

WESTERN LINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION PROVINCE 20 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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NAME

Family first

Adelaide's blueprint for recruitment success

Inaugurated as a Group on 10 March 2021, Adelaide City's remarkable success in recruiting 13 Catholic men in just three months from eight separate Parishes in an Australian State where the Catenian Association is unknown was achieved by doing things differently from more established traditions.

"I identified quite early that the primary needs of younger men under the age of 50 is to be part of a dynamic, fun and relevant Catholic community," writes Kingsley Forsyth.



Kingsley Forsyth is the Secretary and Development Officer of the new Adelaide City Group

"I discovered that in the first 100 years of the Catenian Association the majority of men were attracted by the formality, convention and ceremony of meetings/dinners and the associated benefits of networking, professional development, fraternity with only the small minority joining for the social aspects."

"Nowadays, this has been completely reversed with Catholic men, supported by their families, joining primarily for the social life because it provides an opportunity where they can have fun, fraternize with other like-minded Catholic families and most importantly, actually get to know them; wives get to know wives, children get to know children, all in an informal and relaxed setting."

"Social events are essentially the *carrots* for a man (and their families) to join," Kingsley writes. "The business meeting and dinner is a *side dish*; still important and necessary, but no longer the primary reason."

"That is why when I speak to a prospective member I always describe joining the Association *'as a family membership, in the name of the man'*, because it's a fraternity, a brotherhood, and needs to be this way."

"The men and wives all accept this," Kingsley said. "Interestingly, we already have some very capable wives in the Adelaide City Group; wives who are business owners, bankers and doctors, but when explained in this way they are fully supportive of the 'fraternity' aspect, meaning the men carry the membership."

"If circles focus more on creating regular quality and fun social events for the men and their families they will come and even tell their friends about us," he said.



Family first

"The way forward is to become a dynamic, fun and relevant Catholic community and this will be achieved chiefly through exciting and fun social events held each month. We have already developed a number of high quality social events such as shared lunches/dinners at Brothers homes, movie nights, BBQ's in the park/at the beach, quiz nights and men (members) only events."

"The secret to our growth," Kingsley continues, "is that our Group offers membership to men who **want to join and stay with us**. We want men motivated on meeting other men like themselves and other families like theirs who are excited about living their faith. The men who we have approached are nearly always involved in leading ministries and/or volunteering at their parish. We deliberately set out to acquire the *cream of the crop* when it comes to selecting Catholic men in Adelaide, especially early on as we form our Group's nucleus. That is why we have been very selective to date on whom we invite."

"Our Immediate plan as the Group becomes established is to reduce the number of meetings/dinners to every second month, reduce the number of Office Bearers to five and continue with 11 social events every year," Kingsley concluded.

Directory

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Adelaide	Kingsley Forsyth
Avon Valley	Brian Webb
Bouvard	Max Gardiner
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Canning	Doug Williams
Como	Pat McManus
Darling Range	Harry Muller
Dianella	Norm Thompson
Fremantle	Kevin Hefron
Joondalup	Peter Johnston
Liwara	Barry Webb
Mandurah	Mike Seeber
Perth	Ian Moncrieff
Swan Valley	Michael Rosario



Celebrating one year of operation

In July 2020, soon after the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was becoming known and widespread job losses were being forecast, Province 20 initiated its *Job Support Project*.

This initiative was led in 2020 by the then Provincial President Lou Daily. He was assisted by Vice President Chris Downey, Secretary Harry Muller and Marketing Officer and Editor of the *Western Link* Peter Johnston. Backing up the leadership sub-committee was a group of ten Catenian Brothers with current or prior intensive experience in business, management and professions.

The *P20 Job Support Project* is closely modelled on the employment assistance sought and offered by advertisements in the *Catena* magazine and the equally dynamic job support program offered to United Kingdom Catenians on the professional networking platform *LinkedIn*.

The Province 20 program is offered to Catenians, their families and extended to their grandchildren.

The program was completely confidential and free to use without any obligations. All inquiries went to a generic email address, responded to with assistance and were then forwarded, where necessary for advice from an expert panel.

Since July 2020, the economic recovery has been better than expected in Western Australia in particular and all Western Australians are now benefiting from near-full employment. Indeed, there are record numbers of vacancies in many employment sectors.

As a result, the *P20 Job Support Project* is expected to receive fewer inquiries, perhaps limited to only specialised assistance, which will still be provided when requested.

The *Job Support E-Bulletin*, delivered both digitally and via hard copy will be suspended for the time being, however any Catenian or family member requiring assistance can continue to contact P20.jobsupport@thecatenians.org.au

Fraternally,

Chris Downey
Provincial President

Speaking out with poise and confidence

After a 12-month break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province 20 sponsored public speaking contest resumed again in Nestor Hall at the Catholic Education Office in Leederville in June 2021. Now in its fifth year, the Catholic Education Office administers the annual *Speak for Faith* competition.

Open to Year 11 and 12 students in Catholic Colleges in Western Australia, this year there were 17 participants from 12 colleges. From heats held on two Saturday mornings on the 12th and 19th of June, six students were selected by a panel of adjudicators to compete at the final held on Saturday 26 June.

Each student was required to present a prepared five-minute speech on a topic or theme chosen from his or her Catholic Religious Education curriculum. Speakers were then given a topic with four minutes to prepare an impromptu speech of two minutes.

Many Catenians came along to swell the audience of teachers and parents at the two sessions of heats and there was an excellent turnout of about 50 at the final including a large number of Catenian brothers and their wives.

The standard of speaking from all participants was extremely high reflecting a huge commitment to thorough preparation and delivery.

The panel of three prominent and competent adjudicators independent of the schools provided positive feedback to all speakers with pertinent critiques of content and presentation. The adjudicators at the final were educators/administrators in Catholic Education, Chris Cotter, Maureen Delaney and Jim Elliott and the MC for the series of three sessions was Darling Range Brother and past Provincial President Gerard Tonks. The event organiser from the Catholic Education Office was Peter Higgins.

The six finalists were:

- **Chelsea Fuderer** from Corpus Christi College
- **Caitlin Green** and **Oscar Hegge** from John XXIII College
- **Amy Mance** from Iona Presentation College
- **Louis Martino** from Aquinas College
- **Lara Schmidt** from St Joseph's School, Northam

The standard of presentation from all six finalists was outstanding. First prize was awarded to Lara Schmidt (St Joseph's School, Northam), second prize to Oscar Hegge (John XXIII College) and third prize to Amy Mance (Iona Presentation College).

The Vice President of the Catenian Association in Western Australia John Murray presented the successful students with cash prizes totalling \$1,200. The winners were also presented with engraved medallions and the winning school, St Joseph's School Northam was also awarded a medallion. All 17 participants received certificates of participation.

An unexpected and welcome conclusion to the morning was an impromptu speech given by the winner of the 2018 *Speak for Faith* competition Luke Commins who at that time was a student at Bunbury Catholic College, Marist Campus. Luke demonstrated why he was a previous winner with an excellent speech complimenting the Catenian Association and the Catholic Education Office for providing the opportunity for students to participate in this important public speaking initiative. Luke is currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree in politics and journalism at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle Campus.



The six finalists, left to right: Louis Martino, Chelsea Fuderer, Lara Schmidt, Amy Mance, Caitlin Green and Oscar Hegge



Left to right: The Principal of St Joseph's School, Northam, Andrea Woodgate, Provincial Vice President John Murray and 2021 *Speak for Faith* winner Lara Schmidt



The three adjudicators representing the Catholic Education Office, Chris Cotter, Maureen Delaney and Jim Elliott



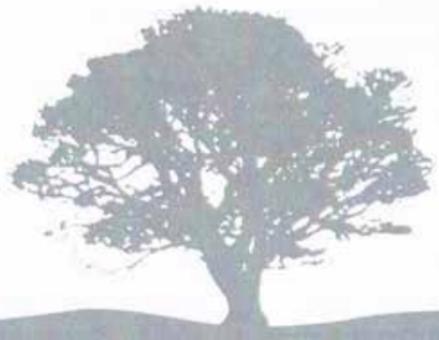
Speak for Faith MC Gerard Tonks Darling Range Circle

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Como Circle celebrates its 400th meeting

The 19 Como brothers who attended the Circle's 400th meeting at the RAAF Memorial Estate in Bull Creek on Saturday 22 May 2021 were delighted with the presence of ten visitors and a former member as a guest. Visitors included Provincial President Chris Downey (Darling Range Circle), Immediate Past Provincial President Lou Daily (Dianella Circle) and Province 20 Director and Chairman of Central Council Ralph Fitzpatrick. Six brothers from Swan Valley Circle and one from Liwara were also present.

Como President Michael Taylor formally welcomed members, visitors and guests.



Como Brothers at the circle's 400th meeting
Photo taken by Jim Phillips



Visitors Patrick Doyle (President Swan Valley Circle), Provincial President Chris Downey (Darling Range Circle) and Liana Fitzpatrick (Liwara Circle)

A highlight of the meeting was the enrolment of a new Brother Leo Burke of Como Parish; the 103rd enrolment into membership of the circle that now stands at 32.

While the formal meeting was in progress Bonnie Staude, the granddaughter of Josephine and Bill Staude, entertained the ladies. Accompanied on the keyboard by her grandmother Bonnie sang several songs with her magnificent voice penetrating the meeting room causing many heads to turn.

During the dinner that followed Bonnie, who is studying at The Academy of Performing Arts, sang two more songs, which were greeted with enthusiastic applause.



Bonnie Staude with Josephine and Bill

Tony Smurthwaite outlined the events that led to "twin-circle" arrangements being established between Como Circle and Canterbury in the United Kingdom and Melbourne Circles.

In a short presentation Founder Brother Barry O'Malley recollected the formation and inauguration of Como Circle and some of the early history. Como was the sixth circle inaugurated in Province 20 on 11 November 1984, the day after Dianella Circle was inaugurated.

The first Catenian circle in Western Australia was the City of Perth, inaugurated on 8 February 1977. In the following years members of this circle were prominent in consolidating the Association with Darling Range (27 February 1981), Fremantle (28 February 1981) and Liwara (6 December 1982) established in rapid succession.

City of Perth brothers Brendan McGurk, Ben Brucciani, Peter Maguire, Laurie Shervington, Cliff Holloway and Brian Preston played leading roles in the establishment of Dianella and Como and Kevin Brady (Fremantle Circle) was also a driving force behind the development and formation of Como. He became the Founder President and Cliff Holloway joined the new circle as a Founder Brother.

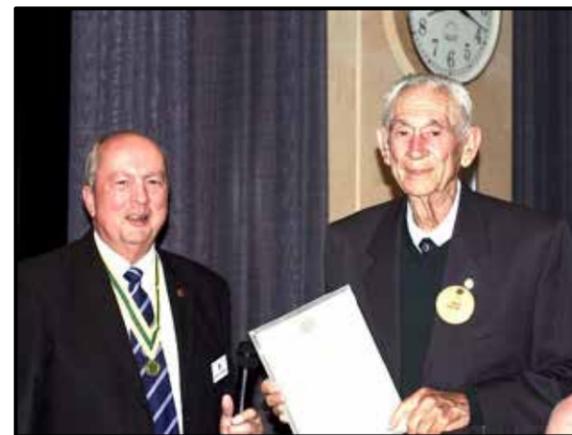
Another Founder Brother who attended Como's 400th meeting was Brian Jarvis and his wife Margaret. The third surviving Founder Brother Con Stacey (a Past Provincial President in 1995/96) does not enjoy the best of health and was unable to attend the celebratory meeting.

Brian Jarvis (right) and his wife Margaret and fellow Founder Brother Barry O'Malley (left) had the honour of cutting the 400th meeting cake, served with tea and coffee that followed an enjoyable three-course meal



Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of framed certificates by Province 20 Director and Chairman of Central Council Ralph Fitzpatrick to Laurie Basire and Ted Mulcock acknowledging their 25 years of membership of the Catenian Association.

Certificates were also presented to Barry O'Malley, Brian Jarvis, Bill Staude, Tony Parentich, Jack Katnic and Peter Cox (98 years of age) who have all been members of the Association for 30 years or more.



Province 20 Director and Chairman of Central Council presented Jack Katnic with his 30-year membership certificate



Como Circle's 90-years plus Brothers Left to right: Peter Cox, Bill Staude and Barry O'Malley

"All in all, our 400th meeting and dinner was well received and thoroughly enjoyed by the 52 people in attendance. It was a fitting celebration of a very important event in Como Circle's history," writes Pat McManus.

Contributed by Pat McManus
Como Circle
Honorary Life Member of Province 20

Wonderful turnout for widows Mass and lunch



Standing left to right: Maureen Stubbs (Liwara), Meryl Fonseca (Darling Range), Pat Hopkins (Liwara), Pat Stidwell and Betty Ryan (City of Perth), Claudette de Silva (Liwara), Jenny Rea (Joondalup) and Pamela McKechnie (Dianella)
Seated: Margaret Byron (Como), Jan Coffey and Pat Hanrahan (Fremantle), Catie Jones (Swan Valley), Judy Humphris and Yvonne Lowe (Fremantle), Pat Stidwell's sister Judy, and Gloria Skelton and Margaret Kerrigan (Fremantle)

The coordinator of the annual Catenian widows Mass and Luncheon held at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth on Thursday 27 May 2021, Pamela McKechnie was delighted with the large attendance, particularly those ladies welcomed for the first time. Unfortunately Roslyn Paul (Avon Valley) came down sick with a reaction to her COVID-19 vaccination and had to leave early and Jocelyn Colleran (Como) was unable to attend because of a strained ankle.

Thanks to Pat McManus (Como) who brought Margaret Byron, Pat Stidwell's sister Judy who brought Pat and Judy Humphris' sister Jan drove Judy. Beryl Fitzgerald and Pauline Herrington (City of Mandurah) and Jenny Rea and Merle Reid (Joondalup) all travelled to the city by train.

Ladies were from Como (1), Darling Range (1), Fremantle (6), Joondalup (2), Liwara (3), Mandurah (2), Perth (2) and Swan Valley (1). Barbara Prior who passed away in 2019 and Moira Stokes whose funeral was in early May this year were both sadly missed. Pamela said that it was wonderful to see all the Fremantle widows enjoying themselves together.



The Fremantle ladies left to right: Jan Coffey, Pat Hanrahan, Catie Jones (Swan Valley), Judy Humphries, Yvonne Lowe, Jan (Judy Humphries sister), Gloria Skelton and Margaret Kerrigan

The Dean and Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral, Father Sean Fernandez celebrated the Mass and a delicious luncheon supplied by the ladies was enjoyed in the Cathedral facilities. Thanks were extended to the Cathedral Manager, Victor for preparing the kitchen area for the occasion.

Pamela appealed to all circle Secretaries to keep her fully informed of changes of address or passing of members and wives.



From a Group to a Circle in just twelve months

Targeting an early 2022 inauguration

“The Catenian Association’s presence in Adelaide in the form of the Adelaide City Group continues to grow from strength to strength and God willing, looks forward to forming a Circle in the 2022 New Year,” writes Secretary and Development Officer of the new Group, Kingsley Forsyth.

On Saturday 19 June 2021 the Group took another giant step forward in its Catenian Association journey by hosting a successful Holy Mass.

Father Anthoni Adimai, donning a Catenian chasuble, celebrated the Mass delivering a wonderfully Catenian-themed homily in which he touched on the ethos of the Association, the role it can play in bringing men back to the Church and the importance of ‘intentional’ friendship amongst each other.

The Mass was held at the historic St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in the heart of the city and was well attended by Brothers, their families, a number of prospective gentlemen, a community of Sisters and a representative from Shalom TV.

Following Mass Brothers, their families and two Sisters enjoyed a three-course lunch, dining in a private room at the House of Chow restaurant.



Left to right, back: **Joshy Scaria, George Joseph and Joseph Biju**
Front: **Joshy Scaria’s sons**



At the House of Chow restaurant, left to right: **Ruthy and Nicholas Chileshe and Frances Mulholland**



Members of the Adelaide City Group pictured outside St. Patrick’s Church (left to right): **Joshy Scaria, Nicholas Chileshe, Luis Garcia-Arriola, Andrew Mulholland (partly obscured), Rennie Louis, Father Anthoni Adimai, Kingsley Forsyth, Michael Cogman, Ramon Salazar, Nuwan Waas, Erik Cheung (partly obscured) and Johan Livera**



Johan Livera and Michelle and Meliza Zuhiri

Once in a generation recruitment opportunity

“The biggest opportunity, by far, for the Catenian Association in Australia is to recruit from the Catholic migrant communities,” writes **KINGSLEY FORSYTH**, Secretary and Development Officer of Adelaide City Group. “These communities are full of devoted men and families that will carry the Catenians on for many generations.”

“In the Adelaide Group we currently have men born in Mexico, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, India, Zambia, Hong Kong, England and Australia. And a secret I’ve only recently learned is that what these migrants love most about our Group compared to their cultural-based Church groups is that there are no cultural politics in our Group because of its mix of cultures. To these migrants this is a huge drawback of a diverse Catholic group of men. Often in the migrant Catholic communities there is internal infighting, power plays and politics. This doesn’t exist in the Adelaide City Group simply because we’re from all cultures, in many ways reflecting the modern Church in Australia.”

“The other reason that the Adelaide Group is growing so quickly is that there are no other Catholic groups, ministries or associations that I’m aware of in Australia that are as diverse as us,” Kingsley writes. “In age we have men aged 24 to 81, in ethnicity we have men born in ten separate countries, in professions we have everything from university professors, accountants, financial planners, university students to petrol station managers. These men also hail from eight separate Catholic parishes.”

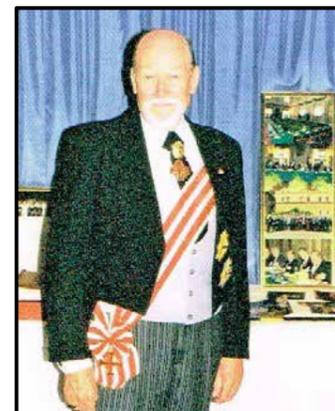
“The richness in diversity benefits everyone involved in our Group and if replicated across the Catenian Association as a whole would be an incredibly powerful thing,” Kingsley said.

Vale Cliff Holloway 1922 – 2021

Catenian Brothers from members of all circles in Province 20 were saddened by the passing at the age of 98, of Clifford Henry (Cliff) Holloway OAM KGCHS; born into Eternal Life on 13 June 2021.

A large number of Catenian Brothers and wives joined family, friends and members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, WA at his Requiem Mass at All Saints Catholic Church in Greenwood on Saturday 19 June 2021.

The coffin was draped with the palls of both the Catenian Association and the Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.



Members of Province 20 of the Catenian Association and the Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre form a Guard of Honour at the conclusion of Cliff’s Requiem Mass

Cliff was the beloved husband of Vivienne, father of David, Andrew, Anne, Mark and Kathryn and Grandfather of many grandchildren. His immediate and extended family, friends and parishioners will sorely miss him.

Cliff’s involvement with the Catenian Association began with his enrollment in Bournemouth Circle (Province 11) in England in January 1970. After migrating to Australia he became a Founder Member of the City of Perth Circle when it was inaugurated in February 1977, continuing on as a joint member of Bournemouth until 1981. He became a member of Como when it was inaugurated in 1984 and finally joined Fremantle Circle in May 2002.

Province 20 Director and Chairman of Central Council Ralph Fitzpatrick presented Cliff with his 50-year Membership Certificate at his home in August 2020.

Cliff is fondly remembered and respected by members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which he was responsible for establishing in Western Australia, holding the position of Lieutenant.

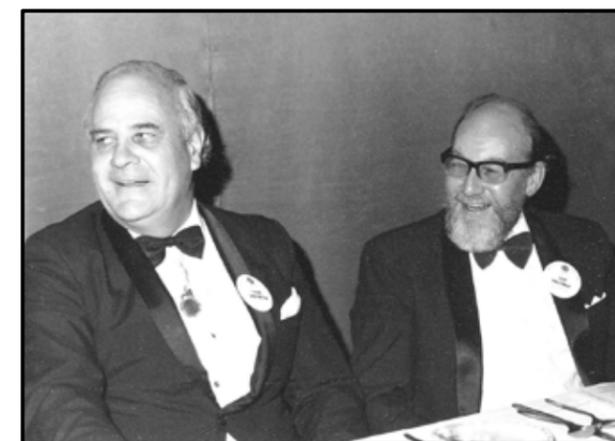
Cliff’s historical Legacy

In September 2002 Cliff Holloway presented to the, then Provincial President a type-written journal entitled *A Brief History of the Catenian Association Overseas and Australia*, compiled by a Province 20 Editorial Committee of Brothers Tom Ryan (dec’d), Jim Kenny, Laurie Shervington (dec’d) and Derrick Flynn (dec’d). The Australian segment of this history was based primarily from the input of Cliff Holloway, compiled and produced by the City of Perth Secretary Derrick Flynn.

The history was compiled to time with the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of Western Australia’s first Catenian Circle, the City of Perth on 8 February 1977. From time to time over the ensuing years much of that history has been preserved in the pages of the *Western Link*.

That history acknowledges that the birth of the Association in Western Australia was due principally to the untiring efforts and enthusiasm of a small group of migrant Catholic friends including Cliff Holloway, Peter Maguire, Ben Brucciani, Bill Kerr and Bernie Crannigan.

Cliff was President of Province 20’s initial Liaison Council West in 1981/82, the Area Council West in 1982/83 and Provincial Council in 1985/86. He was honoured with Life Membership of Province 20 in 2009.



Laurie Shervington and Cliff Holloway



Left to right: **Ian Handcock, Cliff Holloway, Donald McKechnie, Ian Moncrieff, Gerry Barton and Leo Croll**

See page 28 for an extract of Cliff’s daughter Anne’s Eulogy



New Councillors ready for the challenge

Provincial Council was reinforced with the appointment of four new Executive Councillors at Province 20's Annual General Meeting on 8 May 2021, two replacing Brothers **STEVE WILLIAMSON** (Swan Valley Circle) and **PAUL CHABREL** (Liwara Circle) who have given outstanding service over a long period.

Steve, who served as President in 2011/12 and again in 2016/17 has in recent years held the position of Records Officer, an unenviably challenging role with the changing requirements of recording and maintaining membership details in an ever-evolving age of technology. His position as Records Officer will be taken over by **JOHN SUTTON** (Canning and Fremantle Circles).

After six years as Provincial Treasurer Paul has handed over responsibility to **VERN SCANLAN** (Dianella Circle). Paul has done an outstanding job as Treasurer during a period when circle financial reports have been standardized and the reporting process streamlined.

Other additions to Provincial Council are **JOHN MURRAY** (City of Perth Circle) who has taken over as Vice President and **CLIFF CHALON** (Canning Circle) who was appointed to the important position of Membership and Expansion Officer, taking over from **CHRIS DOWNEY** (Darling Range Circle) who was installed at the Annual General Meeting as Provincial President by **LOU DAILY** (Dianella Circle). Lou will continue on at Executive Council as the Immediate Past President.



Lou Daily (right) handing over presidency to Chris Downey

Vice President, John Murray

"I joined the Catenian Association in 2014 when City of Perth Brother Tom Joynes tapped me on the shoulder and invited me to attend a meeting at the Royal Perth Golf Club," writes John. "I have stayed ever since and am now delighted to have been given the opportunity to make a commitment to serve on Province 20's Provincial Council."



Incoming President Chris Downey congratulates John Murray on his installation as Provincial Vice President

"Early on I discovered that being a 'Catenian' can be a tough gig. Tom asked me to make a presentation about my career in aviation, so after only a few meetings I found myself expounding to members about the battle for market share between Airbus's A380 and Boeing's B787, a struggle which has been comprehensively won by the smaller aircraft."

"I have been President of the City of Perth Circle for the past four years."

"I was born in a small New Zealand town called Paeroa, which, as the advertising slogan goes, is world famous – in New Zealand. This is due to a distinctly Kiwi soft drink called Lemon and Paeroa (now shortened to L&P), which was created by having the town's mineral water mixed with lemon juice to make a refreshing and unique tasting beverage."

"I was baptised a Catholic a month to the day after I was born and have been an involved member of the church ever since with primary, secondary and tertiary education and an adult life being very much lived and experienced within the church."

"Dad was moved about by his employer and we finally ended up in Wainuiomata, an outlying suburb of Wellington that I would describe as the place in which I grew up, as did the wife of former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott."

"It was here in St Patrick's Parish Wainuiomata that I entered an active parish life as an altar boy and a reader, and am now a little shocked to realise that I have now been a reader for over 50 years."

"That was the start of many ways of being involved in the Church," John said, "including being on the Pastoral Council and Liturgy Committees of four different parishes in New Zealand and Australia. I have been involved in a wide range of different Church groups including Renew, Passionist Family Groups, Focloare and now, of course, the Catenian Association."

"After a couple of false starts in career moves, I settled into an aviation career. I was a flight instructor, which unfortunately did not pay very well so I took up an employment opportunity at Massey University in Palmerston North, firstly as a writer of training materials and then moving into lecturing of which I recently celebrated 25 years."

"We moved to Perth 15 years ago when I was offered a position at Edith Cowan University as an academic in the aviation program. As well as lecturing I'm involved in research, exploring the knowledge, skills and other attributes required of remotely piloted aircraft (drones)."

"I have never been quite sure as to how it happened, but I married Anne-Marie 33 years ago in Dunedin, New Zealand. She had plenty of suitors and I was, and still am, very gauche in my courting abilities. We are currently parishioners in the St Kieran Parish, Osborne Park and have been blessed with three children who are now young adults studying different subjects at university."

"I am keen on fitness and either run or cycle most days. I am also something of a sports nut and closely follow the Fremantle Dockers, the All Blacks and keep an eye on the Cleveland Browns."

Treasurer, Vern Scanlan

Vern joined Dianella Circle in 2002 where he has served as Secretary, Treasurer and President. He has been an acolyte at Our Lady's Assumption Church in Dianella for 30 years and is currently a parishioner of St Paul's Church in Mt Lawley. Vern is also a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Morley/Dianella Conference and is a volunteer with Wheelchairs for Kids in Wangara where he works every Monday assisting with the production of unique wheelchairs for needy children around the world.



Vern Scanlan, installed as Provincial Treasurer by President, Chris Downey

"I was born at St Anne's in Mt Lawley and educated up to year ten at Christian Brothers High School in Highgate," Vern writes. "After finishing high school I joined the ANZ Bank in January 1960 at the age of 16 where I worked until offered voluntary redundancy with a good payout on Independence Day 1997 after 37 years with the bank. I had spent most of my time with ANZ in the city administration areas and metropolitan branches with eight years service in Carnarvon, Newman, Pinjarra and South Hedland. In the 80s I was involved for eight years with the bank's credit card expansion with Visa and Mastercard, which was the first ANZ department to receive personal computers."

"During the years 1997-2001 I painted our previous large residence internally and externally and worked as a sole operator in a small hatchback vehicle as a courier for Magic Couriers in Perth city and the metropolitan area. Following that I worked 20 hours per week at the Jewish School (Carmel) in Dianella as Assistant Bursar until 2008."

"Helene and I were married in 1969 and have been blessed with three married children and we have six grandchildren."

"Helene and I have spent many good times helping our children with house renovations and plenty of baby sitting. To celebrate our 70th birthdays we took the whole family of 14 for a holiday in Singapore."

"Since retirement we have travelled extensively including England, Scotland, Ireland and the continent. We also spent three weeks cruising the Mediterranean, visiting Jerusalem, Greece, Mykonos and Istanbul. We also travelled to Vancouver including a Inside Passage cruise and in 2018 another three weeks cruising the Baltic."

"Golf has been a good part of my recreation," Vern said. "I play nine holes every Tuesday and Thursday at the Wembley Golf Course with a group of up to 20 members."

Records Officer, John Sutton

John joined Canning Circle in 2011, enrolled by then President Bill Tucker. From 2013 until 2020 when he became a joint member of Fremantle Circle John served Canning in a variety of responsible Council position. He was Vice President (2013 to 2015), President (2015 to 2017), Provincial Councillor (2017 to 2019), Provincial Chamberlain (2016 to 2019) and Membership Officer (2019 to 2020).

Joining Fremantle in 2019 John took on the dual roles of Secretary and Membership Officer and at this year's Province 20 Annual General Meeting was installed as Provincial Records Officer.

John and his family landed at Perth airport on 4 July 1978 and entered Australia as permanent residents, sponsored by the State Government to take up a job as a marine pilot at Port Hedland. "We came to Australia from Saudi Arabia where I also worked as a marine pilot," John writes.

"We lived in Port Hedland for just over two years and then moved to Perth when I secured a job with West Australian Petroleum as Pilot and Mooring Master at Barrow Island."

"My wife Lesley and I have two sons and three grandchildren. We are blessed because our family all live within an hour of our home in Willetton."

"I have been active in Saints John and Paul Catholic Church in Willetton where I have been responsible for the maintenance of parish property from 2011 and a member of the Parish Finance Committee until the end of 2019."

"I retired from paid employment in March 2011," John said, "and two days later was invited to become a volunteer at the Province of Perth, Catholic Tribunal. In those days Perth was the coordinating office for Second Instance Tribunals throughout Australia and New Zealand. I was taken on board to design a computer based record management system to keep track of all the cases moving through the system throughout Australia and New Zealand."

"I filled this role until December 2015 when Pope Francis amended Canon Law to remove Second Instance Tribunals. Now I still work at the Tribunal keeping track of local Province of Perth cases," John said.

Membership and Expansion Officer, Cliff Chalon

Cliff joined Canning Circle in 2016 and immediately took on the position of Chamberlain for a year before moving into the Membership Officer's role in 2020. In 2021 he continues serving in this position, but has also been installed as Vice President of Canning.

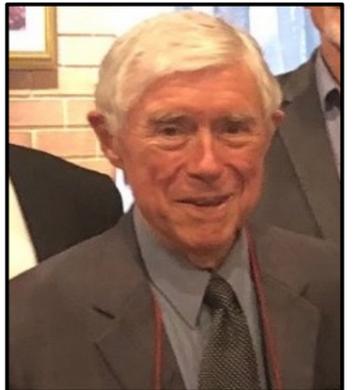
"My wife Lorraine and I are very active in our parish at Sacred Heart in Thornlie where we have been attending Mass for over 20 years," Cliff writes.

"I was born in India in a railway town called Asansol, West Bengal and attended the Railway Primary School and St Patrick's High School in Asansol before studying for about two years at Kent Street Senior High School in Perth after we migrated in 1968. I hold a Masters degree in Human Resource Management from Curtin University."

"I joined the Railways in 1970 and then moved to the Royal Australian Air Force for six years performing various human resources roles as a senior practitioner and Director/Consultant in projects across Australia and the Asia Pacific, even travelling to India on a few assignments. I set up my own consulting business in 2001 and I'm still active and thoroughly enjoying it."

"Lorraine and I have been blessed with two girls, Renee and Rebecca, now grown up and involved in their careers. Renee lives in Perth and Beckie is in Vancouver, Canada," said Cliff.

"I love music and enjoy being part of the senior choir and male choir at Sacred Heart Church. We enjoy travel, playing/singing music from all genres and watching AFL and other sports on television."



Approaching 50,000

Wheelchairs for Kids

In its latest newsletter to donors dated May 2021, Wheelchairs for Kids reports that the Wangara factory of volunteers is now operating almost normally after a temporary setback caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The volunteer Workshop Manager, Brother Olly Pickett said that the organisation is rapidly approaching the 50,000 mark of wheelchairs produced in its Wangara factory and distributed to needy children in developing countries around the world.

An initiative of the Rotary Club of Scarborough, Wheelchairs for Kids started in 1998 with the support of the Christian Brothers, including Olly.

The project now has a pool of over 300 local retiree volunteers producing and distributing up to 350 wheelchairs per month. In addition 80 ladies working from home sew colourful covers and hundreds of people all over Australia produce and donate blankets and soft toys to go with the wheelchairs. Incredibly approximately 800 volunteers commit their time and energy to the project.

"Each wheelchair is built for only about \$200," Olly said, "providing needy children in under-resourced countries with a therapeutic wheelchair including postural supports, a tray, basket, knee rug, a complete set of body and foot straps, a soft toy and tool kit."

"Recently our keen *Technical Progress and Quality Control Group* has put into production another innovation – a colourful spoke guard that will prevent little fingers being caught," he added.

"Last year was a momentous one when we purchased an moved into our new factory in Wangara and this year was equally significant when a donor generously paid off half of our mortgage."



The new Wangara factory

Contacts are Gordon Hudson (Director and volunteer), David Hudson (volunteer CEO and no relation to Gordon) and Olly Pickett (volunteer Workshop Manager). For more information visit www.wheelchairsforkids.org

Many Catenian circles in Province 20 have supported and continue to provide valuable support to this worthwhile project as volunteers, through their President's Charity, private donations and just "spreading the word".

Catenian links to Parish development

A Parish Centre currently under construction on a site immediately adjacent to the All Saints Catholic Church and Presbytery in Greenwood has some strong Catenian links dating back some 40 years.

Catenian Brother Martin Colgan (Joondalup Circle) was the builder of the Presbytery almost 40 years ago on a portion of land on the northern side of Warwick Road where the Liwara Catholic Primary School was located.

The late Father Barry Whitely was the Parish Priest and the President of the Parish Pastoral Council was Peter Johnston (Joondalup Circle) when the Presbytery was built.

Martin Colgan's wife Dot and Peter Johnston's wife Maree were recruited by Father Whitely to select and buy all the fittings of the new Presbytery, including floor and curtain coverings, furniture, taps, tiles, cupboards and kitchen utensils.

Fast forward to 2021 the separate Parish Community Centre is now being built by Martin and Dot's two boys, Nathan and Daniel Colgan who are now running the family building business, Colgan Industries following the retirement of their father. Colgan Industries' building supervisor, Jonathon Skipworth will be involved with the project. A former Sacred Heart College, Sorrento student, Jonathon served his apprenticeship with Colgan Industries as a carpenter, graduating as top apprentice in his final year.

His Grace Emeritus Archbishop Barry Hickey celebrated Mass at All Saints Church on Sunday 9 May 2021 following which he was welcomed by the current President of the Parish Pastoral Council Francis Barr (Liwara Circle) for a "breaking of the ground" ceremony and for the laying of a time capsule.



An artist's impression of the new Parish Centre



Dot Colgan at the launch of the Parish Centre project with Nathan Colgan, Jennifer McGrath (a friend of Jonathon), Jonathon Skipworth and Daniel Colgan in the background

COVID-19 leaves its mark on the Youth Fund

In his address to the Annual General Meeting of the Catenian Association Province 20 Youth Support Fund held at St Thomas More College in Crawley on 24 July 2021 Len Roberts (Dianella Circle) explained that the 2020 meeting was not held due to the COVID -19 pandemic, which continues to affect the operations of the Fund.

Len said that, other than committed scholarships and bursaries and the annual arts prize, there were no grants made to applicants for the Catenian year ended 31 March 2021. He said that the outlook for the current Catenian 2021/22-year is similar with World Youth Day events unlikely to recommence before international borders are reopened, probably not before 2023.

Len emphasised that in this climate it was even more important that all circles have a dedicated Council Officer charged with responsibility of actively promoting the Youth Fund and fostering awareness that financial assistance is available to eligible youth

The financial report presented to the Fund's Annual General Meeting showed income for 2020/21 of \$7,435. Voluntary donations received from Province 20 Brothers were \$4,685, which was consistent with previous years.

The other main source of income for the Fund was from the sale of regalia and other merchandise. In 2020/21 this contributed \$2,642 compared with \$2,094 received in the previous year.

Grants

Expenditure incurred by the Youth Support Fund in 2020/21 totalled \$7,180, which was \$5,280 lower than the previous year's figure of \$12,460.

Since inception the Youth Support Fund had made grants to 147 applicants with a total outlay of about \$70,000,

As at 31 March 2021 the Fund had accumulated funds of \$19,770 compared to \$19,515 at the end of the previous year.

Board and members

The Fund is fortunate to have a strong Board made up of Catenian brothers who willingly and generously give their time and expertise, as well as "Members" who represent all circles in Province 20 and whose important role is to encourage all brothers to provide financial support by their donations and advance the Fund by spreading awareness within their circles and Catholic parishes.

The meeting acknowledged the outstanding commitment and contribution made to the Youth Fund by retiring Vice President and Trustee Brian Kerman (Dianella Circle). Lou Daily was elected to fill the vacancy.

Office bearers

President and Trustee – Len Roberts

Vice Presidents and Trustees – Colin Broun, Lou Daily and John Monkhouse

Secretary – Barry Webb

Treasurer – Geoff Prendergast

Auditor – Harold Shrigley

Making a difference

Established in 2015, the Catenian Charity Inc. has gained broad recognition in universities and residential colleges around Australia, driven by the purpose of the Charity to advance the future of young Catholic leaders by enhancing their life through learning.

In his address to the Annual General Meeting held at St Thomas More College in Crawley on 24 July 2021, the President, Len Roberts said that since inception the Charity has received donations of \$55,000 and as at 31 March 2021 had cash of \$18,755 in the bank.

Len said that the object and sole purpose of the Charity is to advance the tertiary education of necessitous Australian Catholic students. Tax deductible donations are gifted, Australia wide, to marginalised and disadvantaged Australian students who have reached the age of 16 but have not yet reached the age of 25 and are on low incomes and cannot afford to pay either tertiary institution tuition fees or tertiary residential college fees. To be eligible applicants must be enrolled full time as a second year, third year or fourth year student in the graduate entry degree or be enrolled in a master's degree.

The Charity has approved the establishment of three scholarships. The inaugural scholarship of \$5,000 per annum during the duration of her studies was awarded in 2018 to Ashleigh Habkoug, who graduated with a degree as a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame Fremantle Campus in July 2019. A second scholarship, also of \$5,000 per annum, was awarded to Karri Thomas who recently completed her Honours year at Flinders University in South Australia achieving distinctions or high distinctions in all subjects.

The third scholarship recipient is Jessica Fenton of Mandurah who graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in medical sciences and psychological sciences from the University of Western Australia. Jessica is now enrolled in the School of Medicine.

Donations are tax deductible

Donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible to donors, which is a fundamental difference to the Catenian Association Province 20 Youth Support Fund where voluntary donations are not tax deductible.

Board members

The meeting acknowledged the valuable contribution made since the Charity's inception by retiring Vice President and Trustee Brian Kerman. Lou Daily was elected to fill the vacancy.

Office bearers

President and Trustee - Len Roberts

Vice Presidents and Trustees - David Boyle, Lou Daily, Peter Johnston and Tony Poli

Secretary - Barry Webb

Treasurer - Geoff Prendergast

Auditor – GD Church FCPA



Catenian Charity progress reports

Nearing completion in 2021

In 2019 the Catenian Charity Inc. awarded its second scholarship of \$5,000 to **KARRI THOMAS** who resides at Aquinas College in Adelaide. Then aged 19, she qualified for a scholarship due to her financial circumstances.

Karri's application was vetted by the Charity's Scholarship Master and unanimously recommended by the three members of the Catenian Charity's selection panel. Their view was:

"Karri is an amazing young person with enviable school and first

year university academic performances. We

recommend that Karri be awarded a scholarship based on her obvious needs, her outstanding academic record, potential and necessitous circumstances."

Karri attended local schools for both her primary and secondary school education. She recognised that education was a critical part of her future and in 2017 resided at Aquinas College (a



Catholic residential college attached to the University of Adelaide) to commence a science degree. In 2017 she achieved either high distinctions or distinctions in each of the units she was studying.

She recently wrote this report: "I would like to thank the Catenian Charity for its continued support that has allowed me to complete yet another year of study. I am currently halfway through my honours year in which I'm working on a project involving the production of biodegradable plastics (PHA's) from wastewater microbial cultures."

"While there have been many challenges to my research so far (not helped by the ever-changing circumstances caused by COVID-19), within the next few months I hope to gain better insight into the feasibility of producing PHA plastics from the wastewater treatment plants in South Australia and how to maximise the yield."

"Throughout my project," Karri writes, "I have been working between labs at both Flinders University and South Australian Water Authority where I've gained valuable insight into other cutting-edge research such as improving the nutritional potential of micro algal supplements or the testing of wastewater for traces of COVID-19. The experience I have gained working in such environments has immensely improved my skills and knowledge as a researcher, so I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to continue my study in this way."

"After graduation I would like to continue working on similar research projects, hopefully using my recently acquired skills to make a difference to the world in some way. While I do not know what the future may bring, I'm looking forward to whatever lies ahead."

Karri Thomas

In her second last year before graduation, Jessica Fenton reports on her progress



Jessica Fenton

The Catenian Charity's third scholarship recipient, **JESSICA FENTON** was born in 1997 at Narrogin where she spent her early childhood before moving to Mandurah to continue her secondary education. She has two sisters and two brothers in a closely-knit family.

In 2017 Jessica enrolled at the University of Western Australia and commenced a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in medical sciences and psychological sciences. She graduated with that degree in 2020 and is now enrolled in the school of medicine. Jessica has resided at St Thomas More College in Crawley where in 2018 she was a resident advisor and in 2019 became a senior resident advisor.

She has an outstanding academic record from secondary school and university and additionally scored well in the three other Catenian Charity Inc. criteria.

"Over the New Year I was extremely blessed with the arrival of my first nephew Harvey Mark Wayne Canna," Jessica writes in her latest report to the Charity. "He is a stunning little boy that arrived healthy in mid-December 2020. Our family is overjoyed with the new addition with my sister and her partner adjusting well, being both happy and healthy at home."

"In the last semester of 2020 I gained some wonderful experience and finished the year with a distinction average," Jessica said. "Although COVID-19 restricted our practical time it taught me the value of appreciating what we have whilst we have it. I know as I move through 2021 that I will carry this message with me, making every moment count as you never know when the opportunity might disappear."

"In 2021 I will be completing my second last year before graduation and will be undertaking my practical rotations moving through metropolitan hospitals."

"I'm excited to see what new and wonderful things I will encounter with the different fields I'll be exposed to. Perhaps I'll find my field of passion and illuminate a journey that I hadn't yet seen."

"Additionally I have been afforded the opportunity to complete my scholarly activity in education as I believe education is so crucial within the medical field."

"As I gear up for the year ahead, I am hopeful for what the future brings and appreciative of the people who have enabled me the opportunity to be here, including the Catenian Charity Inc. scholarship which has been an enormous benefit to me."

Jessica Fenton

Bunbury student's Youth Fund bursary

CHARLES REDDIN resides at St Thomas More College in Crawley and is enrolled at the University of Western Australia where he has successfully completed two academic years of Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Construction Engineering) and Bachelor of Science (Mining) degrees. Charles and his family live in Bunbury.

Charles commenced his study at the University of Western Australia in 2019 and in that year was awarded a Catenian (Province 20) Youth Support Project bursary of \$2,000 per annum (continuous).



He writes: "Over the 2020 summer break from Uni, I've been doing vacation work at a civil engineering firm in

Bunbury called Civil and Structural Engineering (previously Suckling Civil and Structural Engineering). I worked at designing timber frame houses, attended site inspections and helped perform soil tests."

"I was there for eight weeks and will be returning for more work each university break," he said.

"I was also a member of a soccer team while on vacation in Bunbury formed by a group of friends from high school," he said "I really enjoyed the opportunity to exercise and socialise while doing work experience."

"My family in Bunbury is doing well. My brother has moved to Perth as a 2021 "fresher" at St Thomas More and it's been good to have him around after being without family at College for two years. My parents in Bunbury are still adjusting to life with an 'empty nest', but are coping quite well."

"My double degree is five years," Charles said, "which means that I will graduate in 2023."

"I am not participating in any competitive sport this year, although I do play social netball at the university with a group of friends from the College. We were in a team in the last semester of 2020 and won the Division 3 League, but we have now been promoted to Division 1, which is proving to be more of a challenge."

"I really look forward to being part of Inter-College sports, in particular frisbee, netball and AFL. The Health and Well-being resident advisor this year has planned St Thomas More's Inter-Wing sport competition so that we play Inter-Wing frisbee just before Inter-College frisbee, for example, so that participants can practice and the sports representative can monitor people skills and consider who is of a standard to play in the College team."

"I am extremely grateful for the support given to me by the Youth Fund, and hope this progress report is of interest to Catenian members."

*Sincerely,
Charles Reddin*

"Our girl" Catholic Arts Festival prizewinner a "rising- star" soprano

Iona Presentation College graduate, **ALEXANDRA TOUSSAINT-JACKSON** was awarded the Province 20 Youth Support Fund prize in September 2016 at a concert held in the Perth Concert Hall to mark the conclusion of the Performing Arts Festival for Catholic Schools Colleges in Western Australia.

The annual festival seeks to provide students of Catholic Schools a chance to experience the spirit and tradition of the performing arts and a unique opportunity to perform for a public audience.



*Alexandra
Toussaint-Jackson*

Now studying at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music at the University of Melbourne, Alexandra performed with the Melbourne Baroque Orchestra Handel's Harp on Sunday 22 August 2021 at the Toorak Uniting Church. In this performance leading harpist Hannah Lane and "rising-star" soprano Alexandra performed in a program that featured Handel's beloved Concerto for Harp in its original setting and music from Saul, Giulio Cesare, Esther and Rinaldo joined the Melbourne Baroque Orchestra.

The Melbourne Conservatorium of Music is the music school at the University of Melbourne and part of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. It is located near the Melbourne City Centre in the Southbank campus of the university.

Alexandra is a Classical Soprano soloist who regularly performs around Australia. She is part of the early specialist "Ensemble Ancien" who works towards bringing early music to the younger generation.

Fueled by a passion for all things Baroque, *Ensemble Ancien* seeks to bring new light to rarely heard music from the 17th and 18th centuries. The ensemble's dedicated performances transport you straight into the salons of the past, to revel in the true elegance and charm of music of the period.



Is this you?

“Darling, would you please turn down the TV volume?”

Fremantle Circle Brother Kevin Hefron writes:

After many reminders I recently decided to visit a Fremantle hearing specialist, although I was already the owner of two hearing devices. I went along to my appointment after finding these long neglected devices in a desk drawer in my office.

I went through the usual tests and was told that my hearing had deteriorated over the past ten years. I was given on loan two Oticon rechargeable hearing devices for a one-week trial and what a difference it made.

I experienced immediate improvement such as being able to turn the TV volume down and hearing birds in our garden. I was told that I was talking lower, no more “I beg your pardon” and hearing everything said at meetings.

And, yes, I’m now the owner of two new devices but the request from my wife, Denise has now changed to “Darling, would you please turn up the TV volume?”

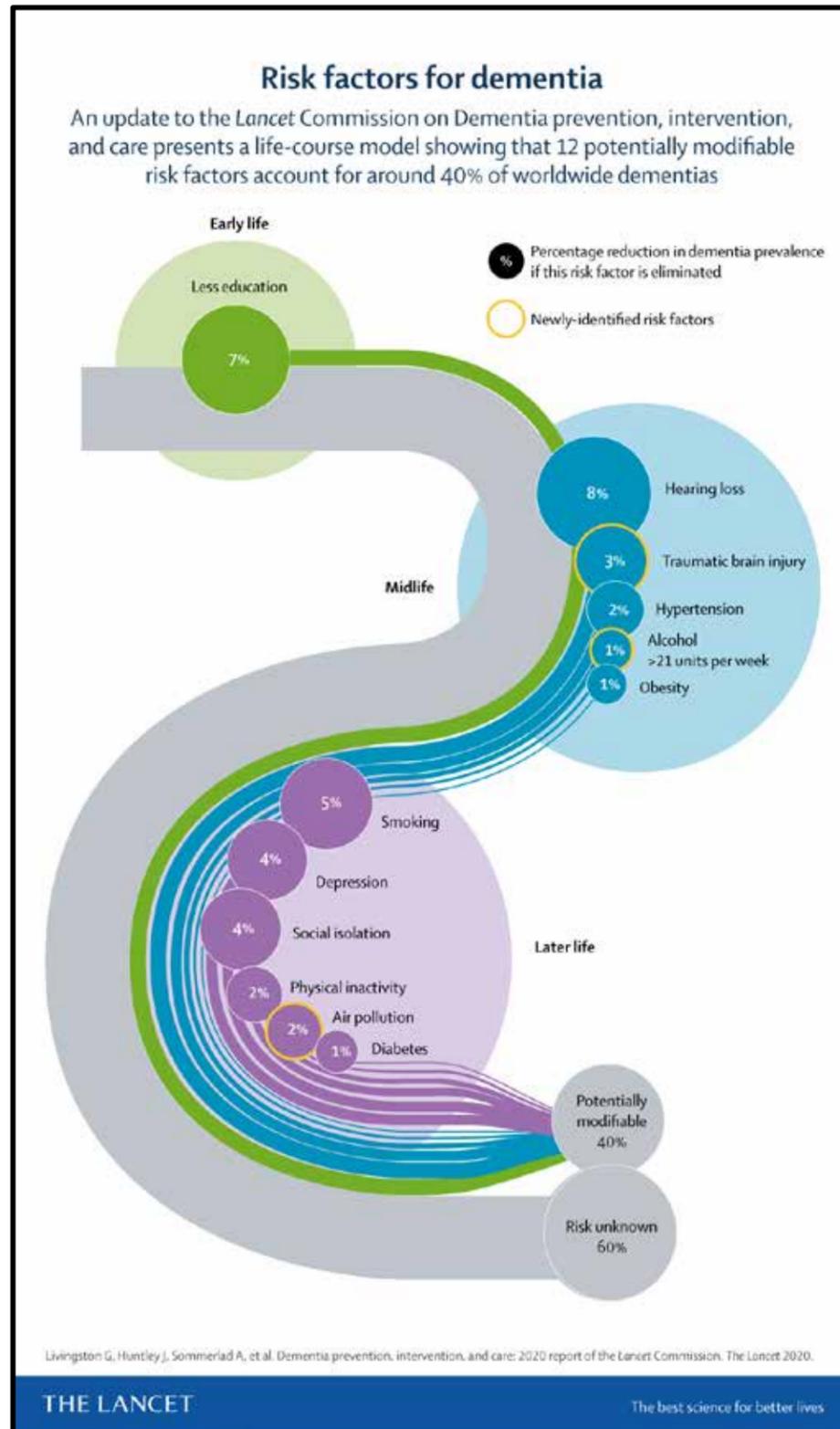
As a point of interest, my audiologist Allana Bryan BSc, MClinaud, MAuda (CCP) provided me with information regarding the risk factors for dementia, which highlighted hearing loss as a midlife cause.

She provided me with the diagram (opposite), which I thought might be of interest to our Catenian Brothers.

**Kevin Hefron
Fremantle Circle**

Reference:

Livingston et al., G, 2020, “Dementia prevention, intervention, and care: 2020 report of the Lancet Commission”, *Lancet*, vol. 396.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30367-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30367-6)



Thanks to all Catenians for their prayers and support

Jeff de Silva talks about his son's long fight against a rare disease

Fremantle and Canning Brother Jeff de Silva gave an update on the health of his eldest son Damien at the Fremantle Circle meeting on Thursday 20 May 2021 thanking all Catenian Brothers in Province 20 for their prayers and support together with numerous Parishes in the Perth Archdiocese.

“Damien suffered severe oesophageal perforation on the evening of Saturday 8 June 2019,” Jeff said. “He and his wife Rebecca and two daughters, Orla then aged six and Bridie aged three had just returned to their home in suburban Hilton from Kalbarri where they had spent an enjoyable and relaxing seven days.”

“Damien’s episode occurred at 7.30 pm, but earlier he had mentioned to Rebecca that he was feeling unwell as they drove through Chittering on the way home. His condition worsened and he brought up a copious volume of blood. He was immediately transported by ambulance to the Emergency Department at Fiona Stanley Hospital.”

“Several tests were conducted until the precise condition known as *Boerhaave’s Syndrome* was diagnosed. This is a rare but potentially fatal condition characterised by a transmural tear of the distal oesophagus induced by a sudden increase in pressure. Patients with *Boerhaave Syndrome* often present with chest pain, dyspnea and shock. The condition causes severe rupturing of the oesophageal lining, thus channeling malevolent fluids and acids to permeate the lungs, liver, pancreas and other vital organs.”

“Damien was immediately placed in an induced coma and underwent three major surgical procedures during which surgeons attempted to cover the oesophagus with a sheath. The first surgery began at 4.00 am on Sunday 9 June, followed by a second procedure the next Friday night and the third one on the Saturday night, 15 June. On Sunday 16 June, the hospital doctors called in Damien’s family and informed us that his condition was critical and they were uncertain of what could transpire during the next few days. The sheath cover failed to remain secured to his damaged oesophagus and the surgeons opted to allow for tissue regrowth and self-healing.”

“Massive infections ravaged his extremely weakened condition,” Jeff said, “and at varying stages Intensive Care Unit staff were combating double pneumonia, pleurisy, pulmonary embolism and a high risk of sepsis, all fanned by very high temperatures.”

“Simultaneous with these serious threats, Damien’s body began to retain and build up substantial volumes of fluids necessitating several aspiration tubes to be inserted into the side wall of his torso and left there to discharge into containers.”

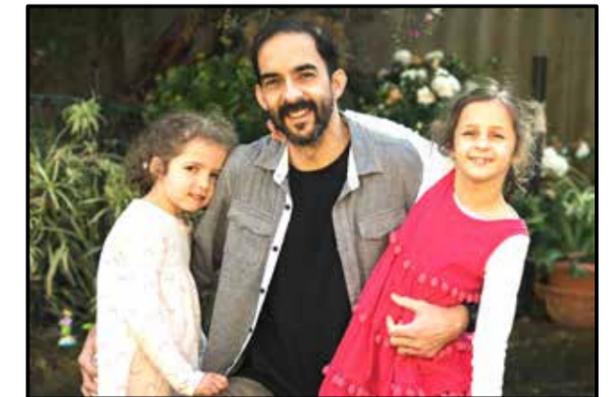
“Damien was maintained in an induced coma from 8 June until 26 June; the entire time on a ventilator to assist breathing. After 26 June Damien was brought out of his induced coma, but remained in intensive care until 2 July and was then moved to the gastroenterology ward until his discharge from hospital on 6 August. The tissue around the oesophagus had healed naturally and when the organ was tested by liquid food intake it stood up to testing without leakage.”

“After arriving home on 6 August, Damien was readmitted to Fiona Stanley Hospital on 11 August because his pyloric valve was not functioning properly and he was having difficulty swallowing food. He was wheeled back into the operating theatre where his surgeon performed an endoscopy to examine the problem area. A dose of Botox (the cosmetic remedy) was inserted to hold the pyloric valve open.”

“Damien was advised that the treatment might work for a span of three months or so, but believe it or not, since that August day in 2019 until now in May 2021 the valve is still sufficiently open.”

“His final discharge from hospital was on 16 August 2019 but he has maintained close consultation with the Fiona Stanley Hospital surgical team since that time.”

“Damien has recovered remarkably well,” Jeff said. “He resumed work on 2 January 2020 and has regained fitness that was significantly impeded by his long span being bedridden. This year he has resumed playing veterans hockey with his regular club, the Fremantle Hockey Club, after missing the latter part of the 2019 season and the whole of the 2020 season, which was curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”



Damien and his daughters Bridie (in white) and Bridie (in pink)

“The Prayers and support of all Catenian Brothers in Province 20 and at Catholic Parishes in the Archdiocese of Perth, as well as in Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto in Canada have undoubtedly contributed to Damien’s recovery,” Jeff said, “and Damien and our whole family is especially grateful to the medical team and staff at Fiona Stanley Hospital in Murdoch.”

“The entire episode was extremely frightening and nerve wracking,” writes Jeff, “but with Divine Providence together with medical advancement and skills of the specialists and Intensive Care Unit staff, the family has triumphed in the end. Notwithstanding that, his healed oesophagus remains delicately fragile.”

“God bless you all.”

Footnote

“My maternal grandfather, Richmond, died of exactly the same condition in June 1942, six years before I was born,” said Jeff. “He was not quite 50 years of age when one evening on returning from work he complained to his wife Winifred that he was feeling very ill. By 6.20 pm that evening he had completely bled out and expired in my grandmother’s arms. It was an identical oesophageal rupture but in that era there was no cure and it was a fatal condition. My own mother, Amy who was 24 years old, was at home with her parents and witnessed the entire drama. She was the one who narrated the circumstances of my grandfather’s death to me when I was a married adult.”

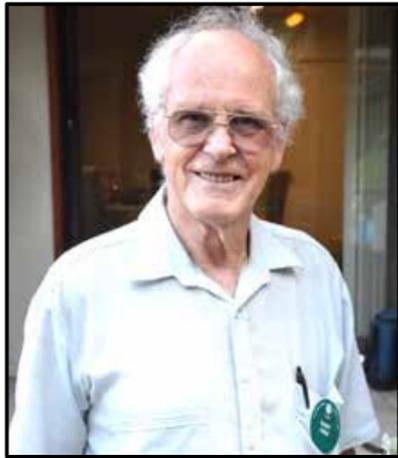
**Contributed by Jeff de Silva
Canning and Fremantle Circles**



St Luke, the historian

Written by Barry Drew

Luke is a gentile (non Jew) writing for gentile Christians. Tradition suggests that he was a native of Macedonia, Greece. He may be the only non-Jewish writer of the New Testament, although there are indications that the author of the epistle to the Hebrews also had a Greek background. Luke rarely quotes the Old Testament but instead refers to prophecies to show that Christ is the fulfillment of the prophecies.



Barry Drew
Darling Range Circle

As a true historian Luke gives us many details so that we can fix Christ's life in real time. His account comes in two volumes: The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. This second volume is divided into two parts; the first third describes the mission of Peter and John and the remaining two thirds follows Paul. Although Luke is obviously a follower of Paul he never refers to himself in either narrative. He tells us nothing of his own story.

Luke addressed his gospel to Theophilus (Lover of God). Theophilus probably was a real person although this is likely a nickname or baptismal name. Theophilus was seeking a true account of the life, teachings and deeds of Christ. He also had a concern that if God had abandoned his chosen people, the Jews, then was it not possible that one day he might also abandon his new Christian followers. Matthew had already answered this concern but Luke is blunter. He has Christ tell the parable of the owner of the vineyard who sent messengers (prophets) to collect his dues. The tenants (chosen people) treat his messengers badly so God sends his only son (Christ). They seize him and kill him. Christ asks his audience what those murderers should expect. They reply that God will come and destroy them. So Luke is stating that God did not abandon his chosen people, rather his chosen people rejected him.

The central themes of Luke's gospel are:

- ❖ Christ is **the** prophet
- ❖ Christianity is for all, not just the Jews
- ❖ Prayer is fundamental to Christ's mission
- ❖ Conversion to Christianity requires a financial response
- ❖ Christ's public life is a journey to Jerusalem
- ❖ Women are emancipated

In the Book of Kings we read of how the prophet Elijah was intent on exterminating Queen Jezebel's priests of Baal. He killed many and as a consequence spent most of his time running from her in fear of his life. God did have an encounter with him telling him that God's way was not violence but peaceful negotiation.

One day the prophet Elijah (**a** prophet) was told to anoint Elisha (**the** prophet) as his successor. Later, Elisha was visited by an angel who invited him to climb on board a fiery chariot. The chariot took him "to Heaven". We do not know what happened to him, but symbolically he did not die. His mission was incomplete. He had to return to announce the new great prophet.

For Luke, John the Baptist was the new Elijah whose role it was to announce Christ as **the** prophet. There are parallels between Jezebel and Herodias. Many people who encounter Christ utter prophecy.

Luke's gospel begins with the birth of John the Baptist. An angel appears to John's father Zachary and predicts that he will have a son who will cleanse his people in preparation for the coming of Christ. Because of his age, Zachary doubts and asks for a sign. He is struck dumb until John is born. Then Gabriel appears to Mary and asks if she is prepared to be the mother of the Holy One. The angel then delivers a prophecy that her child will establish a permanent kingdom of God. The angel also foretells the impending birth of John.

When Mary visits Elizabeth, Elizabeth declares that Mary's child is the Son of God. The unborn John also affirms this. Zachary also predicts John's future role in proclaiming Christ. When Christ is taken to the temple both Simeon and Anna utter prophecies.

When Christ is born an angel summons shepherds to worship him. Matthew has Magi come, following a star. These are totally different accounts.

Luke gives the genealogy of Christ through Mary back to Adam through David. His point is that Christ is the Holy One for all mankind. Matthew traces his ancestry back through Joseph to David and Abraham showing Christ is the Jewish Messiah.

When Christ comes of age his parents take him to the temple (his Bat Mitzvah ceremony). He separates himself from them to show that he has a special mission. Experts would not listen to a 12-year-old prophet but he impresses them with his questions.

Luke insists that the kingdom of heaven is not shut to Samaritans. Only Luke includes the parable of the Good Samaritan. The only leper to return and say thanks is a Samaritan. John says that Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Luke rejects this. Christ speaks with approval of gentiles, citing with approval the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian leper. Christ praises the faith of the Roman centurion when he heals his daughter.

In the early church converts sold everything and gave the proceeds to the church. This economic system was doomed to fail but Luke considers it the new ideal for Christian people. There were early problems among the Thessalonian converts, many of whom spent their days in idleness awaiting Christ's second coming. In Acts, Ananias and Sapphira sell their property and give the proceeds to the community but withhold some of it. Their punishment is drastic. For Luke, the poor are the new chosen people so Christians must become poor.

Until recent times there were only two classes of people; the rich and the poor. There was no middle class. Most accepted this division as natural. Christ was born poor. He did not deny this nor did he rail against it. Luke is much more radical. When John the Baptist's followers ask how they should report back to John, the high point of Christ's reply is: "The poor have the gospel preached to them."

Christ challenges the rich young man to sell everything, give it to the poor and become a disciple.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew says: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Luke says: "Blessed are the poor." Only Luke includes the parable of the Rich Man (Dives) and the Poor Man (Lazarus). Dives' sin seems to be that he was rich and lived lavishly while Lazarus's redeeming virtue seems to be that he was poor.

Luke's gospel is a gospel of prayer. At all of the great moments in his life Luke shows us Christ at prayer. He prays at his baptism, before his first confrontation with the Pharisees, before he chooses the Twelve, before he challenges his apostles on who they think he is, before his first prediction of his death, at his transfiguration, before he is arrested and finally on the cross. Only Luke tells the parables of the Importunate Borrower whose persistence wins his reward and the Unjust Judge who gives a widow a fair judgement only to avoid being nagged.

In Luke's account women are emancipated. Angelic messages are given to Mary. Joseph is just a shadow in the background. In Matthew's account, following the Jewish tradition, messages are given to Joseph and Mary is just a background figure. In Luke we learn of the woman who anointed Christ's feet while in the house of Simon the Pharisee. It is Luke who gives a vivid account of Christ's visit to Martha and Mary and his forgiveness of Mary Magdalene.

Luke's account of Christ's passion follows the line of Mark and Matthew but with an emphasis on Christ as prophet. Christ is in charge at all times; in control of his emotions and dies with a prayer of acceptance on his lips. In Mark and Matthew his executioners recognise him as 'the Son of God'. In Luke they proclaim him to be an 'innocent man'. Matthew blames the whole Jewish people for Christ's rejection and execution while Luke blames their leaders and has the populace repent at his death.

Luke rounds off his life of Christ with several apparitions of Christ to his apostles and followers. None question that he had risen as predicted.

Luke then moves on to his history of the early church based on the adventures of Peter and then Paul - The Acts of the Apostles.

It is hoped that these thoughts inspire the reader to seek Christ in the Gospel of Luke.

Barry Drew
Darling Range Circle

Editor's note:

This is the fifth article written by Darling Range Circle Brother Barry Drew and published in the *Western Link*.

The other four were:

"Christianity; a thinking man's religion" (June 2020 edition 54)

"Understanding Christianity; the writings of St Paul the Apostle" (October 2020 edition 55)

"St Mark and the first gospel" (February 2021 edition 56)

"St Matthew and the people's gospel" (June 2021 edition 57)

If you would like to receive a copy of any (or all) of these articles please contact the Editor at menzies01@hotmail.com

Sisters of St Joseph's work in Myanmar

Liwara Circle Catenian John Carey's sister Alma who is a Nun in the Order of St Joseph of the Apparition, reveals some of the work the Order is doing in the tumultuous and poverty stricken East Asian nation of Myanmar (formerly Burma) under very dangerous conditions.

As the Myanmar military rule with an iron fist, Catholic religious sisters have come out in the open with their charity works among the vulnerable and most in need. The Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition (pictured below) joined hands with Buddhist women to help victims of a major fire on 13 April 2021 in Mandalay, the second largest city in the East Asian country.



The Sisters are distributing food and other essential commodities among the victims after more than 30 houses were reduced to ashes in a predominately Muslim neighbourhood. Major fires had also broken out in several cities including Yangon and Mandalay with blazes occurring at night and dawn.

The Country is now in political turmoil and poverty is widespread, which means the religious sisters have had to step up their charitable and humanitarian services.

The Sisters have also been in the forefront of the protests against the military coup. They have been seen marching in the streets, praying at convents and lining up before churches to express their solidarity with the people.

Myanmar has witnessed massive killings, arrests and shooting against pro-democracy protesters and unarmed civilians by the military junta who have initiated a deadly crackdown to force people to fall in line. According to human rights groups, more than 715 people have been killed and 3,070 detained since the February coup.

Catholics have conducted prayer meetings and fasting to find a peaceful solution to the crisis since the military takeover of the Buddhist-majority country.

Sister Ann Rosa Nu Tawng became an icon of peace when she knelt on the road while pleading with the military not to shoot unarmed civilians in Myitkyina, Kachin State in February and March 2021.

Her courageous act even caught the attention of Pope Francis who said: "I, too, kneel on the streets of Myanmar and say 'stop the violence'," the Pope exclaimed on 17 March 2021 during his Wednesday general audience.

Contributed by John Carey, Liwara Circle



Brian Murphy

1945 - 2021

A strong gathering of Brothers from Swan Valley and other circles in Province 20 joined family, parishioners and friends at St Anthony's Catholic Church in Greenmount on 26 July 2021 to celebrate the life of Brian Anthony Murphy who passed away peacefully on 16 July 2021.



Brian is the beloved husband of Lyn, the devoted father of Narelle, Darren and Kym, father-in-law to Tig and Dean and wonderful granddad to Aidan, Guy, Connor and Eamon.

Brian joined Swan Valley Circle in September 2009 and had an impressive record of service, holding the positions of Marshall for three years from 2011 to 2014, Secretary, Vice President and President for two years from 2015 to 2017. He was a committed Catenian Brother who thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of his circle and the Association.

Born on 19 April 1945 in Guildford, Brian was the fourth child of Gerard and Beryl Murphy (both deceased) and is survived by his siblings Kevin, Maureen and Peter. As a child Brian's family lived in Bassendean and moved to Midvale where his father worked at the Midland Workshops. Brian continued to live at home until his marriage to Lyn on 15 August 1970.

Brian attended school at St Brigid's Primary School in Midland, a school and church that has a long affiliation with the Murphy family. His secondary education came from what was then, De LaSalle College in Viveash.

Upon finishing his studies Brian gained employment at the "spike factory" where he learned the technique of making spikes for the railway lines. After that he worked for a shoemaker and sometime later became a salesman for Attwood Motors in Perth and it was there that he purchased the famous green and white Mini that was his pride and joy. It was in this same car that he taught Lyn to drive.

The 70's were kind to Brian. It was during this time that he gained employment with Wigmore Tractors and met his future wife Lyn. They met at the beach and were both members of youth clubs that came together for social events. Lyn remembers her first meeting with Brian as the "goof" who was running about putting ice down people's shirts. She was not impressed, but a short time afterwards on a river cruise Brian rescued Lyn from her date at the end of the evening. Her date had over indulged and was not capable of driving her home and Brian, punching well above his weight, drove Lyn safely home and that was the beginning.

Brian and Lyn both enjoyed ballroom dancing and always looked a beautiful, elegant sight when they were on the dance floor. Each of them a member of a different dance studio they found something they had in common. Brian and Lyn were members of the Junior Farmers and during their courtship would travel to Gidgegannup on Saturday evenings to participate in an evening of dance and great fun. Their love of ballroom dancing was passed on to their children who were encouraged from a young age to dance.

They married on 15 August 1970 and moved to "Camp 45" a location between Roebourne and Dampier. The 12 months at Camp 45 was a wonderful experience for the young married couple. They ran the spare parts depot for the MKMO Company while the rail line to Pannawonika was under construction. This decision to move north allowed Brian and Lyn to return to Perth and set themselves up financially for their future together.

Brian moved on to work with Detroit's for 26 years and then Komatsu until he retired. Detroit's held a special place in Brian's heart. His position there allowed him to travel, which he greatly enjoyed and the friends and colleagues from the company continue to meet every year at Christmas for a picnic lunch.

After retirement Brian worked for the Riverland's Montessori School as a part time gardener a position he enjoyed in the outdoors and then he worked for some years with Worm Affairs making boxes until failing health prevented him from continuing.

Another feather in Brian's cap was as the tee ball coach for the "Pins and Needles", the team in which his children played. It was a duty he thoroughly enjoyed during the six years he served as team coach.

Many years ago Brian fell in love with golf. His financial adviser from MLC encouraged him to join his club and Brian's love of the sport kept him playing until his health began to fail. To his credit he was a very good player with many trophies to prove his ability.

Brian leaves a legacy behind of which he was proud; live your life as a good wholesome person and don't let any opportunity pass you by.

His friends and family, with a new generation of grandsons to celebrate his life, will remember him with love and fondness in countless anecdotes and stories.

May he Rest in Peace

Vale John Van Beek

Brothers from all circles in Province 20 were saddened by the loss of a loyal and committed Catenian Brother John Van Beek who passed away peacefully in Busselton on 2 August 2021.

A large number of Catenian Brothers joined Marilyn and the extended family and friends at John's Requiem Mass on Friday 13 August 2021 held at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Salvado Road Subiaco.

John was a committed member of the Catenian Association for over 40 years; initially joining the City of Perth Circle soon after it was inaugurated in 1977. It was there that he became involved with a group of fellow City of Perth Catenians, Cliff Holloway, Brendan McGurk and Laurie Shervington to successfully form the Darling Range Circle in February 1981. John was a Founder Brother of this, the second circle established in Western Australia and served as President in 2002/03.

In 1983 John accepted a senior position with the Education Department based in Northam and was instrumental in the formation of the Avon Valley Circle in 1988. Later, after retiring with his wife Marilyn to Busselton he joined up with another retired Catenian Tony Smurthwaite to play a significant role in the inauguration of the City of Busselton Circle in 2012. John was also a Founder Brother of both of these circles.

John served as Treasurer of the Busselton circle for several years and then became a member of the Australian Central Circle 98 when Busselton handed back its Charter in 2019.

An obituary will be published in the next edition of the Western Link.



CIRCLE ROUNDUP

CONTRIBUTED ITEMS & PHOTOGRAPHS

Adelaide City Group

Easter Monday shared lunch

Adelaide City's first social event following its formation on 10 March 2021 was an outstanding success. Hosted superbly by Chairman Michael Cogman and his wife Mary, the Easter shared lunch on Monday 29 March was enjoyed by all in a wonderful spirit of fraternity and harmony among Brothers and their wives.

Mouth-watering homemade dishes from many cultures were presented by a number of the Group's incredible chefs/cooks and the ale and wine flowed freely.



Left to right: Jo Tan, Aaron Morris and Chairman and host, Michael Cogman



Left to right: Johan Livera with Andrew and Frances Mulholland

Two new members enrolled

Two new members were installed by Adelaide City Group at its first meeting on 14 April 2021; just a little more than a month after the Group was inaugurated on 10 March.



New members Nuwan Waas (left) and Aaron Morris

NUWAN WAAS was born in 1979 in a beautiful Catholic city called Negombo in Sri Lanka.

"I was educated at Maris Stella College from Primary School until Graduation," Nuwan writes. "The College was run by Marist Brothers and is the one and only Catholic private school in Negombo."

"I obtained my Bachelor degree in Computer Systems Engineering and Masters degree in Information Systems Management and Administration, both from the University of Houston in Texas, United States of America. I am an active member of Nation Society of Leadership and Success, which is one of the largest college leadership societies in the USA. I pursued my career as a Software Engineer in the USA and later work as a ICT Business Analyst."

"I was introduced to my future wife Nelum Fernando by my parents and we fell in love at first sight. We married in 2010 at St Peter's Negombo and lived in my hometown at Negombo."

"We have two beautiful daughters, Frances who was baptised in 2011 and Judith in 2018, both at St Mary's Church. Frances started her primary school at Ave Maria Convent where she was taught until we migrated to Australia in 2018," Nuwan said.

"Both our parents are heavily involved in the Church and so are we. Negombo has more than 20 Catholic churches within a 10 kilometre radius from our home and there is no excuse to miss Sunday Mass."



"Catenians will help me strengthen my Catholicism as a family, being among others who have the same strong beliefs," said Nuwan. "I want to rise as a family in faith in God so that it will help all the families in our Catenian brotherhood to rise together as one to reflect the great values that we believe in, to the society, country and world. This is what I seek from my Catenian membership and this is what I can bring."

AARON MORRIS met his future wife Jo online.

"We share the same family ideas but are both a little shy," Aaron writes.

"We were married in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown," he said. "The wedding was live-streamed to Australia and five countries overseas."

"My involvement in the Church started as an interest. As my wife was a devout Catholic I wanted to learn more about her faith. I joined the RCIA program and it was there that I found where I needed to be in life. I was baptised into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 2021."

"My favourite hobby is playing the guitar. I am a classically trained player and very much enjoy *Bach*."

"I discovered the Catenians through a trusted friend from the Church and now Brother Kingsley Forsyth and I believe that the brotherhood provided by the Catenian Association will help me connect with other like-minded men. I also bring my own life experience to the table in the hope that it may also benefit other men."

ANZAC Day 2021

Adelaide City Group Brothers gathered on ANZAC Day 2021 at a shared dinner at the home of Secretary Kingsley Forsyth and his wife Kanchana. It was a wonderful, well-attended function blessed with the presence of Priest Father Santosh Pereira and Religious Sister Jasmine Lawrence along with an interested gentleman and his wife.

All enjoyed a fabulous spread of international foods reflecting the make-up of the modern Catholic Church in Australia and mirrored by the Adelaide Group's diverse membership.

"Other than a few short toasts and Grace before the meal it was largely an informal event providing an opportunity for members and their families to get to know each other better," Kingsley writes.



Left to right: Father Santosh Pereira, Erik Cheung and Michael Cogman



Left to right: Anushka Silva, Dilushi Fonseka-Silva, Nelum Waas and Frances Waas



Left to right: Kanchana Forsyth, Joanne Tan and Mary Cogman

Another double enrolment



Left to right: Emmanuel Anthony, Chairman Michael Cogman and Tony Vu

Adelaide City Group's double enrolment at a meeting held at the Wakefield Hotel in Adelaide city on Wednesday 9 June 2021 continues the group's early pattern of a diversified cultural spread amongst its membership.

Newly enrolled Brothers Emmanuel Anthony (Singaporean) and Tony Vu (Vietnamese) join existing brothers who's births hail from all four corners of the world including India, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, England, Zambia, Mexico and Australia in many ways reflecting the current demographic landscape of the Australian Catholic Church.

The Group has recently established relations with the local Syro-Malabar community, which promises to be a strong recruiting ground for the Adelaide City Group with already one Syro-Malabar brother and another two prospects showing interest in Catenian membership.

Avon Valley

Amazing record of St Joseph's School, Northam

St Joseph's School at Northam maintained its outstanding record in the final of the Catenian sponsored *Speak for Faith* competition on 26 June 2021 when Lara Schmidt was awarded first prize for her five minute prepared speech and impromptu speech of two minutes.

Lara was one of six finalists competing in the final held in Nestor Hall at the Catholic Education Office, Leederville. Other finalists were from Corpus Christi College, John XXIII College (two contestants), Iona Presentation College and Aquinas College.

The standard of speaking from all participants was extremely high with Lara awarded first prize of \$700 for her school, an engraved medallion and a certificate. Second prize was awarded to Oscar Hegge (John XXIII) and third prize went to Amy Mance (Iona Presentation College).

Lara follows in the footsteps of other St Joseph's School Prize winners in this prestigious speaking competition, now in its fifth year.

In the inaugural event in 2016 St Joseph's year 11 student Gabriella Ochtman was awarded third prize and she successfully competed again in 2017 as a year 12 student winning first prize, with St Joseph's Meg Lawrence winning third prize in the same event.



Lara Schmidt at Nestor Hall with her proud family supporters, Nicole Schmidt, Marc Schmidt and Geoff Romero

Tell your personal story

Everyone has a story to tell

In the past few editions of the *Western Link* many Brothers have taken the time to relate their own life story, interesting experiences or family achievements.

If **YOU** have a tale to relate about yourself, the achievements of a family member or a personal life profile your contribution to the magazine would be most welcome

Please contact the Editor, Peter Johnston

Email address: menzies01@hotmail.com

Bouvard

President's charity



Bouvard President Peter Brown presents a cheque for \$400 to a representative of Pregnancy Assist, Bunbury

Bouvard Circle's chosen President's Charity for 2020/21 was Pregnancy Assist located in South Bunbury and operated under the auspices of the Bunbury Diocese of the Catholic Church.

Pregnancy Assist's vision is to deliver the highest level of care in a supportive and friendly environment. Its team of specialists led by Manager, Janet Mazza provides a range of maternity services.

For several years now a number of Bouvard ladies have regularly made rugs and soft toys for the Bunbury outlet, which helps numerous young mothers and mothers-to-be with a wide range of commodities including clothing, toiletries and baby furniture.

Café Coast ladies night

The popular Dawesville Cut Café Coast restaurant was the venue for Bouvard Circle's ladies night on Tuesday 15 June 2021.

The evening was well supported with about 35 attending including ten parishioners and guests from St Damien's Catholic Parish in Dawesville.

Bouvard Circle welcomes the installment of John Weselman as Vice President. John, who has been an active member of Liwara Circle for many years, has only recently joined the circle as a joint member. His experience and commitment to the Catenian Association will be invaluable to Bouvard where his brother Graeme is also a member.



Bouvard President Peter Brown pictured at the ladies night with John Weselman



Max Gardiner tells his story

"I came into this world in December 1936 in the remote goldfields community of Leonora-Gwalia, some 800 kilometres from Perth. Subsequently four siblings, all girls, made up the family," Max writes.

"My father Alan originally hailed from a farming background at Kellerberrin, but possibly the severe depression of the early 30's prompted the decision to move to the goldfields in 1935. Newly married, my parents initially operated a lodging house for young Italian miners employed at the Sons of Gwalia mine. After several years they relocated to Leonora only three kilometres away where they purchased a newsagency and menswear business."

"My early education was at Leonora Primary School, then at Aquinas College where I boarded for six years completing my leaving certificate in 1954," Max said. "One of my fellow classmates in those final years was Herb Elliott, a future Olympic champion. Several of my classmates and fellow boarders remain firm friends to this day."

"I started at the National Australia Bank in early 1955, the beginning of a career that would span nigh on 40 years. After barely 12 months in the job I transferred to Victoria and spent two years travelling that State relieving at different branches. Most weekends if in Melbourne it became a ritual to meet some Western Australian friends at the iconic Young & Jackson pub and decide on a footy match to attend."

"I returned west in time for my 21st birthday and commenced a period at various country posts. My parents moved to Perth in the late 1950s and shortly afterwards my father died suddenly from heart complications aged 55 years. I moved from the country to live at home and commenced a Diploma of Accounting degree at Claremont Technical College whilst continuing a career in banking."

"For leisure I really enjoyed tennis and it was on a tennis court in Kulin that I first met Judith and we married in June 1966 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Nedlands. In 1967 with a newly arrived baby daughter we moved to Harvey to take up my first managerial appointment and thus began a memorable and hectic time whether at work, socially or participating in community activities such as Apex and Rotary; not forgetting golf or tennis on weekends. I always regarded myself as a 'mug' golfer but I did have one claim to fame; a hole in one in 1968 at the Harvey Golf Club in a competition match."

"Judith and I enjoyed two further country postings again experiencing wonderful friendships and a hectic lifestyle despite now having three young children. After several city appointments and an enjoyable term at Geraldton I finally retired in the mid-nineties to begin another chapter of my life."

"Retirement brought change," Max said. "We downsized to a terraced home in Subiaco close to shops, transport and restaurants, however I was soon bored with no garden or outlook. The purchase of a four-wheel drive proved the catalyst for several great Aussie road trips culminating in travel to Cairns in far north Queensland as well as the red centre and Kimberley."

"Slowing down from travels we resumed our search for a retirement nest, settling on a Dawesville property on a large block with a great outlook. As well as expansive lawns and numerous fruit trees the property abutted a large nature reserve. Quite a sea change from Subiaco! Our new abode was a haven for birdlife and wildlife such as kangaroos and possums. The attraction of our many fruit trees was a bonanza for birds and possums. The possums loved the citrus whilst the birds loved the stone fruit and figs. For several years I endeavoured unsuccessfully to protect fruit from these pets, but in the end we declared a truce and decided to share."

Max and Judith Gardiner at their Wannanup home in Mandurah



"I was introduced to Catenians in 1997 joining the City of Mandurah Circle. This opened up a wide new circle of friends and Judith and I enjoyed the regular social activities. I remain indebted to the late Brendan McGurk who was a mentor and friend in those early Catenian days. Brendan introduced me to the 'art of visiting' whether to other Circles or to the sick or lonely within our own Circle," Max said.

"After serving as President of the City of Mandurah Circle I joined Bouvard as a Founder member in 2005 when the circle was inaugurated and served as President on several occasions."

"I was also heavily involved with Allambee Counselling Services, a sexual assault and domestic violence counselling service. I served as a Board Member and Treasurer for nearly 20 years. Other pursuits included social tennis and an occasional game of bowls. These days, however I am very much a 'couch potato'."

"I am forever grateful for the love and caring of Judith for the past 55 years and also for having such close knit and supportive children and their families. Two of our children live within the Mandurah area and the other in Perth is in regular contact."

"Judith and I are truly blessed," Max said.

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Busselton

New venue for Koffee Klub

A change of venue has been forced upon the Busselton Koffee Klub following a destructive fire that destroyed the Goose Restaurant in March 2021.

Since the Busselton Circle handed back its Charter in 2019 members have been meeting on a monthly basis for coffee and occasionally lunch on a Sunday. The old venue was ideally located on the foreshore at the head of the famous Busselton Jetty, providing a perfect outlook and ambiance for the Koffee Klub.

The April lunch was held at the Esplanade Hotel, not far from the foreshore. In the absence of Our Lady of the Bay Catholic Church Priest Father Jaybee, his stand-in, Monsignor John Finlayson from Bunbury joined the group.

A warm welcome was given to Terry O'Neill, a former joint member of the City of Busselton Circle and regular visitor at Koffee Klub functions. Terry is recovering from injuries sustained from a fall on the Monastery staircase at New Norcia during a visit in March 2021 with George and Elizabeth Bazzica and Bill and Kaye Middleton.



Left to right around the table: Terry Shine, George Bazzica, Monsignor John Finlayson, Kaye Middleton, Mary Ann Shine, Elizabeth Bazzica, Margaret Dau, Terry O'Neill and Jack Stretch

Tenth anniversary celebrations

Busselton Catenians were invited to attend the 10th anniversary Mass and celebrations of two Priests who were ordained in the restored St Patrick's Cathedral in Bunbury. The anniversary Mass was held at Our Lady of the Southern Cross Church in Dunsborough on 30 March 2021.



Anniversary Mass

"Liz and I were privileged to attend the double ordination ten years ago," said former City of Busselton President George Bazzica, "and we were delighted to be able to attend the Mass celebrating their anniversary along with another Busselton Brother Mike Tonks."

The two priests were Father Francis Constantino and Father Roshan Fernando.

Father Francis is now the Parish Priest at Our Lady of the Southern Cross Church in Dunsborough where the anniversary celebration was held. He had previously been Parish Priest at Katanning for five years.

Father Roshan was Parish Priest at Ballingup and Boyup Brook.

Other Priests on the altar at the anniversary Mass were Father Mathew Moolamthuruthil (Bridgetown and Augusta), Father Pieire, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral in Bunbury), Father Joseph Sousa (Capel and Donnybrook) and Father Elinio Comandra (Mt Barker, Denmark and Frankland River).



Left to right: Father Francis Constantino, Liz and George Bazzica, Father Roshan Fernando and Mike Tonks

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Canning

Special presentation at ladies night

About 45 people attended Canning's ladies night at the RAAF Memorial Estate in Bullcreek on Thursday 27 May 2021. The after dinner guest speaker was the Principal of the Mandurah Catholic College, Chris Wallace.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of a 30-year membership certificate to Jeff de Silva by Province 20 Director and Chairman of Central Council of the Catenian Association Ralph Fitzpatrick (Liwara Circle).

Jeff was inducted into the Catenian Association in April 1991 at *The White House* in Lynwood, which was Canning Circle's meeting venue at that time and coincidentally was also the setting for the wedding reception of Jeff and Jenny when they were married on 3 June 1973.



Recently installed Canning Circle President Nalin Perera (left) with Jeff de Silva proudly holding his 30-year Membership Certificate

In his 30 years as a member Jeff has given outstanding service in a variety of Council roles for Canning Circle, Province 20 and for Fremantle Circle where he became a joint member in 2012.

Jeff was Canning's Secretary from 1991/92 until 1995/96, President in 1997/98, 2006/07 and 2007/08 and served as the circle's Provincial Councillor from 1999/2000 to 2001/02, simultaneously holding the position of Provincial Vice President in 2001/02. He was Provincial President of Province 20 in 2002/03 and Past Provincial President for the following three years until 31 March 2006.

Joining Fremantle Jeff served as Secretary from 2012/13 until June 2019, responding to an urgent request by the circle's long-serving Secretary Joe Coffey who subsequently passed to eternal life in July 2016. Jeff remembers Joe as a champion mentor and wonderful friend for many, many years; the epitome of what a Catenian Brother should be.

Born in September 1948 into a staunch Roman Catholic family within the Archdiocese of Calcutta, Jeff completed his primary and secondary education at St Xavier's College, Calcutta graduating in 1964 with 'O' level University of Cambridge School Certificate. He was a member of the St Xavier's Secondary School boy's choir for the entire duration from 1959 until 1964. Jeff studied at the St Xavier's College University of Calcutta Campus from 1965 to 1968, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree. St Xavier's College, Calcutta was founded in 1848 and run by Jesuit Priests from Belgium and France and Jeff retains happy memories of his school and university days.

While at university Jeff worked part time as a Management Trainee at Goodyear India Limited in Calcutta in its budget and payroll branch. University lectures ran from 5.45 am until 10.45 am each weekday and Jeff worked from 11.00 am until 5.30 pm each day.

Sponsored by his Godmother Mrs. Ivy Rosario (his mother's sister), Jeff migrated to Perth in June 1969 and lived in Salvado Road, Wembley directly opposite the Matthews Netball Centre. On arrival in Perth he completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree at the University of Western Australia, graduating in late 1970.

Jeff then studied part-time attending evening lectures at the Western Australian Institute of Technology in Bentley to obtain his Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and New Zealand qualification. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1973.

Jeff worked for McLaren & Stewart, Chartered Accountants from 1969 until 1973. From 1973 until 1987 he worked with the Australian National Audit Office as an external auditor initially assigned to the Perth Regional Office, but over the years providing an opportunity to complete audits in other States and Australian Territories including offshore Australian Territories and Embassies.

Jeff worked from 1987 until 2010 at the SECWA/Western Power Corporation in the Internal Audit Branch. His classification was Principal Consultant/Auditor in the WPC Risk Assurance and Audit Branch.

His final career move in 2011 was to Curtin University, Bentley where he worked for a year in the university's internal audit branch before retiring on 31 December 2012.

"About four months after arriving in Australia in 1969 I joined the Perth Catholic Social Club then located in Oxford Street in Leederville," Jeff writes. "It was there that I met Jennifer Eileen Shaw in 1971. We became engaged in December 1972 and were married on 3 June 1973 at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in East Victoria Park."

"We have three sons; Damien born in October 1974, Nigel born in August 1977 and Joel in July 1983. We now have four grandchildren; one grandson and three granddaughters."

When he first arrived in Perth Jeff attended Our Lady of Victories Church in Wembley, but after his marriage he and Jenny joined the Queen of Apostles Church in Riverton in 1976 where Jeff served as Secretary of the Parish Pastoral Council from 1977 until 1980 as well as Chair of the Parish Liturgy Committee from 1978 to 1980. In 1980 the late Archbishop Lancelot Goody inducted Jeff into the Archdiocesan Acolytate after attending preparation sessions at Trinity College run by the late Father Pat Cunningham. He served as an Acolyte at the Riverton Parish from 1980 until 2010.

Jeff joined St Thomas More Parish in Bateman in November 2012 and has served as Secretary of the Parish Finance Committee since 2014, worked on the Parish Major Projects Committee and as a reader at Mass. He was also a member of two separate choirs in the Parish: the Men Alive Choir since 2013 and the Parish Family Choir since early 2021. He has also been a member of the Archdiocesan Choir at St Mary's Cathedral since 2014.

Jeff's interests include gardening, reading, singing and spending time with family and friends.

Gent's only clergy night



Annual clergy night in June 2021

Canning Circle held its annual "gent's only" clergy night on 24 June 2021 at St. Pius X Catholic Parish Hall in Manning.

The Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Thornlie, Reverend Father Minh Thuy was made very welcome by 25 Catenian brothers and four prospective members.

Immediate Past President, Russell Godsall chaired the meeting in the absence of current Circle President Nalin Perera who was holidaying on a road trip from Perth to Port Douglas, north of Cairns in Queensland. Welfare and Hospitality Officer Doug Williams produced spot prizes galore and organised a special presentation for Father Minh.

Como

Twining – a tale of two circles

Taken from an after-dinner talk given by Tony Smurthwaite at Como Circle's 400th meeting on Tuesday 25 May 2021.



Tony Smurthwaite
Como Circle

During a conversation in 1998 between a "veteran" Catenian Ian Handcock (Fremantle Circle) and a "new-comer" Tony Smurthwaite (Como Circle), Tony suggested that the Catenian Association could follow the lead of Australian cities that form sister-city relationships with overseas cities, and to have circles become affiliated with circles in the United Kingdom.

Ian already knew about circle twinning, but let Tony believe that his suggestion was novel and groundbreaking. He said that provided Tony did most of the work finding a suitable candidate, Ian was certain that Como Circle councillors would be supportive of the initiative.

Enthusiastically, Tony researched the United Kingdom's listing of circles to find one that, in terms of geographical setting and membership size, closely matched those of Como. With this project in hand, Tony began to comprehend what it meant for him to be a Catenian brother. He remembered to turn up on time for circle and council meetings and no longer needed to be reminded by his sponsor, Pat Scully to wear a tie and name tag and to know over which shoulder to wear his Marshall's sash.

Events intervened with the visit of the Grand President to Perth. Tony and his wife Joan sat at the same table as Martin Harnett, the then Director of Province 7 in Kent, England and his wife Roz. Over dinner and an exchange of small talk, Tony asked Martin if he thought that a Kent circle would be interested in twinning with Como. Martin was keen and agreed to raise the idea when he returned to England. He also encouraged Tony to brief Como Circle President Bill Staude about the proposal.

The next morning the Smurthwaites collected the Harnetts from their hotel and went to Cottesloe beach for a swim and lunch. Roz sunbaked near the groyne while Joan swam out beyond the breakers and Tony and Martin bodysurfed. Looking on with trepidation as Martin plunged headlong into massive waves, Tony thought: "What would be the penalty if I caused an English Catenian Director to drown?"

Tony need not have worried because Martin was fit and well practiced with the giant waves and wild seas off the Kent coast. The two couples had lunch and the Harnetts continued with the Grand President's tour of Western Australia and Victoria before returning to England.

Tragically, two weeks later at the same Cottesloe beach a shark mauled two surf-skiers. One died and the other was seriously injured. The tragedy was reported in the press and on television and soon afterwards Tony received an email from Martin enquiring whether the attack occurred where he had surfed. Martin was appalled and subsequently admitted to Tony that he had recounted this "near-miss" on many occasions, dining out on the topic.

Tony added to Martin's tale about the perils of living in Australia by informing him in a card that the same shark was now patrolling the beach calling out: "Martin, where are you?"

Despite the hazards Martin and Roz visited Western Australia twice more to tour the Southwest with Tony and Joan. They were impressed by the tall Karri trees and intrigued by the vast distances (by UK standards) between towns.

Regrettably, Tony never achieved his ambition of visiting the Canterbury Circle. The closest he came was when he participated in the Durham Catenian Conference in May 2015.

After the Grand President's visit, Canterbury and Como Circles formally applied for recognition as twinned circles. They exchanged protocols and regalia for their presidential tables. Tony and Martin served as corresponding brothers until Martin left Canterbury Circle and Tony and Joan moved to live in Busselton in 2008. Importantly, their friendship continues.

"Como Circle is not unique in having a twin," Tony writes. "Other circles have twins, comparable stories and fine experiences."

"Twinning enables each twin to discover more about the other's situation," he said, "very pertinent in this age of secularism and the COVID-19 pandemic. It creates fresh opportunities to forge strong bonds of fellowship, faith, family values and mutual esteem."

Tony Smurthwaite
Como Circle



Darling Range

Pleasant Sunday lunch in the hills

On Sunday 13 June 2021 a dozen Darling Range brothers with their wives and four local Parish Priests gathered at the Kalamunda Hotel around a long table to enjoy a "long lunch" with lassitude.

In mid-winter a midday long lunch (three hours) in daylight is preferable to a "ladies night" dinner on a dark, cold, wet evening. It was a chance for members now living on the distant "flats" of Perth to more easily travel to the hills for hilarity and at least one couple attended.

The Priestly guests, Fathers Antony Suresh (Kalamunda), Joseph Rathnaraj (Maida Vale), Michael Separovich (Lesmurdie) and Bill Ousley (Mazenod College) were treated like royalty by their Catenian hosts.

Sadly, the day before, no Darling Range members were able to attend the joint Saturday morning coffee club in Midland with Swan Valley Catenians due to other commitments including the annual Province 20 sponsored *Speak for Faith* final at the Catholic Education Office. Swan Valley brothers have now "challenged" Darling Range Circle to front up with at least 11 members in Midland in July for coffee to equal their number.

Circle jottings

The last few months have seen Brothers of Darling Range Circle enjoying life in the hills.

"Brothers only" nights continue to be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre in Lesmurdie catered by a member of the Parish who organises a two-course meal for the circle at each meeting with brothers contributing by setting up tables and then tidying and cleaning up the premises at the end of the meal.

"So far brothers have been very generous in helping to wash dishes, wipe down tables and generally leave the premises as we found them," writes Circle Secretary Harry Muller. "And on the positive side, this part of the evening has provided a great opportunity for chats whilst working together adding a more relaxed and informal touch to meetings."

In July the circle held its annual winter soup meal meeting with a good rollup of brothers. Four members (possibly with the help of their wives) donated a variety of delicious soups and Harry Muller brought along a pot of slow-cooked "hot buttered rum", which he had first savoured while visiting relatives in Canada. Brothers with a diabetes problem were warned not to taste Harry's dish due to the high sugar content, but others enjoyed being warmed up on the hot cold night.

The circle welcomed two visitors: one being the last Liberal candidate in the State election for the seat of Darling Range Liam Staltari and a friend of Gerard Tonks, Alan Larson.



Left to right: Chris Downey, Liam Staltari (visitor), Gerard Tonks and Ron Howard



Left to right: Lionel Thompson, Carl Rechichi and Lou Conti

The circle welcomed a return to the Hartfield Golf Club in August to enjoy an evening with wives and sons and daughters. The circle also hosted a joint meeting with Swan Valley Circle brothers at the September meeting also held at the golf club.

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Dianella

Annual General meeting and changeover

Dianella brothers, wives and visitors at the Circles Annual General Meeting and changeover night on Wednesday 26 May 2021 were treated to a very enjoyable evening at the Mt Lawley Golf Club. A total of 49 were in attendance. Interaction between everyone was more involved and interesting as a result of eased COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

The Circle's long-serving Vice President Peter Kora was installed as President. John Gartner is now Vice President and Leon Dique has taken over the role of Chamberlain.



Vern Scanlan installs Peter Kora (right) as President



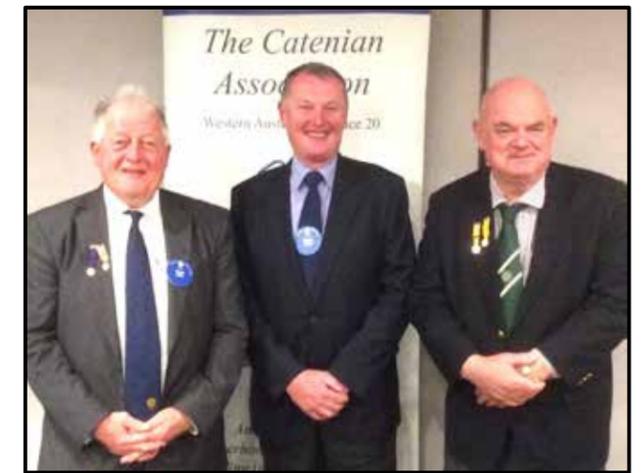
Peter Kora installs John Gartner



Peter Kora installs Leon Dique as Circle Chamberlain

Dianella's Membership and Recruitment Officer Lou Daily rarely lets a circle meeting pass without producing a new member for induction and the Annual General Meeting was no exception when Peter Sigle was installed by new President Peter Kora.

Peter was originally from Sydney and is now retired and living in Perth with his wife and two children. He is an interesting person having worked as a flight attendant with Qantas Airways for 30 years travelling all over the world on all different types of aircraft including the Concord for which he has a special tie with a replica of the now defunct aircraft on it.



Left to right: President Peter Kora, Peter Sigle and Lou Daily

President Peter Kora acknowledged the tremendous contribution made by retiring President Vern Scanlan during his two-year term in office. He said that Vern, with the support and help of other senior brothers, had been instrumental in the introduction of much-needed changes and a shift in direction of the Circle making it more functional.

Peter also thanked Helene for the encouragement and support given to her husband Vern, as well as providing great refreshments for the many committee meetings held at their home.



Peter Kora makes a presentation to Helene and Vern Scanlan at the Circle's AGM dinner

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Fremantle

All Circle Council positions filled

Members of Fremantle were delighted to fill all circle Council positions at a well-attended Annual General Meeting and Installation night held on Thursday 8 April 2021 at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle.

Incoming Officers are Peter Golding (President), Robert Williams (Vice President), Dick Finucane (Immediate Past President), John Sutton (Secretary and Membership Officer), Kevin Hefron (Treasurer and Publicity Officer), Graham Mahony (Provincial Councillor), Michael Yap (Chamberlain), Jeff de Silva (Registrar), Alex Banovich (Charities) and Vic Roque (Photographer).



President, Peter Golding (right) and Vice President, Robert Williams

In his report to the Annual General Meeting retiring President Dick Finucane emphasised the need for the circle to focus on recruitment, whether full-members or joint members. "If you have friends in our area, please tell them about us," Dick said. "They will be most welcome to join us for a dinner to see first hand what we do and what we are about."

Treasurer, Kevin Hefron reported that the circle's financial position was sound. "We kept the price to attend the Province 20 Visitors Cup in March as low as we could," Kevin said, "and successfully introduced a number of different ideas to generate a larger attendance. The Circle was able to donate \$500 to the Province 20 Youth Support Project representing half of the profit made on the night."

Kevin complimented the retiring Province 20 Treasurer Paul Chabrel for his assistance and advice to Fremantle Circle. "We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Paul wishing him all the best in the next phase of his Catenian life," Kevin said.

The meeting was told that the Circle would retain its status quo donations to CBC Fremantle and the University of Notre Dame Fremantle campus. Discussions are also continuing with Santa Maria College in Attadale for inclusion on the list of donation beneficiaries.

In the 2021/22 Catenian year the Circle is planning to introduce a range of different subsidised activities for Brothers and families including an attractive AFL football tipping competition (already fully booked-out) with enticing cash prizes.

Cliff Holloway; committed to his Faith

"My Dad loved giving speeches," Cliff Holloway's daughter Anne said when she delivered a Eulogy at her father's Requiem Mass on Saturday 19 June 2021 at All Saints Catholic Church in Greenwood. "He enjoyed speaking at formal events held by the Catenians or Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and many family events. His speeches also included his strong belief in God and Catholicism to which he converted when he married Vivienne in Singapore in 1951."

"This is my speech in memory of Dad," Anne said.

"Dad's life really started at the beginning of the Second World War. He joined the navy and travelled to exotic and faraway places. At the end of the war there was no way Dad could be satisfied going back to live at the place of his birth in Birmingham, England. He was ready for an adventurous life and travelled to the Far East where he met Vivienne, his Burmese Princess. They married, moved around Southeast Asia through Dad's promotions with his Company *Sime Darby* and had five children along the way. They lived in Singapore, Borneo, Kuala Lumpur, holidayed in New Zealand and returned by boat to England for six months every three years. Dad loved travelling."

"Dad's faith has always been strong and probably provided him with strength and resilience during difficult times. He spent every morning in his study reading a passage from the Bible before listening to Handel's Messiah Alleluia Chorus while having the same breakfast every day. Dad was a creature of habit and routine."

"His conviction in Catholicism directed him in his service to the community and assisting in establishing the Catenian Association in Western Australia for which he received the Order of Australia medal. Later he and Mum became involved with the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre."

"I am aware that my Dad may have been perceived differently to the Dad my brothers and sister may have experienced, but to me he was loving, wise and firm and occasionally bad tempered, which we may have to forgive him for. When I was young and asked for something and was told NO for whatever reason, his response to my disappointment was to say: 'It isn't good to get everything you want in life straight away, Anna. It's important to always have something to look forward to in life.'"

"Another wisdom that Dad taught me was the importance of the quality of self-discipline. If I had any problems, it was good to talk about them as there is always a solution to every problem."

"Some years ago when attending the funeral of a friend who left so young her sensitive barely 18-year old son said at her funeral: 'Nobody will ever love me like my Mum loves me.' I can say the same as a child, teenager, young and now mature woman that nobody will love me so unconditionally like my Dad loved me."

"Dad so loved his Catholic faith that he was very generous in giving blessings to everyone. One of my friends once told that she loved my Dad coming into her store because he would always give her a blessing with a smile, twinkle in his eye and laughter."

"I give this to you now Dad and say thank you and farewell: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; *in nomine patris et filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.*"

Extract taken from a Eulogy given by Anne Aherne (nee Holloway) along with Eulogies delivered by Cliff's wife, Vivienne and son David.

See page 7 for a Catenian tribute to Cliff Holloway

Joondalup

AGM and changeover night

With its normal "home" venue at RAAF Cambrai unavailable, Joondalup Circle departed from its traditional ladies night to meet at St Anthony's Parish Centre in Wanneroo on Wednesday 21 April 2021 for its Annual General Meeting and changeover.

Following the AGM and the installation of three new Office Bearers for 2021/22 sixteen members and a special guest, Provincial President Lou Daily shared a very informal pizza meal.

Andrew Swanson, a Founder Brother and Circle President in 2014/15, was installed as President for 2021/22 with John Monkhouse Vice President. John was the Circle's Founder President in 2005/06.

Les Croxford was installed as Marshal.



Left to right: Vice President John Monkhouse, Provincial President Lou Daily, President Andrew Swanson and Marshal Les Croxford



Andrew Swanson presents retiring President Peter Johnston with a miniature



Neal Garswood receives a miniature for his three-year service as Joondalup Circle's Welfare Officer

Elliott Levitt's 40-years service to the Catenian Association

The Brothers of the Catenian Association in Western Australia congratulates Elliott Levitt on the 40th Anniversary of his enrolment in April 2021. In the absence of Elliott, who has been in full-care at Oceanside Bethany in Yanchep for over ten years, his Certificate was presented to Joondalup Circle Secretary, Barry Webb at the Province 20 Visitors' Cup meeting/dinner on Thursday 18 March 2021.

Elliott joined the City of Perth Circle in 1981 and became a Founder Member of Liwara Circle when it was inaugurated on 6 December 1982. He served Liwara as Welfare Officer, Membership Officer and Secretary, transferring back to City of Perth in April 2001 where he served as Secretary before moving to Joondalup Circle in 2010 because of its proximity to Yanchep.

Elliott was born in New York City on 22 July 1939 and was educated at Christopher Columbus High School, Bronx, New York graduating in 1957.

He served as an airman with the United States of America Air Force 1957-1961 before returning to study at the University of New Mexico in the USA, graduating in 1963. Elliott then worked as a Welfare Officer for the City of New York 1964-1965 and then Employment Officer with the State of New York from 1965-1966.

Elliott migrated to Perth in 1967 and married Anne-Marie Moss at St Columba's Church in South Perth in 1973. He studied at Murdoch University, graduating in 1996 with a Diploma in Theological Studies.



Elliott and Anne-Marie Levitt

In Perth he worked as Probation and Parole Officer for the State of Western Australia from 1968-1991 and after retirement as a Justice of the Peace and Catholic Pastoral Assistant at Graylands Psychiatric Hospital.

Elliott has led a very active life. He was a member of Good Neighbour Council, Australian Institute of Welfare Officers, Toastmaster International, was an Acolyte with the Catholic Church, a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and the Catenian Association.

Elliott's wife Anne-Marie passed away a few years ago and he is now totally incapacitated and bed-ridden at Oceanside Bethany in Yanchep.

He has no living relatives anywhere in the world and his only personal friends and contacts are through his membership of the Catenian Association in Western Australia and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Members of both organisations have and continue to provide support to Elliott with frequent visits to Bethany in Yanchep.



Home again, after a long break

Joondalup brothers finally returned to their home base at RAAFA Cambrai for the circle's meeting on 21 July 2021.

It has been a long and difficult time since the first outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. The circle has only enjoyed the hospitality of the RAAFA Cambrai independent living premises on two occasions since that date, once for a normal circle meeting and dinner and then for the 2020 wonderful Christmas party in December with ladies and guests present.

Although homeless for the first half of 2021, the circle has managed to operate successfully, firstly with a January meeting and dinner hosted by John and Marlene Monkhouse in their Mindarie home. The February meeting/dinner was cancelled because of a lack of a venue. Two men's only meetings/pizza nights were held in St Anthony's Catholic Parish Centre in Wanneroo in March and April, which was also the circle's Annual General Meeting and changeover night.

Then, thanks to an initiative by newly installed Vice President John Monkhouse, the circle went "up-market" in May and June with monthly meetings held in a community hall at RAAFA Cambrai followed by dinners in local restaurants. In May members dined in style at the *Infinity Thai Cuisine Restaurant* and in June at the *Shikara Indian Restaurant* both in the nearby northern suburb of Clarkson.



Dining out in style at the Shikara Indian Restaurant in Clarkson

Casserole night was a gourmet's delight

Joondalup Circle's annual casserole night held at the RAAFA Cambrai Community Centre on Saturday 7 August 2021 was an outstanding success with 32 brothers and wives braving a rather cold, wet and windy night to attend. The venue was outstanding and is sure to be used on future occasions for this type of function.

Guests were spoiled with a huge variety of delicious hot casseroles followed by an equally enticing spread of desserts, all prepared and supplied by circle ladies.

Casserole nights have been a feature of the circle's annual social calendar since inauguration in 2005 but this year's combined event was a departure from the original "Guess who's coming to dinner", later substituted until 2020 by a casserole night hosted at the homes of a few members with a small number of guests.

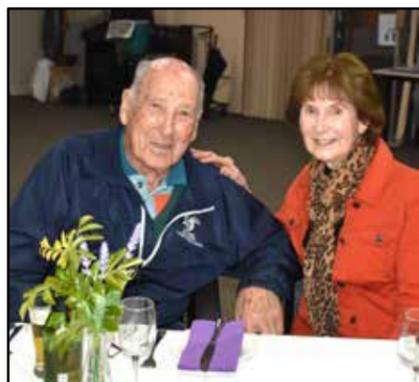
Thanks to John and Marlene Monkhouse who organised the event and worked hard to ensure its success and to the guests who set up and decorated the centre and washed dishes and cleaned up the premises afterwards. And, of course, the event would not have been the triumph it was without the delicious food prepared and supplied by everyone.



At the casserole night, left to right Mick Doak, Maree Johnston, Jocelyn Doak and Mike Wright



Carol Wright with Pat and Joy Winton



John Frost and Merle Reid



Josie Bellini, Dot Colgan, Paul Bellini and Vanda Spadaccini



David Chatel and Maree Johnston (standing) with Christine Bank

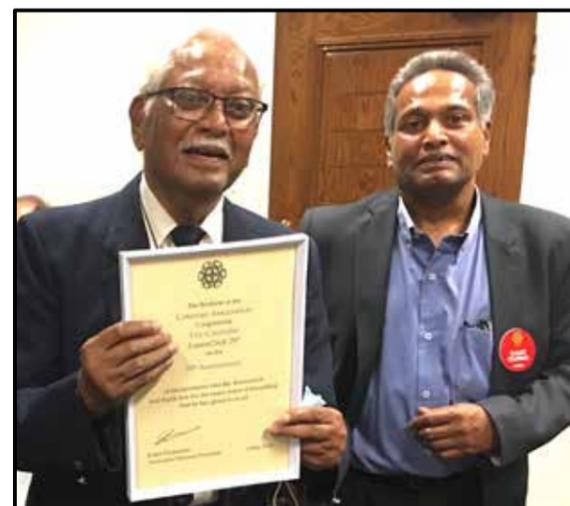
Liwara

25-year membership presentation

A highlight of Liwara Circle's meeting/dinner on Thursday 6 May 2021 was the presentation of a 25-year membership certificate to Eric Coutinho by Providence 20 Director and Chairman of Central Council of the Catenian Association Ralph Fitzpatrick.

Eric joined Liwara on 2 May 1996 when Tom Levinge was President. Unfortunately poor health over the past ten years has prevented Eric from regularly attending meetings or taking on Council positions, but he remains committed to the circle and the Catenian Association.

His son Claude is now also a member of Liwara Circle.



Eric Coutinho with his 25-year membership certificate and his son, Claude

Eric's father Joseph began work in 1917 in Central Africa for the Nyasaland Railways, which entitled him to six months long service leave every five years. It was in 1933 during one of these breaks that Eric was born in Hubli some 300 miles south of Bombay before returning to Africa.

When he was seven years of age his family were back in India and on his grandfather's insistence Eric's parents were coerced into leaving him in their care to benefit from a better education. After years of secondary and tertiary tutelage and completing undergraduate studies he returned to Nyasaland for a holiday.

"As luck would have it," Eric writes, "I was offered a vacation job as a laboratory assistant which ended up as a 30-year career with Unilever. I spent a year as an assistant, three years as a chemist, a year in a factory that produced soap and detergents and an oil mill, which crushed groundnuts and refined oil. I was then promoted to Works Manager until I was transferred to Lever Brothers as soap making Production Manager in Mumbai; the largest soap manufacturing factory."

"While I was on one of my factory assignments I met old friends one of who was to become my wife Mavis. She lived to celebrate 55 years of blissful married life before succumbing to heart failure. She left me with five sons and we travelled the world living and loving flying and sailing from country to country."

"They are good boys," Eric said, "with good wives and the very best of grandkids."

Strong support by sons and daughters

Liwara held its annual sons and daughter's night on Thursday 3 June 2021 at Croatian House Club in Gwelup. Although numbers were lower than previous years, 11 offspring supported their fathers by attending the after-meeting dinner.

The MC for the evening was "young gun" Brother Brad Ford who did an amazing job, despite opening proceedings describing his qualifications as "close to zero". Ron Brukwinski's son Eric and daughter Pamela spoke about how life during the COVID-19 pandemic had affected them and other younger people.



Ron Brukwinski with his son Eric



Lauren Haddow, Paul Chabrel and Kristin Chabrel



Tony Clarke, daughter Nikki Wise and son-in-law, Gave Wise



Francis Barr and Maria Lee Barr



Guess who's coming to dinner

On a wet and windy Saturday evening in May, 2021 twenty-four brave Catenian brothers and wives left the comfort of their homes to participate in the annual "Guess who's coming to dinner" evening hosted by Pino and Libby Batticci, Francis and Daryl Barr, Tom and Dawn Grieve and Ralph and Liana Fitzpatrick.

By all accounts everyone was well fed and enjoyed a great evening.

The brainchild of then Circle Secretary Barry Webb, this event has been a popular and successful attraction in Liwara's social calendar dating back to 1995 when it was first introduced.

In the past hosts were not told who was coming to their home for dinner and the guests did not know who else would be there. The venue was only made known to guests 24 hours before the evening. The inaugural event in 1995 finished with all participants gathering at the home of Tom Levinge for tea, coffee, chocolate mints, port and a sing along.



Pictured at the home of Francis and Daryl Barr, left to right: Gloria Carr, Gerry Barton, Marilena Green, John Carr, Lynn Barton, Graham Green and Daryl Barr
Photograph taken by Francis Barr



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Time for a laugh

A teenager's challenge

A teenage boy who had just passed his driving test asked his father if they could now discuss his use of the family car.

His father said that he would make a deal with his son. "If you can lift your exam grades from a C to a B average, if you study the Bible a little and get your hair cut, then we can discuss your use of the car."

After considering the challenge for a moment, the boy decided to accept the offer and they shook hands on it.

After six weeks or so, his father said: "Son, you've lifted your grades and I have noticed you studying the Bible, however I'm most disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut."

His son said: "I've been thinking about that, Dad, but I've noticed in my Bible studies that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there is compelling evidence that Jesus had long hair."

His father paused for a moment and replied: "Did you also notice in your Bible studies that they also walked everywhere?"

Playing through

A husband and wife are on the ninth green of the local golf course when suddenly she collapses from a heart attack.

"Help me dear," she groans to her husband.

The husband calls triple zero on his mobile phone, talks frantically for a few minutes and then calmly picks up his putter and lines up the hole.

His wife, in obvious pain, raises her head and stares at him. "I'm dying here and you're putting," she exclaimed.

"Don't worry dear," says her husband, "they've found a doctor on the second hole and he's coming here to help."

"Well how long will it take him?" she asks feebly.

"Not long at all," replies her husband, "Everybody's already agreed to let him play through."

The Good Samaritan

A worried young housewife picked up the phone when it rang and listened with relief to a comforting voice in her ear. "How are you darling," the voice said. "What kind of a day are you having?"

"Oh, Mum," said the housewife, breaking into tears, "I've had such a dreadful day. The baby won't eat and the washing machine has broken down. I haven't had a chance to go shopping and I've just sprained my ankle. On top of that the house is a mess and I'm supposed to have four guests coming to dinner tonight."

The mother was shocked and full of sympathy. "Oh, Darling," she said. "Sit down, relax and close your eyes. I'll be over in half an hour. I'll do your shopping, clean up the house and cook dinner for you and your guests. I'll feed the baby and I'll call someone to repair your washing machine. Now stop crying. I'll do everything. In fact I'll even call George at the office and tell him to come home as soon as he can."

"George?" said the housewife. "Who's George?"

"Why, George! Your husband! Is this 9232 1789?"

"No this is 9232 1788."

"Oh, I'm sorry," said the voice. "I think I must have the wrong number."

There was a short pause before the young housewife said: "Does this mean you're not coming?"

City of Mandurah

Good turnout for AGM and changeover night

Some 45 brothers and wives/partners attended the City of Mandurah's Annual General Meeting, changeover night and dinner at the RAAFA Estate at Meadow Springs on Tuesday 13 April 2021.

A pleasing number of new office bearers were installed on the Circle Council for 2021/22 including the position of President.



New office bearers, left to right: Harry Langdon (Registrar), Wayne Wright (Membership Officer), Geoff Prendergast (Treasurer) and Gerard Ots (President)

Tenth wedding anniversary



Celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary at the Annual General Meeting dinner were Gaetano and Teresa Lazzaro

Catenian of the year

The Brendan McGurk Memorial Award is presented each year to acknowledge the City of Mandurah brother who has made a significant contribution to the good of the circle in action and deeds.

This year's award was presented at the Annual General Meeting and changeover dinner on 13 April 2021 to retiring Secretary Michael Phillips. Michael previously won the prestigious award in 2016/17.

The award was initially introduced and strongly supported by Brendan McGurk (deceased) in 2003/04 and has been awarded every year since. Brendan, who passed away on 24 July 2015, was a Founder member of the City of Perth Circle when it was inaugurated on 8 February 1977 and later joined the City of Mandurah Circle when he and his wife Helen moved to live in Mandurah.

Brendan was a committed and hard-working Catenian who was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2007 for his contribution to Province 20 and the Association. He was Editor of the *Western Link* from its beginning in 1977 until 2012.



This year's City of Mandurah Catenian of the year, Michael Phillips with his wife Heather

Compassionate Friends Charity

The special guest speaker after the City of Mandurah Annual General Meeting dinner was MARGOT McALISTER representing the registered charity, The Compassionate Friends, Mandurah Inc. Established in 1969 in the United Kingdom; the charity now operates in 30 countries around the world.

It is a charitable organisation of bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents dedicated to the support and care of other bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who have suffered the death of a child/children.



The charity offers support both directly to bereaved families and indirectly by fostering understanding and good practice amongst professionals concerned with child death and by increasing public awareness.

It recognises that many who have suffered the loss of a child feel a bond with others similarly bereaved and wish to extend the hand of friendship.



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New Brother welcomed

City of Mandurah brothers and wives gathered at the circle's normal venue at the RAAFA Estate at Meadow Springs on Tuesday 8 June 2021 for a traditional ladies night. A highlight of the evening was to welcome a new Brother Stephen (Steve) Barlow and his wife Bernice. Steve was installed at the June meeting.

Steve and Bernice both attend Our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church in Mandurah where Steve serves as an Acolyte.



Acting President Colin Purcell installing Steve Barlow witnessed by City of Mandurah Chamberlain Keith Johnson

Tale of Warragul

"What did you do during the COVID-19 lockdown, Grandpa?"

"Well, my boy, I built a yacht."

"So begins the story," writes Wayne Wright. "As with any tale there is a beginning and mine starts a long time back. I have always been interested in boats, particularly yachts."

"My first experience was to help build my first boat at the age of 12, which I paid for from money earned from my paper round."

"After retiring to Mandurah, I met with some like-minded sailors and built a 12ft. dinghy," he said. "After sailing her for 12 years I began to wonder if I could design and build a yacht from scratch, the beginning of a process that took around two years to come up with what I wanted."

"The basic requirements were that it needed to be stable, easy to rig, as light as possible to launch and retrieve with a maximum length of 14 feet. I built a full scale model of what I wanted to give me an idea what the finished dimensions would look like, as there were no plans to go by."

"Overall from start to launch day the construction period was 13 months. The boat has all the attributes that I wanted and it is also rather quick," Wayne said.



Wayne Wright sailing his new yacht on the Mandurah estuary

The shearers' tribute – a poem by Tony Lane

I'd like to raise my glass to the shearers
Who helped put our great land on the map
Shearing millions of sheep in the hinterland
When Australia rode on the sheep's back

Luxury was seldom on the agenda
"Humping the Bluey" on long dusty roads
Some travelled the station tracks on bicycle
Before "Cobb and Co's" horses proudly strode

Blade shearing is still regarded a challenge
Strong wrist muscles skillfully deployed
Blades razor sharp and honed to perfection
It separated the men from the boys

Shearers are mostly happy go lucky blokes
They drink a bit. Well maybe that's true
But only if the water bag is empty
And a bush Pub comes into view

Some shearers just slept in the wool bins
Fashioned their moccasins from old wool bale bits
Cleaned up in the dam before dinner
Lined up again for breakfast about six

The aroma of the fresh shorn wool
Tramped into a double box press
Long handles manned by strong pressers
Brought a neat heavy wool bale to rest

Perhaps shearing damp sheep causes rheumatism
I asked an old timer "Mate what's the drill?"
"A few dam sheep won't hurt you sonny
But too many dry ones will"

After the "cut out" ending a month's shearing
Some men went home with double pay
Following the traditional keg and two-up game
The unfortunate ones resumed shearing next day

"Bathurst burrs" were a hazard in the Eastern States
"Double gees" equally as bad in the West
Strike either flint-hard seed and lose the hand piece
There's a good chance you'll need a new vest

From the relentless heat of "Noonkanbah Station"
To the big sheds around Wilcannia and Hay
The wool just kept on flowing southward
By camels and wagons and train

A "tall yarn" about The Big Shed in Queensland
Where "Rousies" picked up fleeces on motorbikes
There were "six cooks" cooking for the "cooks offsideers"
Used a "road roller" to make the vanilla slice

Bereft of a huge tea making vessel
"Aussie Ingenuity" is all that it takes
Rowed out in a boat to stir in the sugar
Because they brewed all the tea in the lake

Now one of the Drover's nickname was 'Roofing Nail'
Not difficult to understand why
He was tall and skinny and wiry
His hat could keep the MCG dry

So Bar Man, tap a new keg in the cellar
Gather round while we sing "Auld Lang Syne"
Let us toast these unique Aussie icons
"Lord" may their spirits dwell forever with Thine

Swan Valley

President's Mass



Swan Valley held its President's Mass at St Brigid's Catholic Church on Sunday 18 April 2021 with 14 Brothers, wives and family members present. Father Liam Ryan celebrated the Mass with special prayers offered for the Circle's deceased Catenian Brothers and families.

After Mass a special morning tea was held in the Parish Hall.

Saturday morning coffee and chitchat



There's nothing quite as enjoyable as a relaxed Saturday morning coffee and exchange of pleasantries.

Swan Valley brothers and wives are pictured above at an informal gathering on Saturday 12 June 2021 held at The Colony Coffee House of Midland. Kevin Parker was in good form with his usual repertoire of jokes while Tom Polich and Colin Broun took those sitting in their immediate vicinity on an interesting journey down memory lane recalling exploits during their high school days. Richard Taylor also shared some insight into the world of olives.

Blessed with very pleasant early winter weather, brothers and wives savoured the day over excellent coffee, tea and muffins.

The circle's Saturday "catch-up" is open to all brothers, wives and friends. All are most welcome.

Gliding over Beverley

Swan Valley Brother Richard Taylor was treated to a thrilling experience earlier in 2021 taking a flight in a glider at Beverley courtesy of a Christmas gift.

On a glorious clear, sunny Saturday Richard and Robyn drove to the wheatbelt town, visiting the old Avondale Farm that his nephew and friend are now leasing before heading to the nearby airfield to watch the tow plane towing up gliders piloted by experienced pilots with paying guests in the front seat.



Richard pictured at Beverley alongside the glider

Operated by the Beverley Soaring Society, a group of gliding enthusiasts cater for people wanting a gliding experience as well as running competitions during the main gliding season when thermal currents are at their peak.

"It is like a little village at the airstrip where members stay in caravans near their hangars getting together at the clubhouse for meals and briefings," Richard writes.

"The past year has been extremely busy," he said, "probably because of the COVID-19 pandemic with many people having things on the wish list that they have elected to do now, including gliding."

A friend of Richard's from the Swan Valley was piloting the airtractor tow plane for the day. At a height of about 2,500 feet the towrope was disengaged and the young glider pilot (who Richard later found out was related to his niece) showed him the controls and let him pilot the glider around the surrounding countryside.

"The view was fantastic," Richard said, "gliding silently over the recently sown wheat paddocks far below, the Beverley townsite and a large controlled burn in the forest to the west."

"After landing, another highlight of the day was provided by a Spitfire that had flown to Beverley from the Jandakot airport and performed a quick fly-past, spins and turns," Richard said.



Fun night in the Swan Valley

Despite heavy rain and unusually bleak late autumn weather, 38 brothers and their wives/partners braved the conditions to attend a ladies night held at the Swan Athletic Sports Centre in Herne Hill on Friday 28 May 2021.

“Guests were treated to a sumptuous three-course meal,” writes Swan Valley Vice President Taiwo Sanusi.

The traditional ladies night raffle was replaced by a fun “check under your chair prize” conducted by the circles raffle master, Rocco Rechichi. Brothers Jim Schelfhout, Richard Taylor, Colin Broun and Kevin and Lorraine Parker generously donated the prizes.

President Patrick Doyle thanked the ladies for supporting circle activities and the evening was rounded off with a presentation of a rose to each of the ladies present.



Ladies night at the Swan Athletic Sports Centre

A very proud granddad shares his joy

Swan Valley Brother David Martlew has a story to share about his grandchildren, Isaac and Abby, both who currently live in Victoria.

Isaac is 19 years of age and currently in his final year of a cabinet making apprenticeship, taking after his maternal grandfather choosing a career in the building trade.

“Isaac applied for the apprenticeship whilst still at school and has never looked back,” writes David.

“The COVID-19 pandemic and shutdowns in Victoria haven’t really impacted his job or his study and fortunately the company he works for has managed to keep all of their workers on and has maintained a steady flow of jobs.”

After being nominated by his teacher, this year Isaac has won two awards presented by the Master Builders Victoria – Gippsland Region. These awards were Certificate of Merit Best over Entire Apprenticeship and Certificate of Merit Best in Year.



Abbey is 22 years of age and has just completed a degree in Criminology at Federation University in Melbourne.

“Having always had a very keen interest in everything CSI it seemed a natural career choice,” writes David.



Abbey on her graduation day

“The COVID-19 pandemic meant that a lot of on-campus lectures, study and activities were cancelled and replaced by a more on-line approach to learning. As this all occurred in Abbey’s final year of study it didn’t unduly impact her except on casual employment that young students rely upon to support themselves whilst studying. Coffee shops and bars were all closed and this was the biggest impact for all those who were studying at university in this last year.”

“Abbey is now in the process of trying to enter the workforce, complete with her newly earned degree. Whatever career path she chooses she is sure to be an asset,” David said.



Graduation day, left to right: Abby’s sister, Nikki Taylor, Nan Heather Taylor, Mum Pippa Martlew, Abby, father Scott Taylor and brother Isaac Taylor

