Bouvard Circles and other circles in Province 20 attended a Requiem Mass on 22 October 2020 to celebrate the life of Con at St Damien’s Catholic Church in Dawesville where he served as an Acolyte.

Con was born on 17 March 1937 at Tilburg in the Netherlands, the first of ten children to Johanna and Theodorus Schaper, seven boys and three girls. He was educated at Do Bosco Primary School and St Denis Commercial High School and was in his 17<sup>th</sup> year when his parents decided to leave Holland and migrate to Western Australia seeking better opportunities for their large family as Europe recovered from the Second World War.

The family spent some time at the Northam Army Camp until Con and his father obtained work with Mills & Ware at Fremantle and the family moved to East Fremantle. Con worked for Mills & Ware for about two years and for the remainder of his working life was employed in a variety of industries as Accountant, Secretary and in management roles.

In 1958 at a St Patrick’s Parish dance in Fremantle he met a young girl, Lynne destined to become his wife. They were married at St Patrick’s Catholic Church in January 1961 living in Fremantle for a few years before moving to Kardinya where they would live for about 30 years raising their four children. During these years Con was very active in the parish and school communities, serving for 23 years on the school board.

This involvement continued after they retired to Mandurah in 1999 where Con joined the Catenian Association and became an acolyte at Our Lady’s Assumption Catholic Church in Mandurah and a volunteer with the St Vincent de Paul Society. When St Damien’s Parish in Dawesville was formed Con continued to act as an acolyte and was responsible for training the acolytes and served on the Liturgical Ministry and as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. Sadly, Lynne passed away in 2011.

Con was blessed with a wonderful sense of humour, a deep faith, commitment to his Church, unconditional love of his family and selfless energy and willingness to serve others.

*May he Rest in Peace*







# CIRCLE ROUNDUP

CONTRIBUTED ITEMS & PHOTOGRAPHS

## Avon Valley

### Another welcome family addition

The family of Avon Valley Catenian, **BRIAN WEBB** and his wife **MAXENA** continues to expand with the addition of another great grandchild almost a year ago on 13 February 2020.

The proud mother, Cherie was born 28 May 1985 making this a late entrance into motherhood for her at the age of 35.

This is the happy grandparents 11<sup>th</sup> grandchild.

When Brian asked Cherie if they could expect number 12, Cherie was quick to respond:

"Not by this Mum."

Although it's a little late to be offering congratulations, all Catenians in Province 20 wish Brian and Maxena their very best wishes.



### Encouraging support for President's Mass

On Thursday evening 19 November 2020 Avon Valley members celebrated the circle's annual President's Mass at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Northam commemorating the memory of the eight brothers who have passed away since the circle was inaugurated in 1988, Frank Budas, Ralph Cooper, Pat Kirby, Laurie McKenzie, John O'Driscoll, Ben Paul, Joe Schwarz and Lew Smithall.

Avon Valley Circle President Clinton Richter said that he was delighted with the attendance of 40 people at the Mass, including many parishioners.



Clinton Richter

The Assistant Parish Priest of St Joseph's Father Konrad Gagatsek celebrated the Mass. The Mass had special significance for Father Konrad because he was celebrating the third anniversary of his Ordination.



Following Mass the congregation adjourned to the adjacent Kirby Hall where circle Secretary Brian Webb welcomed Provincial Director and Chairman of Central Council, Ralph Fitzpatrick, and his wife Liana, Provincial President, Lou Daily and Provincial Vice President, Chris Downey his wife Monica.

About 29 men from Northam and surrounding parishes attended the "information" meeting run on a slightly modified basis with standard Catenian "officialdom" kept to a minimum. Only the Circle President was vested and reports were kept brief, and given mainly to illustrate procedure.

The large attendance of guests was mainly due to the support and encouragement of Father Konrad who had attended four previous monthly meetings of the circle and strongly supports the Catenian Association and what it stands for. With his encouragement the circle will follow-up and invite these men to meetings and coffee club sessions with the hope that some might join.

Following the informal meeting, food and drinks were served with everyone thoroughly enjoying the hospitality.

It also provided an opportunity for Avon Valley Circle members and visiting brothers to mingle and share their experiences and the benefits of Catenian membership.

## Bouvard

### Joining the coffee club movement

Bouvard Circle members have joined the rapidly expanding Catenian Association coffee club crusade holding its fourth morning tea get-together on Wednesday 4 November 2020 at the Falcon Beach Café, located across the road from the beautiful and popular Falcon swimming beach. This beach area has only recently undertaken a major refurbishment providing improved parking and facilities on grassed areas.

Members of the circle have embraced the concept of informal morning teas with numbers totalling up to 13 on one occasion. Future events will be held on the first Wednesday of each month with venues varying from time to time.



Left to right around the table: John Pannell, Tony Dwyer, Colm Kelly, Garry O'Brien, Ray Keefe, Gerry Marshall, John Starceвич, Peter Brown and Max Gardiner

### Night at the dogs

Eighteen Bouvard Catenians, including ladies and friends enjoyed a great night out at the Mandurah Greyhounds on Thursday 26 November 2020.

The dog racing was of little interest for many of the group who preferred the social interaction and, of course the well-stocked smorgasbord buffet. There were, however several astute punters who followed box number one during the evening with some success, producing five winners out of the nine races held.

The food was good, the company excellent and a really enjoyable evening was shared by all.



Left to right: Barbara Brown, Patricia Hand, Bernie Marshall and Ray Keefe



Left to right: Denis Ryan, Tony Dwyer and Gerry Marshall with Max Gardiner looking on



Left to right: John Starceвич, John's cousin Trish Cornhill, and Lorraine Starceвич





# Busselton

## Bill Middleton's story

One of the Catenian stalwarts of the City of Busselton Circle during the few years leading up to when the members reluctantly handed-back the circle's Charter on 28 April 2019 was **BILL MIDDLETON**, supported by his wife **KAYE**. They provided strong support to President George Bazzica and his wife Elizabeth during that period when members struggled gallantly to hold the circle together.

Along with a number of other former City of Busselton Circle brothers, Bill has retained his membership of the Association and is now a member of Central Circle.

Bill comes from a family of Queenslanders, born in Nambour and educated by the Sisters of Mercy at the Guardian Angels School in Southport.

"When I left school I got a job as an apprentice cabinetmaker," Bill writes, "but when the business became insolvent I was put off. I then joined the Queensland railways in the locomotive shed in the days of steam working as a cleaner whilst studying to become a fireman and later on as a driver."

"I spent four years as a fireman working on steam trains in West Queensland before I got the urge to try for priesthood. However, not long into my studies I became ill and had to have major surgery. While I was recovering I had a change of mind and found work as a fireman with the Gold Coast Fire Brigade."

"Still unsettled and uncertain about my future, I eventually decided to go to Papua New Guinea as a Lay Missionary with the Franciscans in Aitape, West Sepik District."

"It was a fortuitous move," Bill says, "because Kaye was already working on this Mission as a Lay Missionary. Old cupid played around with my heartstrings and I fell in love with this farm girl from Beverley in Western Australia."

"We had to leave the Mission because there was no accommodation for married couples so I approached the Bishop and asked if he could find work for me because I had also fallen in love with the country and its people."

"Within a week I was given a job working for a Catholic family who owned plantations and stores in Aitape and Vanimo, which is only 30 kilometres from the West Irian border. I worked for this family for six years and enjoyed every moment of it before Kaye and I decided to return to Australia because we would not be able to afford boarding and educating our children in Australia while living in New Guinea."



Kaye and Bill Middleton

"So, we moved to live in Western Australia where I had an opportunity to work on a farm owned by Kaye's parents. We did this for 18 years, having purchased the farm from them. We sold the farm in 1997 and purchased a newsagency and post office in Albany, which we ran for seven years. We had a year off and then purchased another newsagency in the Morley Markets, which we ran until 2003 when we retired from business picking up casual work here and there."

"Kaye and I have four children of which two were born in Papua New Guinea. We are now fully retired and happily living in Busselton," Bill said.

## Still supportive of Provincial events

Although the City of Busselton Circle was forced to hand back its charter on 28 April 2019, members remain committed to the Catenian Association as members of Central Circle, supporting Provincial events and functions whenever possible.

Former President George Bazzica and his wife Elizabeth and Bill and Kaye Middleton travelled to Perth to attend the Province 20 Commemorative Mass at St Mary's Cathedral and the Provincial President's luncheon at the Mt Lawley Golf Club in Inglewood on 8 November 2020. They spent the weekend at the home of Terry O'Neill, who was a joint member of the Busselton Circle from its inauguration until it folded up. Terry remains committed to Busselton and regularly attends the monthly Koffee Klub meetings usually held at the Goose Restaurant on the foreshore.



George and Elizabeth Bazzica pictured at the Provincial President's luncheon



Terry O'Neill and Margaret Dau at the luncheon

# Canning

## New members installed in September

Canning Circle has continued to reap the benefits from its strong recruitment drive with the installation of three new brothers at the September monthly meeting. **BRENDON NORRIS**, **EDGAR ESCOBAR** and **EVYN WEBSTER** were warmly welcomed by members and presented with certificates by President Russell Godsall at the St Pius X Parish Hall in Manning on 24 September 2020.

Whilst the circle awaits the completion of refurbishments at its normal venue at the RAAF Memorial Estate at Bull Creek, members enjoyed a relaxed and informal dinner of pizza, sausages and chips and fish and chips.

A highlight of the evening was an address given by a guest speaker from the Gosnells Parish, **DAN HEWITT** who gave a wonderful talk on "God's love for us and our love for God." His talk concluded with a song and guitar accompaniment assisted by talented circle Brother, Ken Patterson. Another welcome guest introduced by Membership Officer, Cliff Chalon was a young man from Thornlie Parish, shortly to become Deacon Nicholas.



Ken Patterson accompanies guest speaker, Dan Hewitt (playing the guitar) in song after his address to the September dinner meeting



President, Russell Godsall, presents Brendon Norris with his certificate

Edgar Escobar receives his membership certificate



Russell Godsall presents Evyn Webster (a nephew of Brother Brian Iliffe) with his membership certificate



## Welcome home again – joint meeting a great success

Canning brothers and wives were delighted to return to their traditional home on Thursday 22 October 2020 at RAAF Bull Creek after an extended absence while the premises were modernised and refurbished. Twenty members and their wives shared the occasion with a similar turnout of Liwara Circle brothers and wives for a joint meeting.



Dinner served in the magnificent new RAAF Bull Creek premises

The joint meeting was an outstanding success highlighted with birthday gifts presented by Welfare and Hospitality Officer, Doug Williams to ladies celebrating their birthdays in October.



Left to right: Iris Ellison, Doug Williams, Jenean Ditton, Maria Viola, Meagan Scanlan and Pam Miller





Brothers and wives also extended a very warm welcome at the circle's October meeting to **TOM O'DONNELL** and his wife **ANN** after an absence of several years due to health issues. Tom is a committed and loyal member of the Catenian Association, serving as Provincial President in 1992/93.



Tom and Ann O'Donnell

Other couples seen at the October meeting:



Patrick  
and Iris  
Ellison



Lena and  
Edgar  
Escobar



Ederlyn and  
Ken Patterson

# Como

## Portraits of two loyal and committed Catenians

Como has been blessed with the membership of two dedicated brothers who both have rarely missed attending a meeting and still enjoy Provincial functions when they are able. They are **PETER COX** and **COLIN BRABAZON** pictured below at the Provincial President's luncheon held at the Mt Lawley Golf Club in Inglewood on Sunday 8 November 2020.



Peter Cox and Colin Brabazon

**PETER COX** was born at Highgate in London on 21 May 1923 and migrated with his family to Western Australia 1927. He was educated at government schools, finishing in 1938 at Claremont Central School.

When he left school he had a variety of jobs before gaining a cadetship as a junior engineer with Radio 6PM. He qualified as an engineer and then moved to 6KY.

Peter spent two years in the Royal Australian Airforce during World War II and married Joan in 1947. After the war he returned to 6KY but soon became "fed up" with that job and moved to Melbourne to join the Civil Aviation Authority where he successfully solved an airport circuitry problem and became "an expert" in that area of airport life.

Peter moved back to Perth in 1954 and was employed at Perth Airport for the remainder of his working life.

He was involved in the establishment of the West Aviate Golf Club on airport land and when that land was sold/leased, the club was forced to move and over the following five years the group constructed the Hillview Golf Course, where Peter regularly played in the Catenian Association golf days.

In 1957 Peter built his own home and in the process completed all the requirements to be certified an A-Grade Builder. He completed a Diploma of Communication Engineering through Perth Technical College, which became the Western Australian Institute of Technology (now Curtin University). Peter says that he completed his study in quick time partly because he was proficient in the use of a slide rule.

Peter joined Como Circle on 3 August 1991 and has been a very loyal and committed member strongly supported by his wife, Joan who sadly passed away on 20 April 2020. He rarely misses a meeting, now accompanied to ladies functions by his sister Jean.

For many years he served as the circle's Welfare Officer and still says that he's not sure how he moved out of that position.

**COLIN BRABAZON** was born in Northam on 10 June 1931. He joined the Western Australian Government Railways in 1947 straight after leaving school and worked there until his retirement in 1988. As all government employees had to do at that time, he moved from one town to another in order to take up the next promotion offered to him. He was Station Master in many country places including Wongan Hills (1966 to 1974), Katanning (1974 until 1980) and then Albany from June 1980 until his retirement.

Colin and his wife Joyce were married on 7 June 1951 and have three sons and five daughters, 15 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Joyce is now in care.

Colin lived his early life in Northam where he was born and was a very skilful and accomplished footballer. One of his grandsons has inherited these skills, playing for the Sydney Swans in the Australian Football League and Claremont in the Western Australian Football League.

Joyce and Colin were active and successful members of the WA Harness Club and Colin played lawn bowls in the country towns in which he worked. The trophies (including a champion of champions trophy) he accumulated are a testament to his bowling ability and he is still a member of the WA Bowling League, which he joined in 1952.

As Colin progressed through the ranks with the WA Government Railways, the Brabazon family lived in a number of towns in country Western Australia including the last eight years in Albany.

The family relocated to Perth from Albany in 2004.

Colin joined Como Circle on 4 April 2007 and held the position of Welfare Officer for three years. During his watch the circle introduced the practice of acknowledging birthdays and wedding anniversaries by sending a card and with a phone call on the day. Even though he no longer holds the position of Welfare Officer he continues to contact members and ladies on their birthdays and anniversaries.

Colin is an accomplished violinist taught by a Sister of the St Joseph of the Apparition Order who staffed the Catholic school in Northam. He used this skill to add to the birthday and anniversary telephone calls by playing an appropriate tune over the phone. When visiting his wife in care Colin also finds time to play tunes for other residents.

## Grandfather of the year

A woman in a supermarket is following a grandfather and his badly behaved grandson. He has his hands full with the child screaming for lollies, biscuits and all sorts of things.

She overhears the grandpa saying in a controlled voice: "Easy William, we won't be long. Easy boy."

The boy has another outburst and she hears the grandpa calmly say: "It's okay, William. Just a couple more minutes and we'll be out of here. Hang in there, son."

At the checkout the little horror is throwing items out of the shopping cart. Grandpa says again in the same controlled voice: "William, William, relax buddy, don't get upset. We'll be home in five minutes. Stay cool William."

Very impressed the woman goes outside to where the grandfather is loading his groceries and the boy into the car.

She says: "It's none of my business, but you were amazing in there. I don't know how you did it. That whole time you kept your composure, and no matter how loud and disruptive he got, you just calmly kept saying things would be okay. William is very lucky to have you for a grandpa."

"Thanks," the grandfather replied, "but I'm William. This little brat's name is Kevin."

## Night out the Globe

Members and ladies of Como Circle enjoyed a night out at the Globe Coffee House Patisserie and Restaurant in Angelo Street, South Perth on Tuesday 20 October 2020.

The company was excellent and the food was plentiful and tasty, all contributing to ensure a relaxing and informal get-together.



The long table at the Globe Restaurant



Walley and Kerry Vincenti enjoying a night out

Given the appetite for such informal social evenings, the circle's draft calendar of events for 2021/22 includes a number of social evenings of this nature to accommodate the wishes of Como members.

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# Darling Range

## A Perth Catenian's international life story

**JOHN d'ADHEMAR**, a Darling Range member for over 33 years and a past President and Treasurer, was born in the holy city of Benares, India in 1932. His parents were British expatriates, married in England, but spent much of their time in India. John's father, Gilbert d'Adhemar was a senior administrator in Indian Railways. His French name came from an English cadet line of French aristocrats, the Count of Montelimar, which meant he was a Vicomte, a title that later passed on to his son John.

John grew up in India in the 1930s, much cared for by his mother who, when they were living in bungalows, took pains to chase away lurking snakes, snipping tails off scorpions and swatting mosquitos.

In 1941 with the Pacific war looming, John (aged eight) was taken to South Africa to be cared for by his maternal grandparents. He attended Catholic schools in Cape Province.

Then in 1947 with the war over and his mother in Kenya, John was 'sent for', put on a Union Castle ship (a grade above a tramp steamer) and shipped to Mombasa where he disembarked and travelled by train to Nairobi to join his mother and sister. The British built the Mombasa to Nairobi railway in the 1890s using imported Indian labourers quite a few of who ended up as cat food for marauding lions. John did not have to face that!

John was sent to the Catholic College in Nairobi run by the Holy Ghost 'White' Fathers and completed his education there along with playing plenty of rugby and hockey.

He went to work in administration for the East African Railways, which had lines in Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda. He met his wife-to-be, Patricia in Nairobi and they married 18 months later in Holy Family Catholic Church in Nairobi. Later, in Australia they were parishioners in Perth Holy Family Church in Como and now in Kalamunda, also in Holy Family Church.



*John and Pat d'Adhemar*

John and Pat had three children in Kenya but with independence coming they saw no future work opportunities for their children and they migrated to Australia where their fourth child was born. They have always been a happy and holy family, but sadly one of their two daughters died recently of motor neuron disease.

Arriving in Australia, the land of opportunity, John quickly found work in Perth with consulting engineers Maunsells, supporting the Western Australian rail standardisation project from Kalgoorlie to Perth in the 1960s.

It was at Maunsells that he met the late Basil Hand, later a Catenian Brother for many years with Bouvard Circle, and together they completed a course in surveying. When completed John

became a qualified quantity surveyor, leaving Maunsells to work for a private firm and then the Western Australian Government Department of Public Works until retirement in 1997.

In 2013 John travelled with fellow Darling Range Brother, Gerard Tonks to London to attend the Catenian Grand Conference following which they went by rail to Paris, Lyon and on to Montelimar to see the ruins of the d'Adhemar castle.

Nearby in Grignon was the Renaissance Chateau of d'Adhemar, now a State museum, but that did not stop the pretty young lady attendant giving John a curtsy when told that his name was d'Adhemar. John and Gerald viewed the Chateau's main bedchamber, complete with a four-poster bed, where the d'Adhemars' had been produced in past times.

To cap off the visit, John dubbed Gerard a mock chevalier! John has been Holy Family Parish Council Chairman, a singer in the choir led by Catenian Brother Harry Muller, general handyman around the Parish and a choral singer in other Hills choirs.

John and Pat have now been married 65 years and have eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

May they be blessed forever.

*Contributed by Gerard Tonks*

## New brother a welcome addition

**IVAN BUTCHER** was given a warm welcome to Darling Range when he was installed as a member at the circle's meeting on 12 August 2020.



*Ivan Butcher (left) with Darling Range Membership Officer, Lou Conti and President Gerard Tonks*

Born in Perth, Ivan attended Millen Primary School in East Victoria Park and completed his secondary education at Perth Modern School. He then completed a degree in commerce at Curtin University and was admitted to the Australian Society of Accountants as a CPA.

Following graduation Ivan's career in finance and accounting has seen him work in both the private and public sectors in Perth and Tokyo in Japan. It was in Japan that he met Yuriko in 2004 through a mutual acquaintance and they were married in Queens Gardens in East Perth on 4 June 2005.

Ivan and Yuriko have two children and have lived in Perth, Tokyo and Hagi in Japan during their married life.

His interests outside family and work are martial arts, study and music and, as a recent convert to the Catholic Church also enjoys participating in the choir. As a new member, Ivan seeks to learn from his fellow Catenian brothers and to help those currently on their Catenian journey.

# Dianella

## Country of origin fun night at Dianella



Dianella brothers and wives enjoyed another fabulous night of fun and fellowship at the Mt. Lawley Golf Club on Wednesday 28 October 2020, as best illustrated by the above collage of photographs providing a varied view of the dress code and fun dancing and singing by the various groups.

The concept for the night was for everyone to wear apparel that would reflect their family's country of origin supported by traditional songs with background music. Peter Kora and Norm Thompson were the MC's for activities with plenty of fun stories and songs spoken and sung in traditional accents to add flavour to the night.



*Norm Thompson in his Irish outfit*



*Peter Kora complete with a Hungarian hat*

The dinner provided for the night was a combination of the most popular menus from each of the countries of origin, given a unanimous vote of approval by all. It was a fantastic blend of tastes and aromas. Leon Dique and his wife Marlene entered into the spirit of the evening putting a tremendous effort into their traditional dress.



*Marlene and Leon Dique; a very distinguished couple*

To finish the evening Norm Thompson brought out the Australian flags and all joined in with great gusto singing a popular song by the Seekers, "We are Australians".





# Fremantle

## Excellent turnout for start-up meeting

Fremantle members welcomed the easing of COVID-19 restrictions with a good roll-up at the circle's September meeting held at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle. It was the first meeting held by the circle since March and brothers were pleased that they were finally able to get back to some form of normality, even if the threat of the pandemic still remains and social distancing is likely to be an ongoing necessity for many months yet, and perhaps years.

President Dick Finucane welcomed visitors Joe Saunders (a potential new member) and Anna Hughes, Parish Priest Father Nelson Po and guest speaker, Dr. George Nielson. Dick also welcomed visiting brothers and wives from other circles, Province 20 Director and Central Council Chairman Ralph Fitzpatrick and his wife Liana, Provincial President Lou Daily, Dianella Circle President Vern Scanlan and his wife Helene, Gerry Butler (Dianella Circle) and Godfrey Weldt (Como Circle).



**Pictured at Fremantle's September meeting, left to right: Peter McCutcheon (Fremantle), Vern Scanlan (Dianella), Joe Saunders (potential member) and Gerry Butler (Dianella)**

In recognition of his appointment as Chairman of Central Council, Ralph Fitzpatrick was presented with a certificate from Fremantle Circle acknowledging his accomplishment. At the same time Dick Finucane acknowledged the long Catenian Association service, collectively totalling 75 years, of three visiting brothers from Dianella Circle, Gerry Butler (36 years), Lou Daily (20 years) and Vern Scanlan (19 years).



**Left to right: Fremantle Vice President, Alex Banovich, Ralph Fitzpatrick and Fremantle President, Dick Finucane**

## Guest speaker's intriguing perspectives on the city of Wuhan and China

**Dr. George Neilson and Fremantle's Graham Mahony Modeling a Chinese hat and coat**



The guest speaker at Fremantle Circle's September meeting was **DR. GEORGE NEILSON**, a senior teaching Fellow at Curtin University's Business School.

In his address Dr. Neilson gave his personal perspective of Wuhan, China's almost unknown city until in early 2020 when it was identified as the breeding ground of the COVID-19 virus.

He said that Wuhan has a lot more to offer than just its notorious COVID-19 reputation and has a little known but strong connection to Western Australia.

Recognised in China as the crossroad of nine provinces and an important hub of commerce, it is Western Australian iron ore that feeds Wuhan's steel foundries and Western Australian mining professionals who provided the expertise that helped it become the powerhouse it is today. However, up until a few months ago the city of Wuhan, with a population in excess of 11 million people in the central Hubei Province of China, would have been little known in Australia.

Former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke led a delegation to China in the late 1980s and this paved the way for joint Chinese/Australian co-operation for several projects. One of these particularly pressing projects was the need to improve the quality and management of China's iron and steel production.

The quality of steel being sold to countries like North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Mongolia was well below world standards and to be competitive, urgent attention and positive action was required.

To address this need in the late 1990s, the semi-statutory corporation, the Overseas Projects Corporation, approached Dr. Neilson along with seven other colleagues from different Australian tertiary institutions to participate in a two-year enterprise management project with Wuhan Iron and Steel Corporation.

Initially based in Melbourne the management project team met with six Chinese counterparts and wrote the course subjects for teaching in China. For example, Dr. Neilson was assigned the areas of organisational behaviour and international business, while other members of the project team dealt with areas such as financial management, strategic management, accounting and finance.

On arrival in China the two-year training project was officially opened by the then Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Neil Blewitt and was attended by several high ranking ministers from China's Ministry of Mines and Metallurgical Industries.

At the conclusion of his address, thanks was extended to Dr. Neilson for his professional and informative talk including his overhead photos thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

## Catenian link to Mary MacKillop

The announcement that Australia's first Saint, St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop has become a Patron Saint of the Catenian Association in Australia has stimulated some strong family memories of Denise Hefron, the wife of Fremantle Circle's Kevin Hefron.

Denise writes of her great grandmother Mary McDonald (1844-1936). Mary was just seven years old in 1851 when she arrived in Victoria on the sailing ship *Europa* with her father Donald McDonald and mother Janet (nee McMasters) and their three children. Donald was born in Elgin Morayshire in Scotland the son of Ronald McDonald (Clan Ronald of the McDonalds).

When she was a teenager Mary McDonald went to her cousin Flora who was on the land at Penola in South Australia. She helped with housekeeping. Mother Mary of the Cross MacKillop was her sponsor for Confirmation in Portland.

Mary McDonald married Malcolm McKenzie in 1869 and they had a daughter who was also named Mary (1875-1905) and she married Robert Lennie. Mary and Robert had two boys and went from Condah in Victoria to the goldfields in Western Australia, but Mary was unwell and returned to her family home in Condah to have her third child, Denise's mother Mary Margaret Lennie who was born 2 June 1905. Denise's grandmother passed away just two hours after giving birth.

When Robert Lennie returned to Western Australia with his two boys, Robert and Douglas, Denise's great grandmother, Mary McKenzie took care of Mary Lennie.

"My great grandmother had a devotion to Mary MacKillop all her life," writes Denise. "She passed that devotion on to my mother Mary Margaret Lennie (Congues) then on to her own family, Peter, me, Ronald and John and dear Dad, Denis Congues."

"My mother, Mary Margaret was a beautiful person. She was a wonderful mother, so kind and caring and never talked unkindly about any person. A wonderful example of motherhood passed down from all the Mary's of the family. Mary loved family, teaching, country Victoria and Geelong (AFL). She passed away at the age of 94 in 1999."

"It was my love and respect for all my family women that led me to attend Mary MacKillop's Canonisation in Rome in 2010 where I met Kevin Hefron, now my husband. Kevin was in Rome to remember his aunty, Sister Evelyn Niland (1904-1996) Rev. Mother St. Joseph Order."

"With all the Mary's looking on, our marriage was destined to happen," Denise concludes.



**Denise and Kevin Hefron on their wedding day**

## Christmas came early in Fremantle

It was 'Christmas in November' for Fremantle brothers and wives with the circles traditional function at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle brought forward to Thursday 19 November 2020, thoroughly enjoyed by 36 revellers, including visitors Steve and Kay Williamson from Swan Valley Circle and Father Greg Carroll (Associate Judicial Vicar).

It was a wonderful night, enjoyed by all, highlighted perhaps by the generous platters of prawns and oysters, an appropriate delicacy at the riverside venue.



**Left to right: Lesley Sutton, Lynette Everett, Kim and Michael Yap and Peter Golding (standing)**



**Left to right: Patricia Hanrahan, Jan Coffey, Margaret Kerrigan, Peter Golding and Denise and Kevin Hefron**



**Steve Williamson, Ian Handcock and Kevin Hefron**





# Joondalup

**Our man from New Zealand –  
Andrew Swanson's story**



"I arrived in this world on 2 August 1947 in Wellington, New Zealand," writes **ANDREW SWANSON** a founder member of Joondalup Circle. "I weighed less than one lb. and was not expected to live but it seems that a higher power was watching over me."

"I grew up in Island Bay, Wellington, the fifth of nine children. My father and his brother owned a major construction company

started by their father – A.V. Swanson and Sons – and from my early years my ambition career-wise was directed towards the construction industry as a plumber. After attending Wellington Technical College I was appointed to Glennie Plumbing Co for five years to learn my trade."

"My apprenticeship was followed by a stint in the Army Engineering Corps, discharging my obligation to National Military Service, at that time a mandatory duty in New Zealand. Following this a mate and I decided to head for wider pastures in Australia. We landed in Sydney in April 1970, but soon afterwards headed for Western Australia where we heard there was plenty of well-paid work; driving over the then unpaved Nullabor Plain, which was quite an experience."

"That well-paid work took me around the northwest of Western Australia, helping to establish some of the new mining towns including Newman, Dampier and Wickham. In 1972 I headed off to spend some time living and working in the United Kingdom and travelling in Europe before returning to the northwest. The next few years brought marriage and three children, managing a plumbing company in Kalgoorlie and work in other mining towns before settling in Rivervale in Perth. Those times did not last, however and in the late 1970s I found myself on my own again and heading for Darwin to work on the rebuilding of the town after it was demolished by cyclone Tracey."

"Returning to Perth I made the momentous decision to sell my house in Rivervale and move 'north of the river', buying a house in Duncraig. Since that time I have worked with large construction companies on many major projects in Perth including the Austmark Building, Royal Perth Hospital (north block), Karrinyup Shopping Centre, Joondalup Hospital, Duxton Hotel, Subiaco Oval, and Target Joondalup interspersed with trips back to the northwest for specific projects and a great year spent on Christmas Island in 1993/94 working on the building of the casino and related projects."

"Interestingly, one of my first projects in Perth was the Austmark Building and one of the final ones, many years later, was the new BHP headquarters right next door. Somewhere in the middle of all this I took a couple of years away from plumbing to work with a family company installing garage door openers but decided to return to plumbing."

"In January 1986 I met Jean, also originally from New Zealand, and in October of that year we were married. Because we had both been married previously and Jean was not Catholic at that time, we opted for a small garden wedding at my house but ended up

welcoming a larger than expected New Zealand contingent who realised that besides the wedding, the American Cup preliminary races were being held in Fremantle at the same time. A short time later a talk with the local Priest set us on a new path and the way was cleared for us to be married by the late Father Pat Ahern in the Greenwood Catholic Church. In the meantime Jean had joined the Greenwood RCIA program with me as her sponsor and she was accepted into the Catholic Church the following Easter."

"We have both been pleased to be active participants in the Greenwood Catholic Parish and the Ocean Reef Parish, where I was a member of the Parish Pastoral Council for seven years helping to effect some major improvements to Church buildings and infrastructure. I also served on the committee that brought to fruition the installation of stained glass windows in the Church. Whilst at Ocean Reef Parish I was introduced to the Catenian Association in 2005 and have been a member of Joondalup Circle since then, serving in various capacities including Vice President and President. I have now joined the Wanneroo Parish since moving to Tapping in 2010."

"I retired in mid-2013 looking forward to a life of relative relaxation enjoying the many facilities at the Lifestyle Village in which we live but retirement has proven to be even more hectic than work."

"Jean and I share an interest in sport, both as spectators and as participants. We have been West Coast Eagles members for over 25 years and also love rugby union. I also enjoy Monday golf with a group of Catenians and Thursday golf with a group from the village. I ticked off a 'bucket list wish' in 2018 when I scored a hole-in-one at the Caramarah Golf Course. I also play lawn bowls several days a week with other villagers and in an inter-village competition."

"We both love travelling. With a deep interest in ancient history we have followed the ancient past of the Roman Empire through the United Kingdom, many countries in Europe, Iran, Turkey, Egypt and a large part of the Middle East including twice to Israel where besides travelling throughout the country we also took part in archaeological digs, finding artefacts as much as 2500 years old. We have also seen much of Asia and taken regular trips back to New Zealand to visit family and friends."

"As well as my involvement in the Catenian Association I am a founder member of Roman Archaeology Group at the University of Western Australia, have been a member of Friends of Israel for eight years and a member of the Village Council for six years including two as President. Five years ago I was invited to join the community panel for the new Perth Museum to develop a concept plan for the major themes to be highlighted in the museum. Working with other groups on this project has been an exciting experience. The museum opened on 21 November 2020 and is certain to be a significant attraction not only for Western Australians but also for visitors from interstate and overseas. It was a privilege to be part of this important process."

**Andrew Swanson  
Joondalup Circle**

## Editor's Note:

Andrew joined the Catenian Association when he was enrolled as a founder member of Joondalup Circle in February 2005. He has served as Marshall, Membership Officer, Vice President and President.

Joondalup Circle won the Province 20 Visitors' Cup for the first time when Andrew was President.

## Casserole night still a winner

In a year in which many social activities have by necessity been cancelled because of COVID-19 restrictions and the need to maintain social distancing protocols it was pleasing that the Joondalup circle's annual casserole night could be held on 10 October 2020.

This social event had its origins under the label of "Guess who's coming to dinner", a function initiated by Liwara Circle and carried on when Joondalup was inaugurated in February 2005 with many Liwara brothers forming the nucleus of the new northern suburbs circle.

The evening was hosted in the homes of Barry and Elizabeth Webb in Craigie, Paul and Josie Bellini in Woodvale and Jenny Rea in Wanneroo and was thoroughly enjoyed by hosts and guests alike, taking the opportunity to enjoy an excellent meal, drinks and to share life's experiences and learn more about each other.



**Enjoying a wonderful evening at Jenny's, left to right: Jenny Rea, David and Cheryl Grieve, Maree Johnston and John Frost (photo taken by Peter Johnston)**

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# Liwara

## Guest speaker impresses at sons and daughters night

The circles annual sons and daughters' night on 3 September 2020 was an outstanding success with 22 guests joining Liwara brothers for an enjoyable evening.

The guest speaker was **JESSICA FENTON** who was awarded a Catenian Charity Scholarship in September 2019 to study medicine at the University of Western Australia. Jessica is in her fourth year of study at the university and her second year of medical studies, currently reading for a postgraduate degree of Doctor of Medicine. The Mandurah student currently resides at St Thomas More College at Crawley, which is attached to the university.

Jessica gave an inspirational talk to Liwara's young people on her faith journey from being from a Church of England family to becoming a fully committed Catholic following a potential fatal road accident.

The car she was driving with her 12-year old sister in it, lost control and T-boned another car on the right hand passenger side. Fortunately no one was injured but the young mother driving the other car related to Jessica that only that same morning she had moved the baby capsule from the right hand side to the left hand side of the car.

"That episode got me reflecting about life and its circumstances and how God looks out for us in our lives," Jessica said.



**Liwara President Terry Dwyer made a presentation to Jessica following her thought provoking talk**



**Ralph Fitzpatrick (right) with his son Tony pictured at Liwara's annual sons and daughters' night in September**







*President, Terry Dwyer presented Mike Wright with Liwara's traditional "wooden spoon" at the September sons and daughters' night; awarded to brothers contributing to circle life in a most distinctive, unique or unusual way*

### **Pleasing turnout for joint meeting with Canning Circle**

Twenty Liwara brothers with wives travelled to RAAF Bull Creek for a joint meeting with Canning Circle on Thursday 22 October 2020. The night had added significance because it marked the return of Canning members to their traditional home after an extended absence while the building was significantly upgraded and refurbished. Seen at the joint meeting were:



*John and Mary Carr*



*Liana and Ralph Fitzpatrick*

### **Another worthy winner of the wooden spoon**

A regular feature of Liwara meetings is the awarding of the 'wooden spoon' to the brother making the biggest 'clanger' of the month, a circle tradition that has been carried on for many years.

**DINO MASCIONE** was a clear and undisputed winner in October 2020 for turning up to a deserted and empty Croatian House Club in Gwelup to attend a meeting while the rest of the circle was at a joint meeting hosted by Canning Circle at RAAFA in Bull Creek.

Congratulations Dino.



*Wooden spoon winner Dino Mascione congratulated by President, Terry Dwyer*

### **Warm welcome to another new brother**

New Liwara brother **MIKE RUSHACK** was enrolled by the circle in the presence of five members of the clergy at the annual clergy night held at Croatian House in Gwelup on Thursday 5 November 2020.

Mike was given a warm welcome to the circle, which continues to enjoy success with its very successful and productive recruitment drive over the last few years.



*Mike Rushack (centre) pictured with Liwara Circle "Elder Statesmen", Des Wright (left) and John Rayner*

### **President's Mass and clergy night**

On Sunday 1 November 2020 about 25 members accompanied by some wives attended Liwara's annual President's Mass at All Saints Catholic Parish in Greenwood to commemorate the memory of the 15 brothers who have passed away since the circle was inaugurated in 1982.

The Parish Priest, Father Elver Delicano wore the Catenian vestments on the altar for all to see and in his introduction at the beginning of the Mass gave an overview of what the Association is all about, repeated again at the beginning of his homily.

There were 13 young children present at the Mass to receive their First Communion certificates exposing the Catenians, perhaps for the first time, to their parents.

At the conclusion of the Mass President Terry Dwyer invited everyone to join Brothers for morning tea providing an opportunity to further promote the benefits of Catenian membership.

The President's Mass was followed a few days later with Liwara's annual clergy night on Thursday 5 November at Croatian House in Gwelup. Although nine members of the clergy and religious accepted the circles invitation to attend, only five were able to come due to illness and unforeseen parish commitments. It was a very successful evening with good interaction particularly as the special guests were able to witness the enrollment of a new member, Mike Rushack.



*Father Emil Ciecierrega of St Lawrence Catholic Parish in Balcatta with Ron Brukwinski*



*Tom Grieve pictured with Father Stephen Victor of St Luke's Catholic Parish in Woodvale*

## **City of Mandurah**

### **Nullabor calling**



*Geoff and Deanna Prendergast*

"As a young married couple we decided to drive to Melbourne during our annual holidays to visit Deanna's sister," writes **GEOFF PRENDERGAST**. "The year was 1964."

"We owned a 1952 FJ Holden sedan, which was in okay condition. Deanna's father, Jack Sheehan, had adjusted the back of the front seat of the car so it could be lifted apart and turned around to form a bed."

"Just as we were saying goodbye to Deanna's parents, Jack came out of his work shed and handed me a Holden rear axle. The end had broken off and Jack had welded it back. I knew we wouldn't need it but to please him I put it in the boot and away we went."

"The road was in terrible condition and the day we reached Balladonia the sky opened up and nine inches of rain fell over a large part of the road ahead of us. We had been warned to stop at any large puddles, put the car into first gear and creep through the water. We obeyed instructions and eased in, and then the car fell into a bloody big hole and the water came half way up the engine."

"A truckie came rushing through on our left and when he reached some high ground stopped and walked back to see if he could help."

"His first piece of advice was to never stop when you come to water. Just put the car into low gear, plant your foot and go through as fast as you can."

"He then proceeded to pull off the distributor cap and take out the points, immediately dropping the very tiny screw that held the points in place into the water."

"I shook my head and told Deanna that we would be stranded here for a long time."

"The truckie just laughed and walked back to his truck. He searched through his toolbox and found the exact screw that fitted the Holden points. He returned and refitted the points and the distributor cap and said, 'start it up champ.'"

"It started first go and I drove through the water to the other side and we resumed our journey, very grateful to the truckie."

"The old Holden's were terrific cars and could take a great deal of punishment."



"When we finally reached the South Australian border at Eucla we came to a section of bitumen road and had smooth driving."

"Then, as we rounded a bend the rear left hand side





wheel fell off. I will not bore you with the language and other details, except to say that I left Deanna with the car and thumbed a lift into the nearest town. I explained to the garage mechanic that the brake drum was destroyed, all the various parts had fallen off and the axle was broken."

"He looked a bit unhappy and explained that he had a brake drum, brake linings and all other parts but did not have an axle."

"I smiled smugly and told him that it wasn't a problem because I never leave home without a spare Holden axle in the boot."

"He loaded his truck with the parts and away we went back to the vehicle and my dear wife."

"He jacked up the car and in less than an hour had replaced all the parts including my spare axle and we were under way again."

"We reached Melbourne safely and had a wonderful week."

"The journey back to Perth was uneventful, but on arrival we were stopped by the road traffic police who put a sticker on the car and ordered it off the road. We later purchased the exact same model Holden, which had a damaged engine but the bodywork was in good condition. Deanna's father swapped the engine with the one we had driven to Melbourne and back with and we gave the old car body to the wreckers."

"We drove the revamped car for the next two years and sold it when we moved to the United Kingdom on a working holiday in 1966."

"But that's a story for another day," Geoff concludes.

**Geoff Prendergast**  
**City of Mandurah Circle**

## City of Perth

### Family affair

At the City of Perth meeting on Monday 19 October 2020, brothers were delighted to welcome a new member, **CHRIS CALLUS** the son of Joe Callus. Also a guest at the meeting was Dianella member, Raoul Chevalier who is a relative of Joe and Chris.



**Left to right: Joe Callus, Raoul Chevalier and Chris Callus**

After lunch at the circle's new venue at Newman Siena Centre members were reluctant to move and many stayed on to enjoy a chat well into the afternoon, no longer finding it necessary to rush home to bed now that the circle has switched its meeting times to the middle of the day, thus avoiding travel at night. The new venue is closer to home for all members and within easy reach for all of the northern and western suburb circles as well as being a very attractive and accommodating place.

### Enjoying social contact

With the support of his wife Anne, City of Perth Brother John Hicks who was installed as a member of the circle in July 2020, is enjoying the social contact with like-minded Catholic men that he has experienced from being a Catenian.

Now retired, John had a career in mixed farming at Pingrup, a small town in the Great Southern region of Western Australia. His farming interests included merino sheep, ram breeding, cereals and as a registered seed grower. John was always interested in agricultural innovation and research to try to be a better farmer.

John and Anne have three adult children; Paul who is farming on the family farm and has a Perth business, Marianne who is a high school teacher in Melbourne and Stephen who is a medical doctor with a diversity of medical interests in Perth.

John and Anne are members of the Holy Rosary Catholic Parish in Nedlands where John is a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

In his retirement he is an independent researcher at the most basic level, studying regenerative agriculture, overcoming spring frosts and filling farm dams in a drying climate.



## Swan Valley

### Intense battle for Bocce honours

A very intense and competitive Bocce game was one of the highlights of the annual Swan Valley picnic at Lake Leschenaultia on Sunday 11 October 2020. The winner of the 2020 championship was Angelo Fanetti who showed some good form in a very spirited contest.



**President, Patrick Doyle (left) with 2020 Bocce champ, Angelo Fanetti**

Lake Leschenaultia is a former railway dam that is now a recreational lake in the Shire of Mundaring just north of the location of an important railway-stopping place on the original Eastern Railway. Open to the public, it is the perfect spot for a Perth Hills picnic or a camping experience offering excellent facilities year round.

There are numerous shelters dotted around the magnificent lake, grassed areas, sandy beaches and playground equipment. Other attractions include swimming, canoeing, walk and cycle tracks.

The Swan Valley Circle reserved one of the many shelters and picnic areas that are available for hire for exclusive use by families and groups. The circle had an excellent turnout with ten brothers, six partners and four young family members.



**Swan Valley members and families relaxing with a few drinks and a barbecue in one of the larger shelters overlooking the beautiful lake Leschenaultia**

### Joint circle morning tea

Swan Valley and Darling Range have put a new dimension to the escalating popularity in Province 20 of the "circle morning tea" now embracing the concept jointly for coffee, cake and a long chat. The two circles held their second joint morning tea on Saturday 23 October 2020, this time hosted in the Darling Range patch at the Esther Café in Kalamunda as a follow up to the first event that was held in Swan Valley territory.

The Esther Café was selected as the venue by Darling Range because the circle is engaged in charitable works in support of the Esther Foundation, <https://www.estherfoundation.org.au/Our-Café-Boutique/The-Esther-Cafe> whose motto is "Restoring lives in need."

Wim Hultink, Tom Polich, Colin Broun, Patrick Doyle, Taiwo Sanusi, Emmanuel Calleja and Kevin and Lorraine Parker attended the morning and it is hoped that they will be joined by many more brothers and partners at future events. The consensus is that circles should get together with wives, partners and prospective members to enjoy informal fellowship and, for retired Catenians, a time to relax and stay in touch.



**Left to right around the table at the Esther Café in Kalamunda: Wim Hultink, Chris Downey, Gerard Tonks, Colin Broun, Emmanuel Calleja, Patrick Doyle and Lorraine and Kevin Parker**

### Graduated




**Swan Valley Brother, Taiwo Sanusi and his daughter, Aramide Ellie Sanusi at her graduation ceremony**

On Thursday 22 October 2020, **TAIWO SANUSI** was overwhelmed with pride as he witnessed his "princess" traverse the stage to collect awards in human biology, English literature and history at her graduation.

Aramide has secured admission to study either medicine at the University of Western Australia or software engineering at Curtin University in 2021.



Aramide is the only daughter of Taiwo and Joanne.



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## Thrilling finish to footy grand final

Supporters of the Curtin University Wesley Football Club were treated to an exciting finish to the Phil Scott Colts Amateur A-Grade grand final when their side recorded a five-point victory on Saturday 26 September 2020 against the Collegians Football Club, a western suburbs team based in Dalkeith.

One passionate supporter of the Curtin team was Swan Valley Brother **MICHAEL ROSARIO** who was on the boundary encouraging his son, Preston who played extremely well in the nerve wracking final stages of the game.



*Michael Rosario with his son Preston celebrating after the Curtin University football grand final win*

## Joint meeting with Como Circle

Most circles in Province 20 thoroughly enjoying joint meetings with their neighbouring circles and the event hosted by Como Circle at RAAFA Bull Creek on Tuesday 10 November 2020 was no exception with a good number of Swan Valley brothers making the effort to attend.

A highlight of the evening for Swan Valley President, Patrick Doyle was his memorable victory in a traditional game of 'heads and tails' for which he was rewarded with a nice bottle of 'red'.



*Left to right: Taiwo Sanusi and Swan Valley President Patrick Doyle with Como President Mike Taylor*

## Time for a laugh

### Golden silence

Paul and John are sitting quietly in a boat fishing, smoking cigarettes and drinking cold beer when suddenly Paul says: "I think I'm going to divorce my wife. She hasn't spoken to me in over two months."

John throws his cigarette butt overboard, takes a long, slow drink of beer from his can and says: "You had better think it over; women like that are very hard to find."

### The worst day of my life

Harry was sitting at the bar staring into his drink when a large, leather-clad bikey came up next to him, grabbed his drink and gulped it down in one swig.

"Well, what are you going to do about it?" the bikey said menacingly.

"This is the worst day of my life," Harry said. "I'm a complete failure. I was late for a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the car park I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the taxi I took home. I found my wife in bed with another man and then my dog bit me."

"So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all," Harry continued. "I bought a drink, dropped a capsule in and was sitting here watching the poison dissolve; then you show up and drink the whole thing in one gulp."

"But that's enough about me," Harry said. "How's your day going?"

### A native Australian

Old Jack, who seldom left his home, was visiting the London zoo.

"This animal," the guide told him, "is a native of Africa and over there is a native of India."

When they came to the kangaroo enclosure, the guide said: "And here's a native of Australia."

"Good heavens," cried Jack with dismay. "My daughter has gone to Australia and got married to one of them."

### Looking pretty

A little girl walked to and from school each day. One particular bleak morning storm clouds were gathering when she set off for school.

As the day progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning.

The mother felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home so she got into her car and drove along the route to the school. She saw her little girl walking along and at each flash of lightning; the child would stop, look up and smile.

More lightning followed quickly and with each flash, the girl again looked up and smiled. Her mother asked: "What are you doing?"

The child answered: "I'm trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."

