

Catenian bond with (ACT) 2022 Young Australian of the Year

The announcement by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Canberra on Australia Day 26 January 2022 that **SEAN DONDAS** was the recipient of the "2022 (Australian Capital Territory) Young Australian of the Year" award has some real significance to Province 20 Brothers and underscores the important contribution that the Catenian Youth Support Project makes to the community.



Sean, who grew up in Perth and attended Trinity College, was awarded the inaugural Province 20 Youth Support Project bursary in 2013 on a needs basis whilst he resided at St Thomas More College in Crawley. His three-year bursary of \$2,000 per year provided essential financial support while he completed an Economics/Arts double degree at the University of Western Australia. He was active in college life as a Residential Advisor and Eucharistic Minister until he graduated in 2015.

He subsequently graduated from Murdoch University with a Masters in International Affairs and Security.

Since then, Sean has kept in regular contact with the Catenians, providing updates on his career development and it was pleasing that in less than a day or two after receiving the prestigious Australia Day award he acknowledged the support he had received from Catenian Association members in a heartfelt message to the Youth Fund.

"I was only 14 when my mother Saluna was diagnosed with cancer. There was massive uncertainty in our lives. We didn't know if Mum would survive, we didn't know how long she'd have the treatment for and what this meant for the rest of our childhood, our schooling and our lives. Even though I can't share my success with her I know Mum is looking down and smiling at me," Sean said.

The eldest of three brothers with no other family in Australia, Sean wasn't sure who to turn to until he was referred to *Canteen* the charity that supports young people whose lives are touched by cancer.

"*Canteen* provided the space for me to connect with other people going through the same trauma. It was like a lifeline to tap into what I was feeling," Sean says.

When his mother died in 2009, Sean was just a teenager and became a ward of the State.

After joining *Canteen* in 2008 at the age of 14, Sean became an integral member, first as a local Youth Leadership Group, then Secretary, Vice President and President in Western Australia. He later joined the national Youth Advisory Team before being appointed a director on *Canteen's* board in 2015.

Sean has spent the past 13 years with *Canteen* helping many young people in similar situations cope with a cancer diagnosis in their family and has been a staunch advocate for young people's needs. His input has helped shape decisions on a range of vital strategies, including clinical trials, youth cancer services, community-based support and an online support and counselling service.



Sean pictured after the presentation ceremony with the "2022 Australian of the Year" Dylan Alcott

Western Link
25th anniversary
edition

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Fresh look

To mark the 25th anniversary of this the 60th Edition of the *Western Link* (established in 1997), the front-page masthead has been redesigned and presents a fresh, contemporary look to the Province 20 magazine that will hopefully carry it forward uninterrupted for the next 25 years.

The internal Circle Roundup header in the back section of the magazine has also been revitalised with a new design and internal pages have been freshened with new footers.

Hopefully these changes will add to the magazine's appeal, particularly as a valuable marketing tool for Circles in Catholic parishes and to be distributed to potential new members. It is now widely used for this purpose.

However, the most important element to the lasting appeal of the *Western Link*, is not visual appearance, but interesting and informative content. In this context the magazine belongs to all Catenian Brothers. The ongoing support of circles, and in particular their nominated Publicity Officer's (listed above), in providing reports and photos of a vast range of activities and longer feature articles is vital.

Recent editions have included a wider range of stories and photos of life stories, unique experiences and in-depth personal profiles, which have added a new dimension to the magazine.

Hopefully, Brothers will support this change and take time to provide their own narratives, yarns and chronicles to add colour to the pages.

EDITORIAL

The Western Link

It's time for a Succession Plan

Now celebrating its 25th year of continuous, uninterrupted publication the time has probably arrived for Provincial Council to consider and adopt a robust Succession Plan to continue to provide quality communication to readers of the *Western Link*. The magazine has only ever had two Editors. Its first eight-page edition was distributed to members in 1997, edited by City of Perth Brother Brendan McGurk (deceased).

After producing 30 editions over a period of almost 15 years, Brendan handed the reigns to me just over ten years ago, and a further 30 editions have been published now in full colour with 36 pages. The magazine has become the envy of the Catenian world, as the sole Province in the Association to publish such a magazine, second only to *Catena* in the United Kingdom.

This Editorial is not intended to indicate my pending retirement from the job. As the incumbent Provincial Marketing Officer and Editor, I remain committed to perform these duties, hopefully to produce many more Editions.

However, in this the 2022/23 Catenian year I enter my 16th successive year serving Provincial Council as firstly, Publicity Officer later with a name change to Marketing Officer having joined Council in 2006. This year I also commence my 11th year as the *Western Link* Editor, commenced in early 2012 and succession is an issue that will need to be addressed and perhaps now is a good time.

The appointment of a new Editor is likely to take some time. The job involves a significant time commitment, an understanding wife and family and an appropriate skill set. A replacement will most probably come from a highly committed retired or semi-retired professional backed up with a small committee structure to fully cover the various boundaries.

The skills to perform the job include availability of quality computer equipment, computer skills in writing, editing and design, a background in report writing, publishing and photography. My life-time commercial experience as a Cadet Journalist and Company Secretary of ASX listed Public Companies, Bunnings Limited and Wesfarmers Limited has helped with duties that included publishing professional and quality Annual Reports to Shareholders, media and ASX releases, board meeting papers and minutes. My interest in anecdotal history also enabled me to publish three books, including the latest in December 2021.

A year or two ago Province 20 Provincial President Chris Downey quite rightly raised the subject of a Succession Plan with me, and I've now conceded that it is an appropriate time to develop strategies in the interests of the ongoing health, growth and expansion of the Province.

Provincial Executive Council has now been briefed and discussions will occur during 2022/23 for consideration of Provincial Council in due course. An outcome could well involve the introduction of a hybrid arrangement involving a close-knit small committee providing fresh input and ideas under the leadership of a responsible, committed Editor who can direct a high level of consistency.

Peter Johnston

Happy birthday



The Western Link celebrating 25 years of success

Launched in 1997 as the official newsletter of the Catenian Association in Western Australia, the *Western Link* has come a long way in its 25 years of continuous, uninterrupted publication, marking important milestones and servicing an essential need for good communication to its wide range of readers.

The very first edition, a slim black and white newsletter of just eight pages was produced by an editorial committee of City of Perth brothers, Brendan McGurk, Derrick Flynn and Tom Hadfield (all deceased) and was printed by Graham Pittaway's *Cyprus Print*.

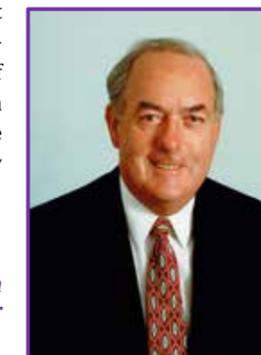
In celebrating its 25th birthday, the tremendous efforts and sacrifices of the *Western Link*'s first Editor, Brendan McGurk (left) is acknowledged. Brendan devoted an enormous amount of his energy and personal time for nearly 15 years from 1997 to the beginning of 2012 writing, editing and producing two editions of the newsletter every year.



During that time Brendan was the Editor of 30 editions growing from an eight-page black and white newsletter to his final edition early in 2012; a quality magazine of 28 pages then read throughout the Catenian world in Province 20, Eastern Australia and the United Kingdom.

In the ten years since Brendan retired from the job, the magazine has continued to serve an important need for good communication in Province 20 and the wider Catenian fraternity, edited and produced by Peter Johnston (Joondalup Circle and Provincial Marketing Officer).

Now in full colour, a further 30 editions have been produced in this time frame and the magazine has grown to 36 pages produced three times each year, continuing to meet the aspirations of its founding Catenian Brothers 25 years ago. A recent development has been the conversion of Brendan's first 30 editions to a digital format, and those along with the last digitalised 30 editions provide "read-only" access to the 25-year history of Province 20 to all Catenians via a dedicated *Dropbox* site. The permanent record is now safely preserved in Catenian archives.



Peter Johnston Editor

Province 20 Brother appointed ANC Secretary

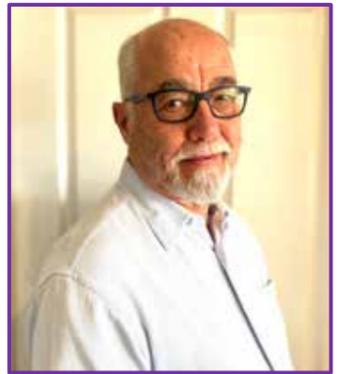
In February, Australian National Council (ANC) announced the appointment of Brother Harry Muller as its Secretary for a three-year term from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. Harry is the long-serving Secretary of Darling Range Circle and currently holds the office of Provincial Secretary of Province 20.

In making the announcement in the ANC February newsletter, retiring Secretary John Secker wrote that he was personally delighted with the appointment having worked with Harry closely in his Province 20 role and particularly in the delivery of the Sydney Virtual Conference in 2021.

Harry joined the Darling Range Circle in 1983 and has held the position of Secretary for many years. He was also President and Provincial Councillor for the circle and in 2017, when he semi-retired from teaching, took over the position of Provincial Secretary for Province 20, a position he still holds.

He is the son of Dutch immigrants, born in Perth just four months after their arrival. "Made in Holland," Harry says.

Harry began his education at St Augustine's Primary School in Rivervale where the Nuns started him on the road to learning to play the piano, completing Grade 7 standard. At the end of Year 3, Harry was awarded a scholarship with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and continued his schooling at Trinity College in Year 4 until he matriculated with his Leaving Certificate in 1970.



He took a "gap year", travelling by ship to Holland via South Africa and the Canary Islands to stay with his grandparents for the year. While there, he worked in a supermarket and then a patent office, typing letters in four languages and travelling mainly to Paris and to Austria from where he had a wonderful trip into the old Yugoslavia.

On his return to Perth, Harry started studying at the University of Western Australia and the Nedlands Secondary Teachers College graduating with a degree in Science Education. Whilst studying he continued as a member of the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and took pipe organ lessons for a few years. He was also involved in the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra Youth Concerts Committee.

The first school in which Harry taught was Mazenod College in Lesmurdie where he met Tracey and they were married in 1981 at St Mary's Cathedral, the ceremony accompanied by the full choir, a reward for his long involvement. They have two children, David who is a Manager at the Subiaco Hotel and Hayley, who lives in Broome and works for the Department of Child Protection.

After Mazenod, Harry joined the Catholic Education Office as a project officer. He then spent 30 years as Head of Sciences at La Salle, St Norbert, St Brigid's and Lumen Christi Colleges and finally to Holy Cross College in Ellenbrook where he helped in the formation of the College as a teacher and eventually Ministry Coordinator until he took semi-retirement in 2017.

Harry and Tracey live in the hills in Kalamunda. "There is nowhere else I would rather live," Harry said.



Our Province 20 "State of the Union" review

By Chris Downey
Provincial President
Darling Range Circle

It seems a strange time of the year, going to press in March for a review of activities, but all members and some families will know that our Catenian year is 1 April to 31 March.

It seems highly appropriate to review "what is" when there have been so many challenges to life in general, membership of any group of association and more importantly, challenges in our own families.

In the future, when we look back on the last two years, we should be very proud of our resilience, adaptability and strong community spirit. It is indeed a great time to be a member of an organisation that lives up to its recently introduced Mission Statement of *Faith-Based Friendship*, although in some quarters the previously adopted Mission Statement of *Strengthening Family Life through friendship and faith* is still considered far more relevant with its stronger emphasis on the family that quite rightly drives our Association rather than an overly theological emphasis in our purpose.

During lockdowns, and at these times of maintaining sound health-based restrictions, our Circles have been innovative and creative in finding solutions to continue to meet in parks, in small groups in member's homes and even in socialising walking groups.

We have touched the hearts of our elderly members with frequent calls and drop-in supplies. Even our healthier members have been very dedicated to keeping in touch with each other when not able to meet in person.

So, it's surprising then, in these so-called challenging times, that most of our Circles have continued to recruit new members and we have surpassed Province 21 centred around Sydney, in total membership. However, we should not be satisfied or complacent with that outcome. It's no secret that our Eastern States neighbours (Adelaide excluded) have experienced retention, growth and expansion difficulties and our targets must be set much higher.

It is also of some satisfaction that we have some of the most positive recruitment statistics in the wider World Catenian Association, but these outcomes need also be put into perspective with the overseas challenges of an ageing population particularly in the United Kingdom and their COVID-19 outbreaks, far worse than ours. These statistics, whilst interesting, should not necessarily be adopted as our reliable measuring mark.

It is common knowledge that we have lost some members in preventable circumstances such as resignations, but that trend is not much greater than pre-pandemic times. On the other hand, non-preventable losses such as the regrettable deaths of members are unfortunately high, more a factor of our demographic age profile and not – to the best of my knowledge – due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In travelling to every Circle at least once this year, I've been delighted to see that the Catenian spirit of camaraderie continues. Every one of those meetings has been sociable and very enjoyable.

On the "big stage", this time last year the Association held the Australian National Conference using the Zoom streaming facility that was waited on with some apprehension to see its reaction among Province 20 and 21 and Area Victorian members. It is pleasing to report that the live streaming was well received, provided a good level of participation and certainly generated robust debate on the many important issues raised.

This gives us great confidence that the *Perth 2023 National Conference* in September of that year will be equally successful in a format that will allow both personal attendance and Zoom interaction. Although this conference is an Australian National Council responsibility, it is incumbent and vitally important that our Province 20 voice is clearly heard in contributing to an agenda and program that meets our own objectives and the broader challenges of the Catenian Association.

Prior to that time, we look forward with great pleasure and justified pride, to the inauguration of Province 20's newest Circle in over 10 years. Formed as a Catenian Group in March 2021, the Adelaide City Circles will be inaugurated on 11 June 2022. This is the culmination of over a year's hard work by Brothers Kingsley Forsyth and Michael Cogman and their strong support base, ably assisted by the Province 20 Provincial Council from over 2000 kilometres away. It was a great pleasure to host members of the Adelaide Executive team to the

Province 20 Commemorative Mass and President's luncheon last November.

What does the future hold for our Association and in particular, Province 20 and its member Circles?

"Firstly, we need to continue to support every member and their families with our fraternal bond. We need to continually think: Have I done enough to keep in touch with my Brothers, offered tangible support and provided a shoulder to lean on in difficult and stressful times? Secondly, we cannot miss an opportunity to tell another Catholic layman what a great Association we belong to. If you can answer the question: Why should I join? Then we have the start of a new friendship. Of course, then we need to be confident about what we are offering and how it benefits the listener."

It seems trite to say that we need younger members, but the demographic profile suggests that unless we do, the consequences of future viability of the Catenian Association are serious. Those younger members may not be found at Masses. They may be found at schools that your grandchildren attend or which your Circle supports through bursaries, or they may be in other clubs or societies. Catholics have a way of recognising each other.



John Murray
City of Perth Circle
Provincial President 2022/23

Chris Downey
Provincial President 2021/22

Recruitment, retention and expansion

In this "State of the Union" 2022 review it is appropriate and important to reflect on some of the real and potential barriers for the recruitment, retention and expansion challenges we face.

As Catenians, we must learn to put aside our "hubris" (self-indulgent pride, over confidence and reluctance to consider or accept new ideas) and listen to the views of others with similar beliefs and objectives.

Relevance

Although our brothers have always and will always continue to be pillars of the Church, serving in various Ministries this has possibly become an unnoticed contribution. We need to ask whether the Catenian Association is still relevant and meeting a need in the Church. We need to ask if our contributions as lay people in churches are valued, and if any further support could be offered.

The Bishops of Australia seem to have lost an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the lay persons of the church when the agenda for the Plenary Council became substantially distilled, and without any reinforcement of the contributions of lay Catholics.

Province 20 has introduced some positive initiatives with youth through its Youth Support Project, *Catenian Charity Inc*, *Speak for Faith*, *Rosary project* and *Job Support Project*, but is this enough and are our efforts being directed in the right age-profile? Should we be focussed solely on fellowship and friendship and the social aspect of our membership?

Barriers to entry

In attracting new members, the cost factors cannot be ignored. Although annual fees do not amount to more than a "cup of coffee" a week, Brothers have challenged and continue to challenge the filtration of fees to Governing bodies (including the UK and now ANC) during the whole of our 45-year existence.

For example, the budgets of Governing bodies are set at the beginning of each year, usually on a three-year rolling basis.

The achievements of these set and pre-approved budgets should then be achievable from committed and known funds from the membership base at the beginning of these periods.

Then, with some innovative thinking, Council fee levies made by all Governing bodies could be suspended on all new members for, as a minimum, the first year of their new membership.

Governing bodies

The Catenian Association must surely be the most over-governed social body in the Church. Levels of governance start with Circle Council, Circles, Provincial Council, Australian National Council and Central Council.

We are confident that an Association-wide Constitutional Documents Review, including Rules and Regulations, will go a long way to simplify and modernise our means of operation. Our Australian representative is outgoing ANC Secretary Brother John Secker who has our best interests at heart.

Meeting Brother's needs

When the Catenian Association commenced in 1908 its objectives were different. It was primarily a body of Catholic businessmen formed in Manchester, England for an elite body of professional people seeking commercial outcomes and benefits with a formal and disciplined regime.

That no longer applies. Our members are seeking social interaction, friendship and fellowship for themselves, their families and children. It is incumbent on us to meet this need.

We need to remain vigilant in striving for the needs of members or risk losing them to other Church bodies that can provide similar outcomes.

In a year's time when incoming Provincial President John Murray carries out a similar review, I'm confident that he will be able to report growth and resilience, combining for us to all to enjoy our great Association.

A shining light on our heritage

25-year Western Link history available to all

All 60 editions of the Province 20 magazine from its very first issue in 1997 are now available for everyone to read in a digitalised, electronic format. Electronic copies can be read via a dedicated and, easy to access *Dropbox* link, which can be provided on request.

Although the magazine's first edition was some 20 years after the Province began in 1997, that early pioneering history and the people who were responsible for its formation, expansion and growth have been recognised frequently over the years.

You are strongly encouraged to source this valuable resource. It's available to all and is permanently preserved in our archives.

Dropbox access is via a dedicated link which can be obtained from:

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The *Dropbox* site is a "read only" facility and cannot be printed or altered. Paper copies of any article in all 60 editions can be provided by the Editor on request.



An open letter

From concerned Catholics to the Bishops of Western Australia and to the publications: *The Record* and the *Catenian Western Link*

Our congregations are aging and declining in numbers. Old and faithful Catholics are dying and not being succeeded.

Our young people who are coming out of our excellent Catholic schools stop practicing the Faith and, whilst for a while when they are still young there will be other more exciting distractions, they do not seem to be returning to practice of the Faith as they mature. In the recent past when they developed their own families, they used to return to practice the Faith but now see that as irrelevant to their lives.

Except for pockets of Asian immigrants, who are younger people with families and who have strong attachment to the Faith, there is little vitality and youthfulness in our parish churches today.

It is a good move to have a Plenary Council of Bishops and other Senior Clerics in the hierarchy to discuss the challenges facing our church in Australia with some input from the Laity. The first session in 2021 was a good start. The lead up in the two previous years of discussion and discernment among active Catholics was a good preliminary but there is doubt that the Plenary Council members will act on the sensible actions that lay people are asking to be done.

Firstly, empower the Laity with more responsibility for church finances at both Diocese and Parish levels so that they have more say in how the monies they contribute are spent or invested.

Secondly, have regular annual diocesan synods where representatives of the Laity and Clergy can have meaningful discussions and formulate agreed policies. The Laity should participate in setting agenda and compiling minutes.

Thirdly, take actions to stop incomprehensible and boring sermons being inflicted on the lay people in the pews. Such sermons spoil the beauty of the Mass liturgy. Homilies must be both understandable and inspirational!

Let parish congregations decide if they want homilies from their priests or an alternative which could be for example one of the following:

- ❖ A video recording of a homily by an inspirational clerical person.
- ❖ A dialogue "sermon" discussion with the Laity led by the priest as occurred successfully at St Denis Joondanna Parish in the 1970s.
- ❖ A quiet time of meditation using a recording of voice with music such as used so successfully in Perth and Bunbury by visiting Franciscan priest Justin Belitz in the recent past.
- ❖ Homilies by visiting specialist preachers who are good at the practice such as used to be done by Redemptorist priests.

In conclusion, we ask that Bishops not only listen to what the Laity are saying but act on their suggestions.

Yours faithfully in the Holy Spirit

Gerard Tonks (Kalamunda), Michael Tonks (Busselton) and Graham Mahony (Fremantle)

Who are: Old Aquinians, Catenian Brothers and active Catholics.

Dated 12 March 2022

Adelaide City Circle inauguration

Following approval by Australian National Council, Province 20 was delighted to announce in February 2022 that the inauguration of a new Circle, Adelaide City will occur on 11 June 2022. The event will take place at 11.00 am (Central Standard time) in Adelaide, South Australia at *Adelaide Royal Coach Hotel*, followed by a formal lunch at 1.00 pm. This will be the first Circle to be formed in South Australia.

This is the culmination of just over a year's endeavour by the creators of the initial Group, Brother **Michael Cogman** (former member of Southgate Circle 122, Province 14 and joint member of Joondalup Circle 339, Province 20) and Brother **Kingsley Forsyth**. Kingsley is the Founder of a Catholic Men's Group at Adelaide Cathedral that provided the impetus to transition into an organisation with structure, clearly defined purposes and strong organisational support (the Catenians). Their efforts are now ably assisted by a strongly supportive Executive team that has recruited 26 plus members in just over 12 months with the expectation of inducting more before inauguration.

Prior to Inauguration, at the Group's Annual General Meeting, the Office Bearers of the new Circle will be **Kingsley Forsyth** (President), **Andrew Mulholland** (Vice President and Treasurer), **Conroy Saldhana** (Secretary) and **Michael Cogman** (Provincial Councillor).

The inauguration ceremony will be live-streamed to interested Brothers and Circles and sign-in details will be advised closer to the date. Brothers who wish to pre-record their congratulations and best wishes on behalf of a Circle may contact the Adelaide City Group Chairman, Brother Michael Cogman on mmcogman@gmail.com.

Brothers are welcome to visit Adelaide for the inauguration, but due to venue capacity restraints numbers may be limited. Although this may be a travel and logistics challenge in the current COVID-19 pandemic, most of Australia is now open to international and intra-State travel into South Australia. Visitors are strongly advised to check prior to making firm plans and the following sites will provide helpful information: www.covid19.sa.gov.au and my.sa.gov.au. Brother Michael Cogman can also provide the latest vaccination certification and quarantine regulations by phone on (08) 8278 1443 (home) or 0448 867 161 (mobile).

On Sunday 12 June 2022 the new Circle members, their families and visitors will attend High Mass at Adelaide's St Francis Xavier Cathedral at 11.00 am. The Mass will be concelebrated by priests who are strong supporters of the Association's introduction into South Australia.

It is a long-standing tradition for Circles and Provinces to make generous gifts to a new Circle on inauguration. To facilitate this goodwill gesture, Province 20 has opened a dedicated bank account to receive donations as it is considered impractical in the current environment to post or ship physical items as dedicated gifts. The account name is:

Catenian Association Province 20 ACC account
BSB: 086 006
Account No.: 4850 80036

Province 20 and the Australian National Council look forward to sharing this historic with the worldwide Catenian fraternity.

Adelaide's sprint to success

With the installation of five new Brothers at its March meeting, Adelaide is headed for inauguration as a Circle in June 2022 with 31 enthusiastic and committed members and an average age of only 40.



Left to right: Newly enrolled Brothers, Nixon Quintero, Stephen Haddin, Goutham Haridass, Chairman Kingsley Forsyth, Enrico Azurin and Jackson Chinnappan

The meeting also marked the hand-over of Chairman from Michael Cogman (a joint member of Joondalup Circle) to Kingsley Forsyth who will lead the Group into Circle status and beyond.

Many members took the opportunity at the meeting to reflect on the Group's remarkable achievements in its inaugural year, including the graduation to Circle status within 15 months of inception. The Group recently launched its own bi-monthly newsletter and has secured an ideal central city venue with capacity to grow for monthly meetings and dinners.

"A highlight of the year was the winning of the Province 20 *Kevin Brady Award* in 2021; a prestigious recognition made each year for recruiting the most number of new members," Kingsley said.

Adelaide brothers are also looking forward to the first gathering of Adelaide Catenian wives and girlfriends to be hosted by Kingsley's wife Kanchana commencing at the end of March.

"The key challenge," Kingsley acknowledged, "is sustainable growth, which will mean that the future will see a reduced emphasis on front-end recruiting and more importance on the monthly meetings/dinners and the selection of optional side-activities for Adelaide Catenians and their families.

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My Catenian journey

Contributed by Andrew Mulholland

At the beginning of 2021 I had no idea what a Catenian was, what Catenians were, let alone what they were about, writes Adelaide City Group Treasurer Andrew Mulholland.

Now it is 2022 and I have become so fully immersed in a fraternal brotherhood that I never realized how much I needed for my own spiritual journey. I now know so much more about Catenians with much more still to learn and I'm pleased there is more to learn.

Going back even further my life took a turn that God knew was imperative to start leading me to living my faith genuinely. I left a high-profile career as a partner in one of the top ten largest accounting firms in Australia at the time to live a more balanced lifestyle.

Once I gave up pursuing the fruitless desires of wealth and worldly significance, I thought I could settle down and live happily in a new slow-paced environment, but God knew I needed to grow spiritually, and grow close to Him now the "blockages" had been removed. I began doing things I had never done before: I started occasionally going to weekday Masses and saying the Rosary regularly. Then the frequency of attending weekday Masses grew and the Rosary became daily, and as the years passed, my life and faith journey became one of peace and contentment despite continued challenges; blessings and Grace surrounded me.

It is surreal sometimes to reflect on where God is leading you and as my faith and living it in a genuine way continued to grow, I felt a growing desire to share that with other Catholics. Yes, I had my dear wife who has always been by my side and a faithful Catholic woman throughout 26 years of marriage, however our social networks didn't involve much Catholic discussion and faith sharing. Our parish had some lovely acquaintances, and we are involved in the parish with reading and other Ministries, however most parishioners were quite a bit older than us and had little in common.

Then, by divine providence I noticed late in 2019 through social media that an informal Catholic men's group had formed in Adelaide and I was immediately interested. Unfortunately, it was disbanded before I could get involved and as COVID-19 hit nothing more came of it. Little did I know at the time the organiser of that group, Kingsley Forsyth, would get in contact and we began something more fruitful.

This was something that I had been really wanting to be part of for quite some time. Over a year later I have learnt so much more about what being a Catenian is, and it has exceeded my expectations.

So, yes, there is a deep need for this simple fraternal support, and that need is testimonial to the fact that so many other younger Catholic men are joining the Adelaide City Catenian Group; soon to become a Circle.



A love story

Norm and Bonnie Thompson celebrate a milestone

Dianella Circle Brother Norm and his wife Yvonne (Bonnie) celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 20 January 2022 with their family. They enjoyed a wonderful, exciting day reminiscing over some of the exciting and challenging times over their 60 years together as husband and wife, father and mother to their two children, Gary now aged 58 and Denise now 56.

"While our children are fully grown adults and are now looking forward to their retirement, we still think of them as our kids," Norm writes.

"Now that we have given a brief introduction to who we are, I feel it is truly worthwhile to give you an insight into our life's love story especially as many young adults of today who have little religion within their families often say to us: 'What! Married to the same person for 60 years, that's very special these days.'"

Our story -the lead-up to our first meeting

We were both born in the mid to late 1930s, which back then was a very difficult time with the World heading towards the Second World War when there was food rationing, streetlights were out at night and air raid shelters were in backyards. But we still enjoyed life as young children, not fully understanding the effects it was having on our country, Australia.

Most Catholic children went to both primary and secondary Catholic schools, mainly at the nearest location to your home because we needed in most cases to walk to and from school each day.

When you reach your teenage years you start to enter the next stage of life and become more involved with friends outside of family. You probably like to join sporting and social clubs and enjoy chatting and playing together and, as time creeps on, the next stage of your life begins to evolve.

Back in our time you could go out to the movies together or meet at one of the Saturday night dances at the local Catholic school hall or outside venues like the Subiaco Civic Centre or Canterbury Court Ballroom.

On one such Saturday night one of my old school buddies and I went to the Subiaco Civic Centre to spend some time dancing with the ladies. Before interval, which was the time for the band to have a mid-evening break, I said to my friend: "See that girl on the other side of the hall? She has such a happy smile. I must ask her for a dance as soon as interval is over and the band and dancing start again."

My friend and I went downstairs for a cool drink and some fresh air and 15 minutes later when the band started playing again, we went straight upstairs to the dance hall, and I went looking for the girl of my choice to ask her for a dance. I couldn't find her anywhere.

I was very disappointed and said to my friend: "I've had enough tonight and will head for home. What about we go to the Canterbury Court Ballroom next week for a change". He agreed and the next Saturday night we went to Canterbury Court in William Street, Perth and who should appear on the other side of the dance floor, but the girl with the wonderful smile.

I said to my friend: "I'm not missing out this time and walked quickly to her and asked her for the next dance, at which she gave me that beautiful smile and said "Yes, I'd love to."

The girl with the beautiful smile

When we walked onto the floor, I could tell that she was a very accomplished dancer, which made me feel comfortable and secure. While we danced together for the next 10 minutes or so, we each tried to find out more about who we were and what we did for work and leisure.



For some reason she said that she saw me at the Subiaco Civic Centre dance the previous week, to which I said, "yes I was there, but I decided to leave early as the lady I wanted to dance with had left before me." To which she replied: "That was exactly why I left, because the man I was interested in didn't ask me for a dance." I asked her if that person was here tonight. and she replied: "yes, and I'm dancing with him now."

The "sometime things" happen unexpectedly

One night when I took Bonnie home after an evening out, she looked very sad. She told me that she had pre-arranged and paid for an Eastern States holiday with friends for four weeks starting at the beginning of the following month. This had been organised before she met me.

Well, I wasn't going to let that stand in my way and told her that I loved her and that if she felt the same for me, we could make a commitment to continue our relationship when she returned home.

When she returned, we were really excited to get back together and spent a lot of time dancing together again with many of our friends, really enjoying the happiness of our company together.

In those days smoking the odd cigarette of two was one of the things that all males did. One night when driving Bonnie home from the movies, I took out a cigarette and made to 'light up'. I remember the moment as if it was yesterday when Bonnie said: "I really don't appreciate smoking as I think it's a bad habit to get into." Well, after I had said goodnight at her front door and began my journey home, I put my hand in the glove box, pulled out a nearly full packet of cigarettes and threw them out the window. I have never had a cigarette since. **Is that true love? I think so.**

Although Bonnie and I considered ourselves too young to marry at that time, we discussed our true feelings with both our parents and accepted their guidance. We agreed on a plan to enable us both to improve our education qualifications and finances and on 14 February 1960 became engaged.



Norm and Bonnie on their engagement day

When we became engaged, I had this tremendous feeling of commitment to the next stage in my life and fully realised that I would in time come to making that life commitment to be a husband and hopefully a father for the rest of life's journey.

Saturday 20 January 1962 was our wedding day and as Bonnie was a professional dressmaker, nothing was left to chance. She made her own wedding dress along with her bridesmaids' and going away dress for all to enjoy.



Our wedding day 20 January 1962 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Como

For 60 years we have enjoyed a truly wonderful life and sometimes people ask, "If you had your time over again what would you change?" They seem very surprised when we tell them that we have had a wonderful life together with two beautiful children who now being adults are always there for us when needed, and would not want any changes, **just continue our true love as a family.**

In conclusion, "I liken life's journey to having a car and driving down a very wide, straight and comfortable freeway. From time to time, you will pick up passengers, like your wife and later your children. As you continue there will be detour signs ahead that direct you onto a side road where the drive is rough and uncomfortable, but as you continue you will see another sign ahead that directs you back onto the smooth freeway where you can relax and enjoy the ride again."

"How long you drive before a family member leaves the car, is the distance down the freeway you will go. In my case I have asked for support from my children in driving the car due to my lovely wife Bonnie having to move to a Dementia Care Centre on a permanent basis."

We still enjoyed a wonderful 60th wedding anniversary celebration with the family at the Care Centre with lots of laughs and some marvellous acknowledgements from Queen Elizabeth, the Prime Minister, the Governor General of Australia, The Governor of Western Australia, the Premier of Western Australia and the Leader of the Opposition.



Daughter Denise, Norm, Bonnie and son Gary



Australian National Council inaugural arts travel prize

In January 2022 the National School of Arts and the Australian National Council of the Catenian Association announced that Australian Catholic University BA (Humanities) student Kathryn Palmer was the inaugural winner of the Catenian Association Arts Travel Prize.



Kathryn Palmer

Kathryn was overjoyed to receive the news: "I express my immense thanks to the donors of this prize money as well as those involved in the Catenian Association, the Exchange and Study Abroad Office and the Australian Catholic University (ACU) Faculty of Education and Arts for making this possible," she said.

As part of her degree in a Bachelor of Arts (humanities) at the Strathfield campus of ACU, Kathryn is studying global religions and is keen to pursue her interest in Comparative Abrahamic Theology.

The \$2,000 travel prize is being awarded annually to a high-achieving student enrolled in a degree offered by the National School of Arts. The recipient must be eligible to enrol in the ACU International core curriculum unit UNCC300 Justice and Change in a Global World in Italy or another core program location in New Zealand or Australia if travel to other locations is not possible.

In congratulating Kathryn on her award, the Australian National Council President Ralph Fitzpatrick said that an important Catenian Association aim was to advance the interests of young Catholics.

"By supporting Kathryn with this Travel Prize as she participates in the Universities International Core Program, we not only progress an Association aim, but also enhance her opportunities to realise the Program's potential for personal and spiritual growth," he said.



Footy in my family

By Lou Daily, Dianella Circle

Most historians agree that "Victorian Football" as it was then known started in the suburbs of Melbourne in 1858, writes Lou.

The Victorian Football Association (VFA) was formed in 1877 and rapidly expanded to a total of 21 teams. The number of teams fluctuated in the ensuing years and in 1896 eight teams broke away and formed the new Victorian Football League (VFL). These teams were Collingwood, Essendon, Fitzroy, Geelong, Melbourne, South Melbourne, Carlton and St Kilda.

One of the original teams in the VFA formed in 1877 was Footscray and its first game was against St Kilda. Footscray was successful 4 goals 11 behinds (35) to 3 goals 10 behinds (28) and the beer flowed freely at Footscray pubs that evening.

In 1898 premiership success at last for Footscray, when the team won their first VFA title followed by two more in 1899 and 1900. Recruited from Port Melbourne, Lou Daily (the writer's great uncle) played full forward in the 1899 and 1900 premiership sides.

After many years of success in the VFA and intense lobbying, Footscray along with North Melbourne and Hawthorn finally joined the VFL in 1925. During its time in the VFA Footscray won a total of nine premierships and in its time in the VFL the club only one premiership in 1954.

If you wish to learn more about the history of the Footscray Football Club from 1877 to 1996, I recommend the book "Unleashed" written by John Lack, Chris McConville, Michael Small and Damien Wright, writes Lou.

My grand uncle, Lou Daily

The eldest Lou Daily, my grand uncle, Louis (Lou) Edward Daily was born in Port Fairy in Victoria. His parents were Owen and Justine Daily (nee Stewart), both born in Ireland. Lou's older brother, Farquhar Aloysius Stewart Daily was born in 1872 in Fitzroy, and he was my grandfather.

An interesting and unresolved issue is that the 1989 Footscray premiership VFA medal that I have in my possession, writes Lou, has the initials FASD inscribed on the back. No record exists that Farquhar played in the 1899 grand final for Footscray. His brother Lou was certainly the full forward in the premiership team that won both the 1899 and 1900 VFA grand finals.

In 1901 Lou came to Western Australia and played in the West Perth premiership side in the Western Australian Football League (WAFL). During that year Lou played 15 games at full forward and kicked a total of 38 goals, then a WAFL record.

His brother Farquhar also came to Western Australia and in 1906 he married Agnes Josephine Morley at St Patrick's church in Fremantle.

In 1902 Lou travelled to the goldfields region and continued to play football for several clubs until 1909. At that time the Goldfields Football League was strong, and players were financially rewarded. A quote from the book "Gravel Rash" written by Les Everett states "Lou Daily was a consistent player who was the most reliable goal getter for Boulder Stars in 1906."

Lou left the Goldfields Warriors Football Club in 1910 and joined the Subiaco Football Club in the WAFL. By then in the twilight of his career, he played only two games before retiring from football. In 1914 he served his country in the First World War, joining the 3rd Tunnelling Company. He was wounded in France, discharged from the army in April 1919 and returned to Victoria. At the age of 43 Lou married Louisa Teresa Jeniva in 1919. They lived in Moonee Ponds, a suburb of Melbourne.

Louisa died in 1946 at Moonee Ponds at the age of 79 and Lou passed away at Myrtleford, Victoria in 1950 at the age of 74.

Lou Daily, the younger

Louis (Lou) Joseph Daily (my uncle) was the third son of Farquhar and Agnes Daily (my grandparents). He was born in 1911 at Mt Lawley, an inner suburb of Perth. Later the family relocated to Bagot Road in Subiaco.

The Daily family consisted of four sons, Stewart, Frank (Gerry), Lou and Farquhar (Jack) and two daughters, Kathleen and Jessie (Clare).

My Uncle Lou started playing football with the West Subiaco juniors before moving to the West Subiaco WA Football Association team. After six games he was promoted to the league side in 1931, playing at half back and half forward. In 1933 he moved to Melbourne where he joined the Collingwood Football Club, playing seven league games in that year.

In 1934 he transferred to Geelong playing in all league games in that season. In one game he kicked a bag of 10 goals playing at full forward. It is of interest that during his time in Melbourne, Lou lived with his Uncle Lou in a house in Fitzroy, where I understand from family folk law vigorous discussion was often shared to identify who was the "best Lou Daily footballer", a debate with two different endings.

In 1935 Lou returned to the family home in Subiaco and resumed playing league football with the Subiaco Football Club. He was used at full back that year and was an immediate success and that's where he stayed. Lou was tall at 6ft 5 inches and a versatile footballer. He won the Sandover Medal that year in a dead-heat (25 votes each) with Swan Districts winger, George Krepp. To this date, he still is the only full back to ever win the Sandover Medal in the WAFL.

Sandover medallist Lou Daily



Right: Stewart Daily (left) and his brother Lou (right) in action for Western Australia against South Australia in a 1936 match at Subiaco Oval

Left: The classical drop-kick was one of the attributes of Subiaco Medallist, Lou Daily

Lou was acknowledged as having marking strength in the air, a superb kick and a keen awareness when defending the goals. He played 92 games for Subiaco, winning the Sandover Medal in 1935 and was runner-up in 1937. Lou also won the Subiaco Club's fairest and best in 1935, 36 and 37 and in 2008 was included in the club's "Team of the Century." He represented Western Australia in 1935, 36 and 37, playing seven games for the State.

In the footsteps of his Uncle Lou, he moved to the Goldfields in 1938 and played as captain/coach for the Mines Rovers. He continued to play excellent football and, in that year, won the fairest and best for his football club and the Dillon Medal for the fairest and best in the Goldfields league. That year, he also captained a Goldfields side to a memorable win over Port Adelaide. At the start of the Second World War in 1939 Lou enrolled in the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion.

After the war, Lou moved to Melbourne and married Sadie McDonnell, and they had two sons, Joseph and Anthony (Tony). He worked as a dairy farmer and died in 1974 at the age of 63.

It is true to say that both Lou Daily's were much travelled footballers. Both played league football in Melbourne, Perth and the goldfields and both returned to live, marry and later die in Victoria.

Both of Lou's brothers, Stewart and Gerry, played league with the Subiaco Football Club.

Stewart was also a tall man and played some games at full forward, but mainly as a ruckman. He was four years older than Lou. Stewart worked as a fireman for the WAGR spending a lot of time shovelling coal, which contributed to his phenomenal work-rate on the football field. He started playing for Subiaco in 1928 and retired in 1940 having played 202 games. As a full forward in 1931 Stewart kicked a total of 44 goals. He was the fairest and best in 1932 and as a ruckman he represented the Western Australian State team every year from 1933 to 1938. He became a life member of the Subiaco Football Club in 1937.

One of the best photos of that era was of both brothers, Stewart and Lou in action for Western Australia in a 1936 match at Subiaco Oval.

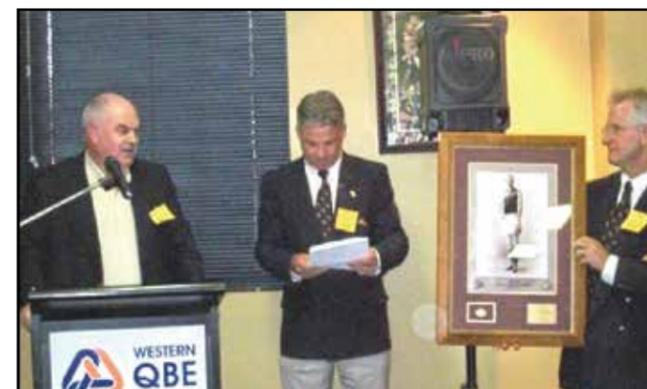
Another brother, Francis (Gerry) was two years younger than Stewart, but two years older than Lou. Gerry also joined the Subiaco Football Club and in 1934 played six league games, but he suffered a serious knee injury, which in those days was the end of a football career.



The youngest brother, Jack was the baby of the family and was ten years younger than Stewart. Jack played in the West Subiaco metropolitan football team because the WAFL competition was suspended during the Second World war years.

Final chapter

The football story took a final twist in 2001, when Lou's son Tony donated the 1935 Sandover Medal framed with a portrait of Lou to the Subiaco Football Club and it now has pride of place in the club's museum at Leederville Oval. Please have a look next time you visit.



Lou Daily (left) at the presentation with the then President of the Subiaco Football Club (and a past league player) and Jeff Lind (right) who was then the Chief Executive Officer of the club



All Daily family members were invited to attend a special lunch/drinks function in 2001 to commemorate the donation of the framed portrait and Sandover Medal for display in the Subiaco Football Club Museum

Contributed by Lou Daily
Third generation Daily with the same name



Ukraine invasion awakens disturbing memories

World War – repeating itself again and you keep asking yourself “Why”

I have been a Catenian now for just over 30 years and at the age of 83 I keep asking myself why we, as Humans, have difficulty in living together in peace, writes Dianella Circle Brother **NORM THOMPSON.**

He asks: “Why aren’t we able to support each other when needed for a much happier World?”

“Fortunately, I was born in Perth to Australian parents whose own parents came from Ireland and Scotland back in the late 1800’s seeking a better life for themselves and their descendants.”

“Since the end of the Second World War hundreds of thousands of migrants have arrived in our Australian shores from England, Europe, Asian and many other foreign lands to bond as families, raise children and provide them with a happier lifestyle irrespective of race or colour. Australia is one of the most liveable countries where people generally accept each other for what they are – Humans.”

“The current tragedy of war and conflict in Ukraine brings back memories of when I was four years of age waving my father goodbye in 1942 as he departed to the war in New Guinea,” Norm said. “Fortunately, he survived while many others did not, and he was discharged in 1946. I can remember the day that he returned as if it was yesterday.”



Norm’s father and mother with Norm and his sister

Another Dianella Brother, greatly distressed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine is **PETER KORA**, whose life was affected by events in and after the Second World War.

In his life story, published in a recent edition of the *Western Link* Peter wrote about his father who was the Editor of the *Budapest Times* newspaper.



Hungarian Army General (left) with Peter Kora’s father Editor of the Budapest Times

Towards the end of the war, Peter’s parents were looking forward to Russian forces moving out of their country Hungary, which they had occupied. However, as Editor of the *Budapest Times*, Peter’s father had a close personal contact with a General of the Hungarian Forces and was able to obtain in-depth information about Russian intentions to establish a permanent settlement in Hungary when the war finished.

Concerned about the threat of changes to their life in Budapest if Russia continued to occupy the country, in 1945 his parents moved to Steyr in Austria some 415 kilometres away, considered a safer place to live. After six months they moved to Bavaria in Southern Germany for two years while continuing to wait the Russian move out of Hungary. But it never happened, and they moved to Munich, then Venice and to Genoa where they were able to board an American ship that was taking displaced persons to Australia.

Peter’s parents were offloaded at the port of Fremantle, where they began the next journey of their life.

My main reason in contributing this article for publication in the *Western Link*, Norm writes, is to encourage others who have endured invasion, war and conflict to bond closer together in their Catenian circles.

“Even more importantly, to strongly encourage Brothers to ensure that their own or family life experiences and stories are passed on to the younger generation and your grandchildren. It is so important for them to have a full understanding of the permanent scars that war and conflict has. Recording our own histories for the benefit of all will play a large part in developing these closer bonds,” Norm said.

**Contributed by Norm Thompson
Dianella Circle**

New Norcia beckons

Silver award for tourism



Left to right: Joshua Murray, Melissa Victoriano, Robyn Allison, Tracy Sievwright, Carmel Murray, Joyce McKee, Jillian Passmore, Abbot John Herbert, Natalie Nixon and Ian Smith

New Norcia was delighted to be awarded a silver place at the 2021 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards Gala Dinner, presented by Tourism Council Western Australia at Crown Perth in the category of Cultural Tourism.

In its 49th year, the awards attracted a record number of first-time entrants representing a diverse range of businesses from across Western Australia.

“The Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards is the most prestigious awards programme in the tourism industry with a long history of celebrating and recognising business excellence, innovation and outstanding customer service by tourism operators,” Tourism Council WA Chief Executive Officer, Evan Hall said.

Abbot John Herbert and nine New Norcia staff members (pictured above) attended the evening held at the Crown Grand Ballroom filled with over 800 guests and were thrilled with the result.

“We are just so proud to receive this award. We hope this will encourage even more visitors to New Norcia to join us on a tour and see what the town is all about,” said Carmel Murray, New Norcia’s Director of Visitor Services.

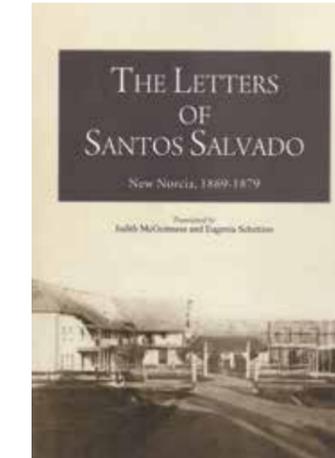
The framed certificate is on display at the New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery.

New book release:

The letters of Santos Salvado

The eighth book in the Abbey Press series has been launched. *The Letters of Santos Salvado 1869-1879* is a translation from Spanish of the letters of Bishop Salvado’s brother, Santos during the ten years he was resident at New Norcia where he was the Monastery’s second Prior.

Before his arrival at New Norcia, Santos had been the chaplain to Queen Isabella II, a position he resumed upon his return to Spain in 1879.



Santos was both highly educated and talented, an accomplished organist, chorister and collector and repairer of clocks. He also introduced photography to New Norcia. His letters are a wonderful, often humorous, record of daily life at New Norcia in which he had to draw a fine line between brotherly affection and business.

The letters were translated as part of the Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship undertaken during 2016-2020 by Judith McGuinness and Eugenia Schettino. Judy is a linguist with expertise in French and Spanish, whilst Eugenia is a native Spanish speaker and an accredited translator.

Judy and Eugenia have also translated Santos’s earlier letters prior to his arrival at New Norcia, which is hoped to be published in the future as another work in the Abbey Press series.

The book is available from the Museum gift shop or online.

Gold for New Norcia’s olive oil

New Norcia’s olive oil was awarded Gold at the 2021 Western Australian Olive Awards in the category of Class 1 – Boutique volume, using oil sourced from a single grove.

Ian Smith and his team are to be congratulated for all their hard work during 2021 to manage the olive grove, pick and sort the olives and bottle the oil.

There were only 300 bottles of oil produced in the 2021 season and the limited edition 2021 New Norcia Olive Oil is available from the Museum and Art Gallery or online from the giftshop.



Ian Smith (left) accepts the award at the 2021 WA Olive Awards ceremony



Faith based friendship, Our Catenian charism; our gift

By George Kazs
Immediate Past National President

When Jesus speaks of his “friends”, He points to a hard truth: true friendship involves an encounter that draws me so near



to the other person that I give something of my very self. Jesus says to His disciples: “No longer do I call you servants...but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you”.

He thus establishes a new relationship between man and God, one that transcends the law and is grounded in trust and love. At the same time,

Jesus frees friendship from sentimentalism and presents it to us as a responsibility that embraces our entire life: “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”.

We become friends, then, only if our encounter is more than something outward or formal and becomes instead a way of sharing in the life of another person, an experience of compassion, a relationship that involves giving ourselves for others.

Let us reflect on what friends do. They stand at our side, gently and tenderly, along our journey; they listen to us closely, and can see beyond mere words; they are merciful when faced with our faults; they are non-judgmental. They are able to walk with us, helping us to feel joy, knowing that we are not alone. Does that sound familiar?

As Catenians, the concept is central to our ethos. We are not meant to be alone. But the spirit of our time is individualism. As Christians we are meant to be connected. We want to tell someone our story without fear of judgement or condemnation. So, we gather together with a view to forming relationships which last a lifetime.

Writing for the ABC, Anastasia Hronis, provides some insights into the concept. She notes that researchers found that the most important challenge to adult friendship is a lack of trust.

The risks of being judged by others, of not being liked, of being rejected or hurt. To trust a new friend means opening ourselves up and being vulnerable. As an adult, that’s hard.

The second issue was lack of time. We know this is a challenge for younger adults. It seems US researchers have quantified this too. So, against the idea of a monthly meeting and dinner, it has been estimated that some 50 hours of shared contact is necessary to move from acquaintance to casual friendship – and more that 200 hours to be a close friend. And this is more than professional connection – there is a need for personal connection.

Of course, there are other barriers too. But with commitment and mutual understanding it can happen. It is not a process of osmosis! Perhaps with modern Catenians we need to work harder with our friendships, especially new ones. There are many options – emails, phone calls, social media, informal contacts as well as more formal social opportunities. Risks can be managed in all sorts of ways.

And in respect of faith – that concept which both makes us unique and joins us together. St Paul says that together we are Christ’s body but each of us is a different part. What do you understand about your faith and the faith journey you are on?

- How do you reach out to others? And how do you respond when others reach out to you?
- Are you comfortable in your faith? Do you appreciate that all life’s answers might not be easily found? How important is community in your faith development and do you see Catenians as part of that community?
- Do you have a realization that other people’s faiths might inform and deepen your own?

As Catenians it should be that our faith-based friendship strengthens and reinvigorates us; like footprints in the sand, it helps us when we are down and gives us joy when we are up – it makes our life’s journey that much more enjoyable.

And a final note: our faith-based friendship is inclusive and comprehends both men and women. We should all understand how our Catholic men’s organisation might best operate in our modern society and how our ladies add value, complement and enrich our Catenian experience. Together we are different; equal; complementary. Women need the company and support of women. Men need the company and support of men. Often, they need each other’s company and support. In doing so they complement each other. They are equal and part of the same body of Christ. So, too, in the Catenian Association.



Retaining our younger members

Contributed by Ralph Fitzpatrick

With the drive to attract younger members to our Association we need to also address their retention, writes Australian National Council President and Province 20 Director Ralph Fitzpatrick.

“It is wonderful to celebrate that we have recruited some younger members, but what next? Without some special treatment these younger members will be faced with a circle and its activities and events designed to meet the needs of the current membership with an average age likely to be over 70. They are quite likely to quickly become disillusioned and resign.”



“I believe we can learn from the findings of a project carried out in 2021 by Great Britain National Council wherein the survey team identified the types of events and activities that would appeal to new members in the age ranges of 25-39 and 40-54. The survey identified that the activities and events most likely to appeal to our younger members in order of priority include:

25-39

- Barbecues
- Family fun days
- Sports activities
- Dinners
- Country walks
- Live entertainment
- Quiz nights
- Cycle rides

40-54

- Country walks
- Sports activities
- Dinners
- Family fun days
- Barbecues
- Live entertainment
- Quiz nights
- Cycle rides

Note: the items in the two lists are identical, just a different order of priority”

“To attract and retain younger members we will need to offer them access to a program that includes similar items. The exact activities and events that would appeal should be ascertained by asking your young members. They might even want to assist with the organisation of the program.”

“I believe that for at least the next five to ten years the number of younger members in each circle in Province 20 (except for Adelaide City Circle) will still be relatively small and so organising events and activities for them needs to be done at Province level to attract the numbers that would make the activities worthwhile.”

What should be done?

- ❖ “Analyse and identify those existing members in the province who fall into the two target age groups set out on the opposite column. You may wish to extend the upper and lower brackets by expressing them as, say: 18-39 and 40-65. Then this would include your youngest members and extend the second group to include most of the non-retired brothers. Please don’t regard these suggestions as a set of rules. They are just suggestions as to what might be applicable in the province. The brothers identified will be the principal beneficiaries of the suggested new activities and events.”
- ❖ “A small group of brothers in the province should draw up one or more programs of activities and events for the forthcoming year, which are specifically targeted at the younger members of a geographical area. The program(s) be heavily advertised in the province and specially communicated to all younger members by email and social media. This group could be a subset of the Province Social Committee or the Province Membership Committee, but **the key point is that the activities and events are identified, scheduled, advertised and organised in addition to the program of Province/Circle dinners and meetings.**

Practising Catholic

At the Catenian Association Australian National Conference held in Melbourne on 21 August 2021 a motion was passed approving a proposal to delete the word “practising” when describing a potential member as a Catholic for the purposes of assessing eligibility for membership of the Association.

Amendment to Rules:

Rule 1 of the Rules be amended to read as follows:

1. Admission
Membership of the Association is obtained by enrolment in a Circle. Membership of the Association is open to Catholic laymen and permanent deacons over the age of 18 years who on enrolment have the capacity to discharge the Obligations of Membership. Exceptionally, those members who after enrolment discern a vocation and are later ordained as priests are permitted to remain as members of the Association.

The reason for the proposed amendment is that when assessing whether a Catholic is “practising”, personal judgements, standards and prejudices are necessarily involved. The Associations Handbook of Procedures does not have an agreed definition of “practising Catholic.”

Members of Province 20 Circles have been invited to vote on the proposed amendment. Voting closed on 30 April 2022.



Leaving church

By Father Ronald Rolheiser OMI
29 November 2021

Why are so many people leaving their churches? There is no one answer to that question. People are complex. Faith is complex. The issues are complex.

Looking at the question, it can be helpful to distinguish among a number of groups: **1. The Nones**, **2. the Dones**, **3. the Spiritual-but-not-Religious**, **4. the Indifferent**, **5. the Angry**, and **6. The Marginalized**. While there is some overlap among these groups, each has its own set of issues with the church.

- 1. The Nones** are those who refuse to identify with any religion or faith. Asked on a census form, what is your faith or religion? they answer "none". Theirs is an agnostic stance. They are not necessarily atheistic or hostile to faith, religion, and the churches. Rather, it's that at this time in their lives they refuse to identify themselves with any explicit faith or church. Some are humble about it, others arrogant; in the end, the stance is the same, an agnosticism about religion and faith.
- 2. The Dones** are those who, in their own words, are done with religion and often with explicit faith as well. Done with it! They can consider themselves done for any number of reasons, from having a bad experience with religion growing up, to anger at the church, to the intoxicating power of a culture that can seemingly offer itself as a sufficient substitute for religion. They have been there, considered religion, and moved on.
- 3. The Spiritual-but-not-Religious** are those who believe in the value of spirituality but not of any church. They have chosen to pursue a spiritual path outside of any ecclesial community, believing that (at least for them) the spiritual journey is best done outside of organized religion. There can be many reasons for this kind of attitude, not least the overpowering ethos of individuality and personal freedom pervading our culture. In one's faith journey today, people prefer to trust only their own search and experience.
- 4. The Indifferent** are just that, indifferent to religion (while perhaps still nursing some faith). There can be a myriad of reasons why these folks feel indifferent to religion and perhaps also to faith. Our culture, for all its goodness, is also a powerful narcotic than can, for most of the years of our lives, swallow us whole in terms of anesthetizing our religious instincts and having us believe in what Charles Taylor calls a self-sufficient humanism. For long periods of our lives, our world can seem enough for us and while this is the case, indifference to religion can be a real option.

- 5. The Angry** are those who for reasons they can name, no longer go to church. Any number of causes can be at play here – clerical sexual abuse, the church's treatment of women, racism, the church's failure to live out the gospels credibly, their own church's involvement or non-involvement in politics, a bad history with their church a bad pastor, or personal mistreatment in a pastoral situation. Persons inside this group sometimes end up seeking a new ecclesial home inside another denomination, but many just stay at home on a Sunday morning.
- 6. The Marginalized** are those who feel themselves outside the understanding, empathy, and spiritual scope of the churches. This includes everyone from many inside the LGBTQ community, to the homeless on our streets, to countless thousands who feel (consciously or unconsciously) that the messiness of their lives somehow excludes them from ecclesial community. They feel like outcasts to religion and our churches.

People are leaving their churches for a multitude of reasons, and this begs some further questions. **1. When people are leaving their churches, what actually are they leaving?** And **2. Where are they going**, if anywhere?

In a recent book, **After Evangelicalism, The Path to a New Christianity**, David Gushee asks these questions about those leaving their churches: **1. Are they clear on what they are actually leaving?** **2. Do they know whether they are leaving church, leaving their denominations, leaving the faith, leaving Jesus, or just leaving?** More importantly, he asks: **3. What will be their endgame?** **4. Will they end up in another denomination, or as Spiritual-but-not-Religious, or as agnostic, or just as disillusioned?** Perhaps that question is not so important for the **Nones**, the **Dones**, the **Spiritual-but-not-Religious**, the **Indifferent**, and for many of the **Marginalized** – but it is not for the **Angry**, for those who feel alienated from their churches. **5. Where do you go when anger keeps you away from your family table?** **6. Do you search for a more like-minded family?** **7. Do you give up on finding a family table?** **8. Do you just stay home on a Sunday morning?** **9. Are you okay to go to your deathbed still angry?** **10. Are you content to remain disillusioned?**

Leaving church: two questions stare us in the face: **11. Why are more and more people leaving their churches or simply not going to them?** and **12. what's the religious future of those who no longer go to church?** The former is a question for the churches themselves, the latter a question to ponder for those no longer going to church.

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The article *Leaving Church* was published in the February 2022 edition of the *Knights of the Southern Cross (WA) magazine Nightlife* and is reproduced with permission

On the pathway of Synodality

On 10 October 2021 Pope Francis initiated a two-year process for a Synodal Church called "The Synod on Synodality" involving all Bishops in the universal Church consulting with parishioners, religious and Catholic universities culminating in a Synod in Rome in October 2023.

Pope Francis said: *"a synodal Church is a church which listens, which realises that listening is more than simply hearing. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the College of Bishops and the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other and listening to the Holy Spirit."*

Dr Graham Mahony coordinated the joint response with the Parish Priests and representatives from five Parishes in the Fremantle Circle area. The circle is represented on these parishes by **Michael Yap** (Applecross), **Ian Handcock** (East Fremantle), **Kevin Hefron** (Myaree), **Richard Finucane** (Palmyra) and **Graham Mahony** (Attadale and other parishioners).

Dr Mahony said: "With the guidance of Tony Giglia, Archdiocesan Coordinator Plenary Council and Synodality, these five local Parishes embraced the Papal initiative on Synodality creating a progressive, practical model and pathway enabling our parishes and parishioners to journey together going forward on the pathway that God calls the Church to undertake for the third millennium in our Archdiocese and the universal Church.

"We recognised the practical challenges facing the Church in multicultural Australia by providing input from parishioners for our Plenary Council, which is due to reconvene in July 2022," Dr Mahony said.

The Church and our parishes are challenged by a generally ageing population of clerics and parishioners, together with only some 10 to 12 percent practicing of the 5.4 million professed Catholic population in Australia. Therefore, the current initiatives for "transition" being enacted by the Archdiocese of Perth are so important because it enables these challenges to be appraised.

The practical step of parishes coming together within a Synodality framework and supporting each other, enables the establishment of a constructive framework to address the challenges to move forward in a progressive manner with clergy and parishioner creating new directions for communion, participation and mission, hopefully visible and engaging for the wider Catholic population not currently participating.

A Synod approach involving multiple parishes potentially provides the basis for ongoing continuous improvement and feedback from the outcome of the Plenary Council.

Province 20 pledged its strong support of the Plenary Council to His Grace Archbishop Costelloe SDB at a Fremantle Circle Catenian dinner on 18 March 2021 and indicated that the Catenian Association could not only assist parishes to disseminate proclamations emanating from the Council but also facilitate feedback.

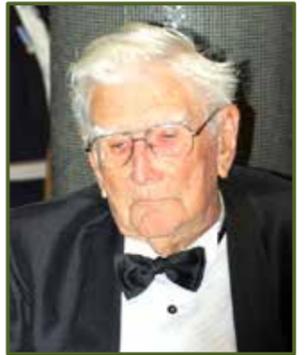
A Synodality model of parishes working together and supported by Catenian Association members working with parish priests and parish communities in their regions would serve the Church in the third millennium in a practical manner, whilst collectively increasing recognition of the Association as an organisation, which people want to join: *Strengthening family life through friendship and faith.*

Dr Graham Mahony
9 March 2022

Peter Cox 1923 – 2022

Catenian members from Como and other Circles in Province 20 joined with family and friends at Holy Family Catholic Church in Como on Tuesday 15 February 2022 to celebrate the life of Peter Cox who passed away peacefully at Bethesda Hospital on 5 February 2022 at the age of 98.

Peter was a loyal and much-loved member of Como Circle since he was enrolled in 1991. He was awarded a scroll to mark his 30 years of membership at the Circle's 400th meeting on 22 May 2021, which he attended accompanied by his trusty "tradie", Jean. His fellow Catenian brothers at Como Circle are richer for having shared his friendship and loyalty for those 30 years.



Peter was born in Highgate, England on 21 May 1923, the first child of William and Ethel Cox. In 1927 he sailed with his parents and younger brother, Geoffrey from Liverpool on the Blue Funnel liner the *Euripides* to begin a new life in the colonies. The family disembarked in Albany and travelled by road to Perth, where soon after, his father purchased their family home and business in Victoria Park. Life was difficult for the family during the Depression years, and they moved from home-to-home numerous times in the Cottesloe, Swanbourne and Mosman areas.

Peter started primary school in Victoria Park as a seven-year-old, but moving houses meant that he attended several schools in different suburbs. Halfway through his last year of high school, physics and chemistry were opened to him and that was when physics, maths and engineering became the core of his life.

He completed his Junior Certificate in 1938 and after working with his father and a builder for a while, he was offered a cadetship with 6PM radio and by the age of 17 had a licence to operate a radio station.

Peter met the love of his life, Joan while working as a radio technician doing outside broadcasting, including weekly concerts where Joan was performing. Joan was just 13 and had been performing since she was five. She later performed at many concerts for the troops during the Second World War and with the Western Australian symphony orchestra. They were married on 4 October 1947 at St Brigid's Church in West Perth.

After the war when he enlisted in the RAAF, Peter returned to work at 6KY in radio and later got a job with the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) as an engineer; work that took he and Joan to live in Victoria and Tasmania where they had an amazing time with skiing holidays, entertaining family and friends and travelling extensively in Australia and around the world.

As Peter fought an increasing battle with asthma, they transferred back to Perth in 1954 and he continued to work with DCA for many years.

He lived a long and active life. When he was 90, he re-laid the paving bricks on his driveway with the help of a 78-year-old "tradie", Jean, who provided enormous care, devotion and love to Peter and Joan in their later years.

Peter will be remembered for his generosity, kindness and care supporting many charities and friends in need.

May he Rest in Peace



Mike Seeber

1946 – 2021

Brothers from all circles in Province 20 were saddened by the loss of a loyal and committed Catenian, Michael Seeber who passed away in Mandurah on 27 December 2021. Mike joined the City of Mandurah Circle in 1996 and served as Registrar and Chamberlain before taking over the important role of Publicity Officer in 2006 a position he held until his death. During the period from 2006 he also simultaneously served as Membership Officer for a time and was voted the City of Mandurah *Catenian of the Year* in



2014 in recognition of his tremendous contribution to the circle and the Association. Mike was presented with his 25-year Membership Certificate at the City of Mandurah Circle's 30th anniversary celebration in October 2021.

A large gathering of Catenian Brothers joined family and friends at Our Lady's Assumption Church in Mandurah on 7 January 2022 at a Mass to give thanks for the life of Mike celebrated by Associate Parish Priest Father Anson Antony, St Damien's Dawesville Parish Priest Father Vince Comple and Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Bay Parish in Busselton, Father Jaybee.

Mike was the loved husband of Kaye for 52 years, father of Paul (deceased), Matthew (deceased) and Jason. He was father-in-law to Jenny and proud granddad to Anthony, Kyle, Abygael and Imogen. Mike was also the much-loved brother of Greg, brother-in-law of Cherri and uncle to Claire and Adam.

He was born in Perth but in 1946 at the age of seven months and still a babe in arms set sail for South Africa with his mother and father. They lived in Durban and Cape Town for seven years and in 1953 returned to Perth where they lived in Bicton. Mike attended CBC Fremantle and did very well academically through to his year 12 graduation.

In the late 1960s Mike took up surfing spending many happy days with good friends at Singleton and Avalon at a time when both beaches could only be accessed on bush and limestone tracks. In the mid 1970s he took up yachting enjoying times with mates and his brother Greg sailing on the Swan River, Rockingham and at Rottneest. Mike also got much pleasure from playing squash, tennis and later his weekly round of golf.

After leaving school, Mike joined the Australian Taxation Office, moving through the ranks to a senior management level until his retirement several years after moving to Mandurah. It was in the Australian Taxation Office that he first met the love of his life, Kaye.

Following their marriage in 1969 they built and lived in a home in Melville Glades, interrupted for a year when Mike took a promotion with the Australian Taxation Office, and they moved to Canberra. Mike and Kaye returned to Melville for a time and then moved to the shady streets of Mt Pleasant near Aquinas College for their son Jason's schooling.

In 1992 they decided it was time for a sea change and made their move to Parklands in Mandurah and spent 11 years on their beautiful acreage property.

In 2003 Mike and Kaye moved from Parklands to RAAFA in Erskine to enjoy the village lifestyle and security. This also allowed

them to continue to travel extensively and share many wonderful experiences on trips to the United Kingdom and Europe.

They have been blessed with beautiful grandchildren from Jason and Jenny and Mike derived immense pleasure from watching Anthony and Kyle develop into wonderful young men, as well as seeing Abygael and Imogen grow into lovely young ladies.

Mike was devoted to the Catholic Church and had a deep faith. He will be sorely missed by his Catenian Brothers, the St Vincent de Paul Society Mandurah Chapter, the Church and community. He will be remembered as a true gentleman who willingly gave so much of his time and life supporting others in need. His sense of humour, wisdom and kindness will never be forgotten.

May he Rest in Peace

Peter Ball

1943 – 2021

Brothers of the old City of Busselton Circle, now members of the Australian National Council Central Circle mourn the loss of Peter Ball who sadly passed away on 13 November 2021 after a long illness. Peter joined the City of Busselton Circle in 2013, not long after it was inaugurated in October 2012. He was a very committed and loyal Catenian Brother but was unable to regularly attend meetings and participate in social activities in the last few years of his life. During this difficult period, he was comforted and drew amazing strength from his strong and enduring faith. At his Requiem Mass held at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Busselton Peter was remembered as an extremely easy person to like, and indeed love.



He endeared himself to family, friends and his Catenian Brothers exhibiting loyalty and respect to all. His cheerful demeanour and genuine caring nature made him pleasant company for those who graced his acquaintance and friendship. He was especially dear to his extended family, as he was to his devoted life-partner, Judy.

Peter was gifted with a beautiful singing voice, which he demonstrated commercially and used on occasions to entertain his family and friends. He had an infectious sense of humour and an ability to make those with whom he came into contact feel appreciated and relaxed.

Peter was above all a family man. After several attempts to find the right life partner he met and married the true love of his life, Judy. Their life together brought them both much happiness and satisfaction. The depth of the love they had for each other was evident in their visible devotion.

Inspired by his strong religious faith, Peter sought out ways to demonstrate this through membership of several Christian organisations including the Catenian Association. This reflected the influence of his schooling at Christian Brothers College in Fremantle and even into adulthood he shared his passion with his family, especially with his mother, Margaret. The sadness of his passing will never erase the joy encapsulated within these special memories.

May he Rest in Peace

Philip Solomon Zeid

1922 – 2022

City of Perth Circle members were saddened by the passing of their long-serving and committed Brother and friend Phil Zeid on 11 January 2022 at the age of 99.



Catenians from all circles in Province 20 joined family and friends to celebrate the life of Phil at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Nedlands on 21 January 2022 celebrated by Father Gavin Gomez.

In 2015 the City of Perth Circle awarded honorary Life Membership to Phil for

his service as Welfare Officer from just a few years after he joined the Catenian Association on 21 June 1988.

He only retired from this important office when his health began to deteriorate, performing the task with distinction for 30 years. The skill and compassion that Phil brought to the role has become widely recognised, not only by City of Perth Brothers but broadly across Province 20 and the Association. The manner in which he executed this job over so many years with such dedication has endeared him to the Brothers, wives and widows of the Circle.

Phil was a committed Catenian who, when unwell in his last couple of years, would still attend monthly City of Perth meetings even when burdened with a walking frame and oxygen bottle stowed onboard.

At the last City of Perth meeting that he attended on 8 November 2021 there was a poignant moment when Phil, the eldest Catenian (aged 99) was introduced to Rennie Louis (aged 24) of the Adelaide City Group during the Adelaide City's visit by a delegation of four Brothers on the occasion of the Province 20 President's Mass. Separated by 75 years this multi-generation age difference did not prevent the two Brothers from quickly acquainting themselves with each other.

Born in Portsmouth in England on 7 December 1922 where he lived until the end of the Second World War, Phil lived a full life for almost a century and with his passing for many, it feels like the passing of a generation.

In a eulogy delivered at his Requiem Mass, Phil's son Lou said that his father had grown up fascinated with science, technology and scientific developments. Prior to the Second World War he was enrolled in university doing a science degree. "When we were young, we always felt he had a bit of the mad scientist in him, in a good way, not the crazy one. However, the war certainly changed the direction of his life."

"On many occasions my father spoke of how the war altered him," Lou said, "and while it was a time full of tragedy, he believed it led him to a better and fuller life. He enlisted in 1940, became an Airforce pilot and served in the Burma campaign. Following the war, he didn't return to England but ended up in Malaysia working as a planter for Uniroyal Rubber where he worked his way to the position of Managing Director. He was well respected in his profession and for his service in the development of the rubber industry was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 1979."

"Over the last few months of his life when speaking to my father, he would often comment that when he looks back, he feels like he had lived many lives, and they have been very different. This is very understandable as he lived and worked in different countries and had such a variety of experiences. He experienced life in England, across Europe, India, Burma, Cocos Islands, America, Malaysia, West Africa, Indonesia and of course, Australia."

"Our father was a man full of energy and enthusiasm with a generous spirit and a sense of adventure. Some of the adventures we shared with our father included our wonderful camping holidays in the United Kingdom and Europe that were full of adventure and laughter."

"When in Malaysia sailing was a great passion of our father. We all spent many hours in his little sailboat *Boson's Pride*. My father's competitiveness came out during the Sunday sailing competition, and he particularly loved the 'round the island' race, as did we. It was a two-day sailing competition sailing around Penang Island and sleeping on the beach at night. His passion for sailing never left him."

"You can't talk about our father without thinking of our mother, Nina," Lou said. "They had a great life together and she had a very positive influence on him. Together they lived an extraordinary life. He met Nina in Sydney while on leave, took her back to Malaysia and together they had many adventures." "When they came to Western Australia, they derived an enormous amount of enjoyment from the farm they bought in Beverley."

"Dad left behind a large family of five children, Michelle, me, Margaret, John and Patricia and families, including 12 grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren with one more on the way."

Lou concluded his eulogy by thanking all of Phil's many friends for sharing his life. Phil loved people and loved being with people. "In leaving us, all I can say is that he leaves the world a better place and all of us better people for him having been here. God Bless him."

May he Rest in Peace

Rod Willix

1933 – 2022

Darling Range Catenians mourn the loss of their Brother Rod Willix who was Founder Secretary of the Circle when it was inaugurated in February 1981 and a committed and loyal member for 42 years.

During that time, he also served as President in 1985/86 and, together with Brothers Harry Muller and John Bottomley, in the writing and publication of a history of the circle's first 36 years.

A large gathering of family, friends and Catenian Brothers attended Mass celebrating his life at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Lesmurdie on 24 February 2022.

Rod was a loving husband to Mary of 60 years, proud father to Clare, Timothy, Patrick Matthew and Frances, respected father-in-law to Andrew, Rosie, Kate, Jenny and Liam and devoted to his 13 grandchildren.



Rod was born 89 years ago in Maymo, a small town located in the hills of Burma. His family was beautifully interwoven with both Burmese and English heritage. He often spoke about an idyllic life up until 1941 when Japan bombed Pearl Harbour, Singapore fell and the British forces began to retreat from the region. Rod's parents decided it was also time for them to leave, but for the ensuing years it was a torturous, difficult and dangerous challenge until the family's immigration was finally accepted by the Australian High Commission in February 1947. They arrived in Fremantle and settled in a home in North Perth.

Rod resumed his education at Perth Boys School, onto Perth Modern and then the University of Western Australia. He won science prizes for his course and completed his Ph.D. with the assistance of a scholarship from the Australian Energy Commission. His Ph.D. was on "the use of radioactive substances to follow chemical processes". He then spent three years at the University of Leeds on a postdoctoral scholarship from the UK Atomic Energy Authority.

It was while living in a hall of residence at Leeds University, that Rod met an Irish girl from County Mayo, Mary who was a nursing sister at Leeds General Infirmary. A friend of Mary's asked her if she could invite this guy (Rod) from Australia to the all-night Devonshire Ball adding: "Don't worry Mary, it's a one-off, I know you're a Catholic and he's Anglican and, anyway, he doesn't like the English cold." Mary thought they got on very well at the ball but heard no more from him for ages. It turned out that Rod had gone travelling through the United Kingdom and France, finally ringing Mary when he returned to ask her out for a coffee, duly forgetting to take his wallet.

They married, had Clare and moved to Berkeley in California with a postdoctoral appointment to the Lawrence Livermore Radiation Laboratory at the University of California. By moving to the United States of America, Mary sacrificed an opportunity that would have made her the youngest hospital matron in Britain.

On their return to Perth with Clare and Timothy, Rod began work on the use of radio-active tracers on biological processes at the University of Western Australia medical school, followed by a 25-year association with Curtin University.

Patrick, Matthew and Frances were born after they moved back to Perth and the family of seven utilised all the available space in the huge Rambler car Rod and Mary brought back from California but doomed them forevermore to vehicles that could only be described as "Catholic family wagons."

Rod was passionate about his gardens, in the eyes of his family always trying to create a "little Burmese jungle" wherever he lived.

He so loved his grandchildren, his nieces and nephews and their children, but most of all he loved his wife of 60 years, Mary.

"Mary is the matriarch of our family, our lighthouse, our rock," Tim said in his eulogy at the funeral Mass. "Our family expanded considerably with marriages that added Andrew, Rosie, Kate, Jenny and Liam and then wonderful, cherished grandchildren."

Rod will be remembered as a compassionate, patient and caring man. He loved being with his friends, his book clubs and his Catenian Brothers who formed a Guard of Honour at the church after the Mass. He was also a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre.

May he Rest in Peace

Adrian Urquhart 1933 - 2022

Dianella Catenians were saddened by the loss of their Brother Adrian Urquhart who passed away to his eternal reward on the morning of 24 January 2022. A large gathering of family, friends and Brothers attended Mass celebrating his life at the Redemptorist Monastery in North Perth on 23 February 2022.

Adrian was born a fifth generation Australian on 4 March 1933 in East Perth, the elder son of Alec and Millie Urquhart. The Urquhart family lived in the Mt Lawley, Leederville and Inglewood areas for most of their lives. Adrian's heart was in Mt Lawley.

Adrian went to school at Sacred Heart Highgate and, although he was a good student, his schooldays stories tended to focus more about sport, particularly tennis. He played a lot of tennis winning various State singles and doubles titles with photos and trophies always proudly displayed in his house.

After matriculating from Highgate, Adrian was awarded a Public Works Department scholarship and studied Engineering at the University of Western Australia. He graduated with honours in Civil Engineering in April 1955.

Just before that time, in November 1954 he met his future wife, Mechtilde at the National Catholic Girls Movement dance at the Young Australia League premises in the city of Perth. They were engaged at Easter in 1958 and married at St Anne's Church in Belmont on 27 December 1958. They were married for 63 years, raising six children and were the proud grandparents of 14 and great-grandparents of one with another on the way.

Upon graduation, Adrian embarked on a civil engineering career, servicing the Western Australian community and leaving his mark on just about all the ports on the WA coast. He worked on the Geraldton Harbour, Fremantle Harbour, Esperance Harbour, and Derby Harbour, before moving to Port Hedland where he worked with the Port Hedland Water Supply.

In 1969 he joined the Fremantle Port Authority as a Civil Engineer where he worked on projects including the construction of the Kwinana Grain Terminal jetty in the early 1970's. He retired in 1988 at the age of 55.

Retirement brought a whole new life to Adrian and Mechtilde. Mechtilde enrolled at the University of Western Australia to do an arts degree inspiring Adrian to also take up art. Being a "classically trained engineer" his 3D perspective, charcoal drawings were described by his art teacher as being "factually accurate but of no artistic merit", but undeterred and with his usual strong-willed determination, he swapped to acrylic paints and showed quite a flair. However, retirement meant that he could play even more golf. He was a proud member of the Mt Lawley Golf Club for 50 years, scoring a hole-in-one on two occasions.

Adrian suffered a stroke in 2012, which was the beginning of a long slow journey into dementia. When he had a fall on 7 January 2022 and broke his right hip, his health rapidly declined and sadly he passed away just two weeks afterwards on 24 January 2022.

May he Rest in Peace



Contributed items and photographs



Adelaide City Group

First Christmas celebration a great success

The inaugural Christmas dinner for Adelaide Catenian brothers and their families was an outstanding success with an attendance in excess of 70.

Meeting in a small park in the leafy suburb of Walkerville, the Catenians celebrated along with their families both the Christmas season and the accomplishment of the Adelaide City Group in its initial ten months.

Members also learnt that the Group's remarkable growth trajectory had resulted in it being recognised as *Adelaide's fastest growing Catholic Community in 2021* (when ladies and children are included).

The evening was extra special with the presence of 17 children from Brothers' families. They were each surprised to be presented with small gifts funded by the Adelaide City Group.

Guests included Father Anthoni Adimai, Sister Jasmine Lawrence (both strong supporters of the Catenian presence in Adelaide) along with a prospective candidate.

Dinner was supplied by the families, living up to Adelaide City's growing reputation of a truly culturally diverse dinner assortment.

Some of the older children organised games for all, including soccer, a *red-rover* of sorts and some activities especially for the children, including darts, bubble blowing and blow-up toys for them to roll around in.

It was a fitting climax to what has been a truly special year for the Catenians in Adelaide.



*Joshua Newnes
and Conroy
Saldanha*



*Left to right: Laniesha Shara, Nathan Lobo (guest)
and Rennie Louis*



*Left to right: Laniesha Shara, Nathan Lobo (guest)
and Rennie Louis*



Adelaide City Group (continued)

The youngest Catenian in the World

In January 2022 Adelaide City Group enrolled **Daanyaal Forsyth**, the son of Secretary and Development Officer Kingsley. Daanyaal turned 18 just last August. The enrolment ceremony was conducted at the Group's new venue, the Adelaide Royal Coach Hotel.



Kingsley Forsyth congratulating his son, Daanyaal after his enrolment

The meeting was well attended despite a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases in Adelaide around the date of the meeting. A second candidate who was expected to also be enrolled at the meeting was a late apology due to testing positive to COVID.

Three interested gentlemen joined the Group for the fraternal dinner that followed the meeting. The post-meeting dinner was filled with much fun as Rennie Louis hosted an Australia Day themed quiz (using the Kahoot App) and Andrew Mulholland graciously presented prizes to the top three winners including Chairman Michael Cogman who took home first prize.

Proceedings were superbly captured by the Adelaide Group photographer Conroy Saldanha.

The Group Officers did an outstanding job conducting the traditional "full Circle" formal Catenian meeting format and procedure for the first time without anyone missing a beat.



Left to right: Ramon Salazar, Julio Cordero (guest), Nixon Quintero (guest), Kingsley Forsyth and Adrian Bock (guest)

Remembering an oft forgotten tradition

"It's become a tradition of my family to invite the community of Passionist Sisters who reside in Adelaide to our home each year to share a meal with us," writes Kingsley Forsyth.

Kingsley and his wife Kanchana did this again in January 2022, enjoying a wonderful day together sharing fun, food and games.



Sister Jimsy (in the background), Kingsley and Kanchana Forsyth and Sister Shiji



Left to right: Sister Joan Mary, Sister Jasmine, Sister Jimsy, Kanchana Forsyth, Sister Nithya, Sister Mary Jasmine, Sister Shiji and Kingsley Forsyth

"I would like to take this opportunity," Kingsley said, "to gently remind readers of an often-forgotten Church tradition in Australia and that's to invite your Parish Priest into your home."

"Whether it's for a house Blessing (something we really should do annually), to share a meal or just a simple coffee, it's important for you to get to know your Priest *outside of Church*, not forgetting that they also want to get to know you too."

"We may feel that the Parish Priest is too busy, but I have found in my experience that this is simply not true. Part of the job description as Pastor and Shepherd is to spend time getting to know their flock, because the better they know you the better they'll be able to assist and minister to you and strengthen your faith."

"This is even more important if your Parish Priest is from overseas and has no local family. These men and women so far from home often get lonely, exacerbated particularly over the last two years or so by the closed international borders because of COVID-19, magnifying their feelings of isolation and remoteness."

"I encourage all readers to make an extra-special effort in 2022 to extend the warm Catenian embrace of hospitality to your Parish Priest. Invite them to your home and provide them some welcome relief from the most self-sacrificing job in the world," Kingsley writes.

Avon Valley

Another police service honour

Avon Valley stalwart and long-serving circle Secretary, **Brian Webb** was recently honoured with yet another Police Service medal to add to his long list of awards that include the APM and Queens Medal, Australian National Service Medal and CMF (Army) together with several others that he has already received.

The recently issued Police Medal for exemplary service and the Federal Police Medal was worn above the "bar" having been given separately to Brian two years ago.

"Not bad for a man now 27 years retired," Brian remarked after the presentation.



Brian pictured receiving his latest award

Bouvard

Circle snippets

Bouvard Brother Max Gardiner reports that the circle, like so many others in Province 20, has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The effect of the virus particularly impacts those circles with small membership numbers and brothers with underlying health issues. One traditional event that has been deferred was the scheduled March 2022 Bouvard's joint meeting with the City of Mandurah Circle.

Despite the threat of Covid infection, the monthly coffee mornings held at the Falcon Bay Café continue to be a very popular hit and a great way of introducing new parishioners and prospective members to Bouvard's small group.

The circle's February 2022 ladies night was held at the *Dawesville Cut Golf Club* restaurant with a buffet meal that was enjoyed by all. The golf club restaurant is not ideal to hold a circle meeting before dinner because surrounding noise levels are an issue, and the club does not have a separate private room to offer at present. For future ladies nights the circle will consider holding a prior meeting at the nearby St Damien's Parish Centre before adjourning to the golf club.

Grateful thanks go to one of the circle's new members, John Stott who has taken on the role of Treasurer. The Circle's long serving Secretary John Starcevich would also desperately like to find a replacement, but so far there have been no takers. Until numbers increase, it may be necessary to share roles, much like other Province 20 circles already do.

Max Gardiner

Keeping busy

When they have spare moments from their numerous commitments to St Damien's Catholic Parish in Dawesville, other outside voluntary interest and family, **Barbara Brown** (wife of Peter) and **Judith Gardiner** (wife of Max) busy themselves making rugs and soft toys for the *Pregnancy Help Centre* at Bunbury.



This agency provides a variety of support and referral services to those women and their families who wish to continue their unplanned pregnancy. It also offers emotional support, practical and material assistance to women both during and after their pregnancy.

Pregnancy Help also endeavours to promote the cause of the responsible enjoyment of one's sexuality by means of educational programs and counselling sessions.

Since July 1991, *Pregnancy Help* has responded to more than 150 contacts comprising about 120 individual clients. *Pregnancy Help* places a high value on supporting mothers in caring for their babies post-natal. Many clients have required ongoing support, sometimes up to around twelve months after the baby's birth.

Pregnancy Help in Bunbury provides a safe and welcoming environment for anyone to come for pregnancy related support.

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Busselton

Well-earned tribute to Catenian stalwart



George Bazzica and Tony Smurthwaite

Former City of Busselton President, Tony Smurthwaite sprang a surprise at the Christmas lunch at the Esplanade Hotel on Sunday 21 November 2021 when he presented **George Bazzica** with a "President Medallion" in recognition of his determination and commitment to keep the Social Group active.

When the City of Busselton Circle handed back its Charter in April 2019, George worked determinedly to encourage all Brothers to retain their Catenian membership by transferring to the Australian National Central Circle. Since then, he has kept the group together mainly through the Koffee Klub that meets on the fourth Sunday each month after the 9.00 am Mass at Our Lady of the Bay Parish Church in Busselton.

About 25 people attended the Group's Christmas lunch including special guests Father Ian Johnson and Sister Bernstein

Canning

Ladies night starts the New Year

Canning Circle opened the New Year with a well-attended ladies night on Thursday 24 February 2022 at RAAFA in Bull Creek, sadly without the presence of the circle's highly regarded photographers.

There were 24 members at the meeting, with ladies joining Brothers for the customary three-course dinner that followed. As usual there were gifts aplenty, Cadbury boxed chocolates for each lady and an "unnamed" courtesy gift for each brother.

A highlight of the evening was an interesting quiz facilitated by Vice President Cliff Chalon. The theme was "2021 – key events of the past year". Needless to say, copious amounts of confectionary were distributed for each winning answer.

Sadly, Canning Brothers were informed of the coming resignation of one of its long-standing members and the permanent transfer to Fremantle Circle of two other popular Brothers after the April 2022 Canning Circle meeting. The circle proposes to embark on a recruitment drive within the Kelmscott Parish soon.

Como

Have bike, will travel

Bill Staude has featured in the *Western Link* on many occasions in previous editions, but now he's running out of steam, writes his wife Josephine.

He is a member of the 400-strong Perth Over 55 Cycling Club and recently joined a group of about 40 to 50 members in the southwest town of Nannup for the club's annual camp.

All was set for a well-earned four-day holiday for Bill and Josie, after which they would drive to Albany for their Grandchildren's annual Dancing School Concert in the Albany Entertainment Centre. What a week was in store for this couple who have just clocked up 65 years together.

Because Bill's bike riding days go back over 70 years, he made Collie his first port of call on the way to Nannup. Collie, the home of bike riders, was where he competed in his first race in 1948 as a junior and later as a senior in the 50s. He still holds very happy memories of the events and the people he met.



Bill Staude, ready to go

This "would be" adventure came unstuck when Bill tripped over his own shadow and damaged his left upper arm at the magnificent painted murals on the Wellington Dam wall, near Collie. Walking to the look-out, he neglected to take proper care on the path, which was rather rougher than it should be.

Sleeping on the first night in Collie was okay as no pain had set in, but it became very sore thereafter and his left arm was immovable. The following day, this did not stop Bill enjoying a long stay at the bicycle museum in the main street where memorabilia from many years past is on display. This year the cycle club ran its 97th annual 100-kilometre race from Collie to Donnybrook and return; still one of the longest blue-ribbon events in Australia. Bill found his name in a 1950 programme, but not in the results! He does remember the road was nearly all gravel in those days and of course the extremely hilly terrain has not changed.

Departing Collie, Bill and Josie drove to Nannup via Mumbalup, bypassing Donnybrook.

When they reached Nannup they moved into their accommodation; a "Glam" tent, which had a hard floor, a queen size bed, fridge, lounge, table and chairs. Almost home from home except for the canvas walls and peaked roof. It also came with an attached ensuite. Bill's E-bike had been brought down by a friend and plans were discussed for the first day's ride, which all members were eagerly looking forward to.

After a restless night, the following morning Bill visited the local hospital for damage assessment and after some anxious moments, was advised to go to the Busselton Hospital where the medicos with better equipment could advise the next move; particularly as Bill's low heart rate had them puzzled. After about two to three hours, the

Como (continued)

diagnosis was a ruptured tendon and, because three other tendons from the left shoulder had been torn in an earlier bike fall, it seemed that "back to the city" and more expert attention was the way to go. So, no cycling on this trip, but back to Nannup for two days with his arm in a sling and then off to Albany with Josie driving to complete the eventful holiday. Three very enjoyable days with son Michael, his wife Tanya and grandies, Bonnie, Jeremy, Josie Jnr, Maggie and William Jnr.

Several other family members were in Albany for the dance concert, as always very entertaining and well presented with over 250 young children performing. On the following Monday with Bill still with arm in sling, they returned to Perth driven by their daughter Joanne and husband John to anxiously await visits to a Cardiologist and Orthopedic Surgeon the following Friday. The outcomes from both were favourable, except Bill was advised to keep clear of his bike for three weeks and was given a course of exercises.

The good news is that he has now fully recovered, and Bill and his bike are reunited and active partners again.

This adventure that "was to be" reminded Bill of another event some years back when he was riding alone heading for Esperance and came upon two girls riding in the opposite direction. In his excitement to come across other riders on the remote road, he rode onto the loose gravel road verge to stop but, low and behold, he fell and landed on his right shoulder on the hard bitumen. The girls were very sympathetic but could not really help and Bill had to ride on to Walpole in extreme pain. He had snapped tendons in his upper right arm. He visited the Denmark Hospital the next day; then to the Albany Hospital the following day only to learn a bus trip to Perth and help from an Orthopedic surgeon was the only solution. The repair and convalescence took some months, and it was not until the following year he was able to resume his ride to Esperance and "tick" that one off.

For his recent 90th birthday, Bill's three sons, John, Leon and Michael and nephew Jude rode with him for 100 kilometres, just to prove he could still do it.

Who knows where to from here, but probably something will turn up?

Vale Peter Cox

Como Brothers were saddened by the loss of Brother **Peter Cox** who passed away peacefully at Bethesda Hospital on Saturday 5 January 2022. Peter, who was 98 when he died has been a member of Como Circle since June 1991. He was a very loyal and a much-loved member and his fellow Catenian Brothers are richer for having shared his life for those 30 plus years. An obituary is included on page 17 of this Edition.



Peter Cox (left), Bill Staude and Barry O'Malley

Darling Range

Stirk Park sundowner starts the New Year

Darling Range Catenians and wives gathered on Sunday evening 16 January 2022 under the trees and alongside the pond in the scenic Stirk Park in central Kalamunda for an enjoyable sundowner to start the New Year.

Stirk Park is the same venue where about 3,000 people gather each year for Carols by Candlelight organised by the combined churches in the Hills, including the Kalamunda Holy Family Catholic Church parishioners with Catenian brothers Gerard Tonks and Glen Sarkis involved.

It was a "bring your own" chairs, drinks and food affair held in a lovely setting and perfect weather. Eight brothers, six wives and a guest, Father Antony Suresh, the Parish Priest of the Kalamunda Church attended.

"There wasn't a COVID-19 virus in sight," says Gerard Tonks, "but on that very same evening a Western Australian State Government edict was issued for all Perth people to resume wearing masks. The Catenians had consumed their pizzas and quiche just in time!"

"Numbers of active Darling Range brothers have been declining as age, frailty and sickness debilitates them and their wives," said Gerard. "There are only five brothers under 55 in the circle, but on weekends they are usually busy with their families including sports-playing children,"

"It was a delight to see Darling Range Founder Brother Rod Willix and his wife Mary and more recent Catenians members Kevin Mosey and Barry Drew there together with old stalwarts Carl Rechichi, Des Lally, Harry Muller and Bill Boyd."

Gerard, who was the organiser of the event, said: "This annual sundowner will continue to go on whilst there are Darling Range Catenians still able to walk and talk."



Gerard Tonks (standing) with Anne Mosey and Mary Willix



Left to right (seated): Jenny Lally, Kevin Mosey and Fay Rechichi Standing: Gerard Tonks



Darling Range (continued)

New touch to monthly newsletter

Congratulations to Darling Range Brother **Lionel Thompson** for his first Circle newsletter produced in February 2022. Lionel has seamlessly taken over responsibility for this important channel of communication to members from Secretary Harry Muller who has been appointed Secretary of Australian National Council for a three-year term commencing 1 April 2022.

Harry, an experienced, innovative and competent Secretary will also continue in this role for Province 20 Provincial Council in addition to his ANC responsibilities.

Lionel seeks the support of all brothers of Darling Range Circle to contribute items of interest for publication.

With the approach of the new Catenian 2022/23 year the circle is still anxiously seeking volunteers to fill the vacant positions of Vice President and Secretary.

Dianella

President's Christmas Mass

Dianella President **Peter Kora** organised a Christmas Mass for the circle on Sunday 12 December 2021 at Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Morley followed by morning tea with several parishioners who joined in for a chat with Catenian members and wives.

Despite concerns about the forecast of a very hot morning with temperatures in the high 30s, the weather turned out to be quite pleasant with the unwelcome heat only taking effect as the social function was finishing, perhaps the influence of someone above.



During the circle's get together after Mass, Brother Lou Daily made a presentation to Brother Bob Appelbee in recognition of his fantastic support to the St Vincent de Paul Society over the previous 12 months. Bob made and baked a total of 4,000 sausage rolls at his home for handing out to needy people in surrounding areas. Lou said that it was an amazing effort considering his own health issues and supporting his wife, Deidre.



Lou Daily (left) making a presentation to Bob Appelbee for his outstanding service to the St Vincent de Paul Society

Graham Pittaway's 80th birthday celebration

One of the Founder members of Dianella Circle and Past President, **Graham Pittaway** celebrated his 80th birthday with family, relations, Catenian brothers and friends at the Noranda Bowling Club on Sunday 16 January 2022, and what a great exciting afternoon it was with the private function room full.

By all accounts it was not clear whether Graham realised how big a celebration it was going to be but his facial expression when greeted by the large gathering left no doubt that it was a very, big surprise.

When it came time to get a group photo of all his family and relations it took quite some time and organisation to fit everyone in. The photo at the top of the following page captures the moment.

Graham's son Anthony did a fantastic job organising the afternoon, which included music, a guitarist, a side show and an amazing banquet of food and drink for everyone.



Graham Pittaway with family and relations



Launching the New Year with a ladies night

Dianella Circle brothers and wives celebrated their first dinner evening for 2022 with a reasonable attendance, given a host of new COVID-19 rules and regulations imposed by the Western Australian State Government, particularly the wearing of masks in public.

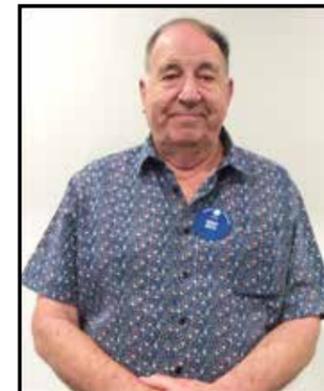
The management of the Mt Lawley Golf Club had pre-advised the circle of regulations under the current State law allowing only people who had received their double vaccination to enter the club premises. However, everything went smoothly, and everyone enjoyed a very pleasant night.

Membership Officer, Lou Daily introduced Dianella's new brother, **Kerry Smith** to all guests attending the dinner and he settled in to enjoy a very comfortable and friendly bonding.

Kerry was born in Melbourne and lived in the suburb of East Brunswick. He was educated at the Sisters of St Joseph Primary School and Christian Brothers College in North Melbourne.

After leaving school Kerry joined Trans Australian Airlines, working firstly in Melbourne and then at Essendon before transferring to Perth in 1968 where he was involved in passenger service before moving on to a senior management role.

Kerry is married with three daughters and attends Infant Jesus Parish. Like most men he has an interest in all forms of cricket and is a strong supporter of the West Coast Eagles Australian Football League team.



Group photo taken at ladies night



Carl and Josephine Pizzolante



Mario and Lesley D'Uva



Gaye and John MacDonal Smith



Margaret and Bob Burns



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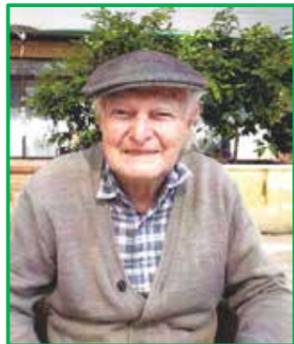
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Dianella (continued)

Vale Adrian Urquhart

Dianella Circle Brother **Adrian Urquhart** passed away on 24 January 2022 at the age of 89 after a very long and interesting life together with his wife Mechtilde for 63 years, the father to six children and 15 grandchildren.



The celebration of his life and memories were shared with a large crowd of family, friends and brothers from Province 20 at the Redemptorist Monastery in North Perth. Catenian Brothers formed a Guard of Honour at the conclusion of the Mass.



Traditional Catenian Guard of Honour

Adrian will be sadly missed by all who had the pleasure of being involved in his company. An interesting and in-depth story of his life and family is contained in the obituary section of this edition of the Western Link on page 20.

Founder President celebrates his 87th birthday



Left to right: Secretary Brian Niedzwiecki, Founder circle President, Brian Preston and Acting President Vern Scanlan

Dianella members had the privilege of helping the circle's Founder President **Brian Preston** celebrate his 87th birthday, which occurred on the day following the January meeting.

Apart from his hair colour that is now a lighter shade, writes Dianella's Publicity Officer Norm Thompson, Brian has not changed much since his early years with the Catenian Association dating back to the circle's inauguration in November 1984.

"There is one thing we admire about Brian. That is his incredible memory, which has not changed during the whole time he has been with the circle," Norm said. "If there are any queries or different recollections about the Dianella history, Brian is always willing to politely provide the background and answer and is invariably accurate."

Fremantle

New Brother welcomed

At its January meeting, members of Fremantle Circle were delighted to install a new Brother, **Louis Bove** and welcome him and his wife Connie at a ladies' night dinner held at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle.

The recruitment of new members is a priority for the portside circle and to aid this drive, Fremantle has maintained membership fees for the 2022/23 Catenian year at status quo for both full and joint members.



Left to right: Peter McCutcheon, Louis and Connie Bove, Jan Bourne and Yvonne Lowe

Joint meeting with Canning

It has a long-standing tradition of Fremantle and Canning Circles to hold a joint meeting to start off the New year to strengthen brotherhood and friendship, sharing a meal and enjoying good company. The meeting and dinner this year was hosted by Fremantle at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle on the banks of the river. Special guests at the meeting and dinner were Provincial President Chris Downey and his wife Monica.

One thing in common between Canning and Fremantle Circle evident in the photo (see opposite column) is the strong comradery that has evolved over the years with a tremendous atmosphere on display at every joint meeting and dinner.

The relationship has been further reinforced with Canning Brother John Sutton, who joined the Association in February 2011, electing to help Fremantle Circle when it was struggling with a diminishing membership base. John joined as a joint member and was immediately willing to volunteer to take on any office bearing position, including Secretary when that onerous responsibility became vacant with the sad passing of Fremantle stalwart, Joe Coffey in 2016.

Also holding the important position of Province 20 Provincial Council Records Office and with his various commitment to the Church, John still found time to serve Fremantle and has only just recently transferred his home membership to the port-side circle. Fremantle members welcome John and his wife Lesley as full membership.

Fremantle (continued)



Fremantle and Canning Circle members pictured at the joint meeting dinner at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle in January 2022.

Better late than never, Dick Finucane presented prizes for the 2021 Fremantle's AFL Football tipping competition at the circle's January joint meeting with Canning. Warren Everett won the first-place cash prize and his wife; Lynette was presented with her prize for finishing in 8th position.



Left to right: Lynette Everett, Dick Finucane and Warren Everett

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Joondalup

Croquet players in terrific form

Despite the cancellation of the 2020 competition due to COVID-19 restrictions the standard of play at the Joondalup Circle annual croquet Sunday afternoon in November 2021 was not affected notwithstanding the two-year break between tournaments.

Played at the Cambridge Croquet Club in Floreat, the event was once again an outstanding success with 14 Catenian brothers, wives and family members turning up to enjoy the social occasion. A special welcome was extended to Tony and Rose Clarke (Liwara Circle) and Doug and Maxine Bitmead (Maxine is the twin sister of Marlene Monkhouse).

The competition was keenly contested in fine, sunny conditions. All participants played four games comprising about 30 minutes each with Peter Johnston winning the afternoon.

The sporting activity was followed by a gourmet banquet of chicken and salad, topped off with fruit salad and ice cream.

Thanks were extended to the Cambridge Croquet Club for allowing the use of their excellent facilities and Catenian Brother Vince Sinagra and his wife Gail for organising the afternoon. Vince is a long-time member of the croquet club and a very accomplished player, although declining to compete in the competition.



Left to right: Jocelyn Doak, Maree Johnston, Jean and Andrew Swanson



Left to right: Tony Clarke, Dot Colgan, Rose Clarke and Gail Sinagra



Vince Sinagra (right) presents the coveted perpetual trophy to the 2021 winner, Peter Johnston

Joondalup (continued)

Traditional January barbecue is back

After a two-year absence, Joondalup's traditional January barbecue made its welcome return on Saturday 7 January 2022 hosted by circle Secretary Barry Webb and his wife Elizabeth at their home in Craigie.

Given that it was held so soon after the busy Christmas/New Year festive season the social occasion was well supported with a large gathering of brothers, wives and friends who braved an extremely hot and windy afternoon.



Informal start to the New Year

Joondalup Circle started the 2022 New Year with its traditional meeting and informal dinner hosted once again by John and Marlene Monkhouse at their Mindarie home, ably assisted by Marlene's twin sister Maxine. Brothers are extremely grateful to John and Marlene for their hospitality, now extending over several years.

On a pleasant summer evening on 19 January, the shortened meeting was well attended with 15 brothers and two prospective new members, John Greenhill and Mike Mateljan. Members and guests were treated to a delicious chicken and salad dinner followed by a fruit salad and ice cream dessert.



Left to right: Maxine and John and Marlene Monkhouse



Left to right around the table: Mike Wright, Mike Mateljan (guest), Peter Ross, Neal Garswood, John Greenhill (guest), Rob Mazoue, Wayne McKay, David Chatel, John Hollywood, Mick Doak, Paul Bellini and David Grieve

This is your life – David Grieve

David Grieve was born in 1952 in Springs, which is a town close to Johannesburg in South Africa and his education began at the Springs



Dominican Convent before moving on to the Christian Brothers College in Boksburg, also close to Johannesburg. David says that he was never good at sport but in his final school years did well in public speaking and singing, playing the part of the judge in the school theatre production, *Trial by Jury*.

"Springs was a great place to be brought up in the 1960s," David says,

"my parents struggled financially, but still managed to put all six of their children through Catholic schools."

David vividly remembers the earth being shaken every day at 4.00 pm by blasting at the mines. His mother often told the kids they could go out to play, but to come home after the blasting.

At around this time, David thought he had a vocation in the priesthood, so he spent one of his high school years in a minor seminary attached to his school. He left when the seminary closed at the end of the year but continued to contemplate becoming a priest until he met his wife, Cheryl.

After matriculating in 1969, David joined the South African Post Office where he trained as a telecommunications technician, eventually studying further to become a technologist and lecturer at the Post Office College.

During his student days, David had some 'run-ins' with the South African Police for participating in anti-apartheid demonstrations. This affected his initial posting in the Post Office where he was initially assigned to the Microwave Tower in Hillbrow – considered to be the elite corps. After a security background check deemed him to be a 'risk', he was reassigned to the fledgling Data Transmission section, which maintained the data channels used by banks and ticketing organisations to connect branches to mainframes. He was then known by his colleagues as 'Data Dave'. Ironically, when he was later transferred to the mobile radio and car telephone section, he often had to visit the tower to maintain the transmitters there.

David learned to play the piano (badly) and eventually bought a *Farfisa* organ and formed a small band with his brother and friend. He also bought a VW Kombi to cart the band equipment and members to gigs. This Kombi played a large part in him meeting his wife, Cheryl. While staying in a student hostel, David was persuaded by fellow inmates to take them in the Kombi to the nurses' residence to collect some ladies and visit some pubs. One of the nurses was Cheryl who was attracted by the crucifix hanging from the rear-view mirror that was given to David by his Parish Priest. Cheryl was a staunch Methodist, so they were married in the Northfield Methodist Church in 1976 with the priest present to bless the ceremony. Shortly afterwards, Cheryl became a Catholic.

After ten years working for the Post Office, David moved with his family to Durban to take up a post as Head of Department and eventually Director of the School of Electrical Engineering at the ML Sultan Technikon. It was here that David and Barry Webb worked together.

Being a director of a school had its challenges. In addition to being responsible for the staff, students and laboratory equipment, David had to deal with politically motivated student unrest, including the murder of one of his students who turned out to be an activist. It was when a colleague suggested he was irresponsible for not carrying a firearm, that David decided it was time to leave.

In 1988, David migrated to Australia with his family and began work as Training Manager for QPSX, a subsidiary of Telstra. The broadband switching technology developed by QPSX was bought by Siemens and Alcatel, so David travelled to France, Germany, Belgium and the USA to provide technology transfer training to their employees. In 1998, Telstra closed QPSX, so David joined a local company, ER Mapper as a Technical Writer. He then had a brief spell as a contractor to ERG who were developing a contactless rail and bus ticketing system in Singapore. For six months he commuted to Singapore to provide training for the bus and train company staff.

Since 2001, he has been a Technical Writer for HandiSoft, which became Sage Software Australia, and retired in October 2020. During his time there, he wrote the manuals and online help for accountancy software. It was a boring and tedious job, but it paid for the groceries.

Now living in Burns Beach, David and Cheryl have two sons and a daughter, all married and living close by. They have also been blessed with eight gorgeous grandchildren, who have become a large part of their lives.

Cheryl and David are both Extraordinary Ministers at the Simon Peter Ocean Reef Catholic Church where David is also a reader. In 2020, David and Cheryl completed the required courses to be commissioned as Catechists in the parish and David is now responsible for preparing the after-school children for their First Reconciliation. David has served on many parish councils including a few stints as President and represented the Ocean Reef Parish Council on the Francis Jordan School Board for two years.

In 2017, Cheryl donated a kidney to their eldest son, Brendan, and they are both now doing well.

David was installed into Joondalup Circle at its June 2018 meeting. The Circle President at that time, Barry Webb, who worked with David when they both lived in South Africa was his sponsor.

David's other link to the Catenian Association is through his brother, Tom, who is a long-time member of Liwara Circle. Tom invited his brother to attend a Liwara meeting and dinner where he renewed acquaintances with Barry, who successfully enticed him to join Joondalup Circle, which is closer to his home at Burns Beach.



David and Cheryl Grieve pictured at the Joondalup Circle Christmas lunch at Cambrai in December 2022

Liwara

Christmas cheer at Croatian House

Liwara celebrated Christmas 2021 with a lunchtime party on Sunday 5 December 2021 at the Croatian Club in Gwelup with a good turnout of about 60 brothers and wives including Viv Bowler, Judy Woodward and one other family member Tammy; the daughter of John Weselman.

The party started with Christmas carols led by Neal and Hilary Miranda, Mike Keating and Laurie Maxwell with everyone joining in with gusto. The staff of Croatian House put on a delicious spread of Christmas fare and the party finished with a challenging quiz set by Mike Keating.



Leading the Christmas Carols, left to right: Mike Keating, Laurie Maxwell and Hilary and Neal Miranda



Joining in, Cecily and Vince Thompson and Jan and Mike Jansen

Celebrating their 40th anniversary

Terry and Jill Dwyer celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary by renewing their marriage vows at a morning Mass held at All Saints Parish in Greenwood on 9 January 2022 where they were presented with a Papal Blessing from Parish Priest Father Elver Delicano.

Coincidentally Brother Ken McMullin and his wife Bobbi now living at Gardners Bay in Tasmania celebrated their 40th anniversary on the same day.



Terry and Jill on their wedding day 9 January 1982



Liwara (continued)



Jill and Terry Dwyer presented with their Papal Blessing by All Saints Parish Priest Father Elver Delicano

Foreshore picnic starts the New Year

Despite the weather, a group of Liwara Circle members and their families braved the heat to congregate on the banks of the beautiful Swan River at Matilda Bay in Crawley for the circle's annual picnic to mark the start of the New Year.

Twelve couples met on Sunday 23 January 2022 and enjoyed the open air at the "bring your own everything" event, now a permanent feature of Liwara's social calendar.

A special welcome was extended to the circle's newest member Laurie Maxwell, his wife Leanne and children.



Left to right: Gerry Barton, Kevin and Liz McKersey, Lynn Barton and Terry Dwyer

Ladies morning tea

Liwara ladies enjoyed a wonderful morning tea in December 2021 at the home of Liana and Ralph Fitzpatrick in Duncraig. Although organised at short notice the event was well supported by 11 ladies with apologies from another ten who are likely to attend when the function is next held.

There was buzz in the room with lots of chatter and good food to eat. On display was an incredible variety of Christmas decorations that Liana had collected over many years.

The ladies enjoyed themselves so much that they debated ideas of future regular get togethers including morning teas, lunches monthly or three-monthly and the alternative of meeting in a restaurant or at someone's home.

The overwhelming decision was to meet quarterly for morning tea at someone's house during the months of March, June, September and December.



Left to right: Lynn Barton, Marilena Green, Rose Clarke, Claudette de Silva, Kathy Reilly, Libby Batticci, Liana Fitzpatrick, Evelyn Lyra, Laura Ryall, Hazel Chabrel and Vivian Bowler

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City of Mandurah

High praise for the Catenian ethos



Left to right: City of Mandurah Membership Officer Wayne Wright, Tom Moylan and President Gerard Ots pictured after Tom's installation at the circle's 30th anniversary meeting and dinner in October 2021

Inducted at the City of Mandurah Circle's anniversary meeting on 12 October 2021, **Tom Moylan** welcomed the warm fellowship and friendship extended to him and his wife Anita by the Catenian brotherhood.

Tom was born and bred in East Victoria Park in Perth with a good Catholic upbringing. His father came down from Kalgoorlie to operate a bakery in that Perth suburb, a time Tom remembers well and a business he worked in. His father gave him a good understanding of the bakery business and encouraged him to keep in it "because you can make a lot of dough". Tom says that he caught on to the double meaning of his father's words and ended up in a real estate career.

He completed his high school years at Aquinas College during the 1950s giving him the education he needed in later life. Aquinas also offered a plethora of sporting activities including Australian Rules Football, rugby, baseball, tennis, squash and boxing, the latter a sport in which he competed in the 1959/60 State Championships.

Tom qualified in real estate property management, which included units in law, building and accountancy over a four-year period. He started his own real estate business, which he eventually handed over to his brother. This was just the first of many developments and adventures in the real estate fraternity.

In the 1980s Tom worked for Jennings Industries and became National Sales Training Manager encompassing Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. This led to a considerable amount of travel and after five years during which he found it difficult to combine career with family obligations, he resigned and set up his own business again from 1985 to 1987.

In the ensuing years he has worked for L J Hooker in Western Australia and Victoria, John Hopkins and Co (Melbourne), Pioneer Property Group, King and Health First National, David Evans Real Estate as General Manager and in 2001 he moved to Mandurah as a Sales Representative for H & N Perry until 2016.

Tom was involved in training sales staff throughout Australia and spent time training overseas representative at all levels in the United States of America and other countries. He has written several top selling books for the real estate world and has written for The Real Estate Stock Journal.

Tom has five children and a stepson. He married Anita in 1992 and they now live in the Halls Head area of Mandurah. Tom returned to the church in Mandurah in 2021 when he also joined the Catenians.

Wayne's yachting success at Walpole

Veteran yachtsman **Wayne Wright** (City of Mandurah Circle) and his crewman Ken Sutton had a very successful weekend in March 2022 in WA's beautiful southwest, competing in *The Walpole in The Trees Regatta*. Sailing his yacht *Warragul*, a boat that Wayne built himself, they won two races and came second in two in their five-race event and were the overall winners of their division in the two-day annual regatta.



Wayne Wright with his yacht Warragul

The Walpole in The Trees Regatta is open to sailors throughout the region and beyond with 118 yachts of all description competing this year in nine different divisions according to their type, size and speed.

"The Nornalup Inlet is a vast expanse of water," Wayne said, "allowing in excess of 100 competitors to race at the one time. The largest number in my short time of racing there was 124 two years ago, but the largest contingent has been 149."

"When the wind blows around 20 knots (37 miles per hour) with gusts to 25 knots (46 miles per hour) it's just a case of hanging on and sailing the course. These conditions don't allow a great deal for tactical issues such as covering other yachts that have a similar speed."

"When sailing in these conditions it favours yachts of greater length," Wayne explains. "The dynamics of yachting are that the longer the boat, generally the faster it is. Being longer it's also heavier and not affected as much by waves."

"These conditions prevailed for all of the five races we competed in. We capsized during the third race on Saturday, but managed to right the boat, bail out as much water as we could and still finished the race although in last place."

"This was my first competitive race as a skipper with the help of an extra person in almost 40 years when I raced at the Royal Perth Yacht Club," Wayne said.



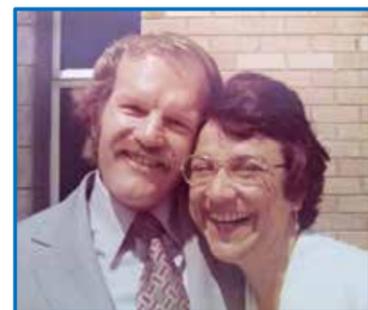
Photo courtesy of shane@dro-fo.com.au

John's story

City of Mandurah Brother **John Wilcox** was born in February 1934, raised in South Perth, and attended St Josephs Convent school. In his teenage years he went to Aquinas College, leaving at the age of 15 to take up an apprenticeship as a watch repairer at JC Taylors in Perth City during the late 1940s until the mid 1950s. John also spent some time in Northam with Jeweler, Brewster Jones, as a watch repairer, living in Northam during the week and travelling back to South Perth on weekends. He developed a passion for classic era cars during this time, starting with a Holden FX, followed by a Ford Zephyr and a Falcon during the 1960s.

John was called into National Service from 1952 until 1953 and served with the Royal Australian Air Force at the Pearce airbase as an instrument fitter on Neptune Maritime aircraft. These were twin-engine coastal surveillance aircraft in RAAF service until the mid to late 1970s.

In 1970 John accepted a position in the Public Works Department Engineering Branch as a clerical officer.



In about 1966 he became a volunteer worker with the St Vincent de Paul Society, Manning Branch and it was there that he met Manning's first lady volunteer, Margaret Gomes. Margaret and John were married on 24 September 1977 at St Pius Catholic Church in

Manning. They lived in Margaret's unit in Manning for a while, later moving to South Bentley.

In the early 1980s John and Margaret moved down to live in Mandurah and became parishioner of Our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church. John became an acolyte on 5 April 1992, inducted by The Most Reverend Barry Hickey, Archbishop of Perth.

In 1993 John was recruited to join the City of Mandurah Circle of the Catenian Association by Brendan McGurk (deceased) and served as Membership Officer and Chamberlain for many years.

John enjoys the camaraderie of the circle with other men with similar views and lifestyles and with Margaret enjoy special ladies night dinners. He also joined the Mandurah Men Alive Group that met regularly at Parish Deacon Michael Philips' home for biblical discussions.

John and Margaret reside at the RAAFA Retirement Village in Erskine.

Swan Valley

Serving their Country

The Polich's are not a fierce tribe, but over the last few centuries they have contributed their share of war and service to their Country.

Tom Polich (Swan Valley Circle) had a great-great-great grandfather in the Balkans who was born in 1641 and lived very close to what is now identified as the Bosnian-Croatian border. The area where he lived had been occupied by the Ottoman Turks for many years when, at the age of about 30, he decided to take some action to get rid of them.

Just before the end of the 17th century the Venetians were on the march again and encouraged the natives of this area to take up arms against the Ottomans. Josip Katavich (Tom's mothers side) took the lead and helped rid the area of these Turks. The Venetians gave Josip a reward for doing their work by making him an Elder of his village and, in addition, gave him two cows, five sheep and two goats.

During the Great War the area where the Katavich's lived was under the control of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. These rulers were closely aligned to the Germans and fought with them during the First World War. Tom's grandfather, also named Josip Katavich, fought in this campaign.

Josip's daughter Iva (Tom's mother) clearly remembers the day when she was only six years of age that two soldiers of the Empire dressed in their grey uniforms came to her house in the village of Orah. They gave Josip an ultimatum; come with us to fight the Allies or be shot in front of your family.

Josip's area of service was on the Eastern front and when the Communist revolution had deposed the Czar of Russia, these troops were released and allowed to return home. Iva remembers that her father brought home many rations, which was a Godsend for the family. Up until then all their agricultural produce had been confiscated by the Axis Army for their troops.

On the Polich side, Tom's father Ante and his two elder brothers, Josip and Ivan all completed their national service between 1919 and 1924 before they migrated to Australia.

Tom wanted to join the school Army Cadets in 1951 and 1952 but Iva would have none of this.

Tom's eldest son, Jamie joined the Australian Army in 1989 and completed his officers training at Duntroon. He served in the Pacific Islands, the United States of America and Southeast Asia before resigning his commission in 1999 with the rank of Major leading an artillery company.

Jamie's younger brother, Duncan followed him into Duntroon in 1991. Duncan remained in the Army until 2018 and retired with the rank of a full Colonel. He saw service in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bougainville and East Timor. He is still serving as a reserve in the logistics area.

In 1998 Tom's brother, Jack saw his eldest son, Jonathan join the Royal Australian Air Force and graduated as a pilot (see photo on the top of the next column) He rose through the ranks and became the Chief Instructor for young pilots of the *Hornets* and *Super Hornets*. He is now a Captain in the refuelling squadron flying *Airbus A 330's* and holds the rank of Squadron Leader.

And, then on 25 January 2022 Tom's grandson, Angus entered the Army Training Camp at Kapooka as a foot soldier.

"I wish him all the best of luck and pray to God for his safety," writes Tom Polich.



Flyover of Melbourne during the Australian Grand Prix of 2014. The pilot was Tom's nephew, Jonathan Polich



Tom's son Duncan (pictured right) was invited to give the Valedictory Address at Trinity College in Perth where he completed his secondary education. Duncan had reached the rank of Colonel at this time. The photo shows Duncan giving a brief talk on "leadership" to all the Prefects of Trinity College

Celebrating a police force promotion

The highlight at a recent police graduation ceremony for Catenian Brother **Aidan Walsh** was to be present to witness his son Manus receive his Commission on his promotion to Inspector from the Western Australian Governor Kim Beazley presented by the Commissioner of Police Chris Dawson.



Inspector Manus Walsh with his father Aidan

"It was a privilege to attend the ceremony to witness the graduation of two squads of 26 and 27 police recruits," Aidan writes.

"The majority of the recruits were in the 20 to 30 age range with the youngest being 19 and the eldest in the 41-50 age bracket."

"Most impressive was the high level of qualifications of the recruits and their diverse birthplaces including other Australian States and overseas countries such as France, South Korea, South Africa, England, Morocco, Scotland, Taiwan and Botswana."

"It was an impressive body of men and women moving into the force after completion of the 28-week extensive course," Aidan said, "and one got the feeling that law and order is in very good hands."

Congratulations to Manus on his promotion.

President's Mass

A pleasing number of Catenian Brothers and wives attended Swan Valley Circle's annual President's Mass on Sunday 13 February 2022 at St Helena of the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Ellenbrook including Provincial President Chris Downey and his wife Monica (Darling Range Circle) and Province 20 Director and Australian National Council President Ralph Fitzpatrick and his wife Liana (Liwara Circle).

Parish Priest Father Bonaventure Echeta warmly welcomed the visitors with a special blessing and invited Swan Valley President Patrick Doyle to give a short talk at the conclusion of Mass about the Catenian Association and the circle.

Patrick also read the first reading and responsorial psalm and Swan Valley Circle President Elect and parishioner, Taiwo Sanusi took up the Offertory.

Around 50 parishioners were hosted by the Catenians for morning tea after Mass where the Catenian banner was erected, and leaflets and *Western Link* magazines were displayed. About six men expressed interest in learning more about the Association and were invited with their wives to join a follow-up information meeting at a local café to be organised.



Left to right: Father Bonaventure, Rocco Rechichi and Patrick Doyle

Tell your personal story

Everyone has a story to tell

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

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

Please contact the Editor, Peter Johnston

Email address: menzies01@hotmail.com



Time for a laugh

The plane crash

A light airplane was about to crash. There were four passengers on board but only three parachutes.

The first passenger said: "I'm Michael Jordan, the best NBA basketball player. My millions of fans adore me and I can't afford to die." So he took the first pack and parachuted from the plane.

The second passenger, Donald Trump said: "I'm the United States President and the smartest President in American history so my people wouldn't want me to die." So he took the second pack and jumped out of the plane.

The third passenger, the Pope, said to the fourth passenger, a ten year-old schoolboy: "My son, I am old and don't have many years left. You have your whole life ahead of you so I will sacrifice myself and let you have the last parachute."

The little boy said: "That's okay Your Holiness. There's a parachute left for you. America's smartest President took my schoolbag."

Story of a brave dental patient

A Catenian brother and his wife walked into a dental surgery and the man said: "I'm in a terrible hurry. I have two friends sitting outside in my car waiting for us to go and play golf so don't bother with the anaesthetic I don't have time for the gums to get numb."

"I just want you to pull the tooth and be done with it," he continued, "We have a 10.00 am tee time at the best golf course in Perth and it's 9.30 already. I just don't have time to wait for the anaesthetic to work."

The dentist thought to himself: "My goodness, this is surely a very brave man asking to have his tooth pulled without using anything to kill the pain."

So the dentist asked him: "Which tooth is it sir?"

The man turned to his wife and said: "C'mon darling, open your mouth and show him."

Happy landing

Flight instructors are always taught that when teaching people how to fly an airplane that adopting a psychological approach to students was of the utmost importance. "Above all," instructors were cautioned to "never do or say anything to trainees that might cause sudden fright or concern."

Thus, when one engine conked out on a training flight and another began to smoke badly, the instructor strove to be as nonchalant as he possibly could as he adjusted his parachute and made his way to the hatch door.

"Now I want you to be perfectly calm," he said to his student, "while I go for help."

The evil of drink

Nearing the end of his sermon, an American temperance preacher said with great passion: "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river".

Then with even greater emphasis he added: "If I had all the wine in the world I'd take it and pour it into the river and if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd do the same."

His sermon complete, the preacher sat down and the choirmaster stood very cautiously and announced with a broad smile: "For our final hymn please turn to number 365, 'shall we gather at the river?'"

Provincial Council 2022/23

President:	John Murray <i>City of Perth Circle</i>
Vice President:	<i>To be confirmed</i>
Secretary:	Harry Muller <i>Darling Range Circle</i>
Treasurer:	Vern Scanlan <i>Dianella Circle</i>
Chamberlain:	Chris Downey <i>Darling Range Circle</i>
Membership/Expansion Officer:	Lou Daily <i>Dianella Circle</i>
Records Officer:	John Sutton <i>Fremantle Circle</i>
Marketing Officer:	Peter Johnston <i>Joondalup Circle</i>
Past Provincial President:	Chris Downey <i>Darling Range Circle</i>
Safeguarding Officer:	Keith Morgan <i>Canning Circle</i>
Director:	Ralph Fitzpatrick <i>Liwara Circle</i>

Provincial events calendar

Provincial Annual General

Meetings:	Saturday 7 May 2022 Saturday 6 May 2023
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Provincial President's Mass

and luncheon:	Sunday 6 November 2022
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Visitors Cup:

**September 2022 and
March 2023 (dates to be
confirmed)**

Speak for Faith Public

Speaking Competition:	Saturday 11 June 2022 (heat) Saturday 18 June 2022 (heat) Saturday 25 June 2022 (final)
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