

WESTERN LINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION PROVINCE 20 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Editor: Peter Johnston
Telephone 0417 180 843 Email menzies01@hotmail.com

NAME

Always remembered

The Provincial President's Commemorative Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth on Sunday 7 November 2021 was a fitting tribute to all Catenian Brothers who have passed away since the Association was first established in Western Australia in 1977 including 10 who died during 2021.

St Mary's Cathedral was filled to capacity, including 150 members, wives and friends of the Catenian Association, at the 11.00 am High Mass celebrated by the Abbot of New Norcia, Father John Herbert, the first time he has presided at the Cathedral.



Abbot John was also the guest speaker at lunch at the Duxton Hotel in St George's Terrace Perth attended by about 130 Catenian brothers, wives and friends.

In a captivating address, the Abbot talked about the strong relationship that the Catenian Association in Western Australia has shared with New Norcia over the past 40 years. He said that the Benedictine Community has treasured a strong bond with the Catenian Association during this time in which brothers have volunteered their service in many ways, frequently visiting the Monastic town on day trips, retreats, Sunday Mass and other special events and functions.

Special guests at this year's Mass and the lunch that followed were four brothers, two with accompanying wives, from South Australia where, in March 2021 the first Catenian Group was formed, initially with nine members and a joint member, now escalated to 25 with more Catholic men likely to join in the ensuing months.

In 2021 Provincial Council commissioned the preparation of a *Book of Remembrance* of Deceased Brothers in Province 20 during the 40 years since the Catenian Association was established in Western Australia with the inauguration of the City of Perth Circle in February 1977.

With the support and assistance of members, the length of membership and service willingly given by Deceased Brothers to their own circles, to the Province and to the Catenian Association has now been recognised in a permanent book that will be a fitting and appropriate memorial.



Patricia Hanrahan and Judy Humphris laid the Province 20 Book of Remembrance and cross on a table adjacent to the Altar at St Mary's Cathedral viewed by over 150 Catenian Brothers, wives and friends seated in the background



Pictured at the lunch: Provincial President Chris Downey, the Abbot of New Norcia Father John Herbert and Provincial Vice President John Murray

Directory

Editor: Peter Johnston
Tel.: 9204 4121
Mobile: 0417 180 843
Email: menzies01@hotmail.com

Circle Publicity Officers:

Adelaide	Kingsley Forsyth
Avon Valley	Brian Webb
Bouvard	Max Gardiner
Busselton	George Bazzica
Canning	Jeff de Silva
Como	Pat McManus
Darling Range	Harry Muller
Dianella	Norm Thompson
Fremantle	Kevin Hefron
Joondalup	Peter Johnston
Liwara	Barry Webb
Mandurah	Mike Seeber
Perth	John Murray
Swan Valley	Michael Rosario

Encouraging update on Damien de Silva

In the October 2021 edition of the *Western Link*, Canning and Fremantle Brother Jeff de Silva related the frightening story about the health of his eldest son Damien who suffered severe oesophageal perforation in June 2019 and his long fight to recovery.

Damien's health has continued to be stable since Jeff last updated the Fremantle Circle Brothers in May 2021.

His surgical team at Fiona Stanley Hospital were pleased with the condition of his oesophagus, which remarkably self-healed during his emergency hospitalisation during June to August 2019.

The surgeons advised him during his last consultation in August 2021 that he no longer needed further surgical consultations unless he experiences a relapse.

Damien has not missed any workdays since resuming his employment early in January 2020 and he and his family have enjoyed several more holidays within our beautiful State through the social club he belongs to.

As his parents, Jenny and Jeff pray regularly and fervently that he continues to enjoy good health.



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

Adelaide City's attraction to younger men

The Adelaide City Group continues to grow from strength-to-strength as it strives to establish a lasting Catenian presence in the City of Churches.

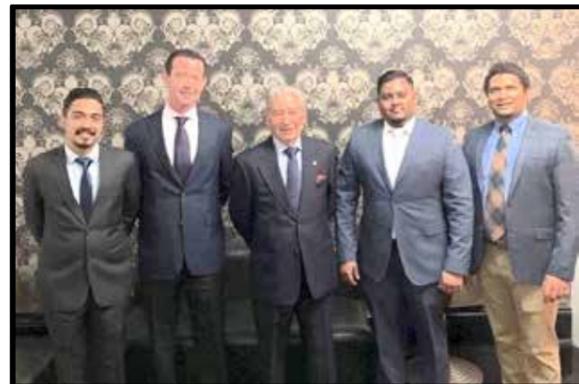
The Group enrolled nine new members between August and October 2021, but what makes this outstanding accomplishment all the more remarkable is that the average age of these recruits is just 40, with the youngest being 24 and the eldest 53.

Adelaide City's Secretary and Development Officer, Kingsley Forsyth said that the appeal to younger Catholic men under the age of 55 is a result of the *back-to-basics* approach that the Group has taken.

"By placing a strong emphasis on the 'brotherhood' aspect along with ensuring meetings are formalised and the ceremony is delivered to the highest standard, busy young men are prepared to make the time to attend," Kingsley said.

"Interestingly there is also a strong attraction to the 'fraternal culture' that is developing within the Group, which unsurprisingly, is in many ways reminiscent of the Catenians of the 1960s/70s when the average age was much younger and more working men were involved and the Association was thriving."

"Something, perhaps, for other Circles to ponder," Kingsley said.



Newly installed Brothers from the October 2021 meeting, left to right: Joshua Newnes, Patrick Forster-Rohal, Michael Cogman (Chairman), Anjelo Rulach and Vinod Coelho



The rapidly expanding City of Adelaide Group Photo taken at the Group's October meeting

Chronicle of the Adelaide City Group visit to Perth



Left to right: Michael and Mary Cogman, Rennie Louis, Kingsley and Kanchana Forsyth and Andrew Mulholland

As the Adelaide City Group of the Catenian Association is only the first group formed in the State of South Australia, the main purpose of the visit to Western Australia by four brothers in November 2021, two with accompanying wives, was for them to familiarize themselves with Catenian conventions and practices and to bond with Perth brothers and wives.

It all began with welcoming drinks and supper at the home of Australian National Council President, Ralph Fitzpatrick and his wife Liana on Saturday 6 November followed by the Provincial Commemorative Mass and lunch reported on the cover page of this edition.

Kevin Brady award heads east

On the 10th March 2021, Adelaide City Group was formed with nine members and one joint member, now escalated to 25 with more Catholic men likely to join during the next few months.

Therefore, it was no surprise at the Provincial President's lunch at the Duxton Hotel in Perth on 7 November 2021 that Adelaide was declared the winner of the *Kevin Brady Award* which is presented to the Province 20 Circle or Group that recruits the most new members in the 12 months ended 30 September each year. Kevin Brady passed away in 2005. He is remembered as a hard-working committed brother who embraced the spirit of the Catenian ethos and was a regular visitor to all circles in the Province.



Provincial President, Chris Downey (centre) presenting the Kevin Brady citation to Adelaide City Group Chairman, Michael Cogman and Secretary/Development Officer Kingsley Forsyth

Adelaide visitors were charmed by New Norcia

In addition to the Commemorative Mass at St Mary's Cathedral and lunch at the Duxton Hotel, the visitors attended several meetings of established circles and were kept occupied with organised sightseeing and plenty of shopping opportunities, all in the space of a few days.

As part of their itinerary, the four Catenian Adelaide City Group brothers, two with accompanying wives, were treated to a wonderful and unique experience at New Norcia on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

The Catenian Association has treasured a strong bond with the Benedictine Community of New Norcia since the Association was first established with the inauguration of the City of Perth Circle in February 1977.

In this period spanning over 40 years, Catenian brothers have volunteered their services to the New Norcia Community in many ways including olive picking and frequent visits to the Monastic town on day trips, retreats, Sunday Mass and for other special events and functions.

New Norcia has also always been a priority on the annual itinerary of Catenians and wives from the United Kingdom, where the Association was founded in 1908.

The November 2021 excursion to New Norcia by our Adelaide visitors with some Perth Catenians was undoubtedly a memorable highlight of their brief stay in Perth.

They were conducted on a tour of the Monastery by Abbot John Herbert, attended midday prayers with the Monks, lunch in the Refectory, an all-to-brief piano recital given by accomplished musician Father Robert and another guided tour of the Monastic town with Abbot John finishing at the museum and gift shop.

An experience they will surely share with their fellow members and wives in South Australia.



The visitors pictured with the Abbot of New Norcia, John Herbert at the foot of a statue of St Benedict in the Monastery

Chronicle of the Adelaide City Group visit to Perth continued on page 4



When the oldest meets the youngest

The City of Perth Circle meeting on 8 November 2021 was attended by the oldest and youngest Australian Catenian brothers; an unplanned occurrence that created an air of excitement amongst brothers when City of Perth's Phil Zeid (aged 99) was introduced to Rennie Louis (aged 24) of the Adelaide City Group.



Separated by 75 years this multi-generation age difference did not stop the two brothers from quickly acquainting themselves with each other, retelling stories, sharing jokes and reminiscing on a variety of diverse experience.

This chance meeting during the Adelaide City's visit by a delegation of four brothers profoundly demonstrates the potential

appeal that the Catenian Association still has to a wide age-range of Catholic men today.

Interestingly, the City of Perth Circle has the oldest demographics of any Province 20 circle, contrasted with the Adelaide City Group that has the youngest demographic in the Province with an average age of just 40. Furthering the coincidence, the City of Perth Circle was the first established in Perth in 1971, while the Adelaide City Group was the most recent, inaugurated in March 2021. This special encounter will be treasured by both brothers and demonstrates that the Catenian Association in its current structure has a bright future.

Impromptu address hits the mark at joint meeting

When he attended the joint Darling Range Circle and Canning Circle meeting at RAAFA Bull Creek on Wednesday 10 November 2021, visiting Adelaide City Group Brother Kingsley Forsyth was not expecting to be the guest after-dinner speaker.

Kingsley readily accepted the invitation and gave an inspirational and succinct account of the Adelaide City's journey to formation and provided a clear outline of the Group's planned inauguration of the new Adelaide City Circle in mid-2022.

In his oration Kingsley emphasised that every step in the Group's formation process had adopted the well-established Catenian values and were aligned with the Catenian aims and objectives.

Thirty-eight Catenian Brothers and one potential Canning Circle member, Alfred Netto attended the meeting, together with four visiting Adelaide City Group Brothers. Twenty ladies,



including Mary Cogman and Kanchana Forsyth from Adelaide joined brothers for dinner and a very successful evening.

Australian National Council President and Province 20 Director Ralph Fitzpatrick presented Darling Range Brother Carl Rechichi with his 30-year membership certificate at the dinner.

Carl Rechichi and Ralph Fitzpatrick



Fremantle walking tour



In glorious sunny spring weather a group of nine Catenians, including three ladies travelled to Fremantle by train on Thursday 11 November 2021 for a walking and "Cat" bus tour hosted by the port city circle. From the train station the group of 15 boarded the City of Fremantle blue Cat bus travelling to the Roasting Warehouse Café for morning tea respectfully starting with a minute's silence for Remembrance Day.

The group then walked to nearby Marine Terrace, then travelled to the Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour to enjoy a delicious seafood lunch at Cicerellos Restaurant where an additional six brothers joined the group for the meal.

After lunch the group visited Notre Dame University where the Dean of the University's School of Physiotherapy, Associate Professor William Gibson, treated them to a guided tour of the magnificent campus. They were conducted through the university chapel, the library, the student services area and the School of Physiotherapy exercise gymnasium and ICU simulation ward with about 16 beds to teach and test students within a trauma environment.

The afternoon concluded in the rooftop bar of the refurbished National Hotel where the panoramic views were breathtaking and awe-inspiring. Adelaide City Group Chairman Michael Cogman took the opportunity to thank Fremantle Circle for hosting the tour. It was a splendid finale for the visiting four brothers and two ladies who returned to Adelaide on Friday 12 November weary, but harbouring many happy memories of their hectic but very enjoyable week in Perth.

A learning experience for everyone

Kinsley Forsyth writes about the Adelaide City Group visit to Perth in November 2021

"This letter will attempt to put into words the incredible gratitude that we all have in our hearts from our week spent with you in Perth," writes Adelaide City Group Secretary and Development Officer Kingsley Forsyth.

"Let me start by thanking the leadership of Province 20 and the Australian National Council for making this trip possible."

"Before venturing across the Great Australian Bite, we all had our private thoughts and expectations on what we would experience and see throughout our week in Perth, but I can honestly say that even our most ambitious expectations were blown away by the scale and depth of hospitality given to us."

"It's one thing reading about the famous Catenian hospitality, but it is another thing altogether being a recipient of it. This hospitality was the single-most rewarding aspect of our holiday. We were treated not simply as visitors, or even friends, but as Brothers. The very act of calling another man Brother denotes a higher level of connection, demonstrating a deeper intimacy and level of respect and this was precisely how it was received on our end."

"Most of us you had never met in person prior, yet we were received openly and warmly like an extended family member returning home for Christmas."

"Yes, we learnt many things throughout this week, including Circle protocol, the aspect of Circle visiting and the use of regalia, but the hospitality aspect was truly the most surprising and single-biggest lesson. We now look forward to someday returning this warm embrace of Catenian hospitality that was so generously poured onto us when each of you visit Adelaide in due time."

"Interestingly my wife, Kanchana mentioned to me when we returned home that 'I now understand what Catenians are all about'. Yes, Kanchana has been a big supporter of mine during the last eight months during which I have spent countless hours each week away from my family building up the Adelaide City Group, but the Perth ladies taught and showed her so much of what she, as a Catenian wife, can also get out of the Catenians and how much fun they can also have when a flourishing local Catenian presence exists. So we also extend a special thanks to the Perth Catenian ladies for this."

"The Circles of City of Perth, Mandurah, Joondalup, Liwara, Fremantle, Canning and Darling Range all showed us in their own ways the rich diversity of traditions that exist within various Circles and members, all within the bounds of the Association, but each a little unique in their own way. There were lessons learned from each, so thank you to the brothers of each of these Circles who were involved in the planning and who partook on the day."

"You all demonstrated to us what a mature and professionally run Province looks like and all the members of the Adelaide City



Group are ever so grateful that we were sponsored by and are part of Province 20. You boast a team of capable men in leadership, you have strong financial resources, but most importantly, you had an open mind to have backed our sometimes-unorthodox approaches to establishing a Catenian presence in Adelaide."

"You got to meet some of our members during the week we were there, Brother Andrew Mulholland (Treasurer) and Brother Rennie Louis (Chamberlain) who are in many ways reflective of our Adelaide City Group. Like them, our Group is full of young, professional, committed men who are all strong in their faith. You can expect to meet many more men like them when you visit us in Adelaide. Brother Michael Cogman (Chairman) also joined us and was the only current Catenian prior to our inauguration in March 2021 and was one of the reasons we were able to hit the ground running afterwards; benefiting from his knowledge and experience."

"The time we shared together has no doubt enshrined the bonds between the Perth and Adelaide Catenians."

"I am so happy how the week in Perth turned out for everyone and I do believe that together we are doing God's work; all playing our unique and irreplaceable parts in a great revival of the Catenian Association ensuring it not only survives but thrives well into the 21st century and beyond."

"I do hope and pray that in return for your generous hospitality, we have been able to leave you with this seed of hope."

Kingsley Forsyth

Letter from Chairman Michael Cogman

Dear Brothers,

On behalf of Adelaide City Group Brothers, Kingsley Forsyth, Andrew Mulholland, Rennie Louis and myself and our Catenian ladies Kanchana and Mary, I write to say how wonderful it was to experience the Catenian hospitality and friendship of Province 20 during our visit to Perth from the 6th to 12th November 2021. The Provincial Council and all the other Catenian Brothers and Catenian ladies we were privileged to meet during our visit were so warm and friendly it was just like renewing close bonds with long lost, loving friends.

Although for most of us it was our first meeting with Catenian Brothers and ladies, it was an experience that has made a lasting impression, in particular on our Adelaide travelling Brothers who are new, but committed Catenians.

We look forward to a continued friendship and future meetings, hopefully both in Western Australia and in Adelaide.

Fraternally,

Michael Cogman,
Chairman, Adelaide City Group



Encouraging support for Visitors cup

The bi-annual Province 20 Visitors Cup is alive and well with 89 Brothers in attendance at Croatian House in Gwelup on Thursday 2 September 2021 participating in a joint meeting event involving the host Joondalup Circle and its near neighbour Liwara Circle. This represented about 25 per cent of the total Province 20 membership; an encouraging turnout in these uncertain times.

It followed a daunting challenge set by Fremantle Circle in March 2021 with over 100 Catenian Brothers representing all circles in the Province attending the event at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle.

The President of Joondalup Circle Andrew Swanson and Liwara's President Terry Dwyer jointly chaired the meeting and special guests included the President of Australian National Council, Ralph Fitzpatrick, Provincial President Chris Downey, Provincial Vice President John Murray, Immediate past Provincial President Lou Daily and Province 20 Life Member Pat McManus of Como Circle.

A highlight of the evening was the installation of a new Brother Suvas Lobo to Liwara Circle.

The Visitors Cup provides an important and welcome forum for brothers from all circles to renew friendships and meet new members.

Fremantle Circle won the coveted cup, awarded bi-annually to the circle in Province 20 best represented at the event. This is the third time that Fremantle has enjoyed success in the previous four, reflecting the outstanding commitment of its members to the event.



The winning Fremantle circle members, pictured with Provincial President Chris Downey

Left to right: Alex Banovich, Chris Downey, Michael Yap, Dick Finucane, Graham Mahony, Kevin Hefron, President Peter Golding (holding the cup), John Sutton, Frank Alilovic and Vic Roque

Liwara Circle will host the next Province 20 Visitors Cup at Croatian House in Gwelup in the first half of 2022. Brothers from all circles in Province 20 are strongly encouraged to attend.

Seen at the Visitors Cup



Left to right: Provincial President, Chris Downey, Andrew Swanson (Joondalup President) and Terry Dwyer (Liwara President)



Colin Broun (Swan Valley), Kevin Hefron (Fremantle) and Ian Moncrieff (City of Perth)



John Monkhouse (Joondalup), Francis Barr (Liwara) and Keith Morgan (Canning)



Lou Daily (Dianella), Mike Taylor (Como) and John Weselman (Liwara)

Seen at the Visitors Cup (continued)



Pat McManus (Como), Bob Burns (Dianella) and Malcolm Craig (Liwara)



Tony Ryall (Liwara), Graham Mahony (Fremantle) and Mick Doak (Joondalup)



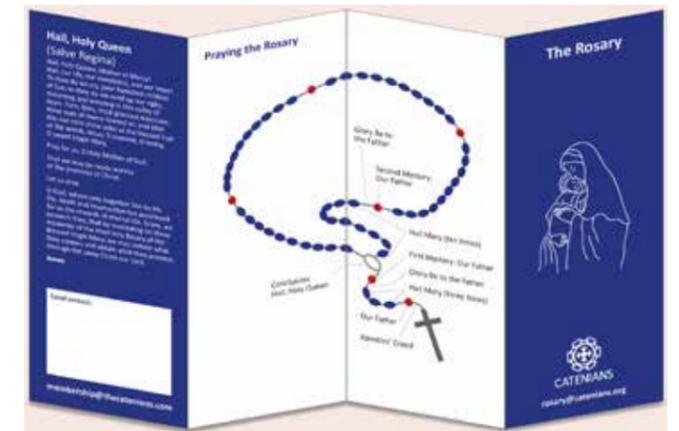
*Standing: John Weselman (Liwara), Suvas Lobo (Liwara) and Brian Webb (Avon Valley)
Seated: Michael Wright (Joondalup) and Brad Ford (Liwara)*



Paul Cranley (Liwara), Cliff Chalton (Canning) and Peter Sigle (Dianella)

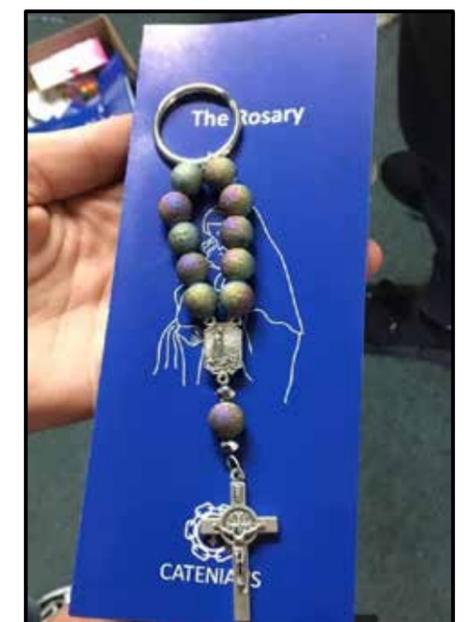
Strong support for Catenian Rosary initiative

The leaflet "Praying the Rosary" first printed and distributed by Province 20 in February 2021 has received outstanding support from Western Australian schools. Initially 4,000 leaflets were printed in early 2021 with a second print run of the same quantity produced later in the year to meet demand.



The aim of the project is to improve Catenian interaction with parish priests and to elevate the Catenian Association profile in parishes.

The Rosary leaflet is part of the process of engaging with parishes and schools by building relationships and in this regard it has proved an outstanding success.



The Catenian Rosary leaflet is available from:

Provincial Secretary, Harry Muller
Telephone 0408 193 664
Email: mullerhp@me.com



Celebrating in great style

Dianella's 400th meeting

Dianella brothers and wives, guests, visitors and friends totalling 69 people enjoyed a truly wonderful afternoon on Friday 1 October 2021 in the Grand Dining Room of the Mt Lawley Golf Club celebrating the Circle's 400th meeting.

Forty six brothers and wives from the circle attended along with a further 20 brothers and wives from other Catenian circles and special guests Parish Priest Father Greg Burke and Assistant Priest Father Tadgh Tierney of Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Morley and City of Bayswater Councillor Sally Palmer.

In welcoming guests Dianella President Peter Kora said that the circle was privileged to share the very special occasion with five of its Founder members, Brian Preston who was the inaugural President, Graham Pittaway, Ken Durnin, Donald McKechnie and Terry O'Neill.



Dianella Founder Brothers standing left to right, Ken Durnin, Brian Preston, Terry O'Neill and Donald McKechnie. Seated: Graham Pittaway

Peter said that the catalyst behind the development and growth of the Catenian Association in Western Australia and responsible for the formation of the Dianella Circle that was inaugurated in 1984 was Brian Preston who is still an active member of the Dianella Circle today.

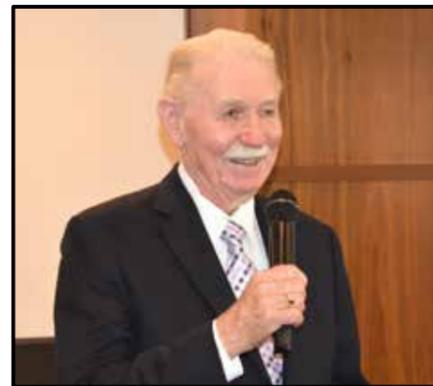
Brian initially joined the City of Perth Circle to gain experience and spent considerable time and effort recruiting Catholic gentlemen in the Morley/Dianella/Bedford parishes to create a new circle. He held weekly meetings at his home until he had 25 men committed to join and form a new circle.

The foundation brothers agreed that an Australian name was important although many members lived in the nearby Morley parish. Dianella was selected, named after a Western Australian wildflower, which has bright blue flowers (the circle's badge colour). The Perth suburb of Dianella is also named after this flower that expands its bushy flower groups into surrounding fields appropriately symbolising the driving purpose of the circle to follow in a similar colourful way and expansion.

Dianella celebrated its inauguration with a reception and dinner at the Miss Maud Function on Saturday 10 November 1984 in the presence of the Most Reverend William Joseph Foley D.D., the Archbishop of Perth and Grand President Gerald Cassidy. Past Area Council West President Laurie Shervington proposed a toast to the Catenian and hierarchy and clergy, Graham Pittway proposed a toast to visitors and guests and the Master of Ceremonies was the 1984/85 Area Council President Ian Handcock.

After 37 years and now its 400th meeting, Dianella Circle and Province 20 is honoured to still have five committed Founder Brothers still playing an active part in Catenian life.

In addition to their commitment to the Dianella Circle, they all made valuable contributions to Province 20 including their service as Provincial President; Brian Preston 1989/90, Graham Pittaway 1991/92, Terry O'Neill 1993/94 and Donald McKechnie 1997/98. Donald also served as Province 20 Director from 1999 to 2008 and was honoured with Life Membership in 2012. Terry O'Neill was awarded Life Membership of Province 20 in 2010.



Norm Thompson

The Master of Ceremonies at the 400th luncheon Norm Thompson outlined proceedings for the afternoon explaining to guests that it was to be a strictly "fun" time with formal speeches kept to a minimum and brief. Before the main course the circle's Founder President Brian Preston was invited to say grace, which he delivered thoughtfully and with good humour.

On the table setting for each guest there were two specially printed pamphlets. One was a copy of the original inaugural reception/dinner menu and proceedings on 10 November 1984 signed by all Founder brothers at that time.

The second pamphlet was a commemorative pamphlet/menu and proceedings for the 400th meeting function featuring a detailed tribute to the circle's Founder President and the four other Founder Brothers still active in the circle.

Guests enjoyed a lavish buffet-style dinner with plenty of food available for a second serve if required.



After the main course MC Norm Thompson produced several surprises to keep members, guests and visitors entertained including a short humorous video shown for the benefit of Dianella Brother Brian Kerman, pictured below, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday.



Introducing the video Norm explained with "tongue in cheek" that Dianella brothers wanted to recognise Brian's birthday milestone with a special gift and had generously donated a large sum of money put towards buying him a new battery powered Mercedes Benz so that he could update from his old Lexus

Note: If you haven't seen this video starring *Seinfeld's* girlfriend Elaine you should check it out on U-Tube.



No more petrol, the electric Mercedes is Powered by 9,648 AA batteries



Dianella President Peter Kora (left) with Founder President Brian Preston at the cake-cutting ceremony

Brian Preston gave a brief speech following the cake-cutting ceremony, followed by Norm Thompson who provided background to the uniquely designed *Dianella Delight Surprise* a very special dessert reflecting the outline and colour of the Western Australian wildflower after which the Dianella district was named.



The afternoon concluded with a raffle draw, tea and coffee and a very special and beautiful video rendition of *Alleluia* sung by Andrea Bocelli and his young daughter.

Note: Many additional photos were taken at the 400th anniversary luncheon and are available from Norm Thompson or Catenian Editor Peter Johnston if required.



City of Mandurah celebrates its 30th anniversary

The Mandurah Country Club in Halls Head was the venue for the City of Mandurah Circle's 30th anniversary meeting and dinner on Tuesday 12 October 2021, the very same date as its inauguration in 1991.

There were 70 in attendance including visitors and wives from other Province 20 circles: Province 20 Director and Chairman of Central Council Ralph Fitzpatrick and his wife Liana (Liwara Circle), Provincial President Chris Downey and his wife Monica (Darling Range Circle), President of Bouvard Circle Peter Brown and his wife Barbara, Graeme Weselman and John and Sandy Weselman (all from Bouvard Circle), Peter and Maree Johnston (Joondalup Circle), Vern and Helene Scanlan, Gerry Butler and Lou Daily (all from Dianella Circle) and Steve and Kay Williamson (Swan Valley Circle).

The City of Mandurah President Gerard Ots also welcomed the Parish Priest of Our Lady's Assumption Catholic Parish Father Johny and Assistant Parish Priest Father Anson together with Catenian Ladies, Mavis Newman, Irene Polglase, Trin Stewart, Beryl Fitzgerald and Pauline Herrington.

A highlight of the anniversary meeting was the installation of a new brother, Tom Moylan who attended the meeting with his wife Anita.



Left to right: City of Mandurah Membership Officer Wayne Wright, Tom Moylan and President Gerard Ots

From an initial meeting in April 1989 the Mandurah and Districts Catenian Group was formerly established on 18 June 1990 with Reg Newman as Chairman and Lloyd Wyss as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Como and City of Perth played significant roles in the transition from Group to Circle. Many brothers assisted in the early days of formation particularly Laurie Shervington, Cliff Holloway, Barry O'Malley, Graham Pittaway, John Rayner and John Begley to mention just a few.

Grand President Herbert (Bert) Murnaghan officiated at the inauguration on Saturday 12 October 1991 at the Mandurah Country Club. Reg Newman was the Founder President and Lloyd Wyss was the Vice President.

The remainder of the Foundation Council comprised Anton van de Ven (Secretary), Peter Lloyd (Treasurer), Brendan McGurk (Chamberlain), Brian Marley (Marshall), Vince Spargo

(Membership Officer), Tony Lane (Registrar), Jack Scharf (Welfare Officer) and Alex Coe (Provincial Councillor).

President Gerard Ots acknowledged the three remaining Founder Brothers still active in the City of Mandurah Circle, Terry McDonnell, Winston Rennick and Tony Lane who were given the honour of cutting the celebration cake along with Mavis Newman, widow of Founder President Reg Newman.



Left to right: Mavis Newman, Terry McDonnell, Winston Rennick and Tony Lane

The President of Australian National Council and Province 20 Director Ralph Fitzpatrick presented anniversary certificates to the City of Mandurah Circle and brothers for 25 years membership or more.



Left to right: Terry McDonnell (30 years), Mike Seeber (25 years), Stewart Evans (29 years), Gerard Ots (holding the circle's 30th anniversary certificate), Tony Lane (30 years), Winston Rennick (30 years) and Ralph Fitzpatrick
Absent: John Wilcox (28 years) and Peter Bygrave (25 years)



Assistant Parish Priest Father Anson finished a wonderful evening with a closing prayer and song.

Seen at the City of Mandurah anniversary celebration:



Anne and Wayne Wright



Jean and David Best



Chris and Monica Downey with Margaret-Anne and Roger Millington

Liwara golf day and dinner



Liwara Circle's annual golf day was this year held at the Marangaroo Golf course on Thursday afternoon 14 October 2021. It was a nine-hole stroke competition with dinner and trophy presentations in the evening at the Odin Tavern in Balcatta. Although the number of players was lower than normal, the weather was warm and the competitors enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of golf.

Congratulations to the winners of the stroke event. Des Wright won with Ralph Fitzpatrick second and Gerry Barton third. Mike Wright of Joondalup Circle won the Visitors trophy.



The winner, Des wright (left) with competition organiser, John Weselman



Dinner at the Odin Tavern

BURNS SIEBER

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

We work with like minded clients to achieve their aspirations by providing premium business, management and financial solutions.

Our Services:

- Strategic Planning & Business Coaching
- Business Advisory
- Taxation Services & Consulting
- Accounting Services
- SMSF & Superannuation Consulting

A: 1st Floor, 256 Fitzgerald Street, Perth WA 6000
 T: 08 9227 6110 F: 08 9227 6162
 E: admin@burnsieber.com.au W: www.burnsieber.com.au
 Contact Jeremy Nicoletto or Phillip Sieber



Where are they now?

Catenian Youth Fund Alumni

In 2017 three students from the Catholic Diocese of Bunbury were sponsored by the City of Busselton Circle (now in recess) to attend the World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. They received grants from the Province 20 Youth Support Fund to help finance their trips. One of these students, Nicole Soriano wrote to update the Youth Fund and Catenian Association with how she benefitted from this once in a lifetime experience.



Left to right: Nicole Soriano, Jara Lazarte, Sarah Hegney and Catholic Diocese of Bunbury Youth Ministry Coordinator, Aaron Faure

"Back in 2016 I was in my final year of my Bachelor of Health Sciences degree when I was presented with the opportunity to attend the World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland," Nicole writes.

"At the time I thought it was almost impossible for me to go due to my financial position, however with the help of my local parish, Out Lady's Assumption Parish in Mandurah, the Catenian Association Youth Support Fund and encouraged by the Bunbury Youth Ministry Coordinator Aaron Faure I was provided with almost full sponsorship."

"It was good just being there, celebrating our faith, participating in activities and meeting people from all over the globe. One of my highlights was being selected from Western Australia to participate in the Prayers of the Faithful at the Australian Welcome Mass and to speak in my mother tongue, *Tagalog* in front of over 3,000 Australian pilgrims. It was humbling to be able to represent both being a Western Australian and a Filipino."

"Returning from Poland I completed my Bachelor degree in Health Information Management, but hit a road block when unable to obtain a graduate job in the hospital field. I finally secured a job with Priceline Pharmacy in Cottesloe in January 2018 requiring me to move from Mandurah to the city."

"Working with the pharmacy has given me insight in where I really wanted my career to go. I love being able to help people in their day-to-day health problems, even if it's just an ear to listen to their worries."

"Fast forward two years, I decided that I would continue on this path and get my registration to become a pharmacist. I truly believe that everything happens for a reason, all life's experiences are there to help us grow physically, emotionally and spiritually."

"From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank the Catenian Association for giving me the opportunity to attend World Youth Day 2016. If I wasn't able to go my life would have taken and entirely different direction."

Embrace the Grace 2021

Youth Support Fund grants

The Province 20 Youth Support Fund has made grants to 17 young Catholics to attend *Embrace the Grace 2021* a four day conference that was held between the 9th and 12th of December 2021 at the Swan Valley Adventure Centre and run by Catholic Youth Ministry Perth (CYM) with the support of Centre for Life, Marriage and Fertility.

The theme of this year's conference was *Real Love*.

In its invitation to youth between the ages of 16 to 25, CYM points out the in this day and age there are a lot of misconceptions about what "Love" means. The world has its own definition of what is love and how to love and be loved, but asks the question "What is Real Love?"

This year at *Embrace the Grace* participants were invited to see the real meaning of love mirrored through the gift of the Holy Family. God the Father gave each member of the Holy Family the freedom to choose love every single day and this made them become the living being of God's love until today.

Embrace the Grace began in 2004 by Respect Life Office, but is now run by Catholic Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of Perth as a youth event. For more than a decade *Embrace the Grace* has combined the joyfulness of youth with an intellectual approach to the Catholic faith and relevant issues young people face in their everyday life.

Apart from exploring their faith and asking the big questions in life, participants at this year's conference also had the opportunity to meet new friends, enjoy music, games and a dinner dance.

Dianella Circle sponsored the 17 young Catholics receiving grants from the Province 20 Youth Support Fund.

Youth support is available

With the COVID-19 pandemic and various government restrictions throughout Australia, the Youth Support Fund has had little opportunity to support eligible Catholic youth with travel and/or development needs over the past 18 months.

With increased levels of vaccinations and the easing of restrictions the Fund's opportunities to support youth will gradually emerge and all circles are urged to seek opportunities in Province 20 that would qualify for financial assistance.

The Fund's prime objective is to encourage and assist young Catholics (or in deserving instances, young Christians) who have reached the age of 16 but not yet reached the age of 25 in educational, career or charitable pursuits that will strengthen their faith by expanding their knowledge of their faith or by sharing their Catholic faith with others.

Brothers are also urged to continue their financial support through donations to allow the Fund to provide the best support for our Catholic youth.

Interactive National Conference was a great success

The 2021 Australian National Conference held in Melbourne on Saturday 21 August exceeded expectations with up to 110 active participants via *Zoom*, including brothers from Province 20 in Western Australia.

Opened by Australian National Council President Ralph Fitzpatrick the conference focussed on eliminating barriers to entry for new members, the retention of members and finding practical solutions to reinvigorate the Catenian Association in Australia.



Melissa McCarney

A highlight of the conference was an interactive workshop chaired by Melissa McCarney, the daughter-in-law of Province 21 Manly Circle Brother John McCarney.

Melissa drew on her experience in corporate restructure and change, strategic development, management and marketing to address the theme of the conference "Revitalising the Catenian Association in Australia." She had intensively researched the Catenians over many months developing an in-depth understanding of the challenges facing the Association. This included a survey of all Australian members, attendance at a circle meeting/dinner, interviewing existing members and one new member and conducting an executive workshop.

Melissa began her workshop by highlighting some of the issues that her research had unearthed:

- **Identity:** reputation as a secret society, perception that the Association is for older men, seen as being Catholic and spiritual.
- **Why people join:** sense of belonging and meeting like-minded people.
- **Value:** comradery and support network.
- **Low advocacy:** difficult to articulate why to join, off-putting website with old-fashioned language, embarrassment about the formality and language of meetings.
- **Barriers to entry:** seen as an old men's association, costs, formality, formal application process, too confronting to come to a meeting or dinner.

Melissa said that the Catenians needed to be "super clear" about what the Association stands for and its reason for being. She said that she had trouble finding the answers to these questions on the website and suggested that the "Why, What and How" could be more easily articulated and resonate well with potential new members.

WHY – we are a network of support and encouragement for men, their families and friends.

WHAT – we create opportunities for like-minded people to build deep and lasting friendships.

HOW - we do so as Catholics on the solid foundation of shared faith and values, we support each other with life's challenges, we lend an ear or a helping hand and we harness the talents and treasures of the people in our network.

Conference attendees overwhelmingly supported this approach.

Melissa also offered her view on the current issue of women's membership, concluding that the Catenians should not let go of its cores as a men's-only gathering and that men's mental health is important and should not be underestimated.

"There is so much the Association can offer to all men, women and non-Catholics," Melissa said. "My advice would be to not let go of the core reason you've existed for over 100 years. Men's health is a substantial issue and Catenians can make a difference to middle-aged men who are suffering from these problems. Opening the Association to women might inhibit communications between men because men are more likely to talk with men than in a mixed gathering."

Melissa concluded her observations by proposing a simple structure for the Catenians of the future:

- **Members:** Catholic men.
- **Friends of Catenians:** Anyone who would like to be part of the Catenian community, including non-Catholics and women.
- **Exclusive for members:** Monthly meetings (with an updated format) and dinners.
- **Activities for all:** Trivia nights, ladies' nights, walking groups, charity donations and ad hoc activities including coffee meetings, lunches, dinners and other fun events.

During the workshop several speakers gave brief talks about their experiences of the Catenians focusing on how the Association can revitalise and reinvigorate itself to meet the changing needs and expectations of members, enhance its relevance in the Catholic Church communities and to enlarge its appeal to new members.

A conference Q&A session drew many ideas for discussion including how the idea of brotherhood aligns with the mixed gender issue, the benefits of twinning with other Circles, how Brothers regard the *Catena* Magazine, the Associations relevance within the church, the definition of "practicing" Catholic, and how to keep in touch with young people.



Why should we develop member personas?

By Ralph Fitzpatrick
Province 20 Director
Australian National Council President



Member personas are imaginary people who describe ideal or average members. They group key characteristics of members together; helping to get to know the people our Association is serving. Most associations have multiple member personas made up of the different demographics or segments that they serve. These groups want different things and would be put into different member personas.

Creating well-developed personas for our target members and their interests' help us to know what our members need and what we are competing against for their attention. Personas help us understand our members so we can provide the experience and benefits that will be most valuable to them. They can also help improve member recruitment, retention and satisfaction.

Ask yourself

Whom are we targeting? What are the composite characteristics and behaviours for each group?

Do we need member personas to help us recruit new members? Or are we trying to develop better member benefits? We need to clearly explain why we are building member personas and what we want to use them for. That will help us determine if we are profiling our current members or prospects who we want to better target to become members in the future.

If our Association can't help to address our members' most important issues, then they won't have a reason to join, engage or maintain their membership status.

The value our Association offers is how we will help to solve the problems and challenges our members face. Whether through friendships, quality content, connections with experts, webinar series, or networking opportunities, the value of our Association and community will give our members a reason to stay engaged.

What can we offer members to help them address issues that they are facing? What information, collaboration, or networking opportunities would they find useful? What can we offer our members to make their life more enjoyable?

What are they concerned about?

Fears and challenges are powerful negative internal triggers that drive action. When members feel these triggers they do something to relieve their negative feelings. If members are concerned about losing their job, for instance, they might join our Association for access to the experience of existing members, which helps them feel more secure at work.

That's only one example, so we should delve into our members' fears and challenges, making them part of our member personas. Why does each member type need us? What can we help them with that no one else can? If we don't have an answer, ask our members. There's always a reason behind why people joined.

Outline goals

The positive side of fears and challenges are the goals that they inspire. What do our members want to accomplish? How can we help? Keep in mind that each member persona may have more than one goal. Daniel, the dentist may want to open his own practice but also wants to have more time to spend with his family. We should outline our persona's top goals, and then identify which ones our Association can help with. Those will be the most useful in terms of crafting better communication and creating valuable member benefits.

Find out what they're interested in

Interests play a key role in the member experience. We have to know what our members are interested in to build a great website, write useful emails and design a fun, entertaining and valuable activity and event program.

Find our Association's role

This entire process is an exercise in understanding our members and now that we know more about them we can figure out how our Association fits in.

Why did this person join our Association? Why do they renew every year or why are they choosing not to? There are no right or wrong answers. We need to be open to all thoughts so we can understand how people are relating to our Association. Even negative answers will help us grow so ask each member to candidly share their thoughts on how we helped them, or how we didn't in a blind survey or exit interview.

Lapsed members fall into two categories:

Those who have forgotten to renew, and,

Those who have lost sight of membership value

Messaging needs to be different in order to resonate with each group.

Ralph Fitzpatrick

Do we need a member engagement strategy?

"It's imperative," writes Ralph Fitzpatrick

Membership retention is always on our minds. How can we plan to get our members to stick around? When people face so many competing demands for time, attention and money this question is bigger than ever as we move to increase the number of new brothers joining our Association.

What is a member engagement strategy?

It is a plan for ensuring our members feel that they are members for reasons that are relevant to them. For some, it will involve reaping benefits from being a member that outweigh the costs of being a member, whether those costs involve money or time.

Who should have a member engagement strategy?

It is vital that Circle Councils are actively involved in preparing a strategy for their circle and ensuring it's implemented. Provincial Council needs to work with circles to provide activities involving more than one circle and assist the development of new circles. The National Council can assist with proposals for funding from the membership development funds released by Central Council each year.

Do you know what our current members want from the Catenian Association and the circle they joined?

It is quite likely that they saw something in the presentation on which they made their decision to join. Have their reasons for joining changed and do they now have different reasons to remain a member? One of their reasons for joining may have been to expand their circle of friends or because of recent retirement, replace the group of work friends with a new group of friends.

It is imperative that members' reasons for staying a member are known and the circle activities and events provide members the opportunity they are looking for.

Over many years the recruitment pattern in the Catenian Association has been to invite men of a similar age to existing members. As time has gone by this has resulted in the Association membership gradually aging.

Over the last few years the focus has been to identify younger men; but an issue that we face almost immediately is that we don't know what their needs are. In addition, they are then introduced into circles that, in most cases, have an already aging membership. Subtly, this has resulted in the activities and events of the circle being organised for the predominance of older members.

How do we deal with this? We have to identify that we need to cater for the needs of the younger members while catering for the needs of our older members. Everyone is important!

Unless we have been really lucky, we recruit these younger members in ones or twos rather than in groups of five or ten. This means that while we are in the early stages of younger recruitment we may have small numbers of takers for the activities and events the younger members want. This will also mean that more events and activities will need to be organised

and those events and activities may not be blessed with 100 per cent attendance.

Surprisingly, finding out what members want by way of activities and events is actually quite simple. Ask them! Get your activities and events committee (including wives and younger members) to create a questionnaire that contains a list of the activities and events that your circle and, perhaps, one or two nearby circles are prepared to organise over the next year and ask your members to indicate which ones they prefer.

I suggest that we need to look at cooperation with other nearby circles to run joint activities to cater for the needs of younger members. This should provide us with numbers that make activities and events economically viable. Working with nearby circles can also spread the organisational workload. The Province can also help by organising activities that are open to members of all circles in the Province. For example, Abergavenny in the United Kingdom is host to Province 12's "Big Break" pool competition that I have been fortunate to attend a couple of times. I didn't win but had a great time, even when the lights went out. Province 21 in Eastern Australia has their "Friar Truck", "Truthful Jones" and "Little John Mug" competitions, which are all cross-circle activities and a source of great enjoyment.

A buddy system

In addition to organising activities and events that would appeal to younger members, it is also imperative that new members are looked after in their first year and even longer. One system I have seen work effectively is for an existing member to be appointed as the new member's "buddy" who stays in constant contact ensuring that the new member is informed about any upcoming events and activities and a pickup, introduction or accompaniment is offered.

A member engagement strategy is an ongoing initiative. A successful engagement strategy includes ongoing opportunities for members to engage. This will take consistent effort on the part of our circles and the Association to deliver long-lasting value to our members while making adjustments to our plans.

Ask yourself

How will our strategy result in members staying engaged and continuing to get value from our Association in the long term? What role will circles, Province and the National Council play in implementing the strategy? How is it going to be maintained and who will maintain it?

Once the refinement of the membership strategy is finished we need to follow up with members to let them know changes have been made to make sure they're happy with what was done. It's Imperative!

Ralph Fitzpatrick



In remembrance of the Second World War Sandakan tragedy

Contributed by Lou Daily

Dianella Circle Brother Lou Daily has long harboured an avid interest in both his Mother and Father's family commitment to service to our country. Many Province 20 Catenian brothers will be aware of his membership of the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion following his article published in the June 2018 edition of the *Western Link* entitled "Remembering two brave ANZACS", a story dedicated to the memory of his two uncles, Bill Beer and Lou Daily who joined the 2/4th Battalion in 1940,



To broaden his understanding of his uncles' strong commitment, Lou travelled with eight other Battalion members to the small southwest town of Boyup Brook (not far from Bridgetown) and attended the annual Sandakan Death March memorial service hosted by the local RSL sub-Branch on Tuesday 14 September 2021.



Sandakan Memorial Park Boyup Brook

"The weather was kind to us on that day," Lou writes. "The service began with morning tea served by school children in the Boyup Brook community hall adjacent to the memorial."

"A large gathering of about 100 people attended the ceremony and many of the other communities in surrounding areas were represented," Lou said.

"The formal procedure was conducted in a very professional fashion led by MC Rhonda Parker. The Catafalque Mounted Party was provided by the 515 ACU Bunbury and the opening address was given by the RSL Western Australian State President Peter Aspinall."

"The President of the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion, Bernie Dorizzi read The Sandakan Ode followed by an address given by the CEO of the Shire of Boyup Brook, Dale Putland and a very impressive rendition of songs "If your reading this" and "Travelling Man" sung by the choir from the Boyup Brook District High School. A poem "Ranau Road" was presented by students from the students from St Mary's Catholic School."

"Indeed, the involvement of students from the local schools was outstanding," Lou said, "reflecting the strong commitment from the local community."

"The Sandakan address was given by the President of the Boyup Brook Sub Branch, Colin Hales. Every year a Sandakan scholarship is normally awarded by the local Lions Club to a selected student to travel to Sandakan and visit the site and the museums, however given the current restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic this trip had not been possible. Nevertheless a scholarship was awarded for 2021 to Anne Deas who gave a moving acceptance speech. She sang a hauntingly beautiful song and had produced a painting of all parties involved in the Sandakan tragedy."

"The service concluded with the laying of many wreaths by local RSL's, Shire Councils and communities and finally the ODE, Last Post and Rouse with the aide of an experienced bugler."



The Memorial after the wreath laying ceremony

"The morning finished with a light lunch served again by the school children in the community hall. I fully appreciated the opportunity to be in attendance at Boyup Brook for this moving memorial service, and came away most impressed with the strong commitment by the local community in the way that they continue to acknowledge our brave soldiers who served this country in times of need. We will remember them," Lou said.

The history

The Boyup Brook memorial was instigated and paid for by a local Boyup Brook farmer and ex Prisoner of War, Ted McLaughlin who was determined that his mates who died on the infamous death marches from Sandakan to Ranau in northern Borneo be recognised.

Almost single-handed Ted brought public attention to this period of history that had been denied by the Australian government.

The monument, which was erected in 1991, commemorates the 130 Western Australian prisoners of war who died while held at Sandakan. It comprises a granite plinth on four granite bases mounted on bricks, bronze name panels on the base and another bronze panel atop the plinth. To the side stands a separate memorial with an effigy of Ted McLaughlin.

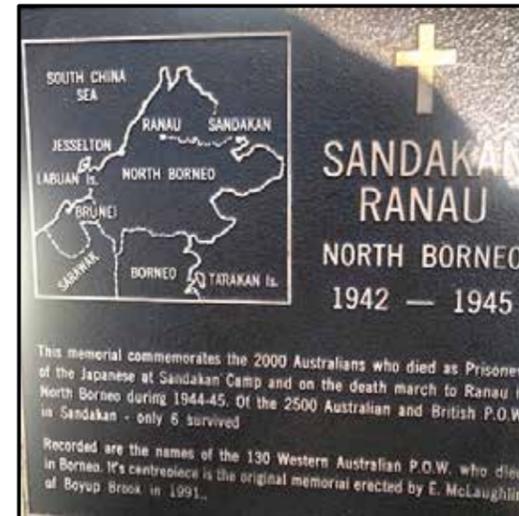
To Ted's astonishment over 200 people attended the first service at the memorial in 1991, many from hundreds of kilometres away for the dedication in the small southwest town, the first place in Australia to erect a Sandakan Memorial.

Then in 1993 over 300 people flocked to Boyup Brook for the annual service leading to the erection and dedication of an even larger memorial on 14 September 1994 its centerpiece being the original memorial erected by Ted in 1991. It was a remarkable response that generated a movement amongst ex POW's and their families and friends of those who had died in Borneo for greater recognition of the Sandakan tragedy.

Unfortunately in 2021 no original soldiers from the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion are still alive to take part.

The forced marches resulted in the deaths of 2,434 Allied prisoners of war held captive by the Empire of Japan during the Pacific campaign of the Second World War in the Sandakan POW Camp.

By the end of the war only six Australians survived, all of whom had escaped. It is widely considered to be the single worst atrocity suffered by Australian servicemen during the Second World War.



Lou writes: "In 2011 my brother, sister, her husband and myself visited Sandakan and travelled along the route of the death marches. With a guide in a four wheel drive vehicle it was a totally different world to what our courageous soldiers experienced at the hands of the Japanese. We also visited several dedicated museums and memorials. One of the best was the Kundasang War Memorial Park located in a small village at the base of Mount Kota Kinabula in Malaysia."

"For anyone wishing to further research the history of this story several good books such as *Sandakan* by Lynette Silver and *Ghosts in Khaki* by Les Cody are available," Lou concluded.

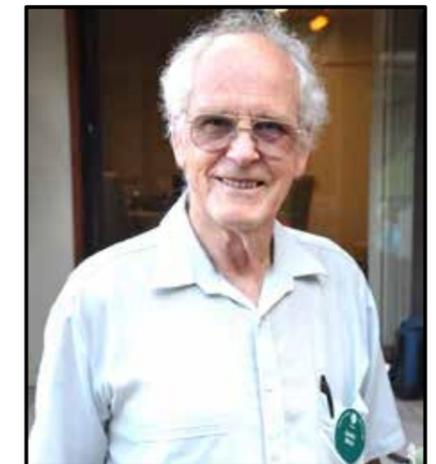
Lou Daily Dianella Circle

The Gospel of St John

The sixth and final essay written by Darling Range Brother Barry Drew

The Gospel of John was written as a supplement to the other three synoptic (similar) gospels. The author had a detailed knowledge of the layout of Jerusalem so it is reasonable to conclude that the author was the apostle John or a group of his close followers. It adds details, not found in the synoptics, of Christ's ministry in Jerusalem after his baptism but before the arrest of John the Baptist. The other gospels suggest that Christ did not emerge as a preacher until after the arrest of John the Baptist.

John seems to have been familiar with the gospels of Mark and Luke but not that of Matthew.



Barry Drew Darling Range Circle

The Gospel was probably written in Antioch about the year 100 AD. This would make him a very old man. John's main purpose in writing his gospel is to make Christ's teachings clear so there are no parables. This gospel is quite different from the other three gospels. There is no account of Christ's birth, his ancestry, his baptism or his temptations. There is no account of the Last Supper, his agony in Gethsemane or his ascension. Nor are there any parables in John's gospel. Finally, there are no mentions of people being healed of unclean spirits. St Mark represented Christ's public life as a contest between Christ and the forces of evil, represented by unclean spirits.

In the other gospels Christ's utterances are usually very brief. In John's gospel he has real conversations with people, like the Samaritan woman at the well. Some even answer back to him. His discourses often last several chapters, like that in the supper room. John uses these conversations to detail Christ's teachings. A group of Greeks ask Philip (an apostle with a Greek name) for an audience with Christ. The resulting "discourse" shows no relationship to their request.

The other gospels suggest that Christ's public life lasted a single year as he journeyed to Jerusalem and culminated in his passion and death at the Passover, whereas John suggests that it lasted three years and included several trips to Jerusalem. The other gospels put Christ's death on the day of the Passover, whereas John dates it on the day before the Passover.



Times have changed a lot since the other Gospels were written:

- ❖ The popular attitude towards Christians had hardened and the church of Jerusalem had virtually disappeared.
- ❖ By this time several aberrations (heresies) had appeared.
- ❖ Most Christians were now of gentile background, mostly Greek. Few would have been familiar with the scriptures (Old Testament). Greek was now the language of the church, but this was soon to change again. The oldest existing texts of all the New Testament books are in Greek.

In John's gospel the crowds are hostile to Christ and are always trying to trap him. Some suggest that John is writing for a much smaller and more select group of people. The writer is challenging them to a higher relationship with Christ.

Some groups now questioned the divinity of Christ. This is fundamental to Christianity but the question will not go away. The other evangelists had already dealt with this problem so John was trying to answer the question once and for all. He opens his gospel with an account of the creation of the world. His opening parallels the Genesis account of the creation. Christ, the Word, the Light, was there at the creation of the world. "He was with God and He was God." There is no room for equivocation or doubt in this statement.

Some groups were now teaching that John the Baptist was at least equal to Christ. In this gospel, every time that John the Baptist is mentioned the writer, John, has John the Baptist stress that he is not the Christ and is not even worthy to untie the strap of his sandals.

Since the Christian readership was now mainly Greek there was no point in referring to the King David of Jewish history or the Old Testament prophets. Instead, Christ had to be presented against a background of Greek culture and thought. This adds another level of complexity for modern readers. The Greeks stressed the idea of the real world, which we call "heaven", and the present material world, which will not last.

But John's gospel is not a gospel of the kingdom of heaven, as with the synoptics, but a gospel of the person of Christ. For John, Christianity is all about the person of Christ. His gospel has no moral teachings. The challenge for all Christians is to know Christ, the Son of God, and hence to love him. This is done through prayer.

John gives us insights into the characters of Christ's disciples and apostles who would otherwise be just names to us. When Christ first calls people to be his followers, Philip brings his friend, Nathaniel to meet Christ. Nathaniel is unimpressed until Christ reveals that he saw him under the fig tree before Philip called him. Nathaniel is now convinced! He is not mentioned again in the gospels until Christ appears to a group of followers after his resurrection. Many think that Nathaniel also went by the name of Bartholomew.

John also tells us of a Pharisee, Nicodemus, who visited Christ by night and acknowledges his divine mission and miracles. Nicodemus also speaks on Christ's behalf before the council saying that a prisoner has the right to be heard. He again appears, assisting at Christ's burial. Many think that Nicodemus also went by the name of Matthias.

The unique feature of John's gospel is his use of symbolism. Each discourse is introduced by an episode, which is arranged to symbolise the theme of the discourse:

- ❖ The opening verse, paralleling the Creation story in Genesis, indicates that Christ's incarnation leads to a new creation.
- ❖ The miracle of the water becoming wine at Cana shows how Christ's baptism with water leads to his death, represented by wine, which grows into the Eucharist.
- ❖ When Christ cleanses the temple he becomes the new temple, which will be destroyed and rebuilt in three days.
- ❖ The meeting with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman point to Christ as the giver of the healing water of baptism.
- ❖ Christ gives life to the ruler's son.
- ❖ The word of Christ given to the paralytic waiting by the pool has the power of healing water.
- ❖ Christ is the bread of life, the new manna, the Eucharist.
- ❖ When Christ heals the blind man he is giving light and life to the world, contrasting with the spiritual blindness of the Jews.
- ❖ Finally, when he raises Lazarus from the darkness of death he shows that he is the resurrection and the life.

After Christ rose from the dead he appeared to a group of apostles while Thomas was absent. Thomas declares that he will not believe until he sees evidence of Christ's passion and resurrection. Later, Christ appears to the group, with Thomas present, and shows them his wounds. Thomas is overwhelmed and believes.

John's accounts of the apparitions of Christ and his resurrection are quite different from the synoptic accounts. John's empty tomb story involves Mary Magdalene, Peter and the beloved disciple. When Christ gathers the disciples at his "Pentecost" he commissions them and gives them the Holy Spirit, who will guide them and be with them until the end of the world.

I hope that these thoughts encourage the readers to look for and find Christ in John's Gospel.

This is the sixth essay written by Brother **BARRY DREW** and published in the *Western Link*. The other five 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)

"St Luke, the historian" (October 2021 edition 58)

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

John Van Beek 1934 - 2021

Brothers from all circles in Province 20 were saddened by the loss of a loyal and committed Brother, John Van Beek who passed away peacefully in Busselton on 2 August 2021. John joined the City of Perth Circle in 1980, not long after the Catenian Association first began in Western Australia in February 1977.



After joining he immediately became involved with a committed group of City of Perth Catenians Cliff Holloway, Brendan McGurk and Laurie Shervington who successfully formed the Darling Range Circle in February 1981. John was a Foundation Brother of the new circle and served as President, Secretary, Treasurer and Provincial Councillor.

Then in 1983 when John accepted a senior position with the Education Department based in Northam he was instrumental in the formation of Avon Valley Circle inaugurated in February 1988. John was a Foundation Brother and joint member.

When he moved to Busselton in 2009 with his wife Marilyn John was again involved with the inauguration of the City of Busselton Circle in October 2012. He was a Foundation Brother and served as Treasurer.

John became a member of the Australian Central Circle when Busselton handed back its Charter in 2019.

A large gathering of Catenian Brothers joined family and friends at John's Requiem Mass held at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Subiaco celebrated by Monsignor Kevin Long. John's children Pauline, David, Mary, Luke and Claire and their partners along with his wife Marilyn her children Andrea and Tamryn and their partners appreciated the strong Catenian presence sharing the celebration of his life.

John was the proud Granddad of Peter, Christina and Luke Kennedy; Anna, Karina, Tara, Alicia and Xavier Prentice; Ellen and John Van Beek; Anastasia and Elizabeth Whitely; Shae and Millie Griffin; Emily, Brittany and Teleya Fazari; Oliver Mackie and the freshly minted Great Grandpa of Max and James Kennedy.

John Cornelius Van Beek was born on 27 September 1934 in the city of Eindhoven in the south of Holland, the first child of Anthony and Bertha Van Beek and the oldest of ten children. When John was five years old the Second World War erupted and living under German occupation dominated the remainder of his childhood.

John's primary education was undertaken by the local Christian Brothers however this was to change dramatically in 1943 when the local command of the German army demanded that the children vacate their school for the occupation of troops. His class was then moved to a disused furniture store and in 1944 he attended school in a bakery that was a long way from his home.

Feeling that he may have a call to the priesthood, John spent his high school years at a pre-seminary college run by the French order of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in the town of Tilburg. He enjoyed a rich classical education and threw himself

into his studies. He took classes in philosophy, theology, classical literature and learned five foreign languages including English, French and German as well as Latin and ancient Greek. John also received a music scholarship in piano and organ and his love and talent for classical music flourished in this environment.

By 1953 the family had grown to ten children and it was decided that it would be in their best interests to leave their beloved homeland. So it was that on 1 October 1953 John with his parents, six sisters and three brothers sailed from Amsterdam on a Dutch passenger ship "The John Van Oldenbarevelt" bound for Australia through the Suez Canal. They arrived in Fremantle on 28 October 1953 to be greeted by their sponsors, Theo Oorschot and his son John.

After a short time spent in Geraldton, between 1954 and 1958 John was employed by Skipper Bailey Motor Coy selling and delivering car and truck parts while attending night school at a Perth technical college to obtain his Leaving Certificate so that he could enroll in the Graylands Teachers College. He graduated as a teacher in 1960 and his first appointment the following year was at the Eden Hill Primary School in Bassendean.

In 1968 he became a high school teacher at Applecross High School and later at Governor Stirling Senior High School in Midland. At the same time he was a part time student at the University of Western Australia, graduating in 1972 with an arts degree with a double major in Psychology. He obtained a position with the Western Australian Education Department as a guidance officer working at Cyril Jackson High School and Kalamunda Senior High School where he was employed for ten years.

In 1983 he was invited to take up the position as the District Guidance Officer in charge of a team of psychologists in the wheat belt, based at the Northern District Office.

Returning to the metropolitan area in 1990 John worked at schools in the Safety Bay, Midland and Beechboro districts returning to part time study at the University of Western Australia as a Master of Educational Psychology.

John retired from the Education Department in 2002 at the age of 67 and then followed a period of five years as an education consultant with the Smith Family organization in the northern suburbs of Perth.

At the age of 28 John met Nora Healy, a vivacious and courageous young lady from County Mayo in Ireland who was on a working holiday in Australia employed at Hollywood Hospital in Nedlands as a theatre nurse. They were married in 1962 at All Hallows Church in Inglewood and had a wonderful life together for the ensuing 37 years raising five children. Sadly, Nora passed away in 1999 after a debilitating illness for the last five years of her life.

In April 2000 John married Marilyn, an Australian born lady who was widowed in 1995. They were married at Mazenod Chapel in Lesmurdie bringing two teenage daughters to their marriage, Andrea and Tamryn. In their blended family they were blessed with 18 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

John and Marilyn shared a wonderful life together living in Busselton since 2009.

May he Rest in Peace



The life and times of Sydney Noel de Silva

Written by Jeff de Silva
Canning Circle

My father, Sydney Noel de Silva was born on 11 December 1918, the firstborn of Edmund Norman and Evelyn Maud de Silva exactly a fortnight prior to Christmas Day; hence he was bestowed the middle name Noel.

He was born in a town called Barisal near the Indian city of Chittagong in the State of Bengal. The city is located on the eastern Indian coast fringing the Bay of Bengal.

In modern times Chittagong has been renamed the colloquial "Chattogram" and, although still geographically situated in the same spot, it is now the second largest city in Bangladesh. Its prior governmental identity was East Pakistan after the division of the Indian sub-continent into India and Pakistan. East Pakistan therefore was formed in August 1947 and lasted until 1971 when another war between the two countries India and Pakistan resulted in the creation of an independent new country, Bangladesh. The literal translation of the new country's name simply means the "country (desh) of the Bengalis"; a populous tribal clan residing in eastern India.

Family ancestry and lineage

Sydney was a sixth-generation descendant of a Portuguese migrant by the name of Miguel de Silva who settled in Eastern India. Miguel is pronounced "Mihail", which translates to "Michael" in plain English.

Miguel was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1734. Together with his two brothers Domingo and Pedro de Silva, Miguel immigrated by sea to the Barisal/Chittagong district of Eastern India in the 1770s.

The ensuing ancestors of the de Silva family were all born in the Barisal/Chittagong area starting with Miguel's eldest child, a son called Lawrence de Silva who represented the family's second generation.

Next came Lawrence's son James de Silva who was the third-generation of my family. James and his wife Rose were blessed with only one child, Edwin Augustus de Silva; the fourth generation of the de Silva family.

Edwin had six children with his wife Amelia. Their third born, a son named Edmund Norman de Silva, my grandfather, was born on 20 November 1895. For reasons unknown to me, my grandpa was known amongst the family as Norman, his middle name. He represents the family's fifth generation.

Sydney (my dad) was Norman's eldest child born, as recorded at the start of this essay on 11 December 1918. He had three other siblings, two sisters and a brother. Sydney's mother Evelyn (Lena as she was affectionately called) sadly passed away giving birth to her fifth child in 1926. The unnamed baby also passed away. Sydney was just shy of eight years of age when his mother died. Norman, my grandpa, remarried three years later to my Nana, Marie Antoinette de Silva, but their union was not blessed with children.

Educating Sydney

Sydney attended St. Placid's Primary School in Chittagong commencing around 1924 having just turned five years of age. Progressing out of primary school he moved to St. Placid's Secondary School. Historic records indicate that Sydney was an exceptional scholar.

Following his school graduation, Sydney completed an Intermediate Science course at St. Joseph's College in Calcutta before securing his Bachelor of Science Degree with Honours at Government College in Chittagong in 1939.

Sydney was the first graduate of the de Silva family in an era when higher studies were not considered a hallmark of the prevailing community. He was a pacifist and possessed an introverted nature, preferring to apply himself to his study books and university assignments.

Traumatic war years

The Second World War shattered Sydney's career aspiration in the field of medicine. Aged just 23 years he joined the British Indian Army in May 1942 as a Lieutenant and spent the next several years with his Corps at war against the shrewd and formidable Japanese armed forces in the Burma/Malaysian theatre until April 1946.

Sydney's military campaign spanned from May 1942 until he resigned his commission in April 1950 having risen to the rank of Captain. Over the years since my father's death in August 1990 historians and journalists have documented several narratives and articles about those years of supreme courage and valour.

In this essay I have aimed to summarise these writings into a synopsis about those years of combat followed by decades of Sydney's fascinating career in law and order after the end of the war. From what I have researched I consider it absolutely miraculous that he emerged alive after those years and years of face-to-face ground battles.

Sydney was involved in active combat on the Arakan Coast, then through Burma into Malaysia and Thailand as a regiment commander in his role as a Lieutenant Officer.

During his first year Sydney served under an Indian General named Bhagat who was the first ever Indian soldier awarded the Victoria Cross. Thereafter he served under Lieutenant-General Sir William Slim in a small town called Kohima in Nagaland District situated in India's North Eastern frontier. At Kohima the tide of the until then triumphant Japanese army turned and they met their "Waterloo" at the famous Battle of the Tennis Court, which took place over several interminable days spanning the period 8 April 1944 until 13 May 1944. There were more than 10,000 fatalities, but ultimately the Allied forces triumphed over the Japanese army under the command of Kotoku Sato.

The Battle of the Tennis Court involved bitter hand-to-hand combat in an extremely restricted area, namely the grounds surrounding the British Deputy Commissioner's (Charles Pawsey's) residence with the recreational tennis court in the centre.

My research revealed that the Battle of the Tennis Court in Kohima has been described as probably one of the greatest battles in history; the turning point of the war against the Japanese and one of *naked and unparalleled heroism*.

History records the exploits of Lt. General Slim and Commander Montagu Stopford under the banner "*Sir William Slim and the Chindits*", a band of brave local tribesmen who fought in that battle. A statue commemorating Sir William Slim and the Chindits stands in Whitehall, London in the same area as the British Home Office located on the street that leads to London's iconic Big Ben. My brother Stephen has visited there and tells that

local British/London pigeons have somewhat defaced this historic military edifice.

My father's memoirs record a poignant inscription engraved in the Kohima cemetery, which I consider to be so inspirational and prophetically true:

"When you go home tell them of us and say: For your TOMORROW we gave our TODAY."

Thereafter Sydney continued in his role as leader of the regiment under Lt. General Slim and his 14th Army in the liberation of Burma. After the Allied forces victory and the cessation of hostilities in November 1945, Lt. Sydney de Silva was allotted the task of watching over the Japanese prisoners of war until the Japanese Navy arrived to repatriate their warriors.

It was during that time that Sydney witnessed a Japanese officer commit Hara-kiri by suddenly plunging his ceremonial sword into his own stomach causing his entrails and large volumes of blood to spurt out; death was instantaneous.

An entry was found in Sydney's personal diary, which succinctly summarises the horror and brutality of war: "*War has the power to de-humanise man; to eliminate his scruples about taking other peoples lives. In the heat of combat it boils down to either killing or being killed. Survival hinges on being utterly ruthless to the enemy.*"

Sydney returned home, which by now was in Calcutta, India in April 1946.

Note: For those readers who may be interested in reading detailed articles about the battles that Sydney was involved in, I have included *Wikipedia* references at the end of this article.

Romance and a wedding

An interesting diversion from the bloodshed and mayhem of war experienced by Sydney, specifically in April and May 1943, he was granted two months special leave from the army to return to Calcutta (as it was then known) to marry his long-time sweetheart Amy Winifred de Silva (same surname) on 29 April 1943.



Jeff de Silva's mother and father

A honeymoon followed early in May 1943 at a most scenic location in Cochin, Kerala State in southern India. Kerala is famous for being the area where the British East India Company discovered peppercorn and other spices a half-century prior to the war. These discoveries resulted in millions of British pounds in profits for the East India Company, which catapulted its share price soaring on the London Stock Exchange at the time.

By early June 1943, however, the honeymoon was literally over and Sydney was thrust back into the heat of the battle when he rejoined his regiment.

My mother did not see her new husband at all between June 1943 and April 1946, a lengthy period of almost three years. Reflecting on those most tragic circumstances I am perpetually amazed at my mother's courage, patience and steadfastness, knowing that Sydney could be lost for eternity at any moment in a hostile land far away from home and his loved ones fighting an atrocious war.

The next chapter: Sydney's law and order career

On his repatriation to India after April 1946 Sydney retained a permanent Regular Commission in the British Indian Army and rose to the rank of Captain until 1950. During this period he and Amy were stationed at Bombay (now Mumbai) in a plush army apartment in the very famous Marine Drive in Bombay, Western India. It was during that tenure that I made my appearance in September 1948, the eldest seventh-generation male child to bear the "de Silva" family name. Amy returned to Calcutta for her confinement and my birth after which she rejoined my dad in Bombay together with the new addition, Jeffrey.

In April 1950 Sydney resigned from the army and joined the Indian Police Service, immediately commencing a 15-month Officer training course away from home for the entire period. Training took place initially at the National Police Training Academy located in the hill station at Mount Abu in the State of Rajasthan.

Following graduation from the Academy after a year, Sydney participated in a shorter three-month training course at Barrackpore in West Bengal, his home State. Sydney was fortunate in gaining allocation to his home State to pursue his Police Officer career.



Sydney Noel de Silva

Graduating from the two stints of rigorous officer training in late 1951, Sydney experienced a rapid rise during his service as an Indian Police Service Officer. Commencing as an Assistant Superintendent of Police, he was soon promoted to the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police.

Eighteen months later Sydney was promoted to a fully fledged Superintendent of Police responsible for the law and order of several districts, one after another, within West Bengal. He also had two terms as the Principal Director of the West Bengal Police Training College in Barrackpore interspersed with his work as a District Superintendent of Police.



By the mid-1960s Sydney was promoted to the rank of Assistant Inspector-General of Police and in 1967 he became a Deputy Inspector-General of Police. It was in August 1967 that the President of India, Dr. Zakir Hussain, awarded Sydney the Indian Police Medal for meritorious work by a Police Officer.

Sydney's final posting towards the end of 1968 was as the Director-General of the National Police Academy at Mount Abu in Rajasthan, the same venue where he himself trained as a Police Officer in 1950/51. The rank of Director-General of the National Police Academy was the equivalent to that of Inspector-General of Police, the top policing rank in each of India's States in accord with the British Police ranking system.

His police service career concluded in December 1976 when he reached the mandatory retiring age of 58 for police officers. He celebrated his retirement by touring the United Kingdom accompanied by my mother Amy. The happy couple caught up with several of my mother's brothers and their families who had settled in the UK as well as numerous first cousins and their families.

On returning to India in mid-1977 until November 1981 the Government of India utilised Sydney's experience and skills appointing him to two senior roles within other government sectors. Firstly he was appointed as Chief Security Officer of the Indian Government Iron & Steel Company. Following that he was appointed Chief Security Officer of the United Bank of India for a couple more years after which he retired in November 1981.

From December 1981 until mid-April 1982 Sydney and Amy visited me and my family at Willetton in Perth. At that time only two of their three grandsons (the eighth-generation) had been born. The proud grandparents were thrilled to see them.

Coincidentally when my dad financed and arranged my immigration to Perth in mid-1969 I did not see him again until December 1981 and when he departed Perth just after Easter in April 1982 I never saw my father again. I was unable to return to Kolkata in India in August 1990 for his funeral much to my sadness and regret. My brother Stephen reported that he had a well-attended police funeral and was laid to rest in his mother-in-law's grave. The two of them had got on very well and loved each other dearly.

Sydney's retirement from remunerated work heralded his volunteering work with the Kolkata Chapter of the St Vincent de Paul Society. From May 1982 until his passing in August 1990 Sydney was the President of the Kolkata Chapter. During those eight years Sydney was often seen in the streets and lanes of Kolkata assisting and improving the plight of the poor and needy, as well as looking after my mother Amy and his own stepmother Marie who passed away at the end of May 1990 aged 92. Remarkably Sydney joined her barely three months later on 10 August 1990 just four months short of his 72nd birthday.

A sentence in his obituary in the *Catholic Herald* (the equivalent of Perth's *Catholic Record*) summed up his demise as follows:

"The final bugle call came to this just and faithful servant on 10 August 1990"

Epilogue

My father was buried in the Lower Circular Road cemetery in Kolkata with his mother-in-law Winifred. Soon after his funeral my beautiful mother Amy joined me and my family in Perth in September 1990 around the time of my 42nd birthday. It was the first time I'd seen my mum since April 1982.

Unfortunately she took seriously ill around Christmas 1990 and sadly passed away on 2 May 1991 thus re-uniting with my dad a mere nine months after his own death. They were married for 47 years (1943-1990).

My mum's Requiem Mass was held at St. Cecilia's Parish Church in Floreat and she was laid to rest in the Catholic lawn area in Karrakatta. Incidentally, whilst my mum was seriously ill I joined the Catenian Association having attended monthly meetings from February 1991 onwards leading to my induction in April 1991. When I told the President of Canning Circle Brother Dick Rosair that I might soon need to take care of my mum's funeral, he introduced me to the Provincial President of that year, Brother Kevin Brady (Como and Fremantle Circles) who assisted me right through the process, even visiting me at my office at SECWA. Nothing was too much trouble for Brother Kevin, may his soul Rest in Peace.

Apart from myself, Sydney and Amy had two other children, Stephen born in December 1954 (living in Butler and working at the Main Roads Department in Perth) and Selma born in October 1958 (living in Kolkata and retired from work).

The family legacy that Sydney left is that I head up the seventh-generation since the Lisbon migration described earlier in this essay and my three sons and their five children represent the eighth and ninth-generations of our mighty family.

I have thoroughly researched the careers and achievements of my ancestors, however I concluded that my father's footprint on earth stands head and shoulders above any other individual of our family, male or female.

Although I did not have the good fortune to spend much time with my dad, I know he loved me dearly; a message that he verbalised several times during those precious and joyous five months we had together in 1981/82. Following that he returned to Kolkata to complete and tidy up his work on earth.

I often ponder how in the world my dad came through those tumultuous years from 1942 until November 1945 unscathed. He was continuously the Lieutenant of his regiment engaged in "on the ground" warfare; Divine Providence and his Guardian Angel most likely shrouded him as he carried out his orders.

I consider myself truly blessed to be born into this world as the eldest son of Sydney Noel de Silva.

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

Second World War reading references:

Battle of the Tennis Court 8 April 1944 to 13 May 1944. Internet reference:

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_the_Tennis_Court&oldid=1006781723

VJ Day70: The Second World War in Burma. Internet reference:

<https://www.gov.uk/defence-and-armedforces>



CIRCLE ROUNDUP

CONTRIBUTED ITEMS & PHOTOGRAPHS

Adelaide City Group

Midweek catch-up and pub quiz

On Wednesday 11 August 2021 seven brothers and one "soon-to-be" brother came together for evening Mass at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral followed by dinner and a pub quiz at the nearby Wakefield Hotel in Adelaide City. Everyone enjoyed their meals and the ale flowed freely, however glaring knowledge-gaps soon became apparent at least in some of the quiz categories.



Standing left to right: Johan Livera, Roman Salazar, Emmanuel Anthony, Kingsley Forsyth (Secretary), Andrew Mulholland (Treasurer), Rennie Louis and Kevin Sequeira The charming quizmaster in the foreground

Triple enrolment ceremony

The City of Adelaide Group had a busy time at the September 2021 meeting with a first-ever "triple enrolment" ceremony of three new men with an average age of 39. The Group expects its recruitment success to continue with another seven men actively exploring membership as it presses on towards Circle status.



Left to right: Michael Timson, President Michael Cogman, Robin Tom and Conroy Saldanha

Informal recruitment strategy

Adelaide City Group has adopted an informal recruitment process as it marches onwards towards its target to be granted a Catenian Association Charter to graduate to Circle status in 2022, a little over a year since it was inaugurated as a Group in March 2021.

On 25 September 2021 Secretary and Development Officer Kingsley Forsyth took the opportunity to speak to a social gathering of men who have expressed interested in joining the Group at a shared lunch held at Good Shepherd Church Hall in Clearview, South Australia.



Secretary Kingsley Forsyth (right) and Father Anthoni Adimai speaking to five interested men exploring membership of the Catenian Association

Pizza in the Park

Members of the Adelaide City Group gathered for a "Pizza in the park picnic" in October. The event was well attended by local brothers, their families, men exploring Catenian membership and clergy. It was an enjoyable day spent building new friendships, renewing old; all while tasting a selection of gourmet pizzas served with ice-cold beer under the warm spring sun.



Left to right: Johanan Newnes, Father Anthoni Adimai and Secretary, Conroy Saldanha



Avon Valley

Visitors welcomed to August meeting

Members of Avon Valley Circle were delighted to welcome more than usual visitors from other Province 20 circles at their meeting and dinner on Thursday 12 August 2021.



Left to right around the table: Cliff McLachlan, Brian Webb, Clinton and Eva Richter, Genoefa Budas, Stan Tumak, Harry Muller (Darling Range Circle), George Bazzica (Busselton Social Group), Terry O'Neill, Elizabeth Bazzica, Margaret Dau, Bernie Moore and Chris Downey (Darling Range Circle and Provincial President)



Left to right: Harry Muller (Darling Range Circle), George Bazzica (Busselton social group) and Terry O'Neill (Swan Valley Circle and a joint member of Avon Valley Circle)



KERMAN
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR:

- Process Plants
- Bulk Storage Facilities
- Material Handling systems
- Infrastructure Development

BRIAN 0411 071 931

KERMAN CONTRACTING LIMITED
Tel: 9364 8466 www.kerman.com.au

Welcoming their 12th great grandchild

Maxena and Brian Webb were overjoyed with the birth of another great grandson on Wednesday 20 October 2021, Clancy Thomas; a healthy 3350 grams and 52 cm long. Clancy is the 12th great grandchild of Maxena and Brian with number 13 due in December 2021.

Clancy's grandfather John is the eldest child of Maxena and Brian. John was a master mechanic trained in Nedlands on all motorcars, including the famous Alan Bond's treasured Bentley, mini's and Holden's. "His apprenticeship was a gift by good mechanics training him," Brian Webb writes. "He won several top Australian prizes for mechanics and Holden technicians."



John and his family moved to Queensland in August 1984, returning to Western Australia in 1986 and commencing work with Fennessy Motors in Busselton. He has climbed the ladder professionally and now has four children, Shane, Cherie, Jody and Troy with three married.

Cherie was the first provider of a granddaughter, Daisy Mae on 13 February 2020. Daisy Mae was born at Joondalup to Cherie and John Stuart, now living at Two Rocks.

At a family gathering Cherie told Brian that: "there would not be another child from THIS mother".

"But it seems she was wrongly predicting," said Brian. "Let's say the consequences of COVID-19."

As for John's other children (and Cherie's siblings), Shane and Jody are not interested in family and Troy and his wife Amy who live in Jasper in Canada are expecting at the end of December 2021.



Cherie with baby Clancy Thomas and his excited sister, Daisy Mae

Bouvard

Fashions a highlight at the "Cup"

A stunning display of the latest fashions for both ladies and gents was again a highlight at Bouvard Circle's ever-popular Melbourne Cup luncheon on Tuesday 2 November 2021.

Once again the circle's grateful thanks were extended to Elsie and Rod Lohoar who opened their beautiful home in Falcon for the occasion. Last year the event was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and numbers were down on previous years, however this did not dampen enthusiasm and frivolity on the day with heavy investing in sweeps and raffles leading up to the big race. Several large television screens made for great viewing.

The ladies showed off their colourful fascinators and other bright and innovative headgear for the much-anticipated "Fashions of the Field" and the gents were not outdone with their own range of snappy outfits.

The ladies winner was spritely 91 year-old Beth Donovan, the mother and mother-in-law of Sandy and John Weselman, while Alex Dryden was judged the best-dressed gent.

Guests enjoyed a sumptuous buffet lunch on a delightful day well organised by Catenian Brothers John Starceвич and John Weselman ably assisted by Colm Kelly who ran the raffle.



Left to right: Penny Farrell, Anne Harries, Lynne Dryden, Beth Donovan (Fashions on the Field winner), Sandy Weselman and Marlene Quirk



Left to right: Peter Dudley, Alex Dryden (Best dressed gent winner), David Farrell, John Weselman, Peter Eves, Max Gardiner, Rod Lohoar and John Starceвич

Busselton

Growing support for Koffee Klub

The Busselton Circle handed back its Charter almost three years ago with many brothers maintaining Catenian membership through the Australian National Council Central Circle.

Members still meet socially on the fourth Sunday of each month after the 9.00am Mass at Our Lady of the Bay Catholic Church. Named the *Koffee Klub* the group meets at various venues as arranged by coordinator and former Circle President George Bazzica.

It was feared that interest would wane over time, however the group has grown stronger, including support from retired Priest, Father Ian Johnson, Sister Bernadette and other Catenian "friends".



The venue was the Esplanade Hotel for the October 2021 social gathering of the Busselton Koffee Klub

MONK

design & websites

helping small business since 2005

monk.com.au



Canning

Traditional joint meeting a fabulous success

Canning and Como Circles held their customary annual joint meeting at the RAAFA Bull Creek Memorial Estate on Tuesday 24 August 2021 this year hosted by Canning. Eighty brothers and ladies enjoyed a wonderful dinner and entertainment.

Special guests were Provincial President Chris Downey (Darling Range Circle) and his wife Monica and Province 20 Director and Chairman of Central Council Ralph Fitzpatrick (Liwara Circle) and his wife Liana.

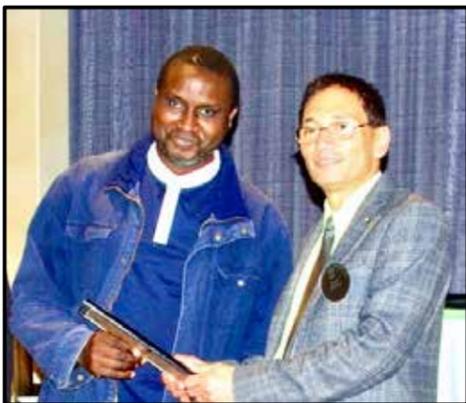
A noteworthy highlight of the joint meeting was the induction of two new brothers by Canning Circle, Tommy Ting and Cyril Lee. The meeting also acknowledged Brother Michael Oshin who was enrolled a few months ago, but was presented with his membership certificate at the August meeting. These three enrolments tipped Canning's membership to 41, the highest in the circles 32-year history.



President Nalin Perera presents Tommy Ting with his membership certificate



Cyril Lee receives his certificate



Michael Oshin is presented with his certificate

The entertainment extravaganza included a musical quiz compared by Canning Vice President Cliff Chalon. The quiz involved the gifted Cliff crooning a medley of seven melodious well-known songs followed by three questions after each of them.



Cliff Chalon

The skilled table with the highest number of correct answers was rewarded with a generous hamper loaded with gifts arranged by Canning's Welfare and Hospitality Officer Doug Williams. In addition there was also a plethora of lucky table prizes presented by Doug during the evening.

Anniversary celebrations

Canning Circle celebrated its 32nd anniversary at a ladies night on 28 October 2021 on the same calendar date of its gala inauguration at El Caballo Blanca, Wooroloo on 28 October 1989. Five Founder Brothers were honoured at the October 2021 meeting.



Founder brothers at the October 2021 meeting, left to right: Tony Drew, Brian Iliffe, Jack Billing, Eugene Browne and Doug Williams

Forty-eight people were in attendance at the October 2021 meeting including 26 brothers, two prospective members and 20 ladies.

During the meeting Vice President, Cliff Chalon introduced the newly established *Canning Circle Social Activities Team*. Led by Cliff, the team has, as one of several initiatives, implemented a pre-arranged seating plan for the anniversary dinner effectively decreasing crowding in the dining area and promoting improved social interaction.

The meeting was also introduced to the Canning Circle Welcoming Committee that operates under the guidance of Welfare and Hospitality Officer Doug Williams.

Catholic outreach

A highlight of the October 2021 ladies evening was an informative dinner talk given by the Marietta Russo, Director of Catholic Outreach in the Archdiocese of Perth.

Marietta outlined the various categories and types of assistance provided and available to parish communities in the Archdiocese.

She said that Catholic Outreach offers service, care, concern, compassion, connection and community.



Canning President Nalin Perera thanks guest speaker Marietta Russo for her enlightening presentation

GETTING *started* IN BUSINESS?

Let us help you learn the things you need to know to start, and continue, your business successfully

BUSINESS*beyond*

MAKING YOUR BUSINESS WORK FOR YOU

www.businessbeyond.com.au

Dianella

Big Wally is "back on deck"

Twelve Dianella brothers welcomed back their very special brother, Wally Bamford at morning tea at Noranda Café on 11 October 2021. Wally had just returned home after a positive outcome from surgery.

Wally was absolutely delighted to get back and share coffee and a chat with his many Catenian friends.



Norm celebrates his 30th anniversary



Norm Thompson receives his 30-year membership certificate

Brother Norm Thompson was presented with his certificate for 30 years of membership of Dianella Circle at the October meeting. On receiving the award from Lou Daily, Norm remarked that it only seemed like just a few years ago when he was invited to join the circle.

"During my 30 years of membership I have formed some wonderful friendships shared with my wife Bonnie who has supported and encouraged me all the way," Norm said.

GREENFIELDS

funerals

Peter Bygrave

☎ 0438 359 055

Tel: 08 9524 5899 - Fax: 08 9524 5007
 Unit 4/13 Fielden Way Port Kennedy 6172
www.greenfieldsfunerals.com.au



Fremantle

Sister Kerry Willison shares her experiences

Fremantle brothers were blessed to have Sister Kerry Willison as guest speaker at the circle meeting on 17 June 2021, talking about her experiences and pathway to religious life, liturgy, cultural heritage and the role of women in education and leadership.



In welcoming and introducing Sister Kerry, Brother Graham Mahony highlighted her amazing period of happiness.

Sister Kerry explained that she is currently the Archdiocesan Director of Liturgy responsible for the Liturgy Office of the Archdiocese of Perth working with a number of field officers involved with training and providing advice for the various ministries within the Church. This includes

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Liturgy of the word with children, acolyte training and copyright advice to parishes.

Her other involvements include writing policies for various ministries based on various Roman documents and Canon Law, working with the Catholic Education Office running accreditation courses for teachers on Eucharist and on prayer and facilitating workshops with churches and communities in respect to Liturgical considerations to take into account with building programs or church renovations.

Her connection to the Sisters of Mercy has been life-long and profound. Initially Sister Kerry followed a traditional Mercy vocation becoming a teacher before branching out into the fields of liturgy and leadership.

At a young age she took simple vows and it was in religious life that she grew and thrived.

"There were bumps in the road and a couple of times I went home to my father," Sister Kerry said. "But it was my love of children and the wonderful friendships that sustained my vocation in those early years."

Sister Kerry believes that the Holy Spirit worked through those who supported her.

As a postulate she went to Churchlands Teachers College. Fellow students came from diverse educational backgrounds and it was not long before she was tutoring struggling classmates, occasionally getting back to the convent late and being locked out.

Following college, Sister Kerry spent five years as the Religious Education Coordinator at Gerard Majella in Mirrabooka also teaching primary students during which time she developed individual learning programs with reading difficulties.

While teaching in the school Sister Kerry also worked in the parish with Monsignor Michael Keating and after her arrival the parish had great liturgical highs at Easter and Christmas. It was in this parish that Kerry took her final vows

While living at Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, Sister Kerry studied for further qualifications in Religious Education and English as a second language. Her next posting was at Aranmore College, an amalgamation of St Mary's College and Christian Brothers College in Leederville. At Aranmore she headed Religious Education and taught English.

The opportunity then presented itself to spend three years completing a Masters Degree in Eucharistic Theology at Boson College in North America. The program involved working at a women's refuge operated by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

It was on her return to Western Australia that Sister Kerry became Director of Liturgy and was later appointed to the Liturgy and Arts Committee for the St Mary's Cathedral restoration and conservation project.

"Working on the conservation of the Cathedral was a highlight of my career," Sister Kerry said, "and the success of the building has been a delight to witness."

"In the future I hope to expand on my vocation by completing a PhD in Liturgical Art and History using St Mary's as a case study."

At the conclusion of her very interesting and insightful presentation, Sister Kerry was thanked profusely for sharing part of her life with the Brothers of Fremantle Circle.



Pictured at Fremantle's ladies night Sister Kerry Willison with Anne-Marie and John Murray (Provincial Vice President and City of Perth Circle)

Morning tea by the Swan River

Fremantle bothers, wives and widows held their October 2021 morning tea at the Point Walter Café taking in a beautiful view of the Swan River.

The social gathering was such an outstanding success that it was unanimously agreed that in future they would be held every second Wednesday of the month.



Left to right around the table: Dick Finucane, Kevin and Denise Heffron, Patricia Hanrahan, Judy Humphris, Yvonne Lowe, Jan Bourne, Mary Golding, Marie Finucane, Joe Saunders, Alex Banovich and Peter Golding

AFL tipping competition a success

Closed borders and a second Aussie Rules footy season disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic did not trouble Fremantle Circle's AFL tipping competition introduced for the first time in the 2021 season.

After a keen contest the main winners included two ladies, Kip Yap and Jan Coffey with Warren Everett the most successful of the men. Cash prizes were awarded to the winners and the 13 unlucky near-miss participants.

The popular "booby" prizewinner was Peter Golding.



Fremantle President Peter Golding with his treasured "booby" prize

Christmas in November

Celebrations for the Festive Season began early for Fremantle Circle members with dinner at the Swan Yacht Club on Thursday 18 November 2021 served on the ground floor level in the Yacht Club's library area overlooking the floating yachts on the serene waters of the Swan River. A gathering of 31 Catenian Brothers and ladies enjoyed a delicious three-course buffet dinner.

Special guests were Paul Chabrel and his wife Hazel (Liwara Circle) and Peter Johnston and his wife Maree (Joondalup Circle). Both couples were honoured guests at the dinner; Paul for his valued assistance preparing Fremantle Circle's annual financial statements in the appropriate format for many years and Peter for his excellent work as the honorary Editor of the now well-produced and avidly read *Western Link* magazine.

The evening provided very congenial camaraderie and bonhomie and brought to a conclusion Fremantle Circle's events for calendar year 2021. The next meeting on 3 January 2022 will feature the traditional annual visit to Fremantle Circle of several brothers from Canning Circle. Brothers of any other circle that does not meet in January are also most welcome to visit the port city circle.



Fremantle Circle's Christmas 2021 at the Swan Yacht Club



Bob and Therese Williams



Janice Alilovic and Jenny Roque



manufacturer and exporters of Kevrek hydraulic cranes

national importer and distributor

Ricon wheelchair lifts
and **Unwin safety systems**




TERRY O'NEILL
Managing Director

156 Beringarra Avenue Malaga, Western Australia 6090
email: terry@kevrek.com.au
web: www.kevrek.com.au

tel: (08) 9248 5922
fax: (08) 9248 5966
int. tel: (+618) 9248 5922
mobile: 0418 924 431



Joondalup

A Battle of Britain baby – Michael Wright’s story

In the middle of the Second World War with bombs dropping all around, Michael Wright was born on 6 July 1941 in Harrow, North West London.

Mike was the second child born to Winifred and Gilbert Wright. The first-born was David and Bryan followed some four years later.

Towards the end of the war Mike and David were put onto a train to spend the remainder of the war on their uncle and aunt’s farm in Suffolk. Then, when peace was restored Mike returned to London and commenced his education at North Harrow.

At the conclusion of his schooling he secured a job as an office boy for a firm called Windsor and Newton Artists Supplies. Some years later he joined Sainsbury’s as a shop assistant, followed by becoming a sales representative for a food wholesaler in London, drawn by the incentive of being provided with a brand new Ford Cortina.

In 1970 Mike followed his brother David as a “ten pound Pom” migrant flying from London to Darwin via Bahrain. The intention was to stay in Darwin on a working holiday for a couple of months but he ended up staying for nine years. During his time there Mike survived Cyclone Tracy, a tropical cyclone that devastated Darwin in the small hours of Christmas Day 25 December 1974 killing 71 people and destroying 80 per cent of the city. After the cyclone Mike joined the Darwin Reconstruction Commission under Major General Stretton, a senior Australian Army Officer who led the relief effort.

Mike worked under General Stretton for two and a half years and when his appointment concluded was employed by Lend Lease Corporation as Manager of the Casuarina Shopping Centre; a fortuitous move because it was there that he met his future wife Carol.

Whilst working with Lend Lease Mike was invited to open the Mirrabooka Shopping Centre in 1978 as Centre Manager. Subsequently he was appointed Sales Manager for the Manjimup Cannery, SABCO Brushware Company and finally, RM Williams.



Mike and Carol Wright

Carol and Mike have a son Michael and a daughter Sarah. Michael is now located in Suffolk in the United Kingdom where he works as a Scientific Director of a major diagnostic company and Sarah is employed as Assistant Principal at St Luke’s Catholic Primary School in Woodvale.

Sarah and her husband Shaun have presented Mike and Carol with two beautiful granddaughters who are the light of their lives.

From 1980 Mike and Carol were heavily involved in Our Lady of Grace Catholic Parish in North Beach where they served in many ministries including as readers, special ministers and finally

commissioned as Senior Altar Ministers. In 2015 they became parishioners of Our Lady of the Mission Catholic Church at Whitfords.

Mike joined the Catenian Association in April 1988 when he was enrolled at Liwara Circle. He has served as Vice President in 1994/95, President in 1995/96 and as Registrar for four years and Membership Officer for two years. Over the years Mike has enjoyed the close bond of brotherhood and recognises the faith development that is an integral part of the Catenian Association. The focus on family is a major factor, which both Mike and Carol enjoy.

Mike has now transferred his membership to Joondalup Circle, which holds its meeting and social functions at the RAAFA Retirement Village, Cambrai where he and Carol are now residents.

Kalbarri rendezvous

Joondalup Circle caravaners, Mick and Jocelyn Doak and Peter and Maree Johnston shared a few pleasant days together at Kalbarri in August 2021 while holidaying separately in the mid-west region.

While there, they ventured out to the Kalbarri National Park to see the recently opened skywalk located 25 metres beyond the rim of the Murchison Gorge to enjoy the spectacular views from the two 100-metre high lookouts.

The engineering of the skywalk is as impressive as the attraction itself. The two-cantilevered steel structures are anchored deep into the sandstone and allow anyone who visits to look right down into the gorge below through steel mesh.

While the drop may not be as terrifying as what can be experienced from the skywalk in the Grand Canyon in the United States of America, it comes a close second-best, making one feel like they are walking out over nothing.

After taking in the spectacular views, the four Joondalup Circle travellers visited the recently opened kiosk/café for a very pleasant morning tea.



The Kalbarri National Park skywalk

Mick and Jocelyn Doak and Maree and Peter Johnston



Pleasing support for President’s Mass



Back row: Pat Winton, Vince Sinagra, Rob Mazoue, Andrew and Jean Swanson, Peter Johnston, Marlene Monkhouse, John Hollywood, Mick Doak, Barry Webb and John Monkhouse Ladies in the front row: Gail Sinagra, Rae Mazoue, Maree Johnston, Kerry Hollywood and Jocelyn Doak

The annual Joondalup Circle President’s Mass held at St Anthony’s Catholic Church in Wanneroo on Sunday 17 October 2021 was strongly supported with an excellent turnout of brothers and wives.

As is the traditional Catenian practice, the circle’s Deceased Brothers Derrick Flynn, Jim Rea, Gerry Forster, Dennis Reid, Gene Vance and David Young (Snr) were remembered.

After Mass the Joondalup ladies turned-on a lavish spread of delicious sandwiches, cakes and savoury dishes for morning tea shared with parishioners.

Our ladies return



Left to right: Sheila McBride, Jean Swanson, Marlene Monkhouse, Maree Johnston, Jocelyn Doak, Merle Reid, Liz Webb, Carol Wright, Rosario Greenhill, Rae Mazoue, and Joy Winton. Present at the dinner but not in the photo: Kerry Hollywood, Vanda Spadaccini and Christine Bank

After a difficult year during which Joondalup’s normal venue at RAAFA Cambrai was unavailable, firstly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and later because of staff shortages that caused the closedown of the function centre, the circle finally held its first ladies night for 2021 at a monthly meeting on Wednesday 20 October. Total attendance was 30 including 14 ladies.

While not able to hold “ladies nights” before that date in 2021, the circle has held regular monthly morning teas at Hillary’s Marina, a highly successful casserole night and a well attended President’s Mass that were all supported by our ladies.

The circle welcomed back Nick and Vanda Spadaccini who have both been missed during the year and Christine Bank who has had a challenging year with husband Rolf now a permanent resident in a high-care facility.

Members and ladies were also delighted to welcome guests John and Rosario Greenhill who attended the meeting and dinner following their introduction to the Catenian Association at the circle’s President’s Mass on Sunday 17 October 2021. John and Rosario live in Wanneroo where they attend St Anthony’s Catholic Church and John is a teacher at Liwara Catholic Primary School in Greenwood.

Happy reunion



Left to right: Neal Garswood, Michael Wright, Michael Cogman, Barry Webb and Peter Johnston

Joondalup brothers took the opportunity to reunite with their fellow member, Michael Cogman at the Province 20 Commemorate Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral in Perth on Sunday 7 November 2021 and the luncheon that followed at the Duxton Hotel in St George’s Terrace. Michael Cogman attended the Mass and lunch proudly wearing his Joondalup badge.

Living in Adelaide with his wife Mary and family, Michael has been a member of Joondalup Circle for many years, but rarely has the opportunity to get back to Western Australia.

He is Chairman of the Adelaide City Group that was formed on 10 March 2021 with nine new members and Michael as a joint member, choosing to retain his connection with Joondalup Circle.

In the space of a little over six months, Adelaide City Group has expanded to 25 members and is on track to seek Circle status in 2022.

Whilst in Perth Michael and Mary attended the monthly Joondalup/Liwara lunch at the Kingsley Tavern on Tuesday 9 November and enjoyed a trip to New Norcia on Wednesday 10 November with three other visiting members of the Adelaide City Group Secretary/Development Officer Kingsley Forsyth and his wife Kanchana, Treasurer Andrew Mulholland and the youngest new member Rennie Louis aged 24.

The South Australian visitors also participated in many other events on the itinerary including a welcoming social get-together hosted by Ralph and Liana Fitzpatrick, a City of Perth Circle meeting, a joint Canning Circle and Darling Range Circle meeting and a walking tour of Fremantle hosted by the port city circle.



Liwara

Aged care presentation was most impressive

The guest speaker at Liwara's August 2021 meeting was Samantha Spiro, the Business Development Manager for MercyCare's aged care services who gave a most informative and valuable talk to members and wives.

Samantha said that MercyCare provided individualized and compassionate residential and home aged care services so that the elderly can continue to enjoy a better quality life.

She said MercyCare is there to listen to the needs of older family members and to work together and provide warm and passionate care through its experienced team of nurses, therapists and carers. Samantha said that MercyCare offers complete peace of mind with assistance available 24 hours a day.

She spoke about the many different ways that people can help both in care and at home.

At the conclusion of her interesting address, Liwara President thanked Samantha and presented her with a bouquet of flowers after adding his own personal story of his family's experiences helping older family members enjoy a better quality of life.



Terry Dwyer making a presentation to guest speaker Samantha Spiro

New Brother installed at Visitors Cup meeting



Left to right: Membership Officer Steve Halley-Wright, Suvas Lobo and President Terry Dwyer

Suvas Lobo is Liwara Circle's newest brother. He was inducted at the Visitors Cup meeting in the presence of 89 Catenian members representing all circles in Province 20 at Croatian House, in Gwelup on Thursday 2 September, hosted by Joondalup Circle.

Suvas joins the circle by invitation of Liwara's Membership Officer Steve Halley-Wright. Steve and Suvas are both active parishioners and acolytes at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in North Beach.

Suvas is married to Marilyn and they have three children. Kieran and Sonya are both students at Sacred Heart College in Sorrento and Maya attends Our Lady of Grace Primary School in North Beach.

Suvas is a senior executive with Gartner Group and, while he loves his career, leads a very active life outside of work with family activities and is also involved in several not-for-profit groups in the Perth community.

He was given a very warm welcome at the well-attended Visitors Cup meeting in September, a most impressive setting in which to be introduced into the Catenian Association.

Memorable clergy and ladies night

The annual Liwara clergy night on 7 August 2021 at Croatian House in Gwelup turned out to be quiet an eventful evening with six priests, one deacon and two seminarians, a total of nine members of the clergy in attendance. The annual clergy night is the circle's way of thanking them for all they do for the Catenians in the various parishes and to demonstrate support for them.

On this occasion it was also a ladies night with a large number of wives joining Catenian brother for dinner after the meeting.



Back row left to right: Father Elver Delicano (All Saints Parish, Greenwood), Father John Hogan (Neocatechumenal Seminary), Seminarian Gianata, Emmanuel Dimobi (Holy Spirit Parish, City Beach), Father Kaz Stuglik (St Cecilia's, Floreat) and Seminarian Marco

Front row: Deacon Paul Stacey (Our Lady of Grace Parish, North Beach), Father Tom Cassidy OP (Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Woodlands), Terry Dwyer (President Liwara Circle) and Father Hyginus Ebede (Our Lady of Grace Parish, North Beach)

After dinner speaker, Seminarian Marco from the Neocatechumenal Seminary gave an inspiring account for his reasons for joining the Seminary in preparation of becoming a priest



Long service recognised

During the clergy and ladies night evening on 7 August 2021 Province 20 Director and Chairman of Central Council, Ralph Fitzpatrick presented Brother Tom Grieve with his 30-year membership certificate.

Over the years Tom has served in a variety of positions with Liwara Circle including President, Vice President, Marshall and Provincial Councillor.



Tom Grieve with his 30-year membership certificate presented by Ralph Fitzpatrick

Unique weapon gains attention

When asked to be MC at the Liwara clergy and ladies night Des Wright realised that one of the challenges for the evening would be to get the attention of everybody when introducing the President and guest speaker.

The tinkling on a wine glass does not always work, especially when there is a lot of noise from everyone talking. So Des thought "outside of the square" and came up with a unique solution.

He began his duties with the following explanation:



Des Wright with his performing chicken

"In the good old days when we could still travel overseas, a number of us guys went on a golfing trip to Phuket in Thailand," Des explained. "After a hard day on the golf course playing in the hot, humid conditions, we all went out for dinner at the local markets. Naturally the ice cold Tiger beers were going down very

well and we were all completely relaxed and enjoying the atmosphere."

"I noticed these chickens for sale at one of the market stalls," he said, "and when I heard the noise that they made when squeezed I decided that it would be an ideal toy for the grandchildren to play with."

"I brought the chicken home and when the grandchildren visited us the next time, I had great pleasure in giving them the chicken. They thought it was fantastic and especially enjoyed the screeching sound that it made as they chased each other around the house."

"Unfortunately my wife Sue did not share their pleasure. She could not stand the noise and confiscated the chicken, which she carefully hid so that we could not play with it anymore."

"I had discovered Sue's hiding place and when asked to be MC decided to bring it along because I knew that when I squeezed it the penetrating noise would stop everybody in their tracks and all attention would be focused on me," Des said.

And that's what happened. When the appropriate time came at the clergy and ladies night, Des stood up, squeezed the chicken a number of times and, just as he expected, everybody immediately stopped talking and looked his way with full attention as they tried to figure out where the terrible sound was coming from.

"The purchase of the chicken was fully justified," Des said.



Peter Bygrave
☎ 0438 359 055

Tel: 08 9524 5899 - Fax: 08 9524 5007
Unit 4/13 Fielden Way Port Kennedy 6172
www.greenfieldsfunerals.com.au





"Sky rocketing" numbers for lunch

The long-standing Liwara/Joondalup lunch that has been held every second Tuesday for many, many years had a huge lift in numbers (usually around 10 to 12) on 9 November 2021 with visitors from the newly formed Adelaide City Group who were in Perth for a short stay following the Provincial Commemorative Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 7 November.

Adelaide guests Michael Cogman and his wife Mary, Andrew Mulholland and Rennie Louis joined members of the two host circles plus several visiting brothers and wives from other Province 20 Circles for this very social occasion and enjoyable lunch at the Kingsley Tavern.

Thanks to Barry Webb (Liwara Circle and a joint member of Joondalup Circle) for organising the big turnout and lunch.



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

City of Mandurah

Helping hands



Happy gardeners, left to right: Gerard Ots, John Wilcox, Colin Purcell and Mike Seeber

The above photo was recently taken of three City of Mandurah Brothers who volunteered to help with some gardening and a general cleanup at the home of fellow Catenian John Wilcox and his wife Margaret in Erskine in Mandurah. John has been unwell in recent months and the garden had become a little out of control, but with happy helping hands it was soon restored and the workers were rewarded with coffee and delicious muffins courtesy of Margaret.

John served as the City of Mandurah Marshall for seven years and was recently presented with his 28-year membership certificate by Australian National Council President, Ralph Fitzpatrick.

Chance meeting

While waiting for the shops to open one Sunday in October, former City of Mandurah Brother Kevin Hefron called in for a coffee and was surprised to be greeted by the Mandurah coffee group that meets every Sunday for morning tea after the 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church.



Front left Rob Kellam, then left to right around the table Jean and David Best, Margaret Blumanis, Shirley Parsons, Kevin Hefron, Deanna Prendergast and Trin Stewart (obscured Zena Lewis)

City of Perth

Visitors at August meeting

City of Perth brothers were pleased to welcome two special visitors, Provincial President Chris Downey (Darling Range Circle) and Gerry Barton (Liwara Circle) to their lunchtime meeting at Newman Siena Centre in Doubleview on Monday 16 August 2021.

Lunchtime meetings have proven to be most popular and convenient with City of Perth brothers who are mainly retired.

Visiting brothers from other circles are always made very welcome at these lunchtime meetings.



***Standing left to right: Gerry Barton, Keith Gerrans, Brian Arculus and Peter Fornero
Seated: Tom Dowling***



Chris Downey and Phil Zeid



Keith Gerrans, Dennis O'Sullivan and Phil Zeid

President's Mass

City of Perth brothers and wives attended the circle's annual President's Mass on Sunday 3 October 2021 at the St Kieran Catholic Church in Osborne Park.

They were graciously and warmly welcomed by Father Wilson Donizzetti who was pleased to have the visitors in his congregation and made a special mention of the Catenian Association and the City of Perth Circle at the commencement of the Mass.

After Mass, they joined members of the parish for an enjoyable morning tea by Brother Eugene Tresham's wife Judith and her band of cheerful helpers.



Father Wilson and Susan Clune



Left to right: John and Tricia Lambe, Joe Callus, Susan Clune, Ian Moncrieff and John Clune



Father and son Catenians, Joe and Chris Callus



Jim Kenny: a forty-year Catenian

At its October 2021 City of Perth Brothers were delighted to be able to honour Jim Kenny for the many years of membership, service and commitment given to the circle, Province 20 and Grand Council. At all levels he unstintingly served his fellow Catenians.

Jim is now in failing health and no longer able to attend circle meetings but brothers were delighted to welcome his son Damian to accept the 40-year membership certificate presented by Australian National Council President Ralph Fitzpatrick. In accepting the certificate Damian spoke of the enjoyment and rewards his father gained from being a Catenian.



Damian Kenny is presented with his father Jim's 40-year membership certificate by Ralph Fitzpatrick

After joining the City of Perth Circle in 1981, Jim took on the role of Marshall, served as President in 1984/85 and then Secretary from 1985 until 1991 when he became President for a second term (1991/92). After serving at Provincial and Grand Council levels, Jim resumed leadership roles at City of Perth serving another term as President in 2006/07 and Immediate Past Circle President in 2007/08.

At Province 20 level he became a Councillor in 1986 Provincial President in 1987/88, Treasurer in 1988/89 and Secretary from 2000 to 2003. He further served as the City of Perth's Provincial Councillor from 2010 to 2013.

In 1991 Province 20 was invited to provide a Grand Director to serve on Grand Council and Jim was nominated and installed at the Annual Conference in Harrogate in the United Kingdom in 1993. Jim went on to serve two terms as Grand Director, 1993/95 and 1996/99.

In 2009 Jim was awarded Honorary Life Membership of Province 20, the fourth Catenian Brother to be honoured with this prestigious award following other City of Perth Brothers, Laurie Shervington (deceased) Cliff Holloway (deceased) and Brendan McGurk (deceased).

As well as the Catenian fellowship, Jim thrived from the support derived from being amongst other spiritually minded Catholic men. He also received wonderful support, encouragement and help in his many years of Catenian service by his wife, Mary.

City of Perth brothers join together in congratulating Jim Kenny for his forty years of service and commitment; the personification of a Catenian Brother.

Swan Valley

Sunshine, bocce and fun at Lake Leschenaultia

In what has been an unusually wet and windy spring in Western Australia, Swan Valley brothers and wives were blessed with a delightful warm and sunny day for their annual pilgrimage to Lake Leschenaultia on Sunday 24 October 2021.

Located in the Shire of Mundaring, Lake Leschenaultia is a man-made lake constructed in about 1897 as key infrastructure for the Western Australian Government Railways. It is the largest reservoir constructed on the Eastern Railway line and supplied water to steam trains for almost 50 years.

Since 1949 it has been used as a recreation area for both locals, interstate and overseas visitors. The lake offers a number of attractions including picnics and camping, physical activities such as bushwalking, canoeing and swimming.

Facilities include a café and kiosk, playground, barbecues, grassed picnic areas and walking and cycling trails, all within an hour's drive from the Perth CBD.



Swan Valley brothers and wives in one of the shelter areas

Swan Valley brothers and families hired a large shelter and took advantage of the fine weather to thoroughly enjoy a barbecue, walks, mountain bike rides around the lake and, of course, the traditional game of *Bocce* on the grassed area. After the heavy winter rains the lake has filled to overflowing with fresh water making it safe for water-based activities.



Testing her skills at Bocce, Nat D'Ignazio watched intently by Jim Schelfhout and Vince Debono

