

WESTERN LINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION PROVINCE 20 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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NAME

Recruitment and expansion the big focus for 2020/21

Setting the pathway into the future

In mid-2019, the Province 20 Provincial Council took steps to resolutely focus attention on the retention of Catenian members, the recruitment of new members and expansion of the Association in Western Australia.

A special purpose sub-committee was formed under the leadership of then Provincial Vice President Lou Daily to review the current approach of circles to recruitment and to develop strategies and alternative options that might be pursued.

Other sub-committee members were Kevin Parker (Swan Valley), Chris Downey (Darling Range), Frank O'Connor (Como) and Ged Kerrigan (Fremantle). Unfortunately, Kevin Parker and Ged Kerrigan were forced to retire early in the project due to health issues.

The sub-committee met each fortnight for the second half of 2019 mainly concentrating on research and updating data. Its defined aims and purpose were (a) to develop an overall strategy to guide and develop existing circles with alternative and improved options to recruit new brothers and to form new Groups and/or Circles in Province 20 and (b) to give men of Catholic faith the opportunity to develop growth and support their faith by joining the Catenian Association and contributing to the existing aims and values in a supportive family centred social organisation.

Sub-committee preliminary report

The approach adopted by the sub-committee in compiling its preliminary report to Provincial Council encompassed the following action steps:

- ❖ The current catchment areas (by parish) of the nine circles in the metropolitan area were examined identifying multiple servicing of parishes by some circles, and no servicing of others.
- ❖ The existing recruitment pamphlets and other material of UK origin were reviewed and found to be too wordy and complex and a more concise pamphlet, customised for each circle has been designed and printed.
- ❖ The level of support and active involvement with parish priests was identified as vital for local parish communication and promotion. Strategies have been identified through the current Archdiocesan Plan to further enhance Catenian/parish relationships.
- ❖ A budget for membership development was initiated and submitted to Provincial Council seeking Australian National Council financial support for recruitment and expansion.

Standing alone, but all together

ANZAC DAY 2020, the day we couldn't march, but we could mark the moment. This was the first Anzac Day since the Second World War without a traditional dawn service, but many of us stood at the end of our driveways, or on our balconies at 6.00 am on Saturday 25 April, tuned in to our radios that streamed the Last Post, The Ode and a one minute silence.

For thousands of veterans Anzac Day commemorations were strangely different, yet perhaps even more relevant as the nation unites in the face of an invisible enemy, COVID-19.

The Ode

**They shall not grow old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**



What follows is a brief story of just one brave soldier who served his country in the First World War, John Conques, the uncle of Denise Hefron, wife of Fremantle Circle's Kevin Hefron.



bringing in the wounded."

"His conspicuous bravery earned him the Military Medal, although the late Lieut. J Crichton, who was serving on the very same battlefield, referred to the soldier's gallantry as the bravest act he had ever seen and fully worthy of a Victoria Cross."

"That gallant Digger, who was later twice mentioned in dispatches, was Private John Conques."

"When a detachment of stretcher-bearers was wiped out in the course of a violent action in France in the 1914-18 war, a call went out for volunteers. A Port Melbourne Digger was one of the first to respond, and although himself badly wounded in his humanitarian task, with one remaining survivor of the volunteers, he kept on

LEST WE FORGET

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Recruitment and expansion the big focus for 2020/21 (continued from front cover)

Development areas

The sub-committee study found that near city parishes currently not serviced include Victoria Park, Bentley, Rivervale, Carlisle, Cloverdale and Queens Park and recommended that these be included in a work plan for Como Circle.

The western suburbs of Nedlands and Crawley are not currently serviced and together with Cottesloe, Claremont and Mosman Park a new Group or Circle could be formed or the City of Perth Circle revitalised and strengthened to service these suburbs.

The south-eastern corridor of new and expanding suburbs from Armadale through to Byford offers potential for new Groups and/or Circles.

Similarly, the southern suburban corridor in Cockburn, Rockingham and Port Kennedy also has potential for new Groups and/or Circles.



*Not serviced
parishes – red
dots*

*Serviced
parishes –
black dots*

Where to from here?

The research sub-committee has completed its task and will submit its final report to Provincial Council. It advocates that an Implementation Working Group (IWG) be formed to adopt and activate recommendations, chaired and facilitated by the newly appointed Provincial Membership and Expansion Officer, Chris Downey.

An invitation has been extended to all Province 20 Catenian brothers to consider a role on the IWG. Qualities being sought are brothers with: an active interest in preserving and furthering the Association; preparedness to invest time and energy in the Work Plans; existing success in recruitment; and good communication skills.

Interested brothers are invited to contact Chris Downey, Darling Range Circle.

Telephone: 0419 040 947

Email: cmdowney@bigpond.com

New Provincial President, Lou Daily

With community restrictions applying to all Western Australian citizens due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, the Province 20 Annual General Meeting was this year held by teleconference on Thursday 9 April 2020 with about 10 councillors participating. The main business was the installation of Province 20's new Provincial President, Lou Daily, who served as Vice President in 2019/20.



Lou joined Dianella Circle in April 2001 and has served as Vice President (two years), President (seven years), Membership Officer (five years), Publicity Officer (four years) and Provincial Councillor (three years). When Membership Officer Dianella Circle was awarded the International Membership Award for the most new brothers recruited in 2017; the first circle outside the United

Kingdom to achieve this honour.

In addition to his involvement with the Catenian Association, Lou has served eight years (two terms) as Chair of the Parish Council of the Infant Jesus Catholic Parish, Morley.

Following his retirement, Lou joined the St Vincent de Paul Society and within two years was appointed Regional President of the Swan Region. He also became a member of the St Vincent de Paul State Council, serving for the maximum permitted period of four years. Lou remains involved and is currently President of the Morley/Dianella Conference.

Lou was born on All Saints Day in Subiaco in 1944 and was educated in that suburb at Brigidine Convent and then the St Joseph's College run by the Marist Brothers. He married, Janice in 1967 and together they have been blessed with four children and seven grandchildren. They shared 39 years together before Janice passed into eternal life in January 2007. Their children and grandchildren live in Perth and Melbourne.

Now retired, Lou devoted most of his working life to the Health Services in the Western Australian State Public Service. Highlights of his career included his role as State Manager for the facility development and maintenance of country hospitals and associated facilities throughout Western Australia. He was also a Senior Consultant to the State Chief Psychiatrist and the State Manager of Mental Health Services in Western Australia. Lou also worked as a consultant and advocate within the private property industry.

During the later part of his working life, Lou was appointed to the Board of Management for seven years and then for three years as Chair of the June O'Connor Mental Health Service that provided both clinical and social day care and welfare to people with mental health illness and associated homelessness.

When not involved with Catenian or St Vincent de Paul affairs, Lou spends his spare time researching family and war history. He also undertakes regular therapy such as gardening, improving his cooking skills, social activities and travel.

Focused on positive growth

Incoming Provincial President's message

In his address to the 2020 Province 20 Annual General Meeting, this year held on 9 April 2020 by Skype on the Internet because of the COVID-19 crisis, incoming Provincial President, Lou Daily stressed the importance of growth by recruiting other Catholic gentlemen into circles to safeguard the future of the Catenian Association in Western Australia.

"In the next twelve months my top priority, virus permitting, will be on progressing the recommendations of the Membership and Expansion committee formed in 2019 to address membership issues," Lou said.

"The Recruitment Report produced by this committee and endorsed by Provincial Council, is a major milestone, which has identified the current status of all circles in Province 20,"

"I thank Province 20 Director, Ralph Fitzpatrick and the executive of the Australian National Council for the monetary support for the recruitment of new members. This initiative is so important, allowing circles to provide benefits to new brothers until they understand and become fully involved with the functions of the circle. Continuation of this financial support over forthcoming years will be a priority."

"I also thank Chris Downey (Darling Range Circle), Frank O'Connor (Como Circle) and Ged Kerrigan (Fremantle Circle) for their contribution to the research, consultation and development phases to finalise the Recruitment Report. Further, I acknowledge the skilled input from Provincial Marketing Officer, Peter Johnston in the production of a simple but attractive brochure, which I trust all circles will make good use of in their recruitment drives."

"Thanks to Chris Downey for accepting appointment to the position of Provincial Membership Officer and Chair of the Implementation Working group to pursue the recommendations in the Recruitment Report and to develop strategies and consult with all relevant parties towards our growth over the next five years. I recommend to other brothers with particular skills to assist Chris in his challenging role. In particular any brother with good IT programming skills is a priority. Please assist if you can."

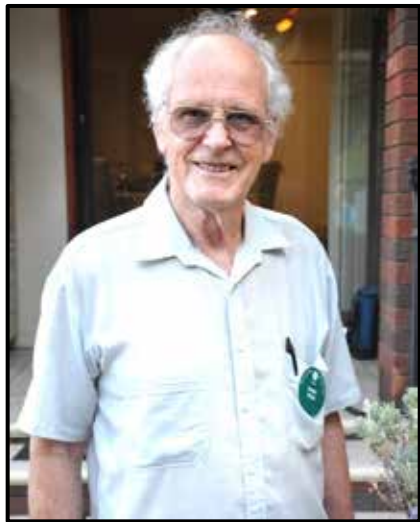
"Finally, a reminder that the Provincial annual Commemorative Mass for deceased brothers and wives will be held at 11.00 am on Sunday 8 November 2020 at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth, celebrated by Dean, Father Sean Fernandez in the absence of the Archbishop and Bishop who are not available. The Mass will be followed by lunch at the Mount Lawley Golf Club. I trust that all circles will promote these functions to all brothers, their ladies and widows and we improve on the 93 attendees at lunch in 2019."

**Lou Daily, Provincial President
Dianella Circle**



CHRISTIANITY; a thinking man's religion

I have selected to write about this topic because I feel that Christianity is the best-known religion in the world today but also the least understood. If people are going to accept or reject Christianity then at least they should know what they are accepting or rejecting.



Barry Drew
Darling Range Circle

Personally, I am convinced that Christianity is the thinking man's religion. I will explain later.

When I asked my pupils what Christianity meant to them most said that it meant keeping the 10 Commandments and, if you are a Catholic, then you are expected to go to Mass on Sundays. I find this curious since the 10 Commandments are not Christian in origin. God gave them to the Jewish people through Moses. Christ never taught the 10 Commandments and only mentioned them in passing. He told the young man to keep the law. When he asked for something higher Christ invited him to become a Christian. The Sunday Mass obligation is of church origin.

Paul told the Christians living in Rome that they enjoyed "the freedom of the children of God." They were no longer bound by any of the Mosaic laws. Later he had to acknowledge that loving God and your neighbour included keeping the 10 Commandments

Before going on, I think we need to understand the concept of a moral religion. Moral religions are characterised by laws or Do's and Don'ts. After the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans the Jewish rabbis were tasked to catalogue all of the laws in the Old Testament. I believe that they came up with a list of about 660 laws. These laws had been given to desert nomads most of whom were now living in towns.

Further, they noticed that there were two main types of laws, those with a logical basis and those without a logical basis, for example, circumcision, abstaining from eating 'unclean' animals, the laws of purification, etc. Which were the more important? Tragically, they decided that those without a logical basis were more important because God must have included these laws purely to test them.

A characteristic of moral religions is that the question of the existence of God is not important. The laws are all important. Among Buddhists, the existence of God is not an issue. Christ ridiculed the Sadducees because they did not believe in life after death. A lot of modern day Jews are atheists.

When Christ was asked which were the most important laws of the Old Testament, He said, "Thou shall love the Lord thy God ...and the second is like unto this. Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself." Fortunately, someone raised his hand and asked "Who is my neighbour?" Christ then taught the wonderful parable of the Good Samaritan.

It is worth noting that these two teachings are found in all of the major religions. They are not exclusive to Christianity and are often referred to as Natural Law.

What else did Christ teach? He taught the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the poor in spirit...Blessed are the peacemakers...". Note that he did not present these as laws but rather as challenges for his followers.

It is worth noting that Christ made no mention of such issues as homosexuality, gay marriage, mass migration, the morality of war, animal rights, civil authority, contraception, etc. It is left to us to interpret his teachings and example to find our way through life. We have no catalogue of laws. This is why I describe Christianity as the thinking man's religion.

Christ seems to have gone to extraordinary lengths to avoid presenting Christianity as a moral religion. When the Pharisees brought to him a woman taken in adultery, they reminded him that Moses decreed that such a woman should be stoned to death. Of course it was a trap, but Christ had to answer their questions. This was an ideal opportunity for him to climb on a soapbox and deliver a brace of Do's and Don'ts.

Instead, he went to the trouble of going to each of her accusers and writing something on the ground in front of them. When each saw what he wrote they felt an urgent desire to go somewhere else. Eventually all disappeared. Christ then said to the woman that if no one was left to condemn her then nor would he. He did not say that there were no moral laws in his teaching but that is not how he wanted Christianity to be characterised. He told her to, "go away and sin no more."

At this stage we might wonder that if Christ's teachings could be summarised as:

- Love God and your neighbour –though your neighbour is not just someone who lives near you but whoever needs your help and you are capable of helping
- Be a peacemaker. Do not set out to be rich and powerful. Be of clean heart, etc.
- Keep the 10 Commandments

Then why did Christ consider it necessary to become human, spend 30 years working in a furniture factory and then die the most painful death imaginable? Would it not have been sufficient to send a prophet? John the Baptist was already on the ground preaching that sort of message. We are missing the elephant in the room.

There are three characteristics which set Christianity apart from all other religions and which demanded Christ's presence.

Firstly, Christianity is focused on the person of Christ. This is the central message of all St Paul's writings.

The second is Christ's challenge "Love your enemies. Do good to those that hate you...." I believe that the word used for 'love' is the weakest available and means respect, forgive and tolerate. Still it seems reasonable to hate your enemies, so if Christ is going to challenge us to respect, forgive and tolerate our enemies then he needed to lead the way by forgiving his enemies even under horrendous circumstances. He took this to the extreme. We note

that with his dying breath Christ asks his Father to forgive his torturers because "they know not what they do." Christ had already forgiven them.

In the parable of the prodigal son, the father represents God the Father; the dissolute son represents those among us who go astray. The older hard-working son represents those of us who have tried to do the right thing most of the time. There is no doubt that the father is yearning to welcome back his wayward son and forgive him. Then the father turns to his older son who represents us and challenges us to forgive all who has gone astray.

In case we missed the importance of forgiving our enemies Christ inserted this request in the Lord's Prayer. "Forgive us our offences as we forgive those who offend against us." We are daily reminded of it.

The third factor, which defines Christianity, is the invitation of Christ, who is divine, to his followers to develop a personal relationship with him. "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him and I will raise him up on the last day." You cannot imagine a closer relationship than that. Only Christ, in person, a living God, could offer such a relationship to his followers.

Having invited us to a relationship with him and promising to be with us all time until the end of the world, Christ then ascended into heaven and has not been seen since. How come? Well, Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit, who will teach us all things. So for Christ to say that 'He will send the Holy Spirit', and that 'He will be with us until the end of time', mean the same thing, such is the relationship between Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, who is the third person of the Blessed Trinity never appears in the form of a person, but always as an atmosphere, a force field or spirit. I have no idea why, but as such, he is the life of the people of God.

As Christ indicated at the time, the way we develop that personal relation is by prayer and attending Mass and communion. The Spirit turns it into a personal relationship with Christ.

I hope that my thoughts have shed some light on the true nature of Christianity.

Contributed by Barry Drew
Darling Range Circle



Editorial

Rebuilding after the COVID-19 Pandemic

As Western Australia and the World begin to emerge from the most dreadful and terrifying period of our lifetimes, the slow process of rebuilding must begin; whether it is with the economy, businesses, family life or social interaction. The Catenian Association is not exempt from this renewal process.

Our Catenian circles will not have met for meetings, dinners or group social activities for many months, and we will all have been affected in one way or another by COVID-19. It may have been the result of the virus infection, the death of a family member, friend or workmate, loneliness, depression, unemployment, reduced income from investments or the collapse of superannuation. No one will have escaped unscathed.

During these long months of inactivity and home isolation, Catenians have had to draw from the very soul of our newly adopted byword of *Faith-based friendship*. In Province 20 my understanding is that circles have accepted the need to reach out to brothers in need, achieved in a variety of ways.

In my Joondalup Circle we continue to distribute our monthly newsletter (albeit in a much-modified format), and have regularly maintained communication to members via email, inviting brothers to use the "reply all" function so that everyone can share their experiences and feelings. Members have also reached out with the hand of care and friendship by phone with brothers with health or mobility issues, particularly those who do not have access to the Internet.

Post COVID -19 the Catenian Association faces challenging times. The fundamental nature of these challenges, however have not altered, but will have been exacerbated by the changed employment, personal finance, economic and social environment we now find ourselves in. For its very survival, the retention and recruitment of members remains our most important focus.

The first step to a solution is the understanding and acceptance by all involved that life as a Catenian is very simple and the needs of the vast majority of circle members are, and always have been, very basic. They are seeking fellowship and friendship with men of the same faith and Christian values.

With this clearly in mind, the rebuilding focus of Provincial Council and circles should begin with a review about whether Catenian membership is meeting the needs of members and this review process should be initially undertaken seeking the input from all brothers.

The view of members should be sought about whether the meeting format is still appropriate. Are regalia and the traditional format necessary? Are meetings too long? How can meetings be improved?

Are the traditional, more formal dinners still necessary? Would members prefer after meeting dinners replaced with casual meals – pizza nights, chicken take-aways, fish or chips or perhaps food provided by members to share.

What changes are needed to social calendars to meet the changing interests of members?

Most importantly, the retention, recruitment and review process should be sympathetic to the high cost burden of Catenian membership, taking into account family circumstances, unemployment, reduced casual working hours and the eroded earnings of pensioners and senior citizens.

Peter Johnston, Editor



A committed Catenian brother's call for closer bonding

My name is **NORM THOMPSON** and I was born on 14 November 1938, which as you would realise was after the Great Depression and only a few years before the outbreak of the Second World War.

I was the only son in our family with a sister two years older and we were a very close and devoted Catholic family. When I was a few years old the progressive impact of the World War was starting to dramatically change our daily lives with all windows in houses needing to be blackened out at night to prevent potential enemy tracker planes from being able to identify locations for bombing.

To provide shelter should there be an enemy attack, every second house in your street had to have an underground air raid shelter in the backyard to cater for two families if the need should arise. All streetlights were out and there was a nominated official for each street who would sound the alarm siren if it were thought that enemy aircraft were approaching looking for potential targets.

With the war's progression, my father, Jack Thompson was required to enlist into the Australian Army Forces for training and then assignment to New Guinea under attack by the Japanese.



Norm's parents, Jack and Nita Thompson pictured with Norm and his sister, Pauline

Jack's war plaque and medals



I can remember this day as if it was yesterday. In the year 1942 when I was only three and a half years old, my mother and sister and I stood on the front verandah of our house with my father fully dressed in his army uniform with a kit bag on his shoulder. We waved him goodbye as he climbed on the back of an army 4X4 Blitz truck for transport to the Northam army base and then to the east coast and shipped to Port Moresby. That was the last time I saw my father until 1946.

These were very stressful times with rationing in place and limited food and essentials like medicines and clothing, which were generally hand-me-downs from second-hand shops. Each family was issued with a ration book with coupons for essential food items such as meat, vegetables, sugar, flour and bread just to name a few. Once you had used up all your coupons for the month, you would have to wait for the next month's issue or borrow, if possible, from your neighbour.

I completed my primary school education at St Joseph's Convent in Subiaco and my secondary schooling at CBC Leederville before deciding to leave and get a job. I started with the Department of Civil Aviation as an apprentice automotive

mechanic at the Perth Airport where our department was responsible for all ground operations involving plant and equipment including firefighting transport for all airports throughout Western Australia.

I was fortunate during this period, qualifying as one of the top apprentices, which enabled me to look outside the government and seek employment in the private sector. Leaving the Department of Civil Aviation I worked in a few service and sales companies for a few years while studying at night school to qualify as a Mechanical Engineer, which was my main ambition.

I married the love of my life, Bonnie, on 20 January 1962 and now have two children, a son and daughter who are both now living in their own homes, but we remain a very close-knit family.

To my luck in 1965 I was at a local country show in Narrogin where I met a friend who told me there was a position vacant as Service Manager for the South West division of General Motors Holden in Mosman Park. That was the start of a very fulfilling working life. I worked for both GMH and GM Isuzu in various management positions before retiring as State Manager of Isuzu GM in 2001 at the age of 62.



Recognising the need for closer Catenian bonding

I was planning my retirement from about the age of 55, but knew that when I left the workforce the majority of those business friendships developed over the years would slowly fade away.

Then one Sunday afternoon at a luncheon I met a very close friend, Terry Loughnan who unfortunately passed away in 2017. He was a member of Dianella Circle of the Catenian Association and President during his lifetime. During our luncheon chat I told him about my planned retirement and the need to develop a new circle of friends who are good Christians with good morals also seeking family involvement including wives.

Terry told me about the Catenian Association and that was the start of it. I went to a few meetings as his guest and have now been a member of Dianella Circle for 29 years, having served on all committee positions except Treasurer and that is probably because I would have wanted to spend too much money on special social events.

Over these 29 years I have made some really wonderful friendships. In addition to socialising I've received excellent support and guidance when necessary from our brothers when dealing with problems on personal and professional issues due to their varied life experiences and qualifications.

To continue this support and guidance for our newer members we need to make sure that our circles continue to update brothers with a summary of our individual life and working experiences, which I believe will provide and improved bonding within our circles. In our Dianella Circle we have age variations between our youngest and oldest brothers of up to 20 years and for sometime now I have given a lot of thought about the need to develop a closer circle bonding to help bridge this age variation.

Thinking about the wealth of knowledge, stories and guidance that we can share with others, particularly in this current COVID-19 environment, has stimulated me to share this, my own brief outline of my life story.

Norm Thompson

Go pray me a miracle

By Ian Moncrieff
City of Perth Circle

Dear Brothers and readers,

Please forgive me for asking, but I do not have the courage to face my daughter's cancer journey without your help. Any prayer, thought or wish will be of benefit.

We all have our favourite saints and how we approach Jesus through His Blessed Mother. You may be interested in my approach below but your way is just as good. I will be praying to Blessed Edmund Rice and Our Lady of Perpetual Help to intercede with Our Lord to cure my daughter Sophie's cancer. Frankly, we may need a miracle, but luckily we're not asking for money.



My daughter Sophie is 47, has a partner Tom and an eight-year-old daughter, Sylvie. They have spent much of the last eight years in the Northern Territory on Elcho Island, Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsula and Groote Eylandt (all near the Gulf of Carpentaria). Initially, Sophie worked as an art curator, then as a primary teacher. Next year they had planned to spend a year in Italy so that Sylvie could learn Italian and Tom could reunite with relatives in the Aeolian Islands where his parents had come from. In October 2019 this dream was shattered when Sophie was diagnosed with bowel cancer, which has spread to her liver; and it's serious.

Of course I offered to have them in my house where they could be close to family and good hospitals but wisely, I think, they chose to go back to their own house in Newcastle, New South Wales, to be with their many friends and use the services of a very good oncology public hospital - *the Mater*.

But there is another reason for writing this little personal story. Have I any right to ask God for a miracle? Do I believe strongly enough in Jesus's desire to grant such a thing when I know His standards of faith required are very high? If there are any worthwhile responses to these questions, can they be sidestepped by invoking the help of a saint? But which saint? How could I possibly choose one?

Many years ago I spent some of my early years as a Christian Brother (obviously not making the grade). Not long ago I read the life of Blessed Edmund Rice loaned to me by a Christian Brother friend dying of pancreatic cancer. I was forcibly struck with the realisation that Edmund Rice is or was vastly undervalued as a servant of God and a perfect example to us fathers. As a husband he knew the joys and sorrows of family life; he lost his wife while she was very young and had to look after the welfare of his only daughter for the rest of her life. He was a very astute businessman and became quite wealthy but gradually he wanted to study for the priesthood in France. Fortunately, he was persuaded to turn his attention and wealth to the education of poor boys and this led to the formation of the Christian Brothers to whom many of us owe so much. I think it is fair to say that this heroic and visionary man was not accorded much status even in his own order partly because he had not been celibate, but I cannot think of any saint who would be so naturally understanding of my desire to help my little girl.

Shortly after they arrived home in Newcastle, I visited the church in Sophie's parish. The Parish Priest, Father James Odoh and some of his parishioners made me very welcome and promised to pray for her. This church has a lovely little shrine to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and I felt very strongly to try to renew my devotion to her and place Sophie's welfare in her care.

The photo (left) is not the same as the original or more familiar versions of Our Lady of Perpetual Help but it has its own little personal story. An old Russian cook, Peter Ripa, who worked at the Muresk Institute of Agriculture (Curtin University) where I taught for many years, was going home on a trip and I jokingly asked him to raid an old Russian Orthodox church and bring me back an icon. Back he came with this lovely part-silver covered icon with the painted faces behind; a typical approach in many icon depictions. The icon only cost me a bottle of Scotch and has been beside a picture of my deceased wife since her death.

The devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Succour) is widespread in the Church and is very strong in Redemptorist churches for historical reasons. In their early days, The Christian Brothers received great guidance from the Redemptorists and also inherited their special devotion to Our Lady under this title. I would love to say that I have maintained a strong devotion to her all my life. I haven't, but I will make this a renewed aim.

The following is my simple prayer to Blessed Edmund Rice, which I say together with the Memorare.

Blessed Edmund, perhaps you of all God's servants will understand my desire for a cure for my daughter Sophie. You lost your dear wife early and had to care for your daughter throughout her life. Through the help of Our Lady you were able to begin God's work in teaching the poor; please ask her to intercede with her Son in granting this request.

Amen.

Ian Moncrieff



Snapshot of youth assistance in 2019/20

Report to Province 20
Annual General meeting

Province 20 Youth Support Fund

Bursary - Charles Reddin \$2,000

Charles Reddin, aged 19, lives in Bunbury, Western Australia and is reading civil engineering at Curtin University. He resides at St Thomas More College, Crawley.

His \$2,000 per annum bursary will continue after successfully completing the 2019 academic requirement.

Scholarship - Nicholas Quinn \$2,000

Nicholas Quinn has completed a combined Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts, with a double major in Psychology. He was originally from Cowra, a small town in central-west New South Wales and resided at the St Thomas More College, Crawley.

The College will be asked to nominate scholarship candidates in 2020. Only one scholarship is available.

Scholarship - Emma Jackson \$4,000 (continuous)

In 2019 Emma Jackson was awarded the Youth Support Fund Scholarship of \$4,000 per annum (continuous).

She is reading medicine at the University of Notre Dame Australia (Fremantle campus). Born in Sydney in 1994, Emma completed her secondary education at Loreto Normanhurst, New South Wales in 2012, graduating as dux of the school. She then went on to complete a combined Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Commerce at Macquarie University.

Scholarship - Deborah Baikie \$2,000 (continuous)

In 2019 Deborah Baikie was awarded the Youth Fund Scholarship of \$2,000 per annum (continuous)

She is an enrolled nursing student at the University of Notre Dame Australia (Broome campus) and receives a Youth Support Fund scholarship of \$2,000 per annum (continuous).

Arts Festival Prize – Emily Sullivan \$500

In 2019 Emily Sullivan, a student at Iona Presentation College, won the Australian Catholic Youth Festival prize of \$500 for the second time. She is now reading arts at the University of Western Australia.



Provincial President, Keith Morgan, presenting Emily with her prize at the Festival Concert at the Perth Concert Hall.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2019 grants \$1,500

Grants of \$60 each were given to 25 applicants who attended the Australian Catholic Youth Festival held in December 2019 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The \$60 grant was equivalent to about 25 per cent of the total registration fee.

World Youth Day 2022

This Catholic festival may well be celebrated in Lisbon, Portugal in the northern summer of 2022. Applications from qualifying youth wishing to attend this event will be considered by the Youth Support Fund.



Ashleigh Habkoul

On 24 July 2019 Ashleigh graduated with a Bachelor of Biomedical Science with High Distinction from the University of Notre Dame Australia (Fremantle campus). She gave the valedictory speech on behalf of the assembled students, parents, friends and staff.

Ashleigh moved from Sydney to Western Australia to study at Fremantle and was awarded the inaugural Catenian Charity scholarship in 2018.



Ashleigh Habkoul

The Provincial President, Keith Morgan was among a contingent of brothers present at the ceremony to extend the Association's congratulations. The Chancellor of the University, the Hon. Christopher Ellison acknowledged the support of the Catenians.

Ashleigh returned home to Sydney where she is enrolled in the School of Medicine at Notre Dame (Sydney campus).

In her valedictory speech on behalf of the assembled students, Ashleigh said, in part:

"It is your tireless dedication and efforts that has led us here today, To our family and friends your unwavering support and encouragement has been invaluable and graduating would not have been feasible without you."

"On a personal note I want to thank my parents for their ongoing sacrifices and love and my entire family in Sydney and abroad. I would especially like to thank my mum and dad for flying with me to Perth to be with me as I graduate today. I thank our God because it is no accident that I am up here today and He is at the centre in all that I have done and will continue to do."

"I would also like to extend my ultimate gratitude to the Catenian Charity and members of the Catenian Association, some of whom have gathered with me here today."

The Catenian Charity Inc. (continued)

Karri Thomas

The Catenian Charity awarded its second scholarship of \$5,000 to Karri Thomas who is studying at the University of Adelaide and resides at Aquinas College in Adelaide.

Aged 21, Karri qualifies for a scholarship due to her financial circumstances. In 2017 she achieved either high distinctions or distinctions in each of the units she was studying. Her first year of university in 2017 went smoothly, but in the first week of the first semester in 2018 she was diagnosed with stage two-kidney cancer. Karri resumed her studies in 2019.



Karri Thomas

Presently she has been granted the opportunity to study overseas as part of her degree on exchange at Uppsala University, Sweden. The University is well renowned for research and teaching in biological sciences.

She writes:

"Thanks to the generous support of the Catenian Charity, I was able to focus on my studies last year and achieve better results overall than either of the previous two years, with two high distinctions and two distinctions in the first semester and straight high distinctions in the second semester. As I near the end of my degree, I hope to be accepted into an honours year project, where I would like to do research in the area of environmental biotechnology."

Jessica Fenton

Jessica Fenton, a Mandurah Catholic College graduate, was awarded the third Catenian Charity scholarship on her way to realising her dream of graduating "Doctor of Medicine".



Jessica Fenton

The scholarship of \$5,000 per annum is continuous until she graduates at the end of 2023. She is eligible for the award as she is in receipt of a Commonwealth "study allowance" from Centrelink and is therefore deemed to be in necessitous circumstances, a requirement of the Australian Taxation Office for the Charity to operate.



Your help is needed – every donation is precious

The Catenian Charity in Australia is engaged in providing grants to young Catholics to help them with costs incurred in obtaining an education and starting a career.

We invite you to join us as a brother, friend and colleague in our service of assistance to their development as citizens. Our faith is full of generosity.

Your donation in support of the work of the Catenian Charity will play a vital role in opening doors to enable talented students to study, by improving their capacity to afford fees while supporting themselves through their studies.

Every gift will make a real difference to the lives of the students.

If you are able to donate (see below), please provide your contact details so that a receipt can be posted to you. The Association and the Catenian Charity will respect and protect your privacy. All donors will retain their anonymity unless there is a specific written direction to the contrary from you.

The Catenian Charity Inc. is a registered Deductible Gift Recipient (DRG) and all donations over \$2 are deductible on your next income tax return.

It is important for you to know that all costs and expenses relating to the setting up and running the Charity have been separately funded from contributions of private benefactors.

All donations to the Charity are for the sole purpose of providing student scholarships.

Donations may be made by cheque payable to Catenian Charity Inc. Scholarship Fund and mailed to the Treasurer, Geoff Prendergast, Unit 701, 3 Marco Polo Drive, Mandurah, WA 6210.

Alternatively you may prefer to donate by electronic funds transfer (EFT) to the Catenian Charity Inc. bank account:

BSB 086 164
Account 7082 77080

If donating by EFT, please state your name in the transaction description and if you are a Catenian, include your Circle number.

For further information search: www.catenian.org or contact either:

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Len Roberts
April 2020



Jessica's story

Guest speaker at Dianella meeting

The Catenian Charity Inc. scholarship awardee, Jessica Fenton gave an enthralling presentation at the February 2020 meeting of Dianella Circle about her life as a university student and her journey towards achieving her dream of a career in medicine. Jessica is the third recipient of a Catenian Charity scholarship.



Catenian Charity Inc. President, Len Roberts, Jessica Fenton and Dianella President, Vern Scanlan

Born in Narrogin in 1997, Jessica moved to Mandurah to continue her secondary education where she had an outstanding academic record graduating with an ATAR academic score of 95.95. She has two brothers and two sisters in a closely-knit family. In 2017 she enrolled at the University of Western Australia, commencing a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in medical sciences and psychological sciences. She graduated with that degree in 2019 and is now enrolled in the School of Medicine.

Jessica has resided at St Thomas More College at Crawley during the course of her university studies. In 2018 she was a resident advisor and in 2019 became a senior resident advisor.

She is a young lady possessing exceptional personal qualities, highly motivated and with a commitment to community service. Senior staff at St Thomas More College writes:

"Jessica's commitment and dedication to this college and our chapel community is enduring and she continues to maintain both the respect of her peers and the college administration."

Jessica's presentation

"Thank you everyone for allowing me to attend your meeting and dinner. I appreciate how much you enjoy each other's company and are so supportive of each other in many ways; not just as individuals but also as one big family. I have enjoyed being here tonight."

"I was five years old when my Mum asked me what I wanted to do when I got older. She asked: 'Do you want to be a doctor like your Aunt Suzie?'"

"I replied, 'No Mum, I hate blood.'" So when I was very young I had no intentions of being a doctor at all."

"I believe that God has a plan for us all and what you may want may not necessarily be what you get. It later became clear to me that my vocation was steering me towards medicine."

"There were many indicators along the way and looking back on it now, my dislike of blood was not going to stand in the way of a lifelong profession of enjoyment, love and appreciation of the world and life that God has given me."

"Thank you all for the opportunity you have provided to allow me to continue with my vocation. This opportunity is another one of those situations that has arisen from the Catenian Charity. It is

an affirmation of the pathway of my vocation. Without the Charity's scholarship it wouldn't be going the way that I wanted."

"When I moved to live in Perth as a resident of St Thomas More College, I had money saved in the bank, having worked for the prior year, but a nil balance was looming. The time was coming when I wouldn't know how I was going to survive or where I would be living. It was halfway through my first year when I came to the realisation that, okay, I wouldn't have a place to live in if I didn't get a job."

"I managed to get three jobs. I was an after school tutor, a residential advisor at St Thomas More College and I worked for a company called *FileShred*. Balancing this with the university workload was difficult. I often went to classes not having done the pre-reading making it very hard. I had to work during the university breaks and at the end of the year I would go to my grandparents farm and work there for the entire break to make some extra cash so that when exam season came around, I could take time off from my other three jobs."

"The last break when I passed and obtained my first degree was the first time in three years when I didn't have to work on my grandparents farm."

"I was happy to have time to myself to contemplate a postgraduate degree in medicine and a lifelong career in helping people. Having graduated at the end of 2019 I took a few days off to relax and then in December I attended the National Association of the University Colleges Association. There I did a leadership conference to improve my ability to be a leader in society and then within the St Thomas More College community."

"I involved myself in *Redfrogs Australia* which helps the youth of Australia, specifically Christians to go to different festivals and ensure everyone is safe, secure and taken care of."

"I also attended an Edmund Rice camp for children's leadership, which gives them a break from their care under the Child Protection Services and it also provides a break away for the children from their current situation. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity, otherwise I would have been working."

"I appreciate these opportunities and every person I came in contact with appreciates the work by which the Catenians have influenced my life and their lives'."

"Thank you all."

Jessica Fenton

In thanking Jessica for her outstanding presentation, Peter Kora highlighted her one single blemish: A West Australian girl confessing to be a strong supporter of the Adelaide Crows AFL club.

Peter asked Jessica to stand in front of the lectern with her eyes closed for a special presentation, a West Coast Eagles cap, which he placed on her head, as well as a scarf and West Coast bag. She was then asked to open her eyes and, as can be seen from the above photo, this little fun activity was greeted with much laughter. Peter has vowed to follow up on the progress of this attempt to convert Jessica to an avid West Coast supporter.



A five-year old who could speak four languages

Peter Kora's story

"The majority of brothers in Province 20 would know me, but for those who don't my name is **PETER KORA** of Dianella Circle, currently Vice President, and a proud Catenian of some 26 years."



"If by chance we haven't met, this photo showing me pointing to the place where I was born, will give you some recall because I've visited many circles within Province 20 and have provided travel support to many brothers from my business *Au Revoir Travel*. They say that

many people have had very interesting life experiences, particularly those from overseas during the time of the Second World War and here begins my story."

"My parents were both Hungarian and lived in Budapest. My father was the Editor of the *Budapest Times*, which is similar to the *Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper. Towards the end of the Second World War my parents were looking forward to the Russian forces moving out of their country after their involvement and support with the American and British forces to overcome the German invasion."

"As Editor of the *Budapest Times*, my father had very close contact with the General of the Hungarian forces and was able to find out in depth information about the Russian intentions to start a more permanent settlement in Hungary after the war."



Photo: The Hungarian General (left) being interviewed by Peter's father (right) in Budapest

"In 1945, after much thought about the potential changes to normal life in Budapest, my father and mother, who was pregnant with me, made the decision to move to Steyr in Austria, some 415 kilometres away, considered to be a safer place to be away from the Russians."

"After some six months living there, they decided it would be safer to move further to Bavaria in southern Germany for two years while waiting for the Russians to move back to their own country. But it never happened and they decided to catch the train from Munich to Venice and then to Genoa, where they boarded an American ship called *General Blathforward* taking displaced persons to Sydney. My mother was pregnant with twins at this time and during the voyage had a miscarriage causing the Captain to arrange for a pilot boat to meet the ship off the coast of Fremantle where we were disembarked so that my mother could be admitted to hospital."

Mr. Kora (senior) arriving in Fremantle with his son, Peter and daughter Andrea



During our first night in Fremantle we heard loud gunshots and thought it might be the Aboriginals attacking (another war), not knowing it was Guy Fawkes night when, in those days, all Australians held bonfires and let off fire crackers."

"Our family was taken to the Graylands Camp for refugees where we lived until renting one bedroom in a five bedroom house in John Street, Cottesloe just behind the Cottesloe Hotel. Later we moved into a rental house in Mt Lawley."

"When I was about five I was allowed to go shopping for my parents at the local corner shop where the owner and I were great friends and my parents felt it safe for me to go alone."

"I recall one particular morning when my mother asked me to dash down to the shop to buy a few things. When I walked in the owner, whom I would normally chat to, was talking to a friend who was a reporter for the *Sunday Times*. When he saw me he said to the reporter: 'see this little guy, he's only five years old and can speak four languages fluently, English, French, German and Hungarian.' Well, I was very proud of what he said so I replied: 'yes I can, do you want to hear me speak English?' which I did. He then took a photo and asked if he could put my photo in the newspaper. He offered to buy me a bag of lollies if I agreed. I accepted gleefully, all I could think about was the bag of lollies."



"I grew up in Mt Lawley and was educated at CBC Highgate and after passing my final exams, successfully applied for a position with the ES&A Bank."

"In August 1967 I met a girl named Kathy at the Knutsford Arms Hotel. It was love at first sight and we were married on 31 May 1969. Shortly afterwards when the ES&A bank merged with the ANZ bank I was transferred to Mt Barker where we lived for a few years before returning to Perth in 1972. For a time I worked in the Computer Department before moving into travel in a management position. I worked in this department for two years and was then appointed State Manager of ANZ Travel."

"Some five years later in 1977 when the ANZ bank sold its travel business to Traveland/Ansett Agencies I accepted an offer to go into partnership and acquired eight Traveland agencies where I worked until semi-retirement in 2003."

"With so many years experience in travel and having accumulated a large number of loyal customers, I decided to take a minor share in another travel company called *Au Revoir Travel* where I continue to provide services when needed, particularly to my Catenian friends and families."

"Kathy and I have three daughters, now all adults and six grandchildren, four boys and two girls."

Peter Kora, Dianella Circle



City of Perth’s transition to meet the current needs of members

Written by John Moore, City of Perth Circle

The City of Perth Circle has had to conquer many challenges during its history, not the least of which was many hurdles that had to be cleared in the years leading up to its inauguration on 8 February 1977.

Its formation probably dates back to 1962 when PETER MAGUIRE, a medical doctor and past President of Sheffield Circle arrived and settled in Western Australia from the United Kingdom. For six years Peter practised in Kalgoorlie before moving to Perth where he began his search for kindred spirits among isolated expatriate Catenian brothers. It was in 1968 that he made contact in Perth with Jim Tonks (Sheffield Circle), Joe Swift (Cheshire North Circle) and Paddy Healy (Barnsley Circle) all of whom were on the Head Office transfer register of Catenians living abroad.

The four formed the nucleus of what was later to become an official Perth Catenian Group, the forerunner of establishing a Circle. Together they expanded their circle of friends, finding other Catenians, mostly ex-patriots from British and East African circles, all sharing a desire to form a circle in Perth.

In 1971, Grand President John Bowen travelled through Perth on his way to the inauguration of the City of Sydney Circle, the first in Australia. This stopover visit presented Peter with the opportunity to meet him and start correspondence with Grand Council, ultimately leading to a successful application for Charter and the inauguration of the City of Perth Circle 279 on 8 February 1977.

The exchange of letters that followed established that the purpose of the new circle was to spread the Catenian message through the local population, while preserving the very British traditions of the Association. For the first 40 years or so the Perth Circle followed the black-tie, fine dining traditions of the parent Association in the UK as illustrated in the photo (below) taken at the circle’s 200th meeting, as well as meeting room layout, regalia, meeting protocol and precedence. When I joined in 1981, John Moore writes, my 15 year-old dinner suit and evening dress for my wife, Jo, were needed at least twice a year.



Eight of the City of Perth Founder Brothers pictured at the circle’s formal 200th meeting meeting/dinner, left to right: Laurie Shervington, Cliff Holloway, Peter Maguire (Founder President), Pat Cranley, Bill Kerr, Bernie Crannigan, John Lip and John Versteegen

As a result of some subtle pressure over the last year or so from some of the wisest heads among us, our brothers decided we should try a change at our July 2018 meeting.

We changed from our regular monthly evening meeting at Royal Perth Golf Club with white linen table service, to a casual midday buffet style dinner at Newman Siena Centre.

The immediate effect was a bumper attendance and comments from brothers about how much they enjoyed the change in venue and style of the meeting. In particular, members appreciated the opportunity to mingle, socialise over lunch and to linger afterwards if they felt like it.

In the months that followed we had some noon meetings and some evening meetings and the daytime option was preferred.

As a result, the City of Perth calendar for 2020/21 shows eleven lunchtime circle meetings at Newman Siena Centre.

Driving the change

To understand what drove this change, I sorted through information from various sources and found some collective features of the City of Perth Circle that might explain this phenomenon.

The parchment role that each brother signs during his induction ceremony shows that in 1977 the circle had 28 Founder brothers with Peter Maguire the Founder President. In the first decade to 1987 the role records the induction of 59 new brothers to a total of 87.

In this decade the City of Perth Circle was the driving force behind the establishment of new circles in Western Australia and was the provider of the nucleus of experienced, committed brothers to get them started.

Many City of Perth brothers transferred to these new circles, several taking up positions such as Secretaries or Treasurers and three as Founder Presidents. This amazing growth was fuelled by the fact that we had the whole State of Western Australia as our catchment and we were the only point of contact for aspiring Catenians.

The two decades from 1987 to 2007 were a period of consolidation for the City of Perth Circle and the Association. The City of Perth enrolled 32 new brothers in the first decade and 35 in the second but, by my recollection, the circle did not exceed much more than about 55 brothers at any stage.

The losses were mostly brothers taking joint membership in the newer circles and later making the new circle their home. In the same period we appointed many of our remaining brothers to positions of President, Secretary or Treasurer of our own circle, several holding more than one office at a time.

In the same period the inauguration of Province 20 meant that the initiative to establish new circles rested there and the need to transfer experienced brothers to help start new circles was shared by many circles.

But the passage of 20 years meant our circle entered its fourth decade with most of the brothers who were willing to hold office having already served multiple terms in a range of positions.

In the period 2007 to 2017 the City of Perth circle enrolled only eight new brothers and about the same number of our eminent faith-based friends departed to enjoy their rewards for lives well spent in this world.

The circle how has 26 brothers (not counting two joint members) of whom only five are under 70 years of age, four are in their 70s and of the other seventeen, nine are over 90.

Doesn’t this make you wonder, looking forward, whether the City of Perth Circle in its old form is sustainable?

The answer to this question lies in the grit and determination of our brothers and the wit and wisdom applied to improve our prospects. So far the following transitions have been effected:

- ❖ The circle has changed its venue to Newman Siena Centre, which is closer to home for all members and within easy reach for all of the northern and western suburbs circles, as well a being a very attractive and accommodating venue.
- ❖ The circle has switched its meeting times to the middle of the day, which avoids travel at night and leaves evenings free for home and family.
- ❖ The gathering time is 11.45 am when traffic congestion is minimal and the regular business of meetings is generally completed by 12.45 pm so working brothers can easily fit the event into the “long lunch” limits of most employers.
- ❖ An opportunity is available for those with the time to spare to extend the fellowship part of the event into a social catch up with friends, even extending to afternoon tea.
- ❖ It is accepted that anyone who doesn’t have to drive himself home might miss the bar service, but occasionally some brother brings a nice bottle of “red” and a few of us enjoy just one “standard drink”. Most civilized and convivial.

The circle has worked to introduce lunchtime speakers who can enlighten members on current innovations and initiatives happening in the church including the upcoming Plenary Council and the delivery of education in evangelization to young Catholics.

The circle has extended an open invitation to its brothers to suggest topics for future meetings.

Members of City of Perth are proud that it is the only circle offering regular monthly lunchtime meetings and are keen to welcome visiting brothers. In March 2020 the circle was honoured to have the Chairman of Central Council and Province 20 Director, Ralph Fitzpatrick and Provincial President, Lou Daily as visitors.

“Instead of just wondering what lunchtime Catenians are like, why not come and visit us and find out first hand? I guarantee you will be pleasantly surprised,” John writes.

Meetings are held at Newman Siena Centre at 11.45 am on the third Monday of each month in 2020 (if COVID-19 has not temporarily closed the circle down).

John Moore
Secretary
City of Perth Circle

Faith-based friendship in action

Written by Ralph Fitzpatrick

In 2018 Liana and I were preparing for our trip to the Catenian Conference in Telford in England. We were looking forward to catching up with our many friends in Great Britain and having a bit of a break from our routine of everyday life. It was while we were in this frame of mind that our niece told us that her son was travelling to England to play cricket in a town called Read. We had never heard of this town and had to use google maps to see where it was.



Our niece was very concerned that her little boy (6 ft. tall and 19 years old) was going to be so far from home, having never travelled further away than Bali herself.

Liana and I suggested that it might ease her mind if we could ask around in Catenian circles to see if anyone would be prepared to be a Great Britain contact for her son so that his mother knew there was a caring person nearby who could help him if needed.

Well, it didn’t take long. We had an immediate volunteer who lived in Burnley, a small town about a mile or two away. He said that he would be delighted to take on the task and might even spare some time to watch his cricket.

We were so pleased because we could remember how concerned we were when our own son was travelling in America and had his passport and wallet stolen. Fortunately, he was able to recover his passport and credit cards and only lost some money, but Liana and I both remember that hopeless feeling when someone close to you is in trouble and you can’t reach out to give them a hug and help.

Both stories turned out okay. Our niece’s son had a great time in England, played some good cricket and returned safely. Likewise, our son had a fabulous holiday and returned home safely.

Then, earlier this year Liana and I had a call from friends in England whose daughter was travelling to Sydney. They were looking for a volunteer to be a “point of contact”. Fortunately I was able to contact a Catenian brother and his wife, not only to be that point of contact but also to offer her some hospitality.

The reason for relating these stories is to remind brothers that the Catenian Association is perfectly placed to provide a helping hand when someone is faced with issues that geographically can’t be dealt with.

In this time of global COVID-19 Pandemic or afterwards when the World returns to normality, we can offer some peace of mind to those brothers and their families who are separated by distance. Brothers from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world should be encouraged to make contact with Australian Catenians who live in the vicinity of their loved ones and ask them to “look out” for them and vice versa.

It is unlikely to ever prove a burdensome task, but just the knowledge that someone nearby is willing to help when and if required, will provide mental relief to worried minds.



Enjoy your time at New Norcia

Are you passionate about history, art, architecture, culture or gourmet produce? Do you want to escape from the rigours of modern day life? If so, then New Norcia is the place for you to visit.

New Norcia, “a piece of Old Spain in the middle of the Australian bush”, was settled in 1847 by Benedictine monks. The town encompasses extravagant buildings, olive trees and church bells coupled with a peaceful tranquil atmosphere. Originally established as an Aboriginal Mission, the monks built a village comprising a church, flourmills, schools, hostel, apiary, blacksmiths shop, olive shed and olive groves surrounding the monastery.

Today the town is an important cultural heritage site within Australia. Twenty-seven of its buildings are classified by the National Trust and the town as a whole is registered on the National Estate. It continues to be home to a community of Benedictine monks who own and operate this truly unique settlement.

The museum and art gallery houses an eclectic collection of mission and monastery memorabilia displayed alongside European religious art and contemporary artworks.

Town tours run twice a day, unraveling New Norcia’s unique history whilst allowing visitors to access the elaborate interiors of its heritage buildings. The Salvado Café is open daily for light meals and unique products from the monastery wood-fired bakery.

In keeping with the Rule of St Benedict to “welcome guests as Christ”, the monks invite all guests and visitors to join them in their daily round of Mass and prayer. For guests the monastery guesthouse is a place of retreat for individuals and groups for all walks of life and beliefs seeking to quietly share the simple life, prayer and rhythms of the Benedictine monastic community.



Fresh face of New Norcia accommodation

Part of the Benedictine monastery precinct - the historic New Norcia Hotel - opened in 1927 as a hostel for travellers and families of boarders at the New Norcia colleges. The two-story structure was built in a neo-classical architectural style from stone. A large stairway, several metres wide, leads to a passageway with guest rooms on both sides. From a colonnaded balcony there are views of St Gertrude’s College, St Joseph’s Orphanage and the public chapel. The verandah is tiled in a traditional Spanish style.

In 1955 the hostel was converted into the New Norcia Hotel with fifteen rooms as well as a bar and restaurant.

The hotel was closed in December 2019, replaced by the **New Norcia Hostel**, with the first group welcomed for lunch on 13 February 2020. It was a quick turnaround thanks to the Group Accommodation Manager, Jody Burness and her team who worked tirelessly to give the inside of the historic building a mini-facelift.

It is now fresh and ready to welcome resident groups, tour groups or private functions. Delicious meals can be enjoyed in the grand dining room or the beautiful outside verandah with plenty of food options available.

The New Norcia Hostel is available for group bookings only and minimum numbers apply. To enquire for more information contact Jody Burness on (08) 0654 8018.



The new look dining room

The Dutch Hunger Winter

75th anniversary of little known facts of the Second World War

Written and contributed by Harry Muller
Darling Range Circle

My parents immigrated to Australia in 1952. My mother, Netty, was devoted to keeping a diary and my family is very fortunate to have her words and thoughts preserved on paper from December 1944 to up to about two weeks before she died in 1999. I am now in the process of slowly turning these diaries into eBooks for her future generations to enjoy and cherish. My mother was only 16 when she wrote the wartime diary from which the following extracts are taken. It is 75 years since her Dutch experience and numerous commemoratives about other similar wartime happenings are being observed at this time.



Netty

Her very first diary is quite a revealing and sometimes traumatic account of her life and that of over four million Dutch in the last six months of the war. In September 1944 the allied invasion of the south of Holland and Belgium started with the failed *Operation Market-Garden*. Later, as the Allies moved through and liberated most of Europe, a small area of Holland remained firmly in the hands of the Germans. They had placed bombs in strategic parts of the dunes/dykes and threatened to flood a large section of Holland where just over four million people lived. They remained under German control right up to the last minute of the war at 8.00 am on 5 May 1945.

As my mother wrote in her introduction: *“The Germans claimed all produce except a minimum quantity, which was then distributed. You had to be very quick though; queue up as early as possible in front of the shops, otherwise you missed out. Standing in a queue at six or seven in the morning until the greengrocer arrived with two or three crates of small cauliflowers or cabbages was a part of my life. Shoes were non-existent and in the last year of the war I wore a pair of wooden soles with straps.”*

And now - in 2020 - the chronic “shortage” of toilet paper in shops caused by the threat of the COVID-19 Pandemic is a fascinating reflection of my mother’s similar experience 75 years ago.

She wrote in her diary: *“The most common commodities like toilet paper disappeared from the market. Every scrap of paper ‘was cut to size’ and utilised.”*

Most of the diary relates to food and the living conditions. It was a very cold winter in 1944/45 and, as electricity was prohibited for all civilian use and coal was unavailable, most people lived in one small room with an old “mayo” stove to burn materials to keep warm. By the end of the war there were no internal doors or cupboard doors in the house. They had been sacrificed to provide a source of heat, burnt in the kitchen stove. They went to bed early to keep warm.

Keeping warm
around a “mayo”
stove



The following smattering of my mother’s diary entries tell a very similar story, focused on where the next piece of food would come from including an obsession of getting potatoes to eat.

Monday, 11 December 1944

“This morning I had two slices of bread with pickle sauce. I also lost a box with 10 guilders and coupons for 2,000 grams of skim milk and thus a most rotten day for me. On top of that we had six air raid alarms and some of the bombs fell quite nearby resulting in many windows being broken in the neighbourhood.”

Wednesday, 13 December 1944

“The only thing we can do at night is sit and watch the glow of the fire. When the weather is not too bad I go to Benediction at 7.00 o’clock, but last week it was so dark that I nearly finished up in the ditch and now I am hardly ever allowed to go.”

Sunday, 7 January 1945

“Ration lists don’t come out anymore. Per week, per person we now get: one loaf of bread, one kilo of potatoes, 100 grams of cheese per fortnight and a sliver of meat which you cannot get anywhere and if you can, you have to queue for hours.”

Sunday, 18 February 1945

“Two weeks ago we started to eat tulip bulbs and we eat them in all sorts of ways. We roast them and we eat them in place of potatoes and we make cookies from them. We have not seen a potato for three weeks and we’re dying for the taste of one.”

Wednesday, 7 March 1945

“Nothing has changed. In the morning we have two slivers of dry bread. They are so thin that you can look straight through them and are not enough to fill an empty stomach. At 12.00 o’clock we have church soup. In the beginning this soup was not too bad, but now we can hardly eat (or drink) it. No more fat, just water with some hard black pieces of sugar beet in it.”

“At night we have our meal from the Central Kitchen. At the moment that is quite palatable. It is soup with some potato in it and once in a while mashed sugar beets. Our main intake is soup, tulip bulbs and sugar beets. We are sick of the lot. I won’t even guess how



many tulip bulbs I have eaten so far. The trouble is that after you have eaten you are still hungry.”

“Apart from the above, this last week was a terrible one. Day after day the bombs dropped on our city and the machine guns never stopped. At first the bombing was not too bad or heavy, but then came Saturday. At 8.00 o’clock in the morning the alarm started and then it began; we heard the heavy four engine bombers come over and the bombing started. It was terrible. Everything shook and rattled and we could hear the explosions. Later, when we looked out of the windows we saw two great big columns of smoke and after a while the first victims arrived. Poor stinkers, who just grabbed what they could – some clothes – children in pushers and prams or carried in their arms. All day we saw the smoke and when at night we looked through the attic windows and could not believe our eyes. We could see the fires and the flames – a terrible sight.

Author’s note: The historical fact is that this bombing was actually conducted by the Royal Air Force (RAF) that mistook the residential area that was bombed for the “*Forest of the Hague*”, the real RAF target from which the Germans were launching V2 rockets.

Easter 1945

“Despite the time we are living in, we had a good Easter. I went to High Mass and when I came home had three slices of bread and butter (butter from the Red Cross parcel). Then we each had a cup of coffee. It really tastes more like a sort of medicine, black coffee without sweetener. Mom had boiled some potatoes for lunch and we had them with some spinach and some veal. I had been able to buy three coupons worth of veal on Saturday. We savoured every mouthful.”

Sunday, 22 April 1945

“Our bread rations have been lowered to 400 grams per week, so that is half a loaf. Per person we now get 400 grams of bread and one kilo of potatoes, which we hand-in at the Central Kitchen. There we receive half a litre of soup daily. It is still soup every day except Wednesdays and Sundays. Last week on Monday and Tuesday it was complete water, but from Wednesday to Friday they added legumes to it from the Swedish Red Cross. The soup was a bit thicker.”

“That there is so very little food at the moment is because the number of Germans has increased. Only the western side of Holland still has to be liberated so all Germans are concentrated in this part. It seems that here, in The Hague, six divisions are stationed and this is probably true as we see so many Germans about. I wish it was all over. We were so optimistic but that is dropping by the day. I don’t think somehow that they will give up without a fight and if that is going to happen, I hope it will be quick before many more people die. Every day in The Hague 90 people die because of hunger and the people who are walking around suffering malnutrition are countless. Each day you hear of more and more cases.”

Sunday, 29 April 1945

“During the last couple of days rumours were going around that the Allied planes were going to drop food parcels but nobody was happy with the idea. Of course we want the food, but if they were going to do it that way only murder and death would be a result. What happened was the food parcels were dropped on the airfields at the Binckhorst. It was unforgettable. How the planes arrived, flying very low, the pilots waving back to the people. At last we see the end and peace is in sight.”

Author’s note: Google Operation Manna and Chowhound.

Thursday, 3 May 1945

“Still no peace, but we do get some food. The Germans have opened the road to the free world and workers are working like hell to get food over here. Every day parcels are dropped and a ship arrived in Rotterdam. It is just in time as even the Central Kitchen was running out of everything. Hitler is dead and his successor Von Donita has been taken by the Allies. That is according to the rumours. The German army in Italy has capitulated. Hurrah, Berlin has been captured. We have our flag ready to hoist!”

Saturday, 5 May 1945

“At last, at long last we are free. We were free since last Friday, but yesterday Germany officially capitulated and there is peace now in Europe. Suddenly a neighbour raced up the stairs and called out that we were free. Next thing, the street was full of people. Flags appeared from nowhere and orange corsages were worn.”

Author’s Note: It took at least another two weeks before the food supply returned to anything like normal again. The supply of coal and gas didn’t return until July 1945 so there was nothing available to cook with. At least the winter was over. Like many of the Catenian Brothers who had parents who lived through the war or anywhere where there were food shortages, we can understand how food leftovers were never wasted and you always had to eat everything that was put in front of you.

Beginning life anew

Harry’s story about his parents’ life after the war and their immigration to Perth continues:

After the war my mother, Netty, was able to find work in The Hague offices of the OOM; the Dutch Insurance Company processing damage claims after the war. My father, Han, was working as a pastry chef at a bakery in The Hague.

Dad and Mum met in August 1946 whilst Dad was catering for a wedding anniversary party for a member of Mum’s family. Three months later Dad was required to enlist and join the Dutch army.

They were engaged in March 1947 and then, four months later Dad was shipped to Indonesia where he was engaged in the Indonesian war of Independence and did not return home until April 1950. Having spent those years in the outdoors in the engineering corps, building bridges and other structures, Dad could not face going back to work as a pastry cook. At the time unemployment was high in Holland and he was only able to find work as a salesman.

In 1952 Dad and Mum married and immediately began thinking about immigration. Mum’s mother had relatives who had moved to Perth in 1949 and Mum and Dad decided that this was where they would migrate. Dad had a more adventurous soul, but Mum, on the other hand found it much more difficult to leave her close-knit family behind.

Dad and Mum had to pay their full fare to Australia. There was no such luxury as sharing a cabin with only strictly separate male and female dormitories available on the ship. Mum was pregnant with me and suffered morning sickness that kept her in bed for much of the voyage, however Dad was not allowed into the female dormitory and it was a challenge for him to provide her with food and drink when it was forbidden on the ship for food to be removed from the dining area.

On arrival at Fremantle they were met by Mum’s cousin and taken to live in a small room in an old house shared by three other couples in Mt Lawley.

They came to understand that Holland had moved a long way forward since the end of the war, whereas in many ways Australia was still struggling with things such as appreciating a “good” cup of coffee and with constant shortages of basic food items. “Outside toilets” were also something new to them, as were Australian’s fixation on sport including the “Melbourne Cup.”

Dad and Mum received twenty-five pounds (Fifty dollars) “landing” money for migrating to Australia and had little else on which to start a new life in their new chosen country.

Dad soon came to realise that pastry cooks like the ones in Holland did not exist in Australia so he obtained work as an apprentice glazier at Bunnings. Dad and Mum moved to live in South Perth and Dad travelled on the ferry to the city and walked to his workplace at Bunnings, then located in West Perth on Charles Street, where he became known as John Muller rather than Han. They gradually bought necessities such as a bed and chairs, using their packing cases as a table and for clothes storage.

I was born six months after they arrived in Perth.

My parents lived in a few other rental properties before buying a block of land at Rivervale on which Dad built a basic two-room house, virtually all by himself. It did not have a bathroom (something that would be absolutely prohibited in todays world), but it did have a traditional Aussie toilet, “out the back”. They loved their house, but didn’t finish building it until about three years later.

My sister, Monica, was born three years after me and this completed our family.



Han and Netty Muller with Monica and Harry pictured in front of their newly constructed home in Rivervale

Dad worked for many years as the glazier at Bunnings and towards the end of his working life he was the Manager of the doors section of the timber joinery department at the Bunnings trade distribution centre in Welshpool. In the early years he also worked on weekends as a labourer for various builders he knew to provide more money for the family. Mum worked as a waitress, but finishing late in the night became a hassle with Dad often leaving Monica and I asleep alone in the house in the middle of the night to pick up Mum from work and bring her home. Mum also worked as a housekeeper and later in life retrained in typing and office work, employed by Alcoa until her retirement.

My parents never regretted their decision to immigrate to Australia, which they say was the right decision. They had to work

very hard for everything they had and Mum always felt concerned about leaving her family behind in Holland. Things gradually improved and once Monica and I had finished school and they could afford it, they were able to take trips back to their homeland. Mum was probably the only one who found separation from family the most difficult. Dad just loved being in Australia and the open outdoors lifestyle that he enjoyed so much.

Dad and Mum moved from Rivervale and built a house in Busselton where they lived for a number of years, finally drawn to live back in Perth to live in Forrestfield because they weren’t able to see their grandchildren as often as they liked. They were then able to meet and babysit their five grandchildren and one of Dad’s proudest achievements was that he had been able to teach all of them to drive.

Mum passed away in 1999, succumbing to her second bout of cancer and Dad died ten years later in 2009 after suffering a sudden heart attack.

Monica and I have always been so grateful to our parents for their decision all those years ago after the Second World War to immigrate to Australia to live, and especially Perth. On the trips to Holland that we have both made to visit relatives we have come to realise that our lives would possibly not have been as rich and fulfilling living there, as they have been in Australia.

As for myself, I was born in 1953 and started my education at St Augustine’s Catholic School in Rivervale. The nuns felt that I should be given piano and music lessons and eventually persuaded Mum and Dad to apply for a Trinity College scholarship by auditioning for the St Mary’s Cathedral choir. I started at Trinity the year it opened in East Perth and continued to be part of the choir until I reached Second Year high school at the age of 14. I successfully completed my Leaving and Matriculation at Trinity in 1970 (50 years ago this year) and then spent a year living and working in Holland with my grandparents.

On my return, I went to both the University of Western Australia and the Secondary Teachers’ College and gained a degree in Science Education. I spent the following 42 years teaching in Catholic Schools. Apart from teaching science and religious education throughout these years, I spent time as Head of Department, Ministry Coordinator and various stints as Deputy Principal. I am now semi retired and enjoy a few days each week relief teaching in some of the schools I previously taught at.

I met and eventually married my wife, Tracey in 1981. Tracey also comes from a migrant family, although her parents had spent some 12 years living in different parts of Africa after leaving England. We have two children, David (born in 1988) and Hayley (born in 1990). Hayley and her husband have given us three beautiful grand daughters, two of which are twins with differing personalities. They had a very difficult start to life as they were born prematurely at 26 weeks, but both are now doing very well and are in Year 2 at school.

I joined the Catenian Association in 1983 and to this day Tracey believes she was the youngest wife of a Brother in the Association at the time. I had quite a close association with a number of the brothers in Darling Range Circle due to my time teaching their sons at Mazenod College and being actively involved in the two Hills parishes. During the years I have held positions as Circle President, Provincial Councillor and four or five stints as Secretary. I am currently Secretary of Province 20 Provincial Council.

Being a Catenian has been an important part of my life in that as a teacher I am always surrounded by other teachers, and socialising with men from all sorts of differing work and social backgrounds in the Catenian Association and Darling Range Circle has been very enriching.



Benjamin (Ben) Paul 1951 – 2020

Brothers and wives of Avon Valley and all other circles in Province 20 were greatly saddened by the passing of Ben Paul on 4 February 2020. Ben joined Avon Valley Circle in April 1989, qualifying for a 30-year certificate. He served as President in 2015/16 at a time when the circle celebrated its 300th meeting and hosted the Provincial Visitors Cup held in Northam. Ben was a very committed Catenian brother, just recently completing his three-year term as Avon Valley's Provincial Councillor and regularly attending Provincial functions with



his wife, Roslyn including the Catenian Association Conference in Malta a few years ago which they attended before continuing on to travel through Europe.

When transferred in his employment with the Western Australian Government Railways (WAGR) from Northam to Perth, Ben and Roslyn moved to live in Alexander Heights, but he remained committed and loyal to Avon Valley Circle.

Ben was born in Mauritius, the fifth child of nine siblings. His mother (now living in Lansdale, a suburb of Perth) recently celebrated her 99th birthday.

Ben migrated to Western Australia in December 1971, securing employment with the signals division of the WAGR stationed initially at Perth, then at Northam and Merredin. He was responsible for the maintenance of the signals impacting on considerable freight and passenger services across Australia.

Ben and Roslyn have been married for just short of 43 years and have three children, two married girls Michelle and Rebecca and a son, Justin. They have five grandchildren.

While living in Northam, Ben became an Acolyte at St Joseph's Catholic Church. Since moving to Perth he has served as an Acolyte at All Saints Chapel, Allendale Square on St George's Terrace, Perth and also served at St Mary's Cathedral on Wednesday night devotions and Saturday Vigil Masses.

A Requiem Mass for the life of Ben Paul was held at St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday 13 February 2020 celebrated by Father Jean-Noel Marie, a friend of Ben's from Mauritius, now the Parish Priest at Canning Vale.

In a message to members of the Catenian Association, Ben's wife, Roslyn wrote on 21 February 2020:

"I sincerely thank all members for attending the Requiem Mass of my husband, Benjamin at St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday 13 February, particularly for the Guard of Honour and a special thank you to Brian Webb for his many caring visits to Ben."

Rest in peace

Fond memories of a treasured friend

Contributed by Brian Webb

"Ben Paul was a good friend, the epitome of a Catenian brother, truly gracious, kind and obliging; a man who soothes the brow with his attitude."

"He is generally regarded as a quiet humble man, yet on occasions he was known for his wit and humour. He could tell some good Irish jokes. Yes, he was a funny man at times and never did a cross word, malicious or spiteful, cross his lips."

"Since retirement, Ben and Roslyn engaged in travel at every opportunity. The Malta Catenian Association conference was a perfect stepping stone for them to tour Europe."

"Despite his illness over the last two years, travel has been a regular part of their life, visiting Tasmania, travelling throughout Western Australia on several occasions and, late in 2019, fulfilling a lifetime dream to visit Monkey Mia and Carnarvon. These trips lasted only a few days at a time, fitting in between medical treatments."

"Since his retirement from work, Ben has devoted more time to the Avon Valley Circle, not to play-down his previous involvement in the circle where he was always prepared to take a non-executive minor office at election time – a Jack of all trades."

"However, after retirement he became the first Avon Valley brother to occupy the office of President for four years in succession and also served a three-year term as the circle's Provincial Councillor."

"I said farewell to him on the Friday before the Australia Day weekend, visiting him at home. We held hope for a recovery and he had his name relisted for Acolyte duty at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth, so confident did he feel."

"A message from Roslyn informed me that his sister was coming from England to see Ben on the long Australia Day weekend and that he had had a down-turn in health. At prayer in the St Joseph's Catholic Church in Northam on Tuesday 4 February 2020 the Holy Spirit told me to pray for his soul."

"It was therefore a total surprise to receive Roslyn's later message that Ben had passed away at 1.30 pm on the same day with the Dean of the Cathedral, Father Sean Fernandez, at his bedside."

"To witness the attendance of brothers of Province 20 at Ben's Requiem Mass was most gratifying. Thanks to all of the brothers for your compassion and support."

"Ben was more than just a Catenian brother to me; he was a neighbour, like the Good Samaritan."

"It was a great pleasure to visit him in Alexander Heights over the past eight years in particular, but especially on Friday mornings when I could visit, sharing prayer and thoughts on the liturgy and Catenian brotherhood."

"Fond memories, of a treasured friend."

**Brian Webb
Avon Valley Circle**



CIRCLE ROUNDUP

CONTRIBUTED ITEMS & PHOTOGRAPHS

Avon Valley

Festive celebrations

Avon Valley Circle brothers, wives and friends celebrated Christmas in 2019 at the home of President, Clint Richter and his wife Eva at their home in Northam.

Among the special guests at the function were the Assistant Parish Priest at St Joseph's Catholic Parish in Northam, Father Konrad Gagatek and Sister Nevisa from India.



Avon Valley Treasurer, Stan Tumak with Father Gagatek

The story of Ben Paul's front yard grotto

Avon Valley Circle's committed Catenian brother and friend, Benjamin (Ben) Paul, who sadly passed away on 4 February 2020 was devoted to the Catholic Church, serving as an Acolyte at St Joseph's in Northam and later at All Saints Chapel in St George's Terrace, Perth after he and his wife, Roslyn moved to Perth.

After moving to Perth he then served at St Mary's Cathedral on Wednesday night devotions and Saturday Vigil Masses.

In late 2017, Ben's strong faith and devotion to the Catholic Church inspired him to build a small grotto in the front yard of their home in Alexander Heights in Perth.

He built the grotto, only about waist high, from second hand materials and tiles given to him by a builder from leftovers on a job in the vicinity of their Alexander Heights home.

The grotto features a flouro statue of Our Lady, which occupies the centre with a light behind and a light in front at the foot. Fragments of blue glass are the fitting final touch on the façade.

The photo on the following column shows the arched grotto with Ben and his good friend Brian Webb admiring the handiwork.



Ben Paul (left) with Brian Webb

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Bouvard

Catenian brothers installed as Acolytes



Left to right: Paul and Patti Hodgson, Gerry and Bernie Marshall and Mike and Yvonne Dutton

Parish Priest, Father Vincent Compe installed three new acolytes at St Damien of Molokai Catholic Church at Dawesville at Mass on Sunday 19 January 2020. They were Paul Hodgson, Gerry Marshall and Mike Dutton.

Paul and Gerry are both members of Bouvard Circle, joining an impressive number of brothers who serve in a variety of ministries at the parish. In addition to those brothers serving as acolytes, Catenians also act as readers, commentators and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist as well as on the liturgy committee, social committee, finance committee and parish council.

St Damien's is a relatively small, but close-knit and welcoming parish located at Dawesville south of Mandurah. Parishioners, including Father Compe, also regularly attend Catenian social events such as Christmas in July, the annual Melbourne Cup luncheon and the circle's Christmas party.

President's charity

The Mandurah Chapter of the St Vincent de Paul Society's bushfire disaster relief appeal was the beneficiary of Bouvard Circle's President's Charity for 2020. President Max Gardiner is pictured below presenting the circle's donation of \$500.



Left to right: Mandurah St Vincent de Paul representatives, Sophia Halliday and Liza Chatterton with Max Gardiner

Bouvard snippets

Whilst Bouvard Catenians have not been able to attend meetings since February, they have never lost touch with fellow members with regular contact by phone and email, both comforting and reassuring.

The live streaming of Easter and Sunday morning Masses has proven to be a wonderful success with Catenians and parishioners of St Damien' Parish at Dawesville. A big thank you to Father Vince and parishioner, Rod Lohoar for the implementation and providing all with the opportunity to stay connected.

The following brief snippets reveal how Bouvard members are coping during the COVID-19 lockdown:

- ✿ Incoming President, Peter Brown and his wife Barbara remain active assisting older Catenian brothers and parishioners with transport, shopping and delivering Barbara's legendary home made cookies. Peter and Barbara epitomize the Catenian ethos of family, faith and friendship.
- ✿ Gerry and Bernie Marshall were house sitting in South Australia when the restrictions on State boundaries were first announced, necessitating a hasty return to Western Australia before the borders were closed.
- ✿ Paul and Patti Hodgson were meant to be in Japan and would by now have been enjoying the cherry blossoms. They have also had to cancel a planned trip to North Queensland, but remain optimistic that a holiday in northern Western Australia might still be possible.
- ✿ Tom and Shirley Mulchay had hoped to be moving to the city in early May but plans could be on hold for the time being.



Busselton

Visitors from Perth



**Standing left to right: Peter Johnston, George Bazzica and John Monkhouse
Seated: Maree Johnston, Elizabeth Bazzica and Marlene Monkhouse**

Joondalup Circle Catenians, Peter Johnston and his wife Maree and John Monkhouse and his wife Marlene took the opportunity on a caravan trip in February 2020 to enjoy morning tea at the *Goose Restaurant* on the Busselton foreshore with former City of Busselton President, George Bazzica and his wife Elizabeth.

Peter and John were both joint members of the City of Busselton Circle, which handed back its Charter on 28 April 2019 because the circle could no longer function with its small numbers and the poor health of some members.

Former City of Busselton brothers are now members of the Australian Catenian Association Central Circle, which doesn't hold formal meetings but retains Catenian benefits for its members.

Koffee Klub going strong

The Busselton *Koffee Klub* continues to be well supported. Members of the former circle meet at 11.00 am on the fourth Sunday of every month at the popular *Goose Restaurant* at the head of the famous Busselton jetty on the redeveloped foreshore.



**Standing left to right: Kaye Middleton, Elizabeth and George Bazzica and Terry O'Neill (Swan Valley Circle)
Seated left to right: Margaret Dau (a friend of Terry O'Neill), Max Brandenburg, Di Hemsley (a friend of Jack Stretch), Jack Stretch and Bill Middleton**

Canning

A wonderful 2020 opening dinner

Canning Circle started the new decade in spectacular style with a well-attended ladies night and plenty of fun at RAAFA Bull Creek on Thursday 27 February.

The circle's Welfare and Hospitality Officer, Doug Williams was in fine form running the evening's "mini chocolate bonanza fiesta", which, he says, was just a trial run for the "major chocolate fiesta night", another ladies night scheduled for Thursday 23 July 2020, sure to entice and attract a few visitors from other Province 20 circles.

President, Russell Godsall made special mention of the outstanding level of participation of brothers in running and making the circle so successful. He warmly congratulated Canning's new Membership Officer, Cliff Chalon and new Chamberlain, Rod Marsh.



The happy Canning members and wives at the circle's February ladies night, with Brian and Anne Iliffe in the foreground



**The bearer of gifts: Welfare and Hospitality Officer, Doug Williams was on hand to present a rose to ladies celebrating birthdays around the date of the February meeting
Left to right: Lynette Everett, Sylvia Lobo and Lorraine Chalon**



Como

Stepping down as Treasurer

One of Como Circle's most loyal and hard working servants, **BRYAN LILLIS** stood down from the position of Treasurer in 2020 after nine years in the job, handing over to Godfrey Weldt. Bryan joined the circle in May 1998 sponsored by the late Brother Harry Grove.

Bryan was born in Kalgoorlie in 1943, the son of Martin and Sylvia Lillis. He had three sisters, one deceased and a brother (also deceased). He began his education in Kalgoorlie before moving to Perth with his mother and family in 1952 after the death of his father in 1950 at the age of 47.

The family moved into a War Service home in Hilton and Bryan continued his education at White Gum Valley Primary School and then at John Curtin Senior High School where he completed his Leaving Certificate.

After a brief stint employed by the Western Australian Government Lands Department as a cadet surveyor and later with The Sunday Times as a cadet journalist, Bryan turned to, what became, a lifetime career in education. He became a primary school teacher after attending Claremont Teachers College and the University of Western Australia in 1962 and 1963. Later he completed the Teachers Higher Certificate and Bachelor of Social Science (Geography) at Curtin University where he also undertook further studies towards a Graduate Diploma in Education and Administration (staff management, accounting and economics).

Bryan taught at a number of schools, including in country towns at Gnowangerup, Esperance, Wyndham and Tom Price. He was first appointed Principal at Karragullen in 1979 and later worked in that role at Wyndham, Tom Price, Coolbellup and Mount Pleasant before he retired from the Department of Education in 2001. He then worked as Educational Consultant for the Department of Education, ACER Secondary Education Authority and the mining industry until he fully retired at the end of 2015.

During his career Bryan was Acting Superintendent in the Kimberley and Fremantle regions and the Cockburn Education District. He was also Acting Regional Superintendent for the Kimberley Region. Early in his career he was actively involved in the State School Teachers Union representing Western Australia and the World Conference of Teacher Organisations in Sydney in 1970. Later, as a member of the WA Primary Principals Association he served as Liaison Principal for both the Cockburn and Melville education districts.

In 1972 at St Joachim's Church in Victoria Park Bryan married Janice (nee Knipe) who he met when she was First Mistress at Spearwood Primary School, thus marrying his "first mistress", Bryan says.



Bryan and Janice

Bryan and Janice have three daughters and five grandchildren. Each of their girls attended Santa Maria College following in the footsteps of their mother who is a "Golden Girl" of the Santa Maria Old Girls Association.

Their daughter Elizabeth is a Journalist/Communications Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Sale in Victoria. She and her husband David have a daughter aged six and a son aged three.

Emily is a Specialist Emergency Nurse at St John of God Hospital in Midland and she and her partner Richard have a son aged six and a daughter aged three.

Susannah is a Diagnostic Imaging Specialist vet based in Mt Pleasant providing services to vet clients worldwide via the Internet. She and her husband Simon have a daughter aged two.

Bryan and Janice are parishioners at St Benedict's Catholic Church in Applecross where Janice is Vice President of the Catholic Women's League Branch and Bryan serves as a Eucharistic Special Minister.

They have lived in their Ardross home since it was built in 1985 and originally were parishioners at Regina Coeli Church in Brentwood before it closed. Each November they host a get together morning tea at their home for ex-parishioners at Regina Coeli.

Bryan's sporting interests include Aussie rules football and golf. He played underage football, but his main success occurred when he took up umpiring with a career as a field umpire in the WANFL (now WAFL), Western Australian amateurs, Sunday League and various country leagues. He is a foundation member of the Fremantle Football Club in the AFL and served as Vice President of the South Fremantle Junior Football Council.

In his spare time Bryan still finds time to fit in a couple of rounds of golf each week. He professes himself to be a "long handicapper, yet to master the game". Bryan is a member of the Melville Glades Golf Club.



Darling Range

Enjoyable time in India

DES and JENNY LALLY arrived in Delhi, India on 3 October 2019 where they found that most things are done very differently from how they are managed in Australia.

"I don't think our sense of order and regulation would work that well in India," Des writes. "Due to the size of their population they seem to manage the chaos differently. We found the traffic control, or apparent lack of it, fascinating although they mostly drive on the left like us, even if differently."



"A taxi ride from the airport to our hotel began when the driver missed the off-ramp, did a U-turn on the highway and then drove back against the traffic. This incident happened without incurring the wrath of the three lanes of oncoming traffic as the taxi cut across to get back onto the ramp."

"A lot of the highways have three lanes plus one, which looks like a bicycle lane on which you seem to be able to drive whatever you fit in any direction and I'm not sure why the lanes are marked as they seem to be able to fit at least six vehicles across."

"On arrival the person at Border Control told us we'd arrived at the cheapest city in the world. We did not find this to be the case. We were quoted 3,000 Rp taxi rides, eventually costing 15,000 Rp. If we thought we had negotiated a bargain on, say, a clothing item, it usually turned out to be not fit for purpose."

"You could certainly buy quality, however, if you were in the market for handmade rugs, inlaid marble or wood items."

"India has some truly fascinating history and historical architecture," Des writes. "We went on a nine-day guided bus tour of the golden triangle (Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Delhi), plus five days doing our own thing."

"The guided aspect of the time we spent in India gave us experiences we never would have tried on our own, including things such as a food, walking and rickshaw tours through the Old Delhi, the Red Fort, Jama Masjid Mosque, Qutub Minar, Humayuns Tomb and a colonial compound where Ghandi spent his final days."

"Then we went to Rajasthan to the capital Jaipur where we visited the Amber Fort and Chand Pol (Walled City)."

"We went to Ranthambore, a 1700 square kilometre wildlife national park also in Rajasthan. We did three, four-hour safaris in the couple of days we were there and never saw any of its 70-odd tigers. We did, however, see plenty of deer, antelope, crocodiles, monkeys and birds."

"On to Agra and the Taj Mahal did not disappoint (see photo). The closer you actually get to it, the more intricacies and detail you see in the carved and inlaid marble. It was no surprise to hear that it took 22 years to build. It was probably the highlight of our whole trip."



The Taj Mahal

"There were 13 of us on the tour, made up of four Aussies and nine Americans and it looked to me like 95 per cent of the tourists in India were nationals."

"Jenny and I spent our final three days in Aero City, New Delhi, just to be near the airport. This was nothing like everywhere else we'd been. In fact, I think we looked like the poor relations. Everything there was modern and sterile with big shopping malls, office towers, luxury hotels and restaurants. Just a short comfortable and clean underground train ride away you could pop up in Old Delhi. What a contrast."

"We would have loved to have seen the Ganges River, but there was only so much we could fit in."

"Jenny and I really enjoyed our time in India," Des concluded.

Families gather to open the New Year

Instead of its normal meeting and dinner in January 2020, Darling Range Circle brothers and their families assembled at the home of **ALAN and MARY THROSSELL** for an evening of relaxation in preparation for the New Year.



Mary and Alan Throssell



John Humphreys and Carl Rechichi

All the guests brought something to share and Mary and Alan provided the barbecue meats, the outdoor furniture and all the trimmings to make the evening an outstanding success.

At this year's Sundowner, the circle welcomed some possible new members to meet brothers and wives. It was also an opportunity to enjoy the company of brothers who have been on the circle's sick list during the past year.

Members thanked Alan and Mary for their hospitality and to the other ladies who stepped out to help in the kitchen in presenting a variety of dishes served with the meats and the delicious array of desserts.



Founder member as committed as ever

A Catenian member for 40 years, and Founder member of Darling Range, Brother **ROD WILLIX** is as committed to the Association and his circle now as he was on the day he first joined.

Rod originally joined the City of Perth Circle in February 1980; three years after the circle was inaugurated in 1977. New to the Association, Rod joined a group of men who had been actively organising the formation of a new circle in the hills area during 1979/80. Then, a year after joining the City of Perth, Rod transferred to Darling Range when it was inaugurated in February 1981 and became the new circle's first Secretary.

Apart from his position as Secretary, his time in the Darling Range Circle included various other offices such as President in 1985/86 and a period as the circle's Provincial Councillor.

Rod and his wife Mary have been regular participants in most Darling Range events over the years, including the Karri Valley excursions, picnics, car rallies and as many social gatherings as they possibly could. Rod was instrumental in forming, organising and playing in the Darling Range *Annual Golf Classic* still held at the Hillview Public Golf Club in High Wycombe.



Mary and Rod Willix pictured with Australian National Council Vice President Ralph Fitzpatrick presenting a scroll to Rod in recognition of his 40 years of Catenian membership

Rod's early schooling was completed overseas, followed by work at Leeds University in the United Kingdom through a doctoral fellowship programme in the area of nuclear science. He has been active in the academic field both as a student and subsequently as a lecturer at the University of Western Australia and Curtin University. His qualifications include a science degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Western Australia.

Rod and Mary remain active in the Kalamunda/Lesmurdie community and are parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Lesmurdie. They have their 60th year of wedded bliss on the horizon in a couple of years.

They have been blessed with a large family of children and grandchildren with one of the granddaughters regularly featuring as the author of articles in the *West Australian* newspaper.

All members, past and present thank Rod and Mary for their many years of dedicated service to the Darling Range Circle and the Catenian Association.

A night of celebrations at March meeting

Darling Range Circle's meeting on Wednesday 11 March 2020 was a ladies night and a very special occasion for Rod Willix who was presented with his 40-year scroll by the Vice President of the Australian National Council and Liwara Circle Brother Ralph Fitzpatrick. Certificates were also presented to six Darling Range

brothers in recognition of their 25 years of Catenian Association membership.

Members receiving their 25-year certificates were Gerry Chesson (36 years), John d'Adhemar (33 years), Ron Howard (25 years), Des Lally (35 years), Harry Muller (37 years) and Carl Rechichi (29 years). Four other brothers unable to attend the March meeting will be presented with their 25-year certificates at a later meeting. They are John Everett (37 years), Gerry Garbellini (38 years), John Loughnan (39 years) and Gordon Smith (39 years).

The circle is preparing for its 40th anniversary in February 2021 at which time more brothers will be eligible to receive 40-year scrolls.



Ralph Fitzpatrick presents a 25-year certificate to John d'Adhemar watched in the background by President Patrick Carney and Alan Throssell

Circle members and wives welcomed the return to the comforts of its old venue at the Hartfield Country Club in Forrestfield for the March meeting. "The Country Club has a new chef," writes Circle Secretary Harry Muller, "and we have been welcomed back with a good catering deal for our meetings."

"The Hartfield venue will be our home for the majority of our meetings," he said, "but we'll continue to hold our July 'soup' night at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre. The move into Forrestfield for our meetings may also present opportunities to welcome new members who live in this area"

At the March meeting a prospective member Vic Hussey provided an insight into his work as a policeman and also as a fundraiser with the ex-Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan. In his address, Vic mentioned the difficulties in dealing with COVID-19 cases at the Perth Watch House.

He also mentioned the substantial amount of money that he had raised from riding his motorbike through parts of Asia and Australia.

It was an interesting talk and brothers look forward to hearing more about his adventures if Vic decides to join the Circle.



Norm Carter and Chris Downey pictured at the Darling Range March meeting

Dianella



Fabulous barbecue, Aussie-style



Dianella brothers and wives celebrated Australia Day on Sunday 26 January 2020 at the home of **LOU DAILY** in Noranda with a traditional Aussie barbecue.

As usual, if you have ever been to Lou's home before, he always puts on a really great day with everyone dressed in

style; the Aussie dress style of course.

Lou cooked a great barbecue. It was an extremely hot day and with both hands fully committed to cooking, he donned his "true blue" Aussie hat complete with strings and corks dangling down to keep the flies away.

Although the names of all those who attended haven't been included, you can see from the above collage that the circle had a large gathering all joining in, Aussie-style.

Rewarding MercyCare presentation

Dianella brothers and wives were treated to a very interesting and timely presentation at the circle's January 2020 meeting and dinner from **MRS. SAM SPIRO**, the Business and Development Manager of MercyCare, a leading Catholic provider of aged care, family, health, disability and community services in Perth.

Sam gave an in-depth exposition on the subject of "Community and Aged Care Support" available to people as they approach the age of requiring assistance. She explained the process to follow enabling people to stay longer in their homes before needing to make the decision to move to alternative accommodation.

Sam outlined the steps to be taken to obtain community home care support along with Home Care Packages. She explained how to find the help and direction to obtain support from *Myagedcare*,

which most people have heard of, but probably not yet made contact with.

This was a worthwhile presentation as many Catenian members and wives have, or are in the near future needing to seriously consider, the direction to take as old age approaches.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Sam gave out brochures outlining all of the options and procedures that need to be taken and said that she is readily contactable at MercyCare and happy to assist with any enquiries.



Mrs. Sam Spiro giving her presentation to Dianella Circle's January 2020 meeting

Sebastian Morris enrolled in January 2020

A new member, **SEBASTIAN MORRIS** was installed and welcomed by Dianella brothers at the circle's meeting and dinner held at the Mt Lawley Golf Club on Wednesday 29 January 2020.

Sebastian was born in Cochin Kerala, a State of India and has seven brothers and sisters. His hard-working Catholic parents operate a seafood business where Sebastian worked part time while studying at University where he graduated in Business Administration.

When he qualified he worked fulltime in the family export business and at the age of 20 was charged with the responsibility of selling seafood products internationally requiring him to travel extensively to European and Asian countries. To be more central to these markets he relocated from India to live in the United Kingdom.



In 1998 Sebastian married Shola and then, in 2005, wanting to spend less time on travel and more time together, they moved to Melbourne where his brother was living and he continued to work in the seafood industry.

In 2008 Sebastian and Shola were blessed with their son Gabriel and soon afterwards decided to move to Perth where they could enjoy a good family lifestyle and be closer to their family in India. Currently Sebastian works for the Australian Defence Force. He attends Our Lady Help of Christians in East Victoria Park and, in his spare time assists with charitable activities.

Dianella brothers welcome Sebastian into their circle.



Left to right: Dianella Circle President Vern Scanlan, newly installed Brother Sebastian Morris and Membership Officer Lou Daily

Vale Bernadette D'Amico

Dianella brothers and wives were deeply saddened with the passing of **BERNADETTE D'AMICO** on 18 November 2019. The widow of Dianella Circle's late Brother Nick D'Amico, Bernadette was a very gentle and gracious lady who leaves two daughters, Joanne and Natalie, son-in-laws Jason and Andrew and two grandchildren Jake and Deon. A Requiem Mass was celebrated for the life of Bernadette at Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Morley on Tuesday 26 November 2019.

Bernadette was a very committed Catholic who attended Mass on a daily basis and she and Nick will be remembered as being a very gracious couple who throughout their lives provided so much support to families and people in need, including some of the poorer communities back in Bernadette's home town province in India.

The following is a "must-read" true story that Bernadette shared with parishioners at her local church during the parish week back in 2002 where the relics of St Therese of Lisieux were on display.



"My name is Bernadette and I am married to Nick and have two daughters. A few years ago I began to have consistent health problems. I was referred to a number of specialists, but none could diagnose what was wrong. I was then recommended to a Haematologist. At last I was told about my problem, which was a blood disorder and a course of treatment commenced."

"After a short period of recovery, I again began experiencing illness, my body began producing too much or too little blood. My family was praying fervently and encouraging me to keep up the prayers and offer my sufferings to Jesus."

"Then, came the miracle!"

"Last year on 15 August 2001, my sisters and my brother-in-law took me to the Shrine of the Virgin of Revelations Church in Bullsbrook. While we were praying at the shrine, a lady in front of us turned around and, bypassing others, handed me a picture."

"I looked at the picture and was amazed to read the words: 'Mother of the Incurable Health of the Sick.' I was in utter shock. The others asked me what it was and I turned to find the lady, but she was gone!"

"There is no other explanation than to assume that Our Lady had a hand in this. At this time my healing process began. It was as if the burden had been taken off me and I began to feel happiness, energetic and positive."

"Now that I have been through these difficulties I pray for the sick daily. This event also confirmed my decision to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni in Madras in India."

"As I have always been afraid of flying, I decided to leave all matters in Our Lady's hands. To my surprise I enjoyed the flight. Nick asked me: 'Are you okay'. I replied: 'I am more than okay.' All through the travel I kept very well."

"Since returning from Vailankanni my specialist has confirmed that my blood has stabilized. I feel so well now and in deep gratitude to God and our loving Mother Mary."

It is amazing what inner strength and support that can be received from commitment to the Catholic faith. Both Bernadette and Nick returned to Vailankanni several times after this event and donated their time and financial support, including providing a school bus to a small local community to enable the young children attend school because they had no means of transport.

The D'Amico's – a wonderful family!

New Brother welcomed into Dianella Circle



Left to right: Vern Scanlan, Brian Vertannes and Lou Daily

New brother **BRIAN VERTANNES** was welcomed into the Dianella Circle by President Vern Scanlan and Membership Officer Lou Daily at the circle's November 2019 meeting.

Brian was born in Burma in 1959 and is the oldest of six children. In 1967 the family left Burma and moved to Western Australia where his father started working at the BP Refinery in Kwinana.

Brian studied hard and qualified with a Diploma in Electronic Engineering at the Mount Lawley Technical College in 1979. He then started work with the Ministry of Justice, as a Community Corrections Officer where he worked for a number of years before deciding the direction he wanted to follow.

Brian says that he always wanted to work for himself, so around 1995 he started a business in the property development market where he gained a lot of experience. Later he moved into other areas of opportunity to make sure that, as a father, he would be able to support and provide guidance when necessary to his two daughters.

Brian is now retired and attends the Infant Jesus Morley Parish and enjoys reading Religious History, Theology, Apologetics and Philosophy. For recreation he enjoys camping and is a bit of a "Muso" as well.

Dianella brothers welcome Brian into their Circle.



Fremantle

Catenian award presentation



Fremantle Circle's Alex Banovich presents the academic award to Jessica Mitchell at the University of Notre Dame

A prize of \$250 to a University of Notre Dame (Fremantle Campus) School of Physiotherapy student donated by Fremantle Circle was awarded to **JESSICA MITCHELL** at an awards ceremony held at the campus on 16 January 2020. Alex Banovich presented the award to Jessica on behalf of the circle.

Fremantle Circle has supported the School of Physiotherapy at the university with a committed annual donation of \$500 for several years and will award the balance of this year's commitment to a student nominated by the university at an award ceremony in the second half of 2020.

In a letter from the Dean of the School of Physiotherapy, Professor Sarah Love said that the contribution and generosity of Fremantle Circle in supporting student awards is highly appreciated by the university's staff, students and other industry and educational partners.

New Chamberlain installed

Brother **MICHAEL YAP** was installed as Chamberlain at Fremantle Circle's monthly meeting on 19 February 2020 at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle.

Michael replaces circle stalwart, Peter Golding who has served in many positions, including President, since joining the Association in November 2004. The tireless contribution of Peter over the past 16 years was recognised by brothers at the meeting.

Members congratulated Michael for taking on the responsibility and thanked Ged Kerrigan for introducing Michael to the circle where he was installed as a new member in April 2019.



Left to right: Kim Yap, Margaret and Ged Kerrigan and Michael Yap

Warm welcome to UK visitor

Fremantle brothers were pleased to welcome the President of Market Harborough Circle, **ROGER LEWIN** and his wife **MARY** at the circle's February 2020 meeting. Market Harborough is a market town within the Harborough district of Leicestershire, England. It is situated in the far south-east of the county, forming part of the border with Northamptonshire.

This is the third trip to Western Australia of Roger and Mary, visiting their son in Claremont. On this visit they took advantage of their time here by travelling through most of the State's south-west, returning to Perth via Kalgoorlie.

Roger and Mary returned to the United Kingdom on the 18-hour non-stop Qantas flight, treasuring some wonderful memories of their time in Western Australia.



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Joondalup



Front row: Nick Spadaccini, John Rayner, John Lambe (Provincial President), John Monkhouse, John Clarke (Grand President), Don McKechnie, Alex Banovich (Provincial Chamberlain), and Derrick Flynn
Middle row: Mike Kavanagh, Rolf Bank, Doug D'Jordan, Rod Stokes, Andrew Swanson, Gene Vance, Vince Sinagra, Peter Henson, Mick Doak and Martin Colgan
Back row: Peter Johnston, David Chatel, Peter Ross, Jim Guimelli, Adrian Cowman, Tom Alford, John Hollywood, Barry Webb, Dennis Reid and Pat Winton

Happy 15th birthday

Although not a significant milestone in World-wide Catenian terms, Joondalup Circle took time out at its meeting and ladies night on Wednesday 19 February 2020 to celebrate its 15th anniversary with a special dinner toast and fond recollections of the 25 brothers (pictured above with special guests) who started the circle off. The circle was inaugurated on 25 February 2005 by then Grand President, John Clarke who was visiting Perth with a touring party of United Kingdom Catenian brothers and wives.

The inauguration was followed by a gala dinner held at Rossetti's Convention Centre in Westminster.

Of the 25 brothers installed at the inauguration, 15 are still active in the circle. Sadly, four of the Founder brothers, Dennis Reid, Derrick Flynn, Tom Alford and Gene Vance have passed away. Brothers joining the circle since the inauguration who have also passed away are Jim Rae, Gerry Forster and David Young (Snr.).

Thirteen brothers have served as President. They are John Monkhouse (Founder President), Martin Colgan, Dennis Reid (deceased), Michael Kavanagh, Pat Winton, David Wilkes, Neal Garswood, Vince Sinagra, Peter Johnston, Andrew Swanson, John Hollywood, Mick Doak and Barry Webb.

In its early days of formation the circle began as a Catenian Group, meeting each month at a small Italian Restaurant in Joondalup. Follow inauguration the circle met at the Joondalup Country Club before moving to the RAAFA Retirement Village, Cambrai in Merriwa where it has happily resided for many years.

After a brief period during which membership topped 30, current numbers total 27 of which three are permanent apologies and several others no longer live in the area and need to travel long distances to attend monthly meetings. Membership is therefore an ongoing focus as it is with all circles in Province 20.

Caravaners on the move again, pre COVID-19

The almost defunct Joondalup Circle caravaners club has been partly resurrected with a trip to Busselton in February 2020. Although not everyone travelled at the same time, there were enough around at the Jetty Caravan Park (formerly the Kookaburra Caravan Park) for a pleasant barbecue with plenty of reminiscing and promises to revitalise the club in the months and years ahead.



Left to right: Jocelyn and Mick Doak, Marlene and John Monkhouse and Maree and Peter Johnston pictured at the camp kitchen

Another former caravaner Jim Doherty and his wife Pat also holidayed at the Jetty Caravan Park in Busselton for a few days around the same time, staying in one of the many chalets on the site. Jim and Pat had departed for home a day or two before this picture was taken.

Sightseeing at Canal Rocks

Canal Rocks, near Yallingup is a place that showcases the rugged coastline around the Dunsborough and Augusta area and is high on the list of sites to visit for Perth, locals and overseas tourists. Even when the weather is mild, Canal Rocks provides spectacular viewing with an abundance of large waves and plenty of white water.

During their caravan trip to Busselton in February 2020, Mick and Jocelyn Doak and Peter and Maree Johnston visited Canal Rocks before adjourning to one of the Margaret River wineries for a pleasant lunch and some wine tasting.



In the foreground Mick and Jocelyn Doak with Maree Johnston at Canal Rocks

Coffee Club going strong



Gentlemen only, left to right: Les Croxford, Barry Webb, Peter Johnston, Neal Garswood, Mick Doak and John Monkhouse

The Joondalup Circle Coffee Club is thriving, supported by brothers, wives and one or two widows, but more attendees would always be very welcome. The photos were taken at the March 2020 get-together at the *Overboard Café* at Hillary's Marina.



Ladies corner, left to right: Marlene Monkhouse, Liz Webb, Jocelyn Doak, Maree Johnston and Merle Reid

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City of Mandurah

Legacy of friendship and kindness

In November 2015 City of Mandurah brothers mourned the loss of one of their circle stalwarts, Jim Regan who passed away at the age of 93 years.

Jim joined the circle in October 1997, enrolled in the presence of Grand President, John Barrie who was visiting Western Australia with a touring party from the United Kingdom. He was a respected and loyal member of the circle for almost 18 years, although ill health precluded his regular attendance at meetings in his final years. His wife had predeceased him by some three years, thus he much looked forward to the regular home visits of his Catenian friends and liked nothing more than to reminisce about his early life in the East Fremantle/Palmyra area or his wartime experiences in the United Kingdom.

Jim was born in East Fremantle on 4 August 1922, the eldest of three children who all attended St Gerard's Catholic School in Palmyra. It was one of Jim's siblings; Vince Regan who delivered the eulogy at the Requiem Mass of his brother at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Palmyra attended by family, friends and a large number of Catenian brothers and wives.

Vince now aged 88 and living in Dianella, has never forgotten the friendship and kindness of the City of Mandurah brothers and over the past five years, around the anniversary of his brother's passing he has sent a letter and a generous donation to the circle expressing his grateful thanks.

Circle brothers, in turn, are most appreciative of Vince's annual message and donation.

Max Gardiner

President's Commemorative Mass

On a pleasant, sunny morning on Sunday 16 February 2020, City of Mandurah Catenians attended the annual President's Commemorative Mass for deceased brothers and wives at Our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church in Mandurah.

Following Mass, some 35 Catenians and wives gathered at a local restaurant for a breakfast/brunch. In a superb setting overlooking Manjar Bay, the group enjoyed a varied menu and excellent service.



Left to right around the table: Father Albin, Mary and Bob Fitzgerald, Christine and Stewart Evans, Michael and Heather Phillips, Jim Mather (partly obscured), Judy and Colin Purcell and Ann and Wayne Wright

A joint meeting story in pictures

On Tuesday 10 March 2020 (pre COVID-19), some 35 brothers from the City of Mandurah Circle and Bouvard Circle got together for the annual joint meeting of the two seaside circles. The venue was the Parish Centre of Our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church in Mandurah.

After the meeting brothers sat down for a delicious meal prepared by a number of Catenian wives.



Meeting in progress



Mealtime - some of the attending brothers



The hardworking Catenian wives left to right: Jenny Johnson, Anne Wright and Mary Fitzgerald



Max Gardiner with one of the raffle winners Denis Ryan

Swan Valley

Richard now an International olive oil judge



Swan Valley Catenian, **RICHARD TAYLOR** (above) has been judging olive oil for the Western Australian Olive Oil Awards Competition for a number of years and in September 2019 was invited to judge at the Australian International Awards held in Adelaide. Previously this competition was the Australian Awards at which Richard judged in 2016.

The competition aims to professionally judge extra virgin olive oil, flavoured oils and table olives from around the world, uncover those with the highest quality and flavour and then award them medals and trophies in recognition of their excellence.

The judging panel comprised more than 25 well-credentialed olive oil experts from around the globe, including Australia. Judges assessed 186 extra virgin olive oils and flavoured oils with 145 receiving medals. Awards in the extra virgin olive oil category included 32 gold medals, flavoured oils received five gold medals and table olives received seven.

The "Best Oil" award of the show came from New South Wales while the best Western Australian oil entered was by New Norcia Services, which is a group of ex-student local farmers who rejuvenated the old Mission variety of trees at New Norcia's Monastery farm in recent years. New Norcia also won gold and Best of Show for this oil at the recent Western Australian olive awards at which Richard also judged.

Graduating with distinction



Mitchell Rosario with his mother, Julie

MITCHELL ROSARIO, the son of Swan Valley Catenian, Michael and his wife Julie recently graduated with a Bachelor of Laws with Distinction from Murdoch University. Mitchell is the youngest graduate to be appointed in 2020 to the Perth office of law firm, Norton Rose Fulbright.

Celebrating her 100th birthday



Rita and Ross Scarfone pictured with Ross's mother Concette, on the occasion of her 100th birthday

The mother of **ROSS SCARFONE**, Concette celebrated her 100th birthday on 24 December 2019 with a party held at the Midland Sports Complex attended by some 86 adult relatives plus 10 grandchildren and great grandchildren. Ross writes that he's not sure how much his mother remembers of the very special occasion because she is suffering from dementia. "On the day, for some of the time at least, she appeared to be connected with us," he said.

His mother received birthday letters from the Queen, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Leader of the Opposition, the Governor General, the Western Australian State Premier, the Leader of the State opposition, the State Governor and many others.

Ross's mother is presently at the Midland Nursing Home, where the staff is doing an outstanding job of looking after her.

"We're taking it one day at a time," Ross said.

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Starting her career in nursing

Swan Valley Catenian, **PAUL MAVERICK** and his wife **PATRICIA** have every reason to be very proud of their granddaughter, Michelle (Shelley).

Pictured below with her father Michael, Shelley recently graduated from university as a nurse and has now completed another step in her chosen career by being accepted at her hospital in the Graduate Registered Nurse Programme.

Shelley and her father both attended La Salle College and are proud to be part of another success story emanating from this very important and prestigious Midland College.



Shelley pictured with her father Michael Maverick

The heartwarming story of a "lost sheep"

Swan Valley Circle Catenian **TREVOR KNUCKEY** relates a very personal story about a chance encounter with a Catholic Priest who shepherded him back to the Church to rediscover his faith over 30 years ago.

"At the Swan Valley Catenian meeting on 5 February 2020, Father Bob Matthews sat at my table for dinner," Trevor writes. "He was visiting from Melbourne for a week to celebrate the jubilee of Stephen and Kay Williamson and was billeted with Jim Schelfhout and attended the dinner on Jim's invitation. As they arrived at the meeting together you would have expected they would also dine together at the same table. But, no, Father Bob abandoned Jim and joined the same table as me."



Trevor Knuckey with Father Bob Matthews

Trevor continues: "When I was 14 years old I rejected God and the Church because God would not heal my mother's mental illness, even though I prayed long and hard to Him. I knew God could have healed Mum if He had wanted to."

"Much later in 1990, when I was 49, I was led to discover Our Lady's visitations to the six children at Medjugorje. Then, after having my curiosity aroused significantly by several 'weird' events, I read a paragraph on a little magazine called the *Medjugorje Sentinel* and I was powerfully struck with the knowledge that Our Lady's appearances were true."

"My children were not baptised and I was married outside the Catholic Church. The realisation of this caused me massive despair when I was given the knowledge that the events of Medjugorje were real."

"My despair was immense and I also experienced an urgent desire to go to Medjugorje and throw myself at the feet of Our Lady for help; to open the way to Heaven for my two children."

"To put things right I needed to get myself back into the Church and travel to where Our Lady was."

"I approached St Brigid's Catholic Church in Midland and appealed to the Parish Priest to hear my confession, which was difficult because I had not performed this rite for 35 years. I was an enormous mess. I had to also put my marriage right to find out how I could go back to attending Mass and take communion."

The Parish Priest was Father Bob who 30 years ago started me on this wonderful journey that I am now on. How 'weird' is it that I recognised him straight away, even though he had aged 30 years? The chances of Father Bob attending the same Catenian meeting as me, when I am very hit and miss with meetings, would seem to be hugely 'weird'.

"I sat at the table at the Midland Reception Centre for quite some time debating whether I should introduce myself to him, however an opportunity presented itself when Hugo Kover left his place at the table to attend to some administration work, leaving the chair next to Father Bob vacant. I moved over and spoke to him and he was happy to hear my very short outline of how he had led me back on the right path all those years ago."

"I learned that Father Bob was due to depart for Melbourne the following Saturday morning, so on the Friday before his departure I called Jim Schelfhout and arranged a meeting to chat more fully with Father Bob and take the opportunity to express my hugely, grateful thanks for opening the way for me to go back to the Church."

"I have some short stories I've recorded about my life since the Medjugorje experiences and I asked Father Bob whether he would like me to communicate by email and attach my little stories. He said, yes please, so I have opened communications with him and am hoping to develop a long distance friendship. I owe him so much."

"I have made great progress as a Catholic since Father Bob shepherded me back," Trevor concludes. "All the works I have achieved since would, perhaps, never have happened but for his handling of a lost sheep all those years ago."

**Written and contributed by Trevor Knuckey
Swan Valley Circle**

