

# WESTERN LINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION PROVINCE 20 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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NAME

## In “recess”

**The City of Busselton, inaugurated on 20 October 2012, officially handed back its Catenian Association Charter at the circle's Annual General Meeting held at the Esplanade Hotel in Busselton on 28 April 2019. This followed a unanimous resolution of members at a meeting held on 24 March 2019 that the circle could no longer function with its small numbers, the poor health of some members and without Council members to administer business and other activities for the circle.**

Fifteen brothers from seven other Province 20 circles travelled from Perth and Mandurah to support Busselton brothers and joint members at the Annual General Meeting that was united in its resolve that the circle was merely “in recess” and would begin again when circumstances change for the better.

In his address to the meeting, President George Bazzica said that he was saddened by the events that led up to the decision to hand back the circle's Charter.

“My hope is that one day, further down the line, someone will realise that a strong men's group is needed in Our Lady of the Bay Parish in Busselton and a strong, vibrant circle will be reformed.”

George spoke of the struggle to recruit new members. “A number of different approaches were tried to encourage local Catholic men to join the circle, without a great deal of success.”

“In 2012 we started off with 15 Busselton brothers and ten joint members, but today we have only 11 local brothers, most of whom are in poor health and cannot attend meetings, and five very committed joint members from Perth who fill most of the Council positions.”

George announced that the Busselton men would continue to meet on the fourth Sunday of each month as a social coffee club. Visitors from other circles in Province 20 would always be welcome.

Forty-six brothers and wives enjoyed lunch at the Esplanade Hotel, also attended by Father Jerome of Our Lady of the Bay Catholic Church in Busselton.

In the absence of Provincial President, Keith Morgan who was an apology due to another commitment, Immediate Past President, Kevin Hefron presented George Bazzica with an “Achievement Award” recognising his hard work, commitment and dedication to the Catenian Association as well as to Our Lady of the Bay and St Joseph's Catholic Churches in Busselton.

**Mixed feelings at final Busselton meeting (see page 3)**

## Province focus on membership

**The Province 20 Provincial Council has taken steps to refocus attention on the recruitment of new members and the retention of existing members. A new sub-committee has been formed under the leadership of Provincial Vice President, Lou Daily to review the current approach of circles to recruitment and to develop strategies and alternative options that might be pursued.**

In 2009 after the addition of new circles at Bouvard and Joondalup there were 378 members in Province 20, reaching a peak of 401 in 2012 following the inauguration of the City of Busselton Circle. Since then there has been a steady decline with the positive efforts and results of some circles failing to keep pace with deaths and resignations.

Overall Province 20 membership as at 30 June 2019 had declined to 370 with an age profile in the mid-70s, which has now become a critical concern of Provincial Council.

The new Recruitment Sub-committee comprises Lou Daily (Dianella), Kevin Parker (Swan Valley) Chris Downey (Darling Range), Frank O'Connor (Como) and Ged Kerrigan (Fremantle) and is currently involved in researching and updating data. It meets each fortnightly targeting the completion of a final report by mid-March 2020.

The sub-committee has adopted the following role statement:

### Aim

To develop an overall strategy to guide and develop existing circles with alternative and improved options to recruit new brothers and to form new Groups and/or Circles in Province 20.

### Purpose

To give men of Catholic faith the opportunity to develop growth and support their faith by joining the Catenian Association and contributing to the existing aims and values in a supportive family centred social organisation.

## Directory

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### Circle Publicity Officers:

Avon Valley	Brian Webb
Bouvard	John Pannell
Busselton	George Bazzica
Canning	Doug Williams
Como	Pat McManus
Darling Range	Lionel Thompson
Dianella	Norm Thompson
Fremantle	Kevin Hefron
Joondalup	Peter Johnston
Liwara	Graham Green
Mandurah	Mike Seeber
Perth	John Moore
Swan Valley	Michael Rosario

## Catenian Charity website up and running

In a letter to all members of Province 20 the President of the Catenian Charity Inc., Len Roberts (Dianella Circle), announced that the Charity website was now functional, providing a brief history, the names of all Board members, conditions for making applications for scholarships, news about scholarships already awarded and details about how tax-deductible donations to the Charity can be made.

To access the website simply enter [catenian.org](http://catenian.org) into your web browser. It's as easy as that. No passwords are required.

2 May 2019

Dear Brothers,

The Charity Board appreciates the effort of Charity members and all circle brothers for their contribution to make the dream a reality.

Special mention must be made of the work of Geof Church, the cooperation of the Australian Taxation Officer, Mohammad M, together with the advice of Melissa Newby of the Australian Charities Not-for-profit Commission. Also Stefania Demurtas, Kiri Moore and Paul Bui. These are special people and friends of the Charity. Jessica Soulsby at the University of Western Australia provided great encouragement and Tom Mitchell and Janienne Wood at St Thomas More in Crawley assisted by providing facilities and development.

A special thank you is extended to Kiri Moore at John XXIII College who designed the logo and donated copyright © and the trademark rights ®. Lately, special mention goes to Paul Bui at the *Monk* who developed the website and will be the *Webmaster*.

Brothers, you have all supported the Board and assisted in the making of history for the Catenian Association and its members worldwide.

It must be remembered that it was Brother Donald McKechnie (Dianella Circle) who initiated the plan to become directly involved in helping young Australians and Gerry Barton (Liwara Circle) who was instrumental in establishing the initial Province 20 Youth Support Fund (previously the Youth Support Project) via circles and Provincial Council. Their vision is enviable.

To the Catenian Charity scholarship winners, Ashleigh Habkhouk and Karri Thomas we extend our congratulations. We will support them in the advancement of their faith and their quest for a career.

The eight Youth Fund scholarship and bursary recipients in the past have not let us down – Brigette Macfarlane, Jessica Liddle, Mitch Rabjones, Sean Dondas, Pippa Johns, Sam Curtis, Aaron Dondas and Anna Bakogianis.

To our donors go our eternal thanks. All donations to the Catenian Charity Inc. and the Province 20 Youth Support Fund go to the recipients. There are no administration or other costs taken from donated funds.

Fraternally,

Len Roberts,  
For the Board

2 May 2019

## Mixed feelings at final Busselton meeting



There was shared sadness and positive recollections about good times enjoyed by City of Busselton members at the circle's final meeting before handing back its Catenian Association Charter at the Esplanade Hotel in Busselton on Sunday 28 April 2019.

In his address to the Annual General Meeting and at the formal lunch that followed, President George Bazzica expressed his sadness that the circle needed to close. He said that the decision had been driven by the lack of local members able to fill any Council positions in 2019 together with only a small number of brothers able to attend meetings due to poor health and various disabilities.

George thanked the large number of visiting brothers from Mandurah and Perth. The City of Mandurah Circle made an outstanding response, hiring a bus for the day to bring down seven brothers and nine ladies for the occasion. President, Colin Purcell, Wayne Wright, Geoff Prendergast, Max Gardiner, Robert Troost, David Best and Michael Phillips represented the Mandurah circle.

Other visiting Province 20 brothers were Gerry Barton (Liwara), Kevin Hefron (Fremantle), Gerard Tonks (Darling Range), Lou Daily and Vern Scanlan (Dianella), Pat McManus and Frank O'Connor (Como) and Steve Williamson (Swan Valley). An apology was received from Provincial President Keith Morgan (Canning).

City of Busselton joint members present were Terry O'Neill (Swan Valley), Brian Kerman (Dianella) and Peter Johnston and John Monkhouse (Joondalup). An apology was noted from Barry O'Malley (Como).

George thanked these loyal and committed joint members and others such as John O'Neil (deceased) from the City of Mandurah Circle, for their outstanding support dating back to when the Busselton Group 919 was established on 30 August 2010 and the circle's inauguration on 20 October 2012.

In his address, George said that there remained a need for a strong and vibrant men's group in Our Lady of the Bay Catholic Parish in Busselton. He said that the City of Busselton Circle had filled that void during the past decade and expressed hope that a local circle might some day in the future be reformed with a strong Busselton membership base.

This view was shared at the Annual General Meeting, stating that the circle was only "in recess" and would one day be revived.

Although the circle has now handed back its Charter, all City of Busselton members have resolved to retain their membership of the Catenian Association, electing to join the recently established Australian Central Circle. This will enable members to continue to enjoy the benefits of being a Catenian brother and attend meetings and Province 20 functions as members.

George Bazzica was honoured at the meeting with a framed "Achievement Award" recognising his hard work, dedication and selfless contribution to the City of Busselton Circle and his service to St Joseph's and Our Lady of the Bay Catholic Churches in Busselton over many years. Immediate Past Provincial Council President, Kevin Hefron, presented the award.



Elizabeth and George Bazzica with Kevin Hefron at the Annual General Meeting luncheon at the Esplanade Hotel, Busselton





# Numbers up at Mass for wives of deceased Catenians

The coordinator of the annual Mass for wives of deceased Catenian Brothers, Pamela McKechnie reports a slight increase in attendance in June 2019.

Nineteen ladies from Bouvard, Como, Dianella, Fremantle, Joondalup, Liwara, City of Mandurah, City of Perth and Swan Valley Circles attended the Mass and luncheon afterwards.

Pamela writes that the Priest was very apologetic when he greeted the ladies after Mass. He said that he had noticed them wearing roses and did not know what the occasion was all about, having just arrived back in Perth.

"As age catches up on us all more drivers were needed this year to bring ladies to the Cathedral," Pamela writes. "Thanks to Ian Moncrieff for driving the ladies from City of Perth Circle and to Pat McManus and Maurice Kilroe and his wife Anne for bringing the Como Circle ladies."

"It was great to have Moira Stokes with us again and Barbara Prior's daughter was able to bring her mother. Pat Stidwell's friend, Judy brought her."

"Thanks as usual also to Beryl Fitzgerald who organised three ladies from the City of Mandurah and Bouvard Circle's to travel by train from Mandurah and get to the Cathedral and safely home again."

"This year we did not have our great stalwart Betty Ryan with us and she was sorely missed. Her daughter had arrived from the United States of America for a week and Betty needed to spend as much time as possible with her. I know that she will be with us again next year."

"Thanks also to Subi for preparing the Cathedral undercroft area for the luncheon this year in the absence of Tony who was away. We always enjoy a delicious luncheon and having use of the Cathedral facilities is very much appreciated," Pamela said.

**Pamela appeals to all Circle secretaries to keep her informed with changes of addresses of widows and the passing of Catenian Brothers and their wives. Her telephone number is 9293 3957 and email address is [mckechni@iinet.net.au](mailto:mckechni@iinet.net.au)**



*The 2019 gathering of wives of deceased Catenian Brothers at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth*

# Speak for faith

The Province 20 sponsored public speaking event, now in its fourth year, was held in Nestor Hall at the Catholic Education Office in Leederville at the start of school term two.

Many Catenians came along to swell the audiences of teachers and parents at the two sessions of heats held on Saturday 27 July 2019 and Saturday 3 August 2019 and there was an excellent turnout of about 70 in attendance, including a large number of Catenian brothers and their wives, at the final on Monday evening 12 August 2019.

There were 22 participants made up of Year 11 and Year 12 students from 14 Catholic colleges from around Western Australia including country centres Broome, Bunbury and Northam. Each contestant presented a five-minute speech on their chosen subject from their Religious Education Course on Christian values and/or Catholic ethics and then, with only three minutes of on the spot preparation time, a two-minute speech on an impromptu topic. The impromptu topics were announced themes for discernment at Plenary Council 2020.

The standard of speaking from all participants was extremely high, reflecting commitment to thorough presentation. The enthusiasm of all speakers was contagious to all present.

The three adjudicators, all Catholic educators, Mr. Peter Yensch, Mrs. Maureen Delaney and Mr. Clem Mulcahy selected six finalists from the two heats and adjudicated at the final.



*Left to right: Ike Adesanya from Corpus Christi College, Bateman, Isabelle Ochtman from St Joseph's School, Northam, Isaiah McKenna from St Mary's College, Broome, Sofia Basso Betancourt from Santa Maria College, Attadale, Nicola Pike from Mercedes College, Perth and Rory Hewson from John XXIII College, Mount Claremont*

The final three placegetters were:

- Sofia Basso Betancourt (first)**
- Ike Adesanya (second)**
- Rory Hewson (third)**

Provincial President, Keith Morgan presented the prizes, medallions and the event coordinator, Gerard Tonks presented gifts of flowers and wine to the three honorary adjudicators. His fellow Darling Range brothers, Harry Muller and Chris Downey, assisted Gerard over the three days of the event.

# Youth Support Fund scholarship winner

**Emma Louise Jackson has been awarded the Catenian Association Province 20 Youth Support Fund scholarship for \$4,000 (continuous) in 2019.**

Emma, a young lady from Turramurra on the Upper North Shore of Sydney is reading medicine at the Fremantle campus of the University of Notre Dame, Australia. Born in Sydney in 1994, she completed her secondary education at Loreto Normanhurst in 2012, graduating as dux of the school. She then went on to complete a combined Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Commerce degree at Macquarie University.

During her undergraduate degree Emma completed two semester-long exchanges, firstly at the University of British Columbia, Canada in 2014 and then at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in 2016. She was the recipient of a prestigious Australian Government New Colombo Plan scholarship, financially supporting her studies in Singapore as well as a commerce internship in Indonesia in 2017. Later that year, Emma competed in the international iGEM synthetic biology competition as a member of the Macquarie University team. The iGEM Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the advancement of synthetic biology, education and competition, and the development of an open community and collaboration.

Their project centred on the creation of hydrogen energy using E.Coli bacteria instead of fossil fuels. Emma presented the project alongside her teammates at the international jamboree in Boston and won the award for Best Energy Solution.

In 2018 Emma hiked the 800-kilometre *Camino de Santiago* raising over \$4,000 for the youth mental health charity Headspace. *Camino de Santiago*, known in English as the Way of Saint James among other names is a network of pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain.

She was an active member of the Turramurra community and regularly dedicated her time to worthwhile causes. Emma volunteered for four years on a weekly basis at Saint Lucy's Catholic School, Wahroonga in New South Wales. This is a school in the Dominican tradition for students with disabilities. As a classroom assistant she helped the teacher coordinate learning activities for the children and offered support for children unable to complete the activities unassisted.

Through this role she demonstrated a strong level of commitment, passion and creativity. She was a regular vocalist at her local church singing in the evening service as a member of the church band. She is passionate about helping Australians struggling with mental issues.



Earlier this year Emma moved from Sydney to Perth to commence her studies in medicine. She is sincerely grateful to the Catenian Association for awarding her the Youth Support Fund scholarship because it will greatly reduce the stress and financial burden of living so far away from home and enable her to focus her attention solely on her studies.

Emma is the eldest of four children with three younger brothers.

The Manager of Graduations at Macquarie University, Ken Wong, provided the following commendation relating to Emma's time at the university:

*"Emma is an exceptionally gifted student who has extensively contributed to the Macquarie University community. Throughout her five years at Macquarie she received several academic prizes. Emma is a natural leader who energizes and motivates others in any role she takes on. She is a warm and sociable person keen to learn from everyone she meets and shows a genuine interest in understanding the lives of others."*

On 1 May 2019 Emma was presented with a Scholarship Certificate by Brian Kerman (Dianella Circle) on behalf of the Board of the Catenian Association Province 20 Youth Support Fund. The function was hosted by Fiona Whittles, Director, Office of University Relations at Notre Dame and attended by Professor Naomi Trengove, the Dean of the School of Health Sciences.

The Youth Support Fund Board appreciates the assistance of all members of that Office and, furthermore, the donations made by Catenian brothers that enables the Fund to make such a worthwhile contribution to the lives of many young leaders.



*Left to right: Brian Kerman, Professor Naomi Trengove and Emma Jackson at Notre Dame University, Fremantle campus*

## How to donate

**Your voluntary donations to the Catenian Association Province 20 Youth Support Fund are much appreciated, providing financial assistance directed to assisting our youth and young leaders to achieve their dreams.**

**Voluntary donations may be made through your circle Treasurer.**





# Lack of Youth Fund grant applicants is disappointing

The President of the Catenian Association Province 20 Youth Support Fund, Len Roberts (Dianella Circle), expressed his disappointment at the Fund’s Annual General Meeting on 20 July 2019 about the lack of circle-sponsored applicants for grants in the Catenian year ended 31 March 2019.

In his address to the AGM, Len said that the 13 circles in Province 20 could only find two students willing to apply for grants. He encouraged all circles to appoint a dedicated Council Officer charged with responsibility to advance opportunities for financial assistance that are available from the Fund.

In the coming year the Fund is committed to \$10,500 for scholarships and the annual arts prize with cash of about \$20,000 in the bank and more income expected from voluntary donations from Catenian brothers and the sale of merchandise.

The financial report presented to the Fund’s AGM held at St Thomas More College in Crawley showed that income of \$8,679 for 2018/19 was \$2,534 higher than the previous year’s income of \$6,145. Donations received from brothers of \$4,685 were \$770 higher than the previous year.

The other main source of income for the Fund is from the sale of regalia and other merchandise. In 2018/19 this contributed \$3,673 compared with \$1,307 received in the previous year.

## Grants

Expenditure incurred by the Youth Support Fund in 2018/19 totalled \$11,174, which was \$3,639 higher than the previous year’s figure of \$7,535.

The amount expended this year included a scholarship of \$2,000 granted to Pippa Johns and a bursary award of \$2,000 to Sam Curtis, both university students residing at St Thomas More College in Crawley.

The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle campus) scholarship of \$4,000 was paid to Anna Bakogianis, as reported in a previous edition of the *Western Link*. Anna graduated in December 2018 as a Doctor of Medicine. Another scholarship of \$2,000 was paid to Deborah Baike of Northampton, north of Geraldton who was awarded the Notre Dame Broome campus scholarship for 2018.

Grants of \$250 each were made to two pupils from Holy Cross College in Ellenbrook sponsored by Swan Valley Circle to attend the “Ignite” conference in Brisbane in September 2018.

## Board and members

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

### Board Members and Trustees

**President** – Len Roberts  
**Vice Presidents** – Colin Broun, Brian Kerman and John Monkhouse  
**Secretary** – Barry Webb  
**Treasurer** – Geoff Prendergast  
**Auditor** – Harold Shrigley



# Making a difference

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

In his address to the Annual General Meeting held at St Thomas More College in Crawley on 20 July 2019, the President, Len Roberts said that since inception the Charity has received donations of \$40,000 and as at 31 March 2019 had cash of about \$30,000 in the bank.

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

The Charity has approved the establishment of three scholarships. The inaugural scholarship of \$5,000 per annum during the duration of her studies was awarded in 2018 to Ashleigh Habkoux, who graduated with a degree as a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame Fremantle Campus in July 2019. A second scholarship, also of \$5,000 per annum, was awarded to Karri Thomas who is studying at Aquinas College, a residential college attached to the University of Adelaide. A third scholarship of \$2,500 per annum has been authorised by the Charity’s Board, but is yet to be awarded.

## Charity website

To access the Catenian Charity Inc. website simply enter [catenian.org](http://catenian.org) into your web browser. No password is required.

## Donations are tax deductible

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

### Office bearers

#### President and Trustee

Len Roberts (Dianella Circle)

#### Vice Presidents and Trustees

David Boyle (Liwara Circle)

Peter Johnston (Joondalup Circle)

Brian Kerman (Dianella Circle)

Tony Poli (Swan Valley Circle)

#### Secretary

John Monkhouse (Joondalup Circle)

#### Treasurer

Geoff Prendergast (City of Mandurah Circle)

# Where are they now?

## A Catenian Youth Support Fund update

Since its commencement over 12 years ago, the Fund has provided financial support totalling over \$58,000 to 139 young people. The awards include sponsorships and bursaries awarded to students at the University of Notre Dame, tertiary students at St Thomas More College in Crawley and annual awards at the Catholic Performing Arts Festival.

Over 100 of these grant recipients have been made to young people attending World Youth Days, Immersion Programs and a large list of other events and programs supporting their faith development and education.

Apart from its role of raising funds, processing applications and promoting awareness, the Trustees of the Fund, under the leadership of President, Len Roberts (Dianella Circle) has closely followed the achievements and development of previous award winners, including encouraging these young people to attend Catenian meetings as guest speakers.

The following three stories serve to reinforce the valuable contribution that the Fund is making to young Christian people in Western Australia:

In 2013 the Youth Support Fund awarded a grant of \$1,000 to **Abbey McLean**, a young Fremantle girl and student at Iona



Presentation College in Mosman Park. Abbey was seeking funding so that she could attend the Canada Wide Science Fair at the University of Lethbridge campus at Banff. Following this experience Abbey was given the opportunity to sit in on the 6<sup>th</sup> Kepler Astroseismic Science Consortium Conference and then attended the

Youth Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science conference in Tasmania.

After finishing her schooling at Iona Presentation College she moved to Melbourne in 2015 to commence an engineering degree.

In response to a request from Len Roberts in May 2019 Abbey wrote: “I am about to embark on my final year of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering at Monash University. My honours project will be a Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality program design.”

“I have completed a year-long internship at Delta Energy Systems in PV solar and inverters in Melbourne and I’m going to complete a second internship at Deloitte over the 2019/20 summer in cyber risk consulting. This coming internship ideally will turn into a graduate position, as it is the field/company that I would love to work in.”

“I have really enjoyed my final years at university, undertaking some extremely exciting and stimulating units including Intelligent Robotics, Computer Vision, Neural Networks and deep learning and Advanced Electromagnetics to name a few.”

The inaugural Youth Support Fund bursary of \$2,000 was awarded to **Sean Dondas** on a needs basis. Sean’s family circumstances and his determination to succeed qualified him as a worthy recipient.



Sean resided at St Thomas More College in Crawley while he completed an Economics/Arts double degree at the University of Western Australia at the end of 2015. He was active in college life as a Residential Advisor and Eucharistic Minister.

Sean has recently completed a Masters of International Affairs at Murdoch University and will start a graduate role as an Audit Officer for the Department of Jobs and Small Business in Canberra in 2019.

In 2013 the Catenian Youth Support Fund supported St Norbert College Year 12 student, **Clare Bradley**. She was one of only ten Australians chosen to attend the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) and was able to visit some of the most prestigious scientific establishments in Europe including a Space Science Laboratory run by the University College of London where they were building mechanical and electrical components for satellites.

After the forum, 30 participants, including Clare, continued on to Paris and Geneva where they were hosted by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research.

Clare completed a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacology and Physiology at the University of Western Australia in 2016 and is now in her second last year of medicine at UWA.

In 2019 she is studying in Northam as part of a program called Rural Clinical School where medical students spend a year in a rural community in the hope that they will return to the country as qualified doctors.

She will live in Northam until the end of November 2019; hence the rural photograph below.

Clare hopes to do obstetrics and in January 2020 has a four-week placement in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in London.



Clare in the Northam wheatbelt





# Catholic Outreach

## Creating community through acts of kindness

**Fremantle Circle Brother Robert Williams provides an interesting insight into the Archdiocese of Perth's Catholic Care Commission's care program called Catholic Outreach. Robert has been the Chair of the Committee of Management since 2013.**

There have been three Catholic Outreach Directors (or Executive Officers) since it began: Tony McAlindon (the foundation Director), Peter McMinn (Director from 1999 to 2018) and Marietta Russo who took over the position in January 2019.



**Robert Williams (Chair of the Catholic Outreach Committee of Management) pictured with Marietta Russo (Director)**

Scattered throughout the New Testament are suggestions on how to live a Christian life.

In his letter to the Galatians 5:13, Paul asks that we use our freedom "to serve one another humbly in love" while in his letter to the Romans 12:13 he writes: "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Through the letter to the Hebrews 6:10 we are reminded that "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." The first letter from Peter 5:10 suggests that each one of us "must use for the good of others the special gift he [or she] has received from God."

Catholic Outreach, an agency of the Archdiocese of Perth that was formed nearly 30 years ago, has embraced the values emerging from these verses.

Before that time the Archdiocese of Perth had a number of agencies operating that provided a range of resources for parishes, parishioners and the wider community; however, over a period of years, various parish priests drew attention to the fact that there was no resource available to help priests and parishes to provide

basic care and welfare assistance at short notice to people needing such help.

Eventually this resulted in the Archdiocese of Perth's Community Care Commission adapting a parish based care program that had been operating in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for use in Perth. Catholic Outreach was established and came into existence in August 1990.

Today Catholic Outreach has about 130 coordinators and hundreds of volunteers across 30 parishes.

Central to the work of Catholic Outreach is the establishment of parish care programs the nature of which reflects the attitude conveyed in the letter of James 2:14-17 where the author talks about faith and good works, "Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead."

Catholic Outreach's mission is to assist parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Perth to set up and manage pastoral care programs that enable volunteers to provide practical emergency short-term support for people in need in their local community. This support is tailored to the needs of the community and the availability of volunteers and might include bereavement support, emergency meals, family support, gardening, maintenance and home help, transport and visiting. The kind of grassroots welfare offered fills gaps for people whose immediate needs may be overlooked by other services in the community.

As well as providing assistance to local people there are many other benefits for those involved. A Catholic parish care program contributes to the total Christian development of parishioners giving them the opportunity to put into practice the commandment to love one another. As the parish priest and parishioners work together they build community and make connections to people demonstrating to the world at large Christianity in action.

With modern society, increasingly characterised by isolation, loneliness and mental health issues amongst all demographics, the bonds of friendship and connections that result from the employment of a pastoral care program will become even more significant.

In addition to the establishment of pastoral care programs the role of the agency itself includes the formation and training of coordinators and volunteers, facilitating gatherings and managing the interaction between coordinators and professional services from other agencies in the Archdiocese and the wider community.

A Director appointed by the Archbishop oversees the day-to-day affairs of the agency supported by a Committee of Management also appointed by the Archbishop and comprised of people, both laity and clergy who have a deep interest in the mission of Catholic Outreach. A number of these have had experience as volunteers and coordinators in parish care programs. The Director and the Committee of Management work together to ensure the agency operates in accordance with its purpose and mandate.

Since its inception, Catholic Outreach via its parish care programs has completed many tens of thousands of jobs helping many thousands of people across the Archdiocese of Perth truly demonstrating its motto and the ideals it encapsulates: Care, concern, service and helping you help others.

**To learn more about Catholic Outreach, visit the website:**

<https://outreach.perthcatholic.org.au>

## The joy of home hosting and visiting circles in England

**Contributed by Lou Daily  
Dianella Circle**

**"Several Australian brothers who had previously attended Catenian Conferences in the United Kingdom have often spoken about their rewarding experiences being home-hosted and attending circle meetings whilst visiting England," writes Lou Daily.**

"With this in mind after attending the 2019 conference in Liverpool, I seized the opportunity to travel to various cities, towns and villages in England hosted by two Catenian brothers and two cousins of my late wife, Janice."

"Following the conference I gladly accepted an offer by Jimmy Dickson to stay at his home in Hadfield. He had previously stayed with me for two weeks in 2015 on the last visit of a Grand President to Perth."

"From Liverpool on 21 May 2019 I travelled by train to Hadfield; a small village near Manchester. Jimmy who is still a brother and a Past President of Manchester Circle No. 1 picked me up from the station. Like myself, he was widowed many years ago and is a retired CEO of a number of public hospitals in the City of Manchester."

"After allowing me time to settle into his lovely two-storey house in Hadfield, Jimmy outlined his planned itinerary. First on the list was a visit to his local pub, the Anchor, a short distance away. Naturally, a trial of a number of English beers was on the agenda and I soon understood that ordering a pint is compulsory; nothing smaller. We then visited his club, the Wooley Bridge Working Men's Club; a small but friendly place where we watched football on the big screen. I was forewarned not to call it soccer."

"Other activities included walking down an old train line, visiting pubs in the nearby town of Glossop, several games of lawn

bowls (Jimmy's favourite sport) and a day trip to explore Manchester. On Sunday we attended Mass at St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, built in 1858. Following Mass a morning tea was held where I was introduced to many parishioners and then Jimmy showed me a stained glass window and cross he had donated to the church in memory of his late parents and a younger brother."



"On another day we travelled over winding, hilly roads to the Ladybower Dam. This visit was special because it was the dam where English pilots had practiced dropping the "bouncing bombs" prior to destroying the Ruhr dams in Germany in the Second World War to paralyse the enemy's industrial nerve centre. It was coincidental because just two weeks before leaving Perth for England I had again seen the movie "The Dam Busters" starring Richard Todd as Royal Air Force Wing Commander Guy Gibson who led his squadron on the successful mission. An unplanned, but appreciated trip."



were built in the 1600s and onwards. What an experience for a visiting Australian."

"My second Catenian hosts were Mike and Anne-Marie O'Malley, a member of St Anne's Lytham Circle and a past Grand President. Many *Western Link* readers know Mike and Anne-Marie because they have visited Perth in excess of 15 times, normally hosted by Brian and Beryl Kerman. They live in a three-bedroom apartment on the third floor of a lovely building overlooking a grassed foreshore with walking trails to an expanse of water stretching all the way to Wales, Mike and Anne-Marie made me very welcome."

"Later in the evening of my arrival on 5 June, we all attended a meeting of the St Anne's Lytham Circle held at a local hotel. All of the brothers and ladies made me feel most welcome, although a few passionate cricket supporters asked a few times if I'd brought any sandpaper with me. I responded to these quips about Australian cricket misdemeanors with my own query about why England had an Irishman, Eoin Morgan as captain of their cricket team. They were indeed worried that the Aussies might beat them in the June 2019 World Cup."

"Previously while staying with Brian and Beryl Kerman, Mike and Anne-Marie had both attended a West Coast Eagles football game in Perth, so I took the opportunity to present Mike with a Eagles beanie and scarf from the brothers of Dianella Circle."





“A second presentation made at the St Anne’s Lytham Circle meeting was made to me by the circle President Mike King,” Lou writes. “I was given a special tie that celebrated the circle’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In making the presentation Mike told me that only Brian Kerman (Dianella Circle) and Terry O’Neill (Swan Valley Circle) had previously received ties. I said that I would wear mine with pride.”



St Anne’s Lytham Circle President, Mike King presents Lou Daily with a commemorative tie

“The following day, Mike and Anne-Marie drove me to the Lakes District and we visited the Coniston Valley with surrounding lakes and the very old village of Hawkshead.”

“We also visited Grassmere and saw the grave of English poet, William Wordsworth in the St Oswald’s Parish churchyard. It was a lovely day and I greatly appreciated the guided tour of this part of England.”

“Later in the evening Mike and I attended a meeting of the Broughton in Craven Circle, held in the Tempest Arms Hotel about a 75 minute drive from Mike’s residence. Again the brothers made me most welcome, although the same old cricket comment about sandpaper and ball tampering arose and was dealt with by me with my own response about the English cricket team relying on an Irishman to captain their team.”

“The President of Broughton in Craven Circle, Franklin Schutz is not one to take things too seriously with the meeting agenda and it was a fun occasion. It was interesting to note that at both meetings that I attended there were about nine visiting brothers with an obvious strong bond between the two circles.”

“I greatly appreciated the hospitality of Mike and Anne-Marie and especially the effort of Mike to ensure that I was able to attend two circle meetings during my short time with them.”

“The overall experience of the Liverpool Conference and the joy of home-hosting and visiting circles provided me with a lasting insight into what Catenian values mean. I recommend to all Catenians planning a visit to the United Kingdom that they allow time on their holiday itineraries to do the same. They will not regret it,” Lou concludes.

# “Liverpool conference was informative and fun”

## Ralph and Liana report on their ninth UK conference

Australian Central Council Vice President and Province 20 Director, Ralph Fitzpatrick and his wife, Liana had to think hard and plan carefully before deciding to attend yet another conference in England, this time at Liverpool 2019. On previous occasions the annual trip served a dual purpose because it provided them with an opportunity to visit their son and daughter-in-law who lived in London, but now live in Los Angeles.

They attended their first UK conference in 2008 to take part in celebrations for the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Catenian Association, which was founded in Manchester in 1908.

Liana writes that their visit in 2008 was a time of great sorrow for them because they were informed during the farewell lunch after the conference that Ralph’s mother had passed away. “However, it was also a time when strong friendships were built,” she said.

“We next attended the conference in Eastbourne in 2012 and again developed strong friendships with people we met there. Since then we have been to the conference each year, totally nine in all, every time renewing and making more friends.”

“Because of these friendships we have also taken an interest in the visits of UK brothers to Australia providing opportunities to repay the hospitality we have been given in the UK and also to make even more new friends.”

“Two of our UK friends, Peter and Andrea Callagan, have for some time waxed lyrical on the tremendous times they have had over many years attending the Catenian National Golf Championships even though neither of them play golf. The basic program for the week-long championship is golf each day and party each night with alternative day time activities organised for the non-golfers.”

“This year we had a particular interest in the golf championships because, firstly Ralph had taken up playing golf last year and the timing of the 2019 event and the Catenian Conference at Liverpool suited us better and we wanted to explore Oxford.”

“We booked to attend from the Tuesday to the following Monday and Ralph played one round of golf on the Friday,” Liana writes.

“Ralph played with borrowed clubs and buggy, which is no big deal except that the clubs he borrowed belonged to Pauline Hogan, a lady who is not the tallest person in the world. This presented a challenge and gave Ralph a very good reason (other than he is not a very good golfer) as to why he didn’t come home with any trophies. At the Conference welcome dinner, the President of the Catenian National Golf Association, did present Ralph with their golf tie, and he was delighted to accept this consolation prize”



“On the days when Ralph wasn’t playing golf,” Liana continues, “we had the opportunity to explore Oxford as well as to visit Coventry Cathedral and Stratford-upon-Avon with the Catenian non-golfers. I also joined the group to visit Blenheim Palace on the day that Ralph was playing golf. All three tours were well organised and very enjoyable.”

“During the golf week the evening dinners were a mixture of formal, semi-formal and casual plus a Catenian meeting. They were wonderful Catenian style dinners with loads of opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and renew old ones. We all stayed at the same hotel, Jurys Inn, on the outskirts of Oxford that boasts 240 guest rooms, a leisure club and spar, a state-of-the-art events centre and two restaurants. This provided an opportunity to meet people for a few drinks before dinner or drinks and coffee afterwards. Very social.”

Ralph takes up the story: “After the golf week, as part of our trip we planned to stay in Chester for a couple of days to celebrate our wedding anniversary and Mothers Day and to have a look around. At the golf we met some brothers from Macclesfield Circle who said they had organised a canal boat luncheon in Chester at the time we were staying there and asked if we would like to join them. There were two places left so we took them. Liana had always wanted to take a trip on a canal boat so it was a great opportunity, especially because the trip started and ended at the hotel we were staying in. A wonderful day was had by all and new friendships made.”

“At Liverpool we were pleased to catch up with good friends Peter and Lonia Daniels from Guernsey. We met Peter and Lonia at the Eastbourne Conference in 2012 and have seen each other every year since. We have travelled to Guernsey to visit them twice and they have travelled to Perth to visit us. It is always a pleasure to meet up with them and enjoy their company.”

“We have made many long-term friends in the Manchester area and nowadays from the Birmingham area as well as South England and Wales. Michael and Enid Noronha and their family are like family to us and Enid always invites brothers from Salford Circle and special invited guests so that we can enjoy a lunch or evening meal together in Michael and Enid’s home. This year Mike and Anne-Marie O’Malley and Phil and Linda Brown were also able to join us.”

“We are pleased to report that we were able to have a short visit with Don and Toni Maclean and that Toni is recovering well after her second stroke. As usual Don was his jovial self and we were able to see that he is doing a wonderful job looking after Toni. We especially liked Don’s exercise bike, which is more like a competitive road racing computer game than the manual flywheel type of bike we use at our home.”



Toni and Don Maclean with Liana

“There are so many other friends we were able to catch up with and so many who asked for us to pass on their regards to friends they have made in Australia. We can’t attempt to mention them all, but please accept their best wishes. Friendships are what the Catenian Association is built on.”

“While in Liverpool I attended a Great Britain National Council meeting and a Central Council meeting as well as the conference. Needless to say we also attended three circle meetings and dinners, the welcome function, conference banquet, conference Mass and the farewell luncheon. They were all wonderful functions and terrific opportunities to catch up with friends. We also managed to catch up with friends outside of the conference activities in the hotel bar and at nearby restaurants. These are special times when three Catenians meet.”

“It was wonderful to see Lou Daily (Dianella Circle), Richard Taylor and Robyn Dineen (Swan Valley Circle) from Perth at the conference as well as George Kazs, Tibor Puhl, Kevin and Sue Doherty and John McWilliam from Province 21. I hope that they had as good a time as Liana and I did,” Ralph concludes.



Ralph and Liana Fitzpatrick with George Kazs (Province 21)





# The Liverpool experience



This short story, written by Dianella Circle Brother Lou Daily, reflects upon the special Mass celebrated on Sunday 19 May 2019 as part of the Catenian Association conference held in Liverpool.

“Participation in the special Catenian Mass was a very important part of my faith journey and to share the experience with so many other Catenian brothers and their families in the most magnificent Liverpool Cathedral was a great blessing.”

“The celebrants at the Mass were the Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool and the Right Reverend Peter Brignall, Bishop of Wrexham. The Great Britain National President Phil Brown and Vice President, Eddie O’Donnell did the readings.”

“Being my first visit to the Liverpool Cathedral,” Lou writes, “I was overwhelmed by the size, layout and fittings of the building truly worthy of being the Mother Church of the Liverpool Diocese.”

“Architect, Sir Frederick Gibberd commenced design work in October 1962 and the result is a circular building featuring a centre altar and capacity for a congregation of about 2,000, The Cathedral was built on the Crypt that was earlier designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and completed in 1958 after an enforced halt to the work during the Second World War. The Cathedral was opened and consecrated on 14 May 1967.”

“The many stained glass windows, mosaics and 13 special chapels and quiet places around the Cathedral add to the magnificent setting for the worship of our Lord. The photo (opposite) highlights the splendid scale of the tower reaching high above the building.”



The choir area adjacent to the main altar



# Keeping fit

## Catenian Cranks Cycle Club

The seed was sown during a casual conversation between cycling enthusiasts Wayne Wright (City of Mandurah Circle) and Colin Broun (Swan Valley Circle) at the Province 20 Visitors Cup dinner on 5 March 2019 at RAAFA Bullcreek, sponsored by Como Circle.

From this chat the idea of a Catenian Cycling Club developed and the inaugural ride was held a few weeks later on Saturday 13 April 2019.

On a delightful, brilliant sun-filled autumn morning the Catenian Cranks Cycle Club was launched when five young at heart Catenian Brothers gathered at the Elizabeth Quay station forecourt eager to set off on their inaugural ride.



The lycra Cranks, left to right: Wayne Wright (City of Mandurah), Tony Poli (Swan Valley), Bill Clare (City of Mandurah), John Weselman (Liwara) and Colin Broun (Swan Valley)

Before the ride they prayed this cyclists prayer:

*O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation,  
And whose presence we find wherever we go,  
Preserve those who cycle,  
Surround them with your loving care;  
Protect them from every danger,  
And bring them safely to their journey’s end;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

It was a scenic tour at a steady pace along dedicated cycle paths over the Narrows Bridge, along the South Perth foreshore, past the Casino, to and across Windan Bridge to a well-earned coffee break at Claisebrook Cove then along the foreshore to Matagarup Bridge, around the Perth Stadium and back safely to Elizabeth Quay; a journey of 19 kilometres.

It was a special day with plenty of fun and great fellowship. It is hoped that many other Catenians and families will swell the ranks and join the Cranks for their next ride in October 2019.

Place your name on the Cranks mailing list by sending your email address to [cjbrounpl@estnet.com.au](mailto:cjbrounpl@estnet.com.au)

# Stimulating talk by Anna at joint circle meeting



Joondalup President, Barry Webb congratulates Anna Bakogianis after her inspiring after dinner speech

The joint meeting of Liwara and Joondalup Circles on 6 June 2019 was memorable for the stimulating after dinner speech given by University of Notre Dame graduate, Dr. Anna Bakogianis.

The President of the Youth Support Fund, Len Roberts (Dianella Circle), introduced Anna to a gathering of about 50 Liwara and Joondalup brothers.

In 2018 she was the recipient of a Youth Support Fund scholarship of \$4,000, graduating in December 2018 as a Doctor of Medicine and receiving a further commendation for achieving a distinction in each year of the seven years of her degree.

Liwara Circle Brother, Graham Green writes: “The June 2019 edition of the *Western Link* contains many success stories of student support by the Youth Support Fund and Catenian Charity through scholarships and bursaries, including a feature article about Anna’s impressive story from her early education at St Mary of the Angels Secondary College in her birth place at Nathalia in Victoria.”

“She read Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne before coming to Perth to enrol at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle campus in 2015.”

“Anna’s story is worth reading, however seeing and hearing her in person was a great boost.”

“Her dedication and motivation together with her aspirations for life in medicine were evident in her presentation,” Graham said.





# Special memorial to an Australian pilot and crew

Contributed by Lou Daily  
Dianella Circle

**Lou writes: "Following my attendance at the 2019 Catenian Conference in Liverpool, I then travelled to various cities and towns in England and was hosted by two Catenian Brothers and two cousins of my late wife, Janice."**

"Both of these cousins had a great uncle born in the village of Horwich in 1894 prior to migrating to Western Australia with his wife, Emma, following the end of the First World War. The uncle was Arthur Downs."

"One of my stays was with the cousins, Marilyn and Derick Jackson who now live in Rochdale. They were keen to help me explore the Horwich townsite, heritage centre and surrounding areas and it was during this time a very interesting story unfolded."

During the Second World War on 16 November 1943 a Royal Air Force Wellington bomber on a training mission crashed on Anglezarke Moor, a wooded hill above Horwich. The pilot was an Australian, Joseph Timperon from Ardrossan in South Australia. He and five other members of the crew were killed on that tragic day."

"In 1955 the Rotary Club of Horwich erected a permanent stone memorial with a plaque to the memory of the bomber crew close to the crash site."

"A year later Arthur Downs while visiting his homeland, attended a test cricket match at Old Trafford and met Keith Miller, the Vice Captain of the Australian cricket team. Arthur was made aware of the memorial during a visit to the Rotary Club and also that Keith Miller was a friend of the pilot, Joseph Timperon who he had trained with during the early part of the war."

"Keith Miller accepted an invitation to visit the memorial and on a cold, wet day, accompanied by Arthur Downs, the President of the Rotary Club, Dr. Bradshaw and other Rotary Club members a special dedication took place."



**Left to right: Unknown, Arthur Downs, Dr. Bradshaw and Keith Miller**

"Since then, members of Joseph Timperon's family have visited the site and added further plaques to the stone memorial."

"Having heard the story I was keen to see the memorial for myself, so accompanied by Marilyn and Derick we set out on a long walk through farm land to find the site. The lack of signage made it difficult, but did not discourage us and with the assistance of other walkers we finally located the memorial. It was another highlight for me on my visit to England and an unexpected surprise."

"This photo shows the memorial with flowers laid by many caring visitors. May the brave crew rest in peace."



**Lou Daily with Marilyn Jackson**

"This story is very special and shows how exciting surprises can be forthcoming when the journeys and achievements of early family members are explored," concludes Lou.

## au revoir travel

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# Soldier's life spared by a St. Benedict medal

This is the story of a First World War soldier whose life was miraculously spared because of a medal he wore at the first landing of Gallipoli in 1914.

Martin John Troy, born in Geraldton on 30 October 1890 is the grandfather of Maree Johnston (nee Alderman), the husband of Joondalup Circle Catenian, Peter Johnston and the Editor of the *Western Link*. He is also the grandfather of Terry Alderman who played 41 tests for the Australian cricket team, Denise Emerson who represented Australia in women's cricket playing in seven test matches, John Alderman a prominent first grade player in the Western Australian Cricket Association and Geraldine Berryman who shone as a tennis player.

Martin Troy attended the Christian Brothers College in Perth as a boarder. As a student, he was a prefect, performed in school plays and was captain of the College football and cricket teams, both winning Public Schools Association premierships. He excelled at cricket as an extremely fast bowler. In the 1910 Darlot Cup cricket season he captured 62 wickets at an average of 5.1 runs per wicket from six matches as part of the all-conquering CBC team that won all of its games outright in that year.

Martin was an all-round sportsman and at the age of 16 was playing league football for West Perth in the Western Australian Football League competition.

When WWI broke out, Martin joined the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 29 October 1914 and was at the first landing at Gallipoli where he was seriously wounded by a Turkish hand grenade. After he regained consciousness he spent five days in "no mans land" and was captured while trying to crawl away.

The account of Martin's capture is recorded in *Beans Official History of the War*:



His friends were all dead around him. Martin was taken behind enemy lines to await his fate to be shot or sent to an interment camp. He had the good fortune to be saved, however, mainly because of the influence of a young German Officer who was inspecting the "dog tags" of the Australian soldiers and recognised a St. Benedictine Medal attached to Martin's tags. Before leaving Australia he had been given the medal by his mother who had told him to always wear it.

The German Officer asked Martin in broken English if he was indeed a Catholic. Martin said he was and as it turned out so was the German Officer who was also wearing a St. Benedict medal. He told Martin that he would save him, if possible, from the shootings, saying what a pity it was that men of the same faith were fighting each other.

The young German Officer was very kind and managed to conceal Martin for three days until he was eventually admitted to a hospital in Constantinople. The miraculous medal became a prized possession of Martin, who was to spend the next three and a half years as a prisoner of war with the Turks.

Back home in Western Australia, the Troy family was notified that Martin was missing, presumed dead, however his mother refused to wear the customary black clothing for mourning, firmly believing her son to be alive.

Her faith was rewarded when almost two years later the family was informed that Martin was a prisoner of war in Turkey. He was eventually repatriated on 8 December 1918.

Martin returned home, his health broken. Yet, despite his condition he was able to hold down a job at the Midland Railway Depot as an assistant boilermaker. It was as a mentor, however, that he was most appreciated and many young apprentices found in him a compassionate and listening ear, always available in times of trouble.

Although his love for cricket never diminished, Martin was never able to play again. Instead, he took up umpiring and became one of the best in the Western Australian Cricket Association competition. On numerous occasions he was called upon to umpire visiting international teams, State teams and WACA District cricket finals.

One incident from his umpiring days is still part of family lore:

In 1938 when the Western Australian State side played an Australian XI, Martin gave Don Bradman out, caught behind for 47 runs. Half of the large WACA crowd left the ground after their cricketing hero's departure from the batting crease, but in the second innings of the same match, Martin had the privilege of seeing Bradman close-up when he scored 208 not out.



**The Troy family: Annie, Joan, Frank and Martin with Maureen, the youngest child, in front**

Martin married Annie Willoughby and they had three children, Frank, Joan and Maureen. Joan married Bill Alderman and they are the parents of test cricketer Terry, Denise who played for the Australian Women's cricket team and John who was a prominent WACA district A-grade cricketer. Maureen's son, Paul also played A-grade cricket and was the first Melville Cricket Club member to play 100 A-grade games.

Martin's faith became very precious to him. The St. Benedictine medal and the German Officer both providentially saved his life and he never forgot his good fortune. As time went by he came to realise his life had been saved for a very good reason.

Martin passed away in 1962 and Annie died in 1969.





# Giving back to the community

## Harare North Circle's Rosary project



Top, the Rosary Project Committee, left to right: Cliff Welch, Bobby Connolly, Butch Rodrigues and Dave Garnett



Right: Cliff Welch handing out rosaries

Harare is the capital of Zimbabwe, a landlocked country in southern Africa known for its dramatic landscape and diverse wildlife, much of it within parks, reserves and safari areas. With a population of over 17 million it is the home of the Catenian Association Harare North Circle, which has embarked on a unique rosary project in its way of supporting the Catholic faith in its community.

The Rosary Project is about the personal touch when handing over rosaries and rosary cards to Catholic school students. With the permission of the senior teaching staff, members of the circle also hand out Catholic moral code cards where applicable. The project began at St George's College in Harare.

The project action committee is actively supported by past circle Presidents, Council, all members and their wives.

The main objective of the project is to keep young Catholics in the Church for the rest of their lives. At each presentation, pupils are addressed by any of the brothers in attendance or their wives, in some instances reciting personal experiences with their rosaries.

"We will have succeeded if we keep them in the faith for the rest of their lives," writes the project committee in its progress report.

"If we keep young people in the faith the young men in the church may well want to join our brotherhood, although recruitment is not our driving objective. We hope that the young ladies will want their husbands to join our brotherhood."

"The project is fully funded by circle members who have adopted a pledge to 'sacrifice to make our faith stronger in the next generations', but we very much welcome donations from any well-wishers wanting to support this important intervention. This project is evergreen and will continue in perpetuity. It is the circle's charity project."

**"Our circle Treasurer will welcome any donations into our foreign currency account. These funds are used to purchase rosary cards and the components to manufacture the rosaries."**

### Achievements so far

Rosaries and cards have been handed to 300 students at St George's College and 272 to pupils at the Dominican Convent where the rosaries were made with blue beads being the Convent's colours and were blessed beforehand by Father Paul Edwards SJ.

It is surprising that, considering that the Convent is a Catholic school out of the two forms of approximately 120 girls each there are only 38 Catholic girls per form.

Brother Cliff Welch supported by his son, Jarryd and daughter, Boedene, distributed the rosaries and rosary cards in the Convent's chapel. They were assisted by Brother Butch Rodrigues and by Convent old girls, Margie Crnkovic, Kathi Jordan, Colleen D'Silva and Muffet Studdard. Another old girl and daughter of Harare Circle's President, Rob Demblon took photographs.

In Zimbabwe the Jesuits alone administer to over 25 Catholic institutions, which gives Harare Circle a target of distributing nearly 3,000 rosaries a year. The circle Rosary Project Committee's intention is to target all Catholic institutions in the country. In May 2019 the committee distributed to a third school, St Ignatius College at Chishawasha, just outside Harare.

Members of Harare Circle pray the Rosary after Mass at St George's College on the last Sunday of each month.

**October 2019 Tour to Southern Africa - all welcome**  
**New Director for Development Areas John Rayer** (a Past Grand President) will be touring the African circles in October, spending two days attending meetings and local events in each city: Johannesburg 5 - 6 October, Bulawayo 7 - 8 October, Harare 9 - 11 October. Ongoing tours are at the discretion of individual tourists. DDA John will present **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary certificates** to Bulawayo Circle 187 and Harare Circle 188, in 1959 the first circles inaugurated outside the UK; also, a **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary certificate and medallion** to Brother Arthur Douie of Harare Circle. Two delegates will attend the respective Bulawayo and Harare Circle meetings **from Morogoro in Tanzania** on a reciprocal fact finding tour as a prelude to a group or circle being formed in that city. Past SAVAC Chairman Clemence Muzondo and current Chairman Kim Robertson visited Morogoro in January 2019 and were satisfied that this opportunity would be a success. Contact Gerry Barton for further information.

# Learn to "say" as well as to "pray"

Contributed and written by Keith Morgan,  
Canning Circle  
Province 20 Provincial President

Reading the article *Pause for Hope* (Catena, March 2019) has inspired me to write this article. I have just spent four days with an Indian lay preacher who preaches in many places through the world aside from his native India. I was given short notice to coordinate his visit to Perth, so I have in my possession copies of his authority to preach from the Vicar General and the Auxiliary Bishop of Perth. His visit was a whirlwind in which I saw many people, some with serious complaints, healed on the spot and others where there was no immediate change.

I saw one lady with serious back injuries who had suffered for ten years actually get to her feet and dance. Two days later she was still fine and had taken no painkillers. I saw an old lady who had not walked in 12 years walk around the church. Like many others who came forward for healing, they had both prayed for a number of years to no avail. For those who doubt such events are really part of our modern reality I suggest you type **JCILM (YouTube)** in your favourite search engine and explore some of these events in places such as Ireland, India, Australia and Dubai. I can, of course, not state how or why these people are healed, but I may be able to offer some insight having taken in much from my visitor and completed some further reading.

My preacher friend argues that Jesus tells people to "say" not "pray" when it comes to outing sickness. This applies to both individual's petitions to God and when the elders of the Church come, and as directed in scripture, lay their hands on sick people so that they will recover. There are four factors at work here: speaking, believing (faith), receiving and forgiving.

### Speaking

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus says: "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." In Mark 11:23, Jesus says: "Truly I tell you that if anyone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and has no doubt in his heart but believes that it will happen, it will be done for him." Luke 17:6 states that the Lord answered: "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, be uprooted and planted in the sea and it will obey you."

In Mark's Gospel Jesus cursed the fig tree and it withered. Jesus did not pray. He used His authority; such authority we now hold by His death and resurrection. In Matthew 18:18, Jesus tell His followers: "Truly I tell you whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Thus we have both the power and the authority in the name of Jesus to command any affliction to be cast out. Jesus took care of our mountains and fig trees when He spoke His last words on the cross: "It is finished." Therefore, it's not about us, it's about Christ. Healing is about knowing who we are in Him. Healing about putting our faith in His power and ability. Wellness is about speaking out loud and in Jesus' name, cursing our particular fig tree and commanding the mountain in question to move.

### Believing

James 1:6: "We must ask in faith, without doubting because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." We know from Romans 10:17 that "Consequently faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word about Christ. Faith cometh by hearing and reading (out loud) the Word of God." So what do we do if, after we curse the fig tree, it's still there? The answer is simple: we just constantly thank God for removing our fig tree. This is called faith. If things still go wrong it may be because our emotions still control us.

We must, however, believe in the unseen, not the facts we are presented with by our senses. "We must walk by faith not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). What we see may change but our faith in God must remain firm. We must know who we are in Christ, the authority He has given us and what God has promised us; this is our faith. When we put our faith in God's power, might and ability, we can confidently open our mouths and curse our fig tree and command our mountain to move. If we continue speaking the Word in the name of Jesus, the fig tree must go.

### Receiving

Jesus said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). So, is God more blessed by receiving from us or giving to us? God gets pleasure from giving to us. He cares far more about what we are willing to receive from Him than what we give to Him. It is our pride that stops us receiving from God: pride comes from our deception that we can be self-sufficient. We focus on the facts that can change (i.e. technology and medical facts instead of on the unseen, the spiritual world), we fail to humble ourselves before God and acknowledge our needs, His goodness and open our hearts to receive from Him. "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Without receiving from God, we have nothing to give back to Him.

There is nothing that we can give to God or any 'thing' in our environment that we did not receive from Him first. *"Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father who created all the lights in the heavens"* (James 1:17). As we believe God and receive from His goodness, we are receiving His love; we are receiving Him. The more of His grace we accept, the more we know Him, and we know that He is good. Do we receive everything we ask for? Absolutely not.

Therefore let us think about our old question: what do answers to prayer depend on? They rely on us asking for the right things. 1 John 5:14 is the most authoritative text on this matter: "If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." The right things to ask for are things that accord with God's will. "Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done" (Mark 14:36). Jesus also said: "Whatever you ask in prayer believe that you have received it and it will be yours." He meant whatever we ask for that accords with God's will, will be ours, if we believe we have already received it. In the case of healing that could take days, weeks or months to appear.

### Forgiving

In the Lord's Prayer, one of the most important prayers in Christianity, Jesus teaches us about forgiveness. It shows clearly that unless we forgive others, God will not forgive us; it is the responsibility of humankind to forgive sins. Jesus gave the disciples the commandment to go out, teach and forgive sins. "If you forgive the sins of any, they have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:23). Just as God sent His son to forgive sins, so Jesus has passed that commandment on to all His followers. After the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, Peter asks Jesus how often he should forgive: "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often





should I forgive? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him: “Not seven times, but I tell you seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:21-22). At that time, it was a vast number, difficult by most to comprehend; it teaches us that forgiveness is not a one-time action. If someone asks for forgiveness many times over, it is the duty of the individual to forgive them.

The teaching on forgiveness in Matthew’s Gospel continues with Christ making it clear that in order to be forgiven humans must forgive others: “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:14-15). Thus we turn to Christ and receive His forgiveness; we experience a heart change (Luke 9:23; Acts 1:8). Rather than continue on the self-centered path that led us astray from Him to begin with, the forgiven can walk in God’s path (Luke 14:27).

A move toward God is a move toward righteousness, purity and holy living (1 Peter 1:16; Romans 8:29). If we have not forgiven all the grudges that we hold and made peace with God we may not be healed; often when Jesus healed He told the patient: “Go, your sins are forgiven.” Jesus links sin with sickness and forgiveness of sins can be linked to physical health. The story of Jesus healing the paralysed man carried by his friends is found in three of the gospels, Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26. In all three accounts Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven *before* He healed him.

**Summary**

In Matthew 11:28 Jesus commands us: “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” When we seek rest from pain, sickness, the road to death or mental struggle there are various remedies available: prayer, the Sacraments, conventional Western medicine, technology and alternative medicine. All individually or in any personally chosen combination offer the sufferer alternatives to relieve their suffering. My experience now tells me one powerful way to resolve health issues is to tell (speak) to say out loud “I curse that sickness (e.g. gout or renal failure) that is in *[name of person]* right now in the name of Jesus and I declare before heaven and earth that *[name of person]* is completely healed by the wounds of Jesus. Lord, You have declared it; I have believed it and I thank You in Jesus’ name.

You have the authority to do that based on the Word of God. Believe it will happen; build up your faith by listening to and reading (out loud) scripture and accounts of past and current miracles. Be prepared to receive all that our God offers in abundance knowing He will always give what is best for us. Know it has already been given and paid for. Forgive all who have ever offended you including yourself, realising this is the only way you can receive fully and completely what the Father wishes to give you. Where emotions are blocking forgiveness, be thankful for any positive aspects of your life while you are going through a difficult time. Live in peace knowing that Jesus said: “For God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

**Contributed and written by Keith Morgan  
Canning Circle  
Province 20 Provincial President**

**Claude Byron  
1937 –  
2019**

Members of Como Circle mourn the loss of their Brother Claude Byron who was a member of the Catenian Association for over 25 years forging life-long friends, many of whom were present at his Mass of Thanksgiving held at St Pius X Catholic Church in Manning on 10 June 2019, along with family and friends.

Claude was born in 1937, the first-born son of Claude and Mary Byron. His early years were quite traumatic, living in a period that included the outbreak of the Second World War that meant his family was uprooted and evacuated to the Philippines and his father was made a prisoner of war at Stanley prison where he remained until 1945.

Reunited after the war, the family migrated to Australia in 1950, initially to Sydney and then to Perth where they settled in Highgate before moving to Bedford Park to establish their new home. Claude was enrolled at Aquinas College for the third term in 1950 graduating in 1954. Finishing school he studied pharmacy, working in the city for a while before moving to Katanning for six months, then to Geraldton before returning to the family home after his mother passed away.

During this time, Claude met Margaret who he fell in love with and identified as his life partner. They married in 1965 and were together for 54 years.

Fatherhood became the next chapter of Claude and Margaret’s lives and life took on a whole new meaning with the arrival of Paul and Julia. In his eulogy at Claude’s Mass of Thanksgiving, Paul reflected on a happy home. “Dad truly enjoyed the company of our friends,” Paul said, “and it meant a lot to Julia and I because we had many friends who were always happy to visit our home.”

“With the introduction of David and Rose into the family, Dad’s love grew to embrace both of our partners into the fold. I’m sure if you asked David and Rose it would be safe to say that Dad treated them both like one of us and was very proud of them.”

The next chapter of Claude’s life was when he became a grandfather with the birth of Grace followed by Charlie then Eliza. His grandchildren became the most important people in his life.

Claude was a proud man who was incredibly well respected in all circles of life. As the local pharmacist in Attadale for over 30 years he was well known by the community. Everyone who walked through the pharmacy door was greeted with a happy face. He was a professional who showed concern and wanted to look after his customers.

Claude will be remembered always as a true, loyal and caring person with a great love for his wife, Margaret and his extended family; a man who, wherever he went in life left great and lasting memories.

**Rest in Peace**



**Vince Sgro  
1935 – 2019**



Members of Canning Circle were saddened by the passing of their brother, Vince Sgro on 18 April 2019. His Requiem Mass was held at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church on Wednesday 1 May 2019, celebrated by Father Francis Ughanze.

He will be sadly missed by brothers of Canning Circle where he was a member for seven years. Vince was born on 15 September 1935, the youngest of four children. During the war years his father was interned and Vince, like many others at that time, moved to the country to be away from the port of Fremantle, which was considered to be a high-risk area.

The last five years of his schooling were as a boarder at Aquinas College. Vince loved school and was a very bright student, but after the passing of his father he left school at the age of 15 to work in the family business Oceania Trading Exchange and Oceania Providoring with his brother and sister. Vince put his heart and soul into the business, partly in memory of his father but also to provide for his family. At one time or another his wife, Fay and each of his children worked in the business.

Vince was a very quiet and unassuming man with a love of all things fast including a Triumph Thunderbird 650 motorbike and a Vauxhall Vagabond two-door soft top. However, his real love arrived in May 1955 in the shape of a shy country girl called Fay Treloar from Wagin. They met on a blind date organised by Fay’s aunt and were married at St Patrick’s in Fremantle on 11 October 1958.

Vince and Fay had four children; Leanne, Annette, Paul (deceased) and Grant. They built their family home in Bicton and have lived there ever since. Fay and family are very proud of the contribution Vince made to the community. He was a long-term member of the Fremantle Rotary Club and Paul Harris Fellow recipient, MC of the Fremantle Blessing of the Fleet from 1975 to 2002, a foundation member of the Fremantle Italian Club, an Italian Village Fremantle committee member and a life member of the Fremantle Roosters Rugby League Club.

Vince had a great love for all things that grow with a special affection for his vineyard that was started by his father many years ago. He spent many hours in the vineyard producing his *Don Conto* port.

His family will forever remember Vince for the unconditional love he gave them and their mother. What an incredible role model he has been for them and their families.

Nothing gave Vince more pride and joy than his seven grandchildren who are united in saying that he was a very “present Poppy” who showed genuine care and interest in their lives and careers. They, like everyone else, say that they will miss his great sense of humour, his wisecracks and how he always made them feel that they were his favourite even though they all knew that he spread his enormous love evenly.

**Jack Boyle  
1946 – 2019**

Swan Valley Circle members attended the Requiem Mass of their brother, Jack Boyle at St Brigid’s Catholic Church in Midland on 30 April 2019. Jack joined the circle two years ago in March 2017, but failing health prevented him from attending meetings in recent times. He will be remembered as a quiet unassuming man always caring and generous to others.

Born in Victoria on 25 July 1946, Jack grew up in Preston, a very tough neighbourhood in Melbourne’s southern suburbs. His parents separated when he was very young and Jack and his mother, Grace moved house quite regularly as she often had to change jobs. As a result Jack frequently had to change schools.

At the age of ten Jack moved in and was cared for by his grandparents who were quite poor and he completed his education at Salesian College, Rupertswood in Sunbury about 40 minutes drive north-west of Melbourne. The Salesian Order charism meant that underprivileged boys were included as boarders.

Rupertswood was an agricultural school and boarding there shaped the way Jack lived later in life. He had seven horses at one time and found a great sense of serenity in their company. He completed horse carer and equestrian studies and has a large collection of blue ribbons for the first places he earned in various competitions.

Jack was a talented sportsman. At Rupertswood he captained the basketball, football and athletics teams and he later went on to represent Australia in the B basketball team and he also raced against Peter Norman, an Australian track athlete who won the silver medal in the 200 metres in the 1968 summer Olympics in Mexico City.

He played football for a number of clubs including his beloved North Melbourne (now known as the Kangaroos) where he played a few practice games at the clubs Arden Street home ground in Melbourne. A few years ago when he returned to the old ground he was able to point out to his son, Andrew the very spot from where he claimed to have kicked a 70-metre torpedo goal.

After Rupertswood, Jack went to teachers college, later moving into the fitness industry where he met some life-long friends. With his love of sport and teacher training, managing gyms and being a trainer was quite appropriate. He then went into door-to-door sales, which led to him opening his own office equipment business.

In a eulogy delivered at Jack’s Requiem Mass, Andrew said that when it came to work his father was very thorough and professional. “It’s a real testament to Dad,” Andrew said, “that everything he had was born of his own hard work. Nothing was gifted to him.”

“Despite his tough childhood Dad crafted himself a fulfilling life. He was always a positive, happy person who lived in the present and never dwelled on the past,” Andrew said.







# CIRCLE ROUNDUP

CONTRIBUTED ITEMS & PHOTOGRAPHS

## Avon Valley

### Taking over the leadership reins

Avon Valley stalwart, Clinton Richter was installed as President at the Annual General Meeting of the circle in April 2019, taking over from Ben Paul who has been experiencing health issues.

The leadership responsibility is nothing new to Clinton who joined Avon Valley Circle in March 2000, taking over as President soon afterwards and serving for many years as Treasurer. He was President when Avon Valley Circle celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2006.

Joint member, Terry O'Neill, whose home circle is Swan Valley, has taken over the role of Vice President for 2019/20, Brian Webb will continue on as Secretary and Stan Tumak is Treasurer.



**Retiring President, Ben Paul (right) congratulates Clinton Richter at Avon Valley's Annual General Meeting**

Clinton is a Western Australian, born to a family that came from South Australia. Farming south of Grass Valley, he married a girl named Eva Lettenmeier and they have four children, two boys and two girls.

Grass Valley is a small townsite located 13 kilometres east of Northam named after a local property of the same name established in 1833 by William Nairn. With a population of less than 400, the post office in the town is reputed to be the smallest in Australia, but the town boasts an excellent tavern dating back to the golden days of a once-important railhead on the Northam to Kalgoorlie line.

Although conceding that he doesn't have a great voice, Clinton enjoys singing and is fascinated by ballroom dancing. He also plays that devilish card game, *Bridge* once a week with a group in Northam.

### "Dancing" again



**Carmel and Bernie Moore**

Avon Valley Brother Bernie Moore is active again following several months of medical issues with his legs. Bernie was admitted to hospital ostensibly to have a stent in his leg artery when his surgeon informed him that he would need to amputate an infected toe before it became a major foot problem.

Considering all the problems he had to endure over the past two years, he has now recovered and is looking great.

The above photo was taken in December 2016 showing Bernie with his little leprechaun wife, Carmel, an Irish lass that he married on 1 January "years ago."

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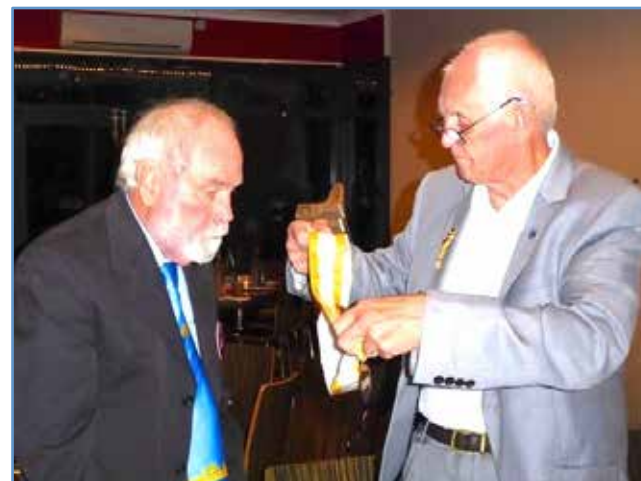
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## Bouvard

### Hierarchy changes at AGM

Bouvard Circle's Annual General Meeting and Installation night at Café Coast, Port Bouvard on Tuesday 16 April 2019 resulted in several changes to Council with Max Gardiner again taking on the role of President backed up by Peter Brown who was installed as Vice President. Paul Hodgson has taken on the onerous task of Welfare Officer previously held by Peter Brown and Con Schaper retains his position as Bouvard's representative on Provincial Council.



**New President, Max Gardiner is presented with his insignia of office from Immediate Past President, Con Schaper**

A good attendance of members and wives, visitors from other circles and parishioners from St Damien's Parish Dawesville resulted in a very successful and enjoyable evening.

Special guests were Provincial President, Keith Morgan and his wife, Colleen (Canning Circle) making their first ever visit to Bouvard Circle.

During dinner Keith addressed the gathering, highlighting the current and ongoing focus of Provincial Council on increasing Catenian membership. He also encouraged members to provide input into the Catenian Association Strategy Working Group's recommendations resulting from position papers that had been previously been made available to all members.



**City of Mandurah Circle visitor, Mike Seeber with newly installed Vice President, Peter Brown**

### New member installed

Newly installed President, Max Gardiner extended a very warm welcome to Gerry Marshall and his wife, Bernie at Bouvard Circle's Annual General Meeting dinner at Café Coast on 16 April 2019. Gerry was enrolled as a new member of the circle at the AGM.

Gerry and Bernie are actively involved in various roles and voluntary tasks at St Damien's Parish in Dawesville.

In welcoming them, Max said that their involvement, past experience and ideas would undoubtedly influence the future direction and success of the circle.



**Left to right: New member, Gerry Marshall, Mike Seeber (City of Mandurah Circle) and Vice President, Peter Brown**

### President's Charity

Bouvard Catenians have supported a variety of needy charities since the circle's inauguration in 2005 by the allocation of money donated by members to the circle's President's Charity Fund.

This year's worthy recipient was announced at the circle's Annual General Meeting by retiring President, Con Schaper who congratulated Kaye Seeber of Mandurah's "Mum's Cottage".

In presenting the circle's cheque, Con congratulated Kaye and her band of volunteers for their commitment and encouraged them to continue with their good work.



**Retiring President, Con Schaper presents a cheque from Bouvard Circle's President's Charity to Kaye Seeber, representing "Mum's Cottage" in Mandurah**





## Bouvard hosts joint meeting

Thirty-three brothers, visitors and guests attended a joint meeting of the two Mandurah-based circles on Tuesday 21 May 2019 hosted by Bouvard Circle. City of Mandurah brothers didn't have to travel far for the meeting and barbecue dinner held at St Damien of Molokai Catholic parish centre in Dawesville, south of Mandurah.

Visiting brothers were Provincial President, Keith Morgan and Ralph Ditton (Canning Circle) and Steve Williamson (Swan Valley Circle) and St Damien Parish Priest, Father Vincent Comple joined members after the meeting for dinner.

A splendid array of salads complimented a delicious barbecue meal; all prepared and presented by the brothers and wives of Bouvard Circle.



Meeting in progress, presided by Max Gardiner (Bouvard) and Colin Purcell (City of Mandurah)



"Tucking in", St Damien Parish Priest, Vincent Comple (left) and Peter Wilson (Bouvard Circle)

## City of Busselton

### Peter Ball's faith journey

City of Busselton Founder Brother Peter Ball and his wife Judith were given a very warm welcome at the circle's Annual General Meeting and luncheon held at the Esplanade Hotel in Busselton on Sunday 28 April 2019. Peter hasn't been able to attend circle meetings for the past few years during his long fight with cancer, requiring hospitalisation and extensive home treatment.

Peter spoke with emotion and sincerity at the meeting, thanking brothers for their support and prayers. He said that his strong faith and the prayers offered by his Catenian brothers had given him inner strength and courage during his long illness.



President George Bazzica pictured with his close friend and fellow brother, Peter Ball at the City of Busselton Annual General Meeting

### A new beginning



The Busselton "Koffee Klub"

Sunday 26 May 2019 was the start of a new beginning for City of Busselton members and wives with the launch of a Catenian "Koffee Klub". Brothers, wives and friends gathered at the Goose Restaurant on the recently redeveloped foreshore for a social tea, coffee and cake. Circle President, George Bazzica emphasised that this was purely a social gathering designed to keep brothers in contact with each other.

## Canning

### Plenty happening at ladies night

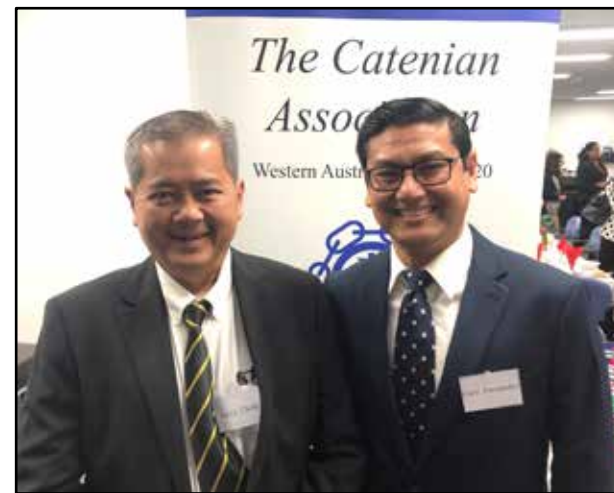
There's always a lot to look forward to at a Canning Circle meeting and dinner. The meeting and ladies night held at Wings Restaurant, Air Force Memorial Association in Bullcreek on Thursday 23 May 2019 was no exception with two new brothers installed, plenty of presentations and a wonderful guest speaker, Father Ebode Hyginus of the Willeton Parish.



A section of the large crowd of brothers and wives addressed by Father Ebode Hyginus (standing left) at Canning's May dinner

Canning has been at the forefront in Province 20 in the challenge for member recruitment with another two brothers, Leslie Cheah and Gary Fernandez welcomed into the circle at the May meeting. The circle's change in recruitment success has been credited to the acceptance that all brothers share the responsibility equally, not just the nominated Membership Officer. The circle has also found that a personal approach to potential members is more successful than addressing parish Masses.

The focus on the recruitment of new members was rewarded with the installation of five new brothers in 2018. Canning is likely to be a serious contender for the coveted annual Kevin Brady award presented to the Province 20 circle that recruits the most new members in the 12 months ended 30 September each year, currently held by the City of Mandurah Circle.



New members: Leslie Cheah (left) and Dr. Gary Fernandez

Leslie Cheah was born in Johor Bahru, the capital of the Malaysian state of Johor that sits at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. He attended primary school at St Johns Primary 2 in Kuala Lumpur and secondary school at St Johns Institution also in Kuala Lumpur.

Leslie attained a Diploma in Accounting and Company Secretarial and has had a career in the finance industry for most of

his working life, starting in treasury dealing moving to offshore banking, financial futures broking and finally fund management.

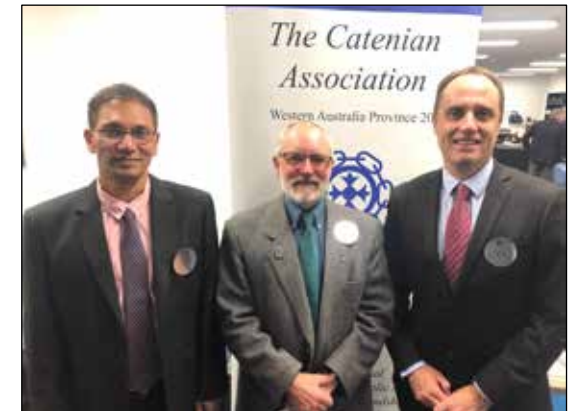
Leslie says that he met his wife, Irene a long, long time ago in a college far, far away (to the Star Wars theme). They were married in Kuala Lumpur in 1998, celebrating with a beach party in Penang, Malaysia. They have five children, three girls and two boys. During their married life Leslie and Irene lived in Kuala Lumpur, then Penang and back to Kuala Lumpur before moving to Perth.

In his earlier days, Leslie admits to being a "motor head" with a passion for cars and motor bikes, but these days enjoys just hanging out with family and friends and sharing an enjoyable meal.

Leslie was invited by Canning Brother, Ken Patterson to attend a circle meeting and was impressed with the warm welcome and the strong spirit of fellowship and friendship of circle members.



Welfare and Hospitality Officer, Doug Williams presented gifts to the wives of the two new brothers, Celeste Fernandez (left) and Irene Cheah



Canning's new President, Russell Godsall (right), Vice President, Nalin Perera (left) and outgoing President, Alex Munut (centre)



Russell Godsall making a presentation to the guest speaker at Canning's May 2019 ladies night, Father Ebode Hyginus (Willeton Parish)

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**Canning (continued)**



*Welfare and Hospitality Officer, Doug Williams presenting gifts to the outgoing President's wife, Laura Munut, the outgoing Vice President's wife, Shaline Perera and incoming President's wife, Joanne Godsall*



*Ladies, Anne Iliffe and Pauline Whitby receiving Certificate of Thanks and gifts presented by Doug Williams*

**Anzac Day 2019**



Doug Williams (right) pictured with one of his army mates, Wayne Walker at the Cannington War Memorial at the City of Canning's Civic Centre on ANZAC Day, 25 April 2019.

**A veritable chocolate feast**

The Canning Welfare and Hospitality Officer, Doug Williams was in fine form distributing a huge quantity of goodies at the circle's meeting and ladies night held at Wings Restaurant Bullcreek on Thursday 25 July 2019.

It was another fantastic evening of good Catholic fellowship and excellent camaraderie, all the more enjoyable because of the banquet of fine chocolates provided by Doug.



*Cliff Chalon couldn't get enough chocolates*



*John Miles and Ralph Ditton*



*Meagan Scanlan and Jenean Ditton*

**Como**

**Como capers**



*Left to right: Desmond and Ione Cooray and Michael and Geraldine Taylor at the Como Circle on Tuesday 14 May 2019*

Michael Taylor was installed as President of Como at the circles Annual General Meeting and Installation ladies night held at Wings Restaurant, Bullcreek on 2 April 2019 taking over from retiring President, Maurice Kilroe. Desmond Cooray is the President's Marshall.



*Left to right: Como President, Michael Taylor with Anne and Maurice Kilroe (Immediate Past President)*

On behalf of the circle, President Michael Taylor presented Anne and Maurice Kilroe with a small gift to mark their golden wedding anniversary celebrated earlier this year.

**Impressive presentation by scholarship winner**

Ashleigh Habkhouk, the inaugural recipient of the Catenian Charity Inc. scholarship was the guest speaker at the dinner that followed Como Circle's meeting on Tuesday 14 May 2019. Ashleigh made a lasting impression on members and their wives describing her achievements, her involvement in various groups as a volunteer and her goals for the future.

In 2018 the Catenian Charity awarded Ashleigh its inaugural scholarship of \$5,000 per annum for the duration of her studies towards a degree as a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle Campus. She commenced her studies at Notre Dame in mid-2016 reading Biomedical Science to provide her with the necessary fundamental knowledge that is useful in medical school and in the second year of her studies in 2018 her results were outstanding.

Ashleigh said that she was enormously thankful to the members of the Catenian Association for awarding her with the scholarship and for the continued generosity and kindness that she has received.

"It has brought me closer to God as well as inspiring me to engage in acts of charity at my own capacity," she said.

Ashleigh has willingly made herself available to be the guest speaker at several Province 20 circle meetings this year despite her heavy workload at university.



*Ashleigh Habkhouk pictured with Frank O'Connor (Como's Membership Officer and Provincial Councillor) and President, Michael Taylor*

**New and "not so new" members**

There were good reasons for a double celebration at Como's May 2019 meeting.

The circle extended a warm welcome to a new brother, Gary Caulfield who was installed at the meeting and Brian Jarvis, Tony Parentich and Jack Katnic were acknowledged for their 25 years or more of membership. A similar 25-year membership certificate was presented in November 2018 to Brian Jarvis who was a Founder Member of Como Circle.



*Left to right: Brian Jarvis, Tony Parentich, Gary Caulfield, Peter Cox and Jack Katnic*





# Dianella

## Eventful installation night

Dianella brothers and wives enjoyed a very eventful and interesting evening at the Mt Lawley Golf Club on 24 April 2019, the night before Anzac Day.

Brother Lou Daily commenced formalities by announcing that he would be standing down from the position of circle President due to his appointment as Vice President of the Province 20 Provincial Council.

His place as president was taken over by Vern Scanlan who was the circle Secretary and Brian Niedzwiecki has filled that vacancy. Vern was installed by retiring President, Lou at the start of the meeting followed by Brian, installed by the incoming President.



Installation of President, left to right: Chamberlain George Bartoli, Vern Scanlan, Brian Niedzwiecki (in the background) and Lou Daily



Installation of Secretary, left to right: George Bartoli, Brian Niedzwiecki, Vern Scanlan and Lou Daily

To get the new Catenian year off to a positive start, incoming President Vern Scanlan announced that a new brother, Ross Romeo would be installed in the near future. Vern said that Ross had already attended a few meetings and had decided to join.

The formal dinner that followed the meeting began with the reciting of the *Anzac Day Ode* by Noel Ashcroft before the gathering of about 55 brothers and wives were seated for an enjoyable dinner and evening.

During the evening President, Vern Scanlan presented Carl Pizzolante with a certificate in recognition of his 25 years as a member of Dianella Circle.

“Carl’s wife, Josephine insisted that she be included in the photo commemorating the occasion,” writes the Dianella Publicity Officer, Norm Thompson. “We all know the secret of being a good husband is by never saying no to your wife,” he said.



Josephine and Carl Pizzolante and Vern Scanlan

Norm Thompson writes: “At Dianella we always like to keep in touch with our circle widows, so an invitation to attend the installation dinner was extended to Leeola Loughnan, wife of the late Terry Loughnan.”

“Unbeknown to Leeola we were aware that her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday would occur on the week following the meeting. Peter Kora made a special presentation to Leeola with a gift of her favourite liqueur, Baileys Irish Cream. Leeola was overwhelmed to think that we would remember her special day.”



A delighted Leeola Loughnan with her gift presented by Peter Kora

## Sometimes things are just made to happen

A very special highlight of the joint meeting between Dianella and Swan Valley Circles on 5 June 2019 was an auction of two works of art painted by Swan Valley Circle member David Martlew.

Dianella Circle Brother Bob Burns was the very determined and successful bidder for one of the paintings, a landscape of The Holy Trinity Church on Rottnest Island. The church is located on a hill overlooking Thompson’s Bay.



Bob said that sometimes things are just made to happen. He explained that the painting has a very special family connection to the Rottnest Church.

He explained that his daughter-in-law lived on the island during her childhood and she and Bob’s son were married on the mainland by the late Monsignor Sean O’Shea, the much-loved Chaplain of Rottnest who served the island community and holiday makers for over 50 years.

Subsequently two of Bob’s grandsons were baptised by Monsignor O’Shea at The Holy Trinity Church several years apart; occasions that were accompanied by memorable family gatherings on the island.

Bob said that the painting will be a unique reminder of the connection and will take pride of place in their home.

The proceeds of the auction are for the benefit of the Swan Valley’s President’s Charity, which supports a local group assisting disadvantaged single mothers.

## Another new brother for Dianella

President, Vern Scanlan, enrolled Ross Romeo into the Dianella Circle on 24 April 2019. Ross is a true Western Australian, born in the southwest town of Harvey where he attended primary school before moving to Bunbury High School, then he completed his tertiary education at the Mt Lawley Teachers Training College where he qualified as a teacher.



Ross worked for the Education Department, was promoted to School Principal and served at various locations throughout the State before taking retirement after 39 years with the department.

Left: Ross Romeo

Ross is a parishioner of St Mary’s Catholic Church in Leederville where he serves as an acolyte, particularly at the Italian Mass. He also provides services to the sick and housebound on a regular basis; a very committed supporter of people in need.

Ross is a keen sportsman having played and coached hockey along with some football and basketball over a 54-year period before retiring and taking on the gentlemen’s game of golf.

Ross has been a keen traveller having visited many countries in Europe and the United Kingdom making contact with relatives of both his parents as well as a pilgrimage to Italy and the Holy Land. One of the very unique events he has ever experienced was attending a Tamil wedding in India. He said that it was a real eye-opener to experience the detail put into such a special family event.

## Contributions wanted

The pages of the *Western Link* are open for contributions from all circles and members of the Catenian Association. Articles about circle activities are particularly sought, but personal travel experiences and other family pieces or items of general interest, including photos, are also wanted. Please help.

Editor: [menzies01@hotmail.com](mailto:menzies01@hotmail.com)

# Fremantle

## Celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday



Frank and Judy Humphris

Fremantle Circle Brother Frank Humphris celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with family and friends at an afternoon tea function in April 2019 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish Centre in Palmyra.

Frank was born on 25 April 1939 in Maryborough in central Victoria about 170 kilometres northwest of Melbourne. He completed primary school at the Brigidine Convent in Maryborough and his secondary education at the Castlemaine High School in Victoria, leaving school at the age of 15 to work at the Victorian Electricity Commission. While working there he studied accounting at the Castlemaine Technical School. He moved to Perth in 1970 and it was here that he met Judy at the Catholic Social Club in Leederville.

Frank and Judy were married on 3 April 1971 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Palmyra; the ceremony officiated by then Bishop Barry Hickey. They have two daughters and two granddaughters.

When he moved to Perth, Frank worked with the Pacific Motor Company, part of Metro Industries where he first met Jeff DeSilva who was the auditor and now a member of the Catenian Association, Canning and Fremantle Circles. In his later working life, Frank operated a lawn mowing business and worked as a gardener until his retirement at the age of 60.

Frank and Judy are active members of St Benedicts Catholic Parish in Applecross. Frank joined Fremantle Circle in 1982 and has served on several Council positions including twice as President, four years as Vice President, Provincial Councillor for seven years and Chamberlain for six years.

## Warm welcome to new brother

Members of Fremantle Circle were delighted to welcome Michael and Kim Yap at the April 2019 meeting at which Michael was installed. Michael and Kim were initially introduced to the circle by committed Catenian, Ged Kerrigan and his wife, Margaret.

Michael was a Shift Controller in the Shell refinery in Singapore and later the Head of Operations in the lubricants blending and grease manufacturing plant in Singapore with 22 years of service.

In 1991 Michael and Kim immigrated to Perth from Singapore with their family. On his arrival Wesfarmers LPG employed Michael as a Shift Controller and Shut Down Planner in the companies gas extraction plant in Kwinana until his retirement in August 2018. Kim is a retired registered nurse trained in ophthalmic and theatre nursing.





**Fremantle (continued)**

Michael and Kim have two children. Their daughter works in a bank and lives in Singapore and their son is a veterinarian who works and lives in Sydney. They have been blessed with two granddaughters and a grandson.

They now look forward to travelling in their retirement. They both play golf at the Royal Fremantle Golf Club where they are members. Kim also loves to play Bridge and attends the Melville Bridge Club twice a week.

"I am grateful to Ged Kerrigan for introducing me to the Catenian Association," Michael said. "I wish to strengthen my connection with God and serve where I am required. I feel a strong connection with the Fremantle Catenian Circle and admire the close knit brotherhood and the sense of service among members," he said.



*Michael and Kim Yap pictured with Fremantle Circle President, Richard Finucane*

**Elite sportsman the "star" at joint meeting**

A special guest speaker at a joint meeting of Fremantle and Como Circles held at the Swan Valley Yacht Club on 18 July 2019 was Harry Neesham; a household name in two sports.

Australian Rules football supporters remember Harry for his



outstanding contribution to the East Fremantle Football club (the Sharks) in the WANFL, but his water polo achievements are equally as impressive.

A senior water polo premiership player at the tender age of 13, he was a gold medalist at the Australian Masters Games and a Silver medalist at the World Masters Games in 2008. Harry was awarded the Beaurepaire Trophy for services to water polo and elected a life member of both the Melville Water Polo Club and the Western Australian Water Polo Association.

East Fremantle football supporters over the years have been fortunate enough to witness a plethora of players with the mantle of champion, legend or star. Harry Neesham is a player whose name would be well known by any Shark worth their salt. He played only 76 games of league football and never took the field for Western Australia, but football followers never saw the best of his talents. A shattered ankle while serving as a National Service soldier in Vietnam effectively ended his career before it barely

started. Although he eventually returned to the game, his playing career was effectively over at the age of 24.

Although his achievements on the sporting field are legendary, it was Harry's lengthy talk on his experiences as a veteran of the Vietnam War that caught the attention of Fremantle and Como brothers at the July joint meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer at the Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Commission where he was employed for 23 years, Harry Neesham is now retired, but continues to lead a busy life and is a tireless worker for charity. He is a volunteer with *Charity Link*; a fund raising organisation for a host of charities and is also on the board of the Clontarf Foundation, which exists to improve the education, discipline, life skills and self-esteem and employment prospects of young indigenous men and by so doing equips them to participate more meaningfully in society.

Members of both Catenian circles joined to thank Harry for his excellent presentation.

Proceeds of a raffle conducted at the meeting were donated to the Province 20 Youth Support Fund.



*Pictured at the joint meeting, left to right: Pat McManus (Como), Alex Banovich (Fremantle), Brian Lillis (Como), Dick Finucane (Fremantle) and Michael Taylor (Como)*

**Roleystone – Dwellingup excursion**

The Fremantle Circle ladies took the initiative to organise a day trip in July visiting country towns in the Darling Ranges at the doorstep of Perth.

With Alex Banovich driving the hired bus, the first stop for morning tea was at Roleystone with avocados, home-made scones, local jam and cream the call of the day.

The final destination was Dwellingup, located in the hills east of Pinjarra; a charming old-world country town that was once the centre of a thriving timber industry. The local community hotel organised a traditional "Christmas in July" dinner. President Richard Finucane was in fine form on the return journey to Perth providing song sheets and leading a lively sing-a-long.



*Christmas in July at the Dwellingup Community Hotel*

**Joondalup**

**Long service recognised at AGM**

The dedicated long service of two brothers, Jim Doherty and John Hollywood was recognised by the presentation of Catenian Association miniatures by retiring President, Barry Webb at the Joondalup Circle Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 18 April 2019.

Jim has served at the circle's Chamberlain for many years and is continuing in that role in 2019/20.



*Barry Webb (right) congratulates Jim Doherty*

John Hollywood has served as the circle's Membership Officer for three years.



*Barry Webb congratulates John Hollywood*

Barry Webb has been a loyal and committed servant of Joondalup Circle since its inception in 2005 holding the position of Secretary for several years and the dual role of President and Secretary in 2018/19, notwithstanding that his home circle is Liwara and he is a joint member of Joondalup.

He now retires as President, but will continue on as Secretary in 2019/20 and shares the role of Vice President with John Monkhouse in the absence of anyone else taking up the job.

Incoming President, Peter Johnston presented Barry's wife, Elizabeth with a floral arrangement in recognition of the support she has given to Barry, not only in the past year, but also for many years beforehand.



*Elizabeth Webb and Peter Johnston*

A pleasing turnout of 37 brothers and wives attended the Annual General Meeting and dinner at the RAAFA Retirement Village at Cambrai, including widows Merle Reid and Jenny Rea and newly installed Provincial President, Keith Morgan (Canning Circle) and his wife, Colleen.



*Pictured at the AGM dinner, Nick and Vanda Spadaccini with Christine Bank*



*Incoming Joondalup Circle President, Peter Johnston with his wife, Maree*





Pizza night gets a huge ✓

About 20 brothers and wives braved a cold winter night on Friday 21 June 2019 to attend a pizza night at the home of John and Marlene Monkhouse in Kingsley. It was particularly pleasing to welcome widows, Jenny Rea and Merle Reid who continue to be supporters of all circle social functions.

This was the third year that the annual function was hosted by John and Marlene and the informal, relaxed evening is sure to be repeated in the future given the strong support of members.

Guests were fed with nibbly and a delightful range of flavoursome pizzas followed by generous serves of a delicious apple crumble, ice cream and custard.

Thanks to John and Marlene for again providing the venue and organising another outstanding social evening.



Enjoying a relaxing evening, left to right: David Chatel, Mick Doak, Martin Colgan and Andrew Swanson



Left to right: Maree Johnston, Dot Colgan, Elizabeth Webb, Jocelyn Doak, Jenny Rea and Merle Reid



Left to right: Bernadette Croxford, Jean Swanson and Sheila McBride

Winter casserole night a great success

This year, thanks to an anonymous suggestion by a Joondalup Catenian lady, it was decided to hold a casserole night with groups of about eight guests home-hosted in suburbs close-by to their home. The traditional and popular “soup and sweets” event was not possible this year due to problems finding a suitable winter venue to cope with the large number of people. It has for many years been held at the spacious home of Martin and Dot Colgan in Neerabup, but they have recently relocated in the Perth city.

On Saturday evening 10 August 2019, 25 brothers and wives came together at three venues for very enjoyable evenings at the homes of Jocelyn and Mick Doak, Cheryl and David Grieve and Maree and Peter Johnston.

The outstanding success of the evening should ensure that it will become a regular feature on the circle’s social calendar for years to come.



Left to right: Dot Colgan, Maree Johnston, Martin Colgan, Rolf Bank, Barry Webb, Christine Bank, David Chatel and Elizabeth Webb (photo: Peter Johnston)

Standing out from the crowd.

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Liwara

Enjoyable evening of bowls and croquet

A good turnout of 10 Liwara brothers and eight wives enjoyed an evening of lawn bowls and croquet at Percy Doyle Reserve in Sorrento in near perfect autumn weather. The Duncraig Lawn Bowls Club hosted the evening, which was the circle’s second such visit following the inaugural bowls night the previous year.

A choice of either lawn bowls or croquet was on offer, with both options equally popular.

The night concluded with social drinks at the club bar where players were able to mingle and exchange stories about their good and not so good form.

President, Kevin McKersey was so impressed with last year’s event that he joined in as a competitive player, enjoying himself and doing quite well.

The feedback from brothers was very positive, and the event is likely to become a regular feature in the Liwara social calendar. “At least members are ‘biased’ in favour of holding it again,” says Secretary, Tony Ryall.

Thanks are extended to Tony Friedlieb who is a member of the Duncraig Lawn Bowls Club and organised the evening.



Liwara Circle lawn bowlers in action at the Duncraig Lawn Bowls Club at Percy Doyle Reserve in Sorrento

Positive address by Newman College Principal

The Principal of Newman College, John Finneran, treated members at Liwara Circle’s May meeting to an enthusiastic and positive address. Newman College in the Marist tradition caters for boys and girls from pre-kindergarten to Year 12.

John drew on his experience as a student, teacher, principal and in the Catholic Education Office as well as his employment in overseas agencies involved in social justice activities and development plus parish social welfare activities for street kids and the homeless.

“These experiences help explain his deeply nurtured approach to his school and to parish, family and school,” writes Liwara Brother Graham Green.

“His talk was a simulating breath of fresh air, impressive for his realistic acknowledgement of the challenges in an environment where perhaps about only six percent of the nominal Catholic population are involved in parish affairs and his promotion of a positive approach to the students to consider how their faith is relevant to them personally.”

“John emphasised his view that the school’s mission was to present a ‘relational, personal/individual’ approach; a personal one-to-one invitation to reflect on the messages of Jesus and our responses to them,” Graham said.



Steve Halley-Wright thanks John Finneran for his inspiring talk

John Finneran provided the following brief overview of his address for publication in the *Western Link*:

He wrote: “The invitation to bring Jesus Christ into the centre of our lives is as relevant to our community today as it was to the disciples 2000 years ago.”

“Our collective responsibility as determined in the great commission Matthew 28:19 (“go therefore and make disciples”) is to create the space for formation and the experience of engaging Christ. This is how we develop relationships and how we are present to each other. Determining that, it is critical nature in how we reflect on our place in the world in light of scripture, Catholic social teaching, the mission of the Church and our context in the actions and ultimately decisions we make.”

“With this praxis framework as a guide we should feel animated and confident to evangelise and have a voice in society in:

- Upholding Christian values;
- Walking in solidarity. People, particularly families, encouraging engagement in a Eucharistic community;
- Promoting the work of the Catholic Church as a significant contributor to our Australian community as seen through education, health and social justice imperatives;
- Engaging young people to explore their faith through a commitment to sacraments, prayer and community outreach opportunities; and
- Engaging in social and political discourse to preserve manner of life issues”

**John’s presentation concluded with lively discussion, comments and questions from Liwara Circle brothers who seemed to appreciate his perspectives from the inside of the College and its endeavours of its 1900 students.**





Five new brothers so far this year

In a very positive start to 2019/20, Liwara has installed five new brothers, Paul Cranley in March, Claude Coutinho and Jan Gilarski in May, Terry Reilly in June and John Oud in July.



Claude Coutinho and Jan Gilarski

Claude Coutinho was born in 1963 in Malawi in Central Africa where he spent his early childhood before moving to Sierra Leone in West Africa.

To complete his higher education Claude moved to the United Kingdom where he lived at Wimbledon in London, Cheam in Surrey, a couple of years in Pontypridd South in Wales and Newcastle Upon Tyne where he qualified as a BSc (Hon.) Chemical and Process Engineer at the Newcastle University.

Claude said that he spent the best part of his working career in the mineral processing industry in Australia and overseas, primarily involved in the manufacture of titanium dioxide used predominately in the processing of paint and plastics but also in food and cosmetics.

“My career encompassed a number of roles in technical and design as well as plant operations and production management,” Claude said. “I worked at Kemerton near Bunbury before taking a role in the same industry as Process Development Manager in the project and design of a major plant expansion in Saudi Arabia on the coast of the Red Sea. When I returned to Perth I became involved in the area of health and safety and risk management for TiWest in Kwinana, later moving to the fuel industry as Terminal Manager for Gull Petroleum in Kwinana.”

“More recently I have been involved in operating my own business manufacturing specialty chemicals for the cleaning industry as well as roofing compounds and roof paints for the domestic market,” Claude said.

Claude’s wife, Lamai is Thai and comes from a place in Thailand called Pak Chong about two hours drive north east of Bangkok on the outskirts of the largest national park in Thailand. Lamai works at St John of God Hospital in Subiaco. They have three children, Katae, Chloe and Jaeden and two grandsons, Leo and Phoenix.

Claude has been an acolyte at St Bernadette’s Catholic Parish in Port Kennedy for about ten years. Although recently relocated in Hamersley where he and Lamai are members of All Saints Parish in Greenwood, Claude continues to serve as an acolyte at St Bernadette’s because he is down that way most Sundays.

Apart from family, Claude’s main interests are travel, culture and music.

Jan Gilarski was born in 1947 in a small village in Poland where his parents were farming.

He was sent to boarding school from 1960 to 1964 to complete his high school education and then studied at the Institute of Technology in the city of Wroclaw where he graduated in 1970 with a Masters degree in computing. After graduation he spent the next 12 years working with the development of computers in various companies in Poland.

Claude married the love of his life; Grazyna in 1970 and they have two children and two grandchildren.

Disillusioned with communism, Jan and his family left Poland in 1981 and, after a long wait in West Germany for visas, they finally moved to Perth in 1982.

From 1982 until his retirement in 2010, Jan worked in the Information Technology Department of West Australian Newspapers in Perth. “It was a challenging job in my profession,” Jan writes, “requiring continuous learning and training to keep abreast of the rapidly changing world of technology in the newspaper industry.”



Jan Gilarski, a dedicated “Wheelchairs for Kids” volunteer

When he retired, Jan joined the large group of volunteers working for *Wheelchairs for Kids* organisation located in Wangara, a suburb of Perth about 18 kilometres north of the CBD. Jan initially worked one day per week and later two days per week, Run by Christian Brother, Olly Picket about 200 volunteers work in the factory producing and distributing close to 4,000 wheelchairs each year to impoverished children in over 60 countries around the world.

“Working in this organisation is very rewarding and important to me in my retirement,” Jan said.

In his spare time Jan is an avid reader, enjoys Sudoku and watching sport on television; mainly cricket and football. He and Grazyna also enjoy travelling.

Jan was installed and welcomed into Liwara Circle in May 2019 and he looks forward to the fellowship that membership of Liwara Circle and the Catenian Association offer.

Terry Reilly was born in the small Western Australian wheatbelt town of Kondinin in 1945. Initially he was educated at the convent school in Beaconsfield and subsequently at the Christian Brothers College in Fremantle and later at New Norcia where he was boarded at St Ildephonsus College.

After leaving school Terry worked in a number of jobs including on the family farm, working underground in a copper mine and then with the Department of Agriculture in Perth and later in Albany.

While in Albany he met Kathy and they were married in 1970. They have four children and eight grandchildren and will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2020.

Terry returned to study and obtained a Graduate Diploma in Business and Administration from the WA Institute of Technology (now Curtin University). Much of his working career was then spent in managing industrial manufacturing and supply companies, but in the late 1990s he started a construction company with his eldest son and Terry continues to work part time in that business.

Terry was an acolyte for a number of years in Catholic Church parishes at Scarborough, Innaloo and Woodlands; also serving on Parish Pastoral Councils.

“I am trying to learn to play the piano with limited success,” Terry writes. “I enjoy woodwork, but I’m not a gardener or a golfer.”



Circle President, Kevin McKersey with Terry Reilly

Involving our wives



Liwara’s August meeting had two highlights; being the circle’s annual clergy night attended by priests of the surrounding parishes coinciding with one of the occasional circle meetings at which wives and partners or friends are invited.

Rumbles are rife in the Catenian media of the possible greater involvement of wives and Catholic women in the Association. In the future, perhaps, but right now, like all circles in Province 20, brothers enjoy the occasions every few months when our better halves are invited to celebrate dinner with their husbands.

Photos in the Liwara newsletter (the *Liwara Link*) and in the *Western Link* give great evidence of the friendships that have developed amongst Catenian families.

The photo taken at Liwara’s August meeting shows a little of the lively gathering that hums along over drinks while the men carry on with their formal business in an adjoining hall.

Overall, it was a very pleasant time to express appreciation of the priests who serve the parishes and to meet and mingle with the wives and friends whom we meet here and in the parishes and around about and to involve the circle’s newer brothers and their wives.

The Catenian bond amongst brothers can grow to very real and embrace the family of each one and can continue on for a lifetime.

Liwara Circle will open a meeting later in the year to sons and daughters; another popular annual event that is always strongly supported in the circle’s social calendar.



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City of Mandurah

Action aplenty at Installation night

The City of Mandurah’s highly successful Annual General Meeting and Installation night and ladies dinner was held at the Peel Thunder Football Club on Monday 8 April 2019. The following photographs were supplied, commemorating the occasion:



New Council members, left to right: Max Gardiner (Welfare Officer), Michael Phillips (Secretary), Colin Purcell (President), Barrie Dearle (Registrar) and Gerard Otts (Membership Officer)

Picture parade

Presentation of miniatures, recognising long service:



Retiring Secretary, Geoff Prendergast receives his miniature from new President, Colin Purcell



City of Mandurah Marshall, John Wilcox receives his miniature from Colin Purcell



Retiring President, Wayne Wright with his miniature, presented by incoming President, Colin Purcell

Special Awards

The circle’s revered Treasurer, Rob Troost, was the winner of the Brendan McGurk Memorial Award for the City of Mandurah’s Catenian of the Year for 2018/19. Applying his knowledge of the latest technology, Rob dragged the City of Mandurah Circle into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and, as all good treasurers do, delivered a surplus for the year.



Rob Troost pictured with retiring President, Wayne Wright

The 2018/19 President’s Charity award was made to Mandurah’s “Mum’s Cottage”. In presenting the circle’s cheque, retiring President, Wayne Wright congratulated Kaye Seeber and the hard working volunteers for their commitment to the organisation.



Kaye Seeber with Wayne Wright

Celebrating 60 happily married years



Joyce and Geoff Grey

Mandurah Catenian Geoff Grey and his wife, Joyce celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary earlier this year with family and friends. Geoff is the brother of City of Mandurah Circle deceased Brother Allan Grey who passed away on 24 December 2018.

Geoff and Joyce were married on 28 February 1939 at the Church of the Holy Rosary in Nedlands. They raised seven children, 16 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.



both Federal and State as well as the Hon. David Templeman, the Western Australian State Member for Mandurah.

Sadly, since this article was written Joyce has passed away after a long illness. She was the beloved mother of seven children. Joyce lived a life of unconditional love, devoted to her family and always trusting in her God. Her 81 years were lived with grace, dignity, compassion and generosity. She will be sadly missed.

Warm welcome to new brother

Members of the City of Mandurah Circle were delighted to welcome Roger and Margaret-Anne to the circle when Roger was installed at a meeting held on 4 June 2019.

Roger was born in Seascale, a small village on the Irish Sea on the coast of Cumbria in northwest England. He came to New South Wales with his parents in 1952 at the age of eight and completed his primary school education at the Parramatta West Public School. He then attended the Macquarie Boys High School at Rydalmere and studied production engineering at technical college.

Roger began his working career as a bank officer later working as an industrial engineer with yarn spinning and Textiles Company, Davies Corp and Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company.

Later he joined the University of Sydney where he was involved in organisation and methods.

He was introduced to Margaret-Anne by her brother in Perth in 2008 and they were married at Mazenod College Chapel in Lesmurdie on 11 October 2009 officiated by Father Michael McMahon.

Now living in Madora Bay in Mandurah Roger and Margaret-Anne have a family unit of three children and seven grandchildren.

Roger enjoys movies, photography, computers and motor sports, particularly the World Rally Championship. He is also a supporter of the West Coast Eagles in the AFL.

He was attracted to the Catenians because of the disciplined principles of the Association and enjoys the company and fellowship of like-minded friends.



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# Swan Valley

## A very special 25-year presentation

In April 2019 a group of Swan Valley Circle Catenian brothers, Jim Miolin, Hugo Korver, Colin Broun and Jim Schelfhout visited Brother Peter Tuinder at his home in Greenmount to present him with a 25-year certificate in recognition of his outstanding service both to the circle and Province 20. Because of health and mobility issues Peter has been unable to attend circle meetings in recent times.

Peter joined Darling Range Circle in 1984, subsequently transferring to the Avon Valley Circle and then Swan Valley Circle. He was an active member of Provincial Council serving as Provincial President in 1994/95.

Despite his poor health, Peter still has his sharp wit, lengthy memory, deep musical appreciation and knowledge and topical humour. He is lovingly cared for by his wife, Jennifer.

Swan Valley brothers congratulate Peter for his valued contribution to the Catenian Association and wish him well.



*Standing left to right: Jim Miolin, Hugo Korver, Colin Broun and Jim Schelfhout pictured with Peter Tuinder*

## Coffee Club going strong



*Around the table left to right: Brian Murphy, Hugo Korver, Michael Rosario, Jim Miolin, Lyn Murphy, Jim Schelfhout and Tom Polich*

Taking up a recommendation made by Canning Circle Brother and Provincial President, Keith Morgan the Swan Valley Circle launched a casual coffee club on 8 May 2019, open to Catenian families, guests and potential members. The club meets each Wednesday at the Ritz Café, Shop 3A, Old Great Northern Highway in Midland.

The initiative has now been adopted by several Province 20 circles meeting on a casual basis around the metropolitan area and at Busselton.

## A story of love that began in Spain

In 2011 Vince Debono was invited by fellow Swan Valley Catenian brother, Angelo Fanetti and his wife Charmaine to walk the *Camino Santiago de Compostela* in Spain.

The pilgrimage walk is an 800-kilometre journey, starting from Saint Jean Pied de Port on the French side of the Pyrenees Mountains across northern Spain to Santiago. It has been an ancient pilgrimage route for more than a thousand years, following the traditional "way" to the cathedral of Santiago where the tomb of St James is said to be housed.

It was during the latter part of the walk, about 100 kilometres from the finish, that Vince met Carol. People from many countries around the world walk the Camino and Carol was from Canada. A group farewell dinner was enjoyed in Santiago at the end of the journey where everyone exchanged email addresses and telephone numbers.

After visits to Australia by Carol and to Canada by Vince, Carol finally moved to Western Australia and, as they say, the rest is history.

Father Greg from the Morley parish presided over their wedding ceremony pm 27 April 2019 at St Michael the Arch Angel chapel in Leederville with Angelo the best man and Charmaine the matron of honour.

The afternoon was blessed with beautiful sunshine for photos followed by a reception with family and friends at Applecross.

Congratulations Vince and Carol.



*Angelo Fanetti, Carol and Vince and Charmaine Fanetti*

