

# WESTERN LINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION PROVINCE 20 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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NAME

## Servicing a need for good communication

### The 50<sup>th</sup> edition, a *Western Link* milestone



Launched in October 1997, as the official newsletter of the Catenian Association in Western Australia the *Western Link* has come a long way in the last 21 years of continuous publication.

The very first edition, a rather slim black and white newsletter of just eight pages (see opposite), was produced by an editorial committee of City of Perth brothers,

Brendan McGurk, Derrick Flynn and Tom Hadfield (all deceased) and was printed by Graham Pittaway's Cyprus Print.

The Provincial President in 1997/98 when the *Western Link* was conceived was Dianella Circle's Brother Donald McKechnie who subsequently took over as the Director from 1999 to 2008 and was awarded Life Membership of Province 20 in 2012.

The Director of Province 20 in 1997 was Brother Jim Kenny of City of Perth Circle, also awarded Life Membership of the Province in 2009.

Both of these Catenian brothers were complimentary about the decision taken by the 1997/98 Provincial Council to initiate the newsletter.

A message in the first edition written by Province 20 Director Jim Kenny, complimented everyone associated with the production of Volume 1 of the *Western Link*.

Jim wrote: "The advancement of the Association depends on its ability to adapt to current and future requirements. Essential to this end is the need to communicate and to be informed of the needs and expectations of our Catholic Community, and in particular those members of our Catenian Province."

"This publication – a Provincial newsletter – will add considerably to the togetherness of brothers and those interested in our objectives. In particular it will progressively become a useful medium where brothers can communicate and contribute."

"The presence of a Provincial newsletter gives us all an opportunity to further understand the respective responsibilities of the various officers and councillors."

"It will also hopefully provide an avenue, missing for so long, to enable all Catenian brothers to contribute, outside meetings, to the advancement of the Association."

In celebrating this 50<sup>th</sup> edition, we should acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the *Western Link's* first editor, the Late Brendan McGurk who devoted an enormous amount of his time from 1997 to 2012 writing, editing and producing two editions of the newsletter, without fail, each and every year.

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

Brendan was awarded Life Membership of Province 20 in 2007, not only for his commitment to the *Western Link*, but in recognition of his outstanding overall service in the advancement of the Province and the Association.

In the last seven years, the magazine has continued to prosper with the support of Publicity Officers from all 13 Circles in Province 20. Now in full colour, a further 20 editions have been produced, the magazine has grown to 36 pages and continues to meet the aspirations of its founding Catenian brothers 21 years ago.



## Directory

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### Circle Publicity Officers:

Avon Valley	Brian Webb
Bouvard	John Pannell
Busselton	George Bazzica
Canning	Doug Williams
Como	Pat McManus
Darling Range	Harry Muller
Dianella	Lou Daily
Fremantle	Kevin Hefron
Joondalup	Peter Johnston
Liwara	Tony Ryall
Mandurah	Mike Seeber
Perth	John Moore
Swan Valley	Michael Rosario

## Catholic Education performing arts

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Performing Arts Festival for Catholic schools and colleges concluded at the Perth Concert Hall on Monday 10 September 2018 with the presentation of awards and scholarships.

The Performing Arts Festival in Western Australia was established to help students of Catholic schools and colleges experience the spirit and tradition of the performing arts. The Festival seeks to provide students with specific 'performance platforms' where they have the unique opportunity to give of their very best and perform to a public audience. Open to both primary and secondary school students, the performance categories encompass choral, drama, musical, instrumental, vocal and dance aspects of the performing arts. A total of 20,910 students entered the festival in 2018 and their dedicated teachers from 120 Catholic schools and colleges from within the State of Western Australia presented 2,546 entries to be adjudicated by a panel of experts.

As the individuals and groups performed their items at the final concert on 10 September, the brilliance and breathtaking skills of the performers and their teachers thrilled and enthralled the audience time and time again. From massed choirs from colleges to solo items from primary school students it was an evening of stunning, emotional, extraordinary performances.

Brian Kerman (Dianella Circle) accompanied by his daughter, Allison Bielby and Colin and Liz Broun (Swan Valley Circle) represented the Catenian Association in Western Australia at the final concert. Brian and Colin are trustees and vice presidents of the Catenian Association Youth Support Fund, which awards an annual scholarship.

Brian presented the winner, Emily Sullivan with the Catenian Association prize of \$500 for her excellence in the secondary school solo/duet woodwind/brass category. Emily had previously impressed the adjudicator when she played the *Flute Concertino in D major Op.107* by Cecile Chaminade. Emily is the third winner of the Catenian arts prize in the category of woodwind or brass instrument. She is a Year 11 student at Iona Presentation College and has kept that college to the fore in musical accomplishment.

Brian and Colin both agreed that the final concert was a night to remember; an event that the Catenian Association in Western Australia is privileged and proud to support.



**The presentation ceremony: Brian Kerman (second from the right in the back row) and the winner of the Catenian prize, Emily Sullivan (second from the right in the front row)**

## Wonderful support for Commemorative Mass



**Provincial President Kevin Hefron presented the first reading, pictured with Vice President Keith Morgan and St Mary's Cathedral Dean Father Sean Fernandez**

**More than 130 Catenian Brothers, wives and guests attended the 11.00 am Mass celebrated by Cathedral Dean Father Sean Fernandez on Sunday 14 October 2018 at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth in memory of deceased Catenian brothers, including 11 members who passed away during the past 12 months.**

This commemorative Mass is held annually at the Cathedral to remember departed Catenian members since the Association was first established in Western Australia on 8 February 1977.

This year the Mass was attended by the Australian National President, Ralph Fitzpatrick and his wife Liana and the Great Britain Grand President, John Hogan and his wife Pauline and other Catenian visitors from the United Kingdom enjoying a six-day stopover in Perth on their journey to attend the Australian National Conference held in Melbourne from 19 to 21 October 2018.

In his homily Father Fernandez said he was pleased to welcome the Catenians as they came together to pray for their deceased brothers.

"The support they offer each other in living their faith within the Church is very important," he added.

Provincial President Kevin Hefron (Fremantle Circle) described the occasion as one of the best Masses that we've had for some years.

"The beautiful High Mass was just out of this world," he said.

Kevin said that the annual commemorative service is an important component of the Association's ethos, remembering its

late brothers and providing life-long support to the departed ones' families.

"This support is offered, not only at the annual Mass but is ongoing," he said, "embracing widows and extended families of deceased brothers in social activities and at any time when support is needed."

He highlighted the need for Catholic social groups to continuously strive to be closer to the Church.

"We try to get our members in Western Australia to work with parishes performing ministries and encourage them to reach out to retired priests and spend time with them."

The Mass was followed by the traditional Provincial luncheon, this year held at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle where a special welcome was extended to the UK visitors.

A highlight of the luncheon was the awarding of honorary Province 20 Life Memberships to two outstanding members, Rolf Bank (Joondalup Circle) and Patrick McManus (Como Circle) in recognition of their service, dedication and commitment to the Province and the Catenian Association over many years. They were each presented with a framed certificate and a citation outlining their history of service.

A presentation was also made to the City of Mandurah Circle; the 2012 winner of the annual Kevin Brady Award presented to the Province 20 circle that recruits the most new members in the 12 months ended 30 September each year. The award presented to City of Mandurah President, Wayne Wright comprises a perpetual trophy in Kevin Brady's honour plus a signed citation. The City of Mandurah Circle won the award with five new brothers installed in 2017/18.



# Honorary Life Memberships awarded

Honorary Life Memberships of Province 20 have been awarded to two Catenian brothers, Patrick McManus (Como Circle) and Rolf Bank (Joondalup Circle) who have both given outstanding service to the Province and the Catenian Association over many years. Certificates were presented at the Provincial President’s luncheon at the Swan Yacht Club on Sunday 14 October 2018 following the Provincial Commemorative Mass for deceased brothers held at St Mary’s Cathedral in Perth attended by more than 130 brothers and wives, including the Grand President of Great Britain John Hogan and his wife, Pauline and other visitors from the United Kingdom. Pat and Rolf join a list of nine other brothers in Province 20 who have been honoured with Life Membership since the Catenian Association was established in Western Australia in 1977.

### Pat McManus

Pat joined Como Circle in 1995 making an immediate contribution to the circle and the Association. As Vice President of the circle in 1998 and 1999 he was very active in developing *Project 2008*, which sought to give Australian circles more autonomy. Then, as Circle President in 2000, he supported a proposal to twin Como Circle with Canterbury Circle in the United Kingdom. Grand President, Brian Hargreaves, proposed this initiative during a visit to Western Australian and Como President, Peter Colleran and the Director of Province 20, Donald McKechnie, formerly endorsed the twinning.

Between 2001 and 2005, Pat served as Como Circle’s Provincial Councillor and worked on a Provincial Sub Committee to develop a *Vision and Mission Statement*.

In 2006 Pat held the position of Como’s Treasurer and in 2007 was appointed Provincial Vice President. He served as Provincial President in 2008/09 and at the same time was Como’s President in the year that Grand President, David Taylor visited Western Australia.

During 2009 and 2011 Pat served as Como’s Provincial Councillor and then was appointed Provincial President for a second term in 2013/14.

He took over the position of Como’s Secretary for a year in 2013 and again in 2016 and still serves in that capacity.

Pat is well known by brothers throughout Province 20 and finds time to visit all circles on a regular basis. He is a most active brother in recruiting other Catholic gentlemen to the Association and is extremely hospitable to all visiting brothers and their ladies, including the inclusion of widows who he always make welcome at ladies nights and social functions.

Pat is an active parishioner at St Thomas More Catholic Church in Bateman where he has served as an acolyte for many years and has been a member of the Knights of the Southern Cross for over 30 years.

A widower with three daughters, Pat is a retired school principal who has demonstrated exceptional organisational and leadership skills throughout his career as a Catenian brother. He is extremely kind and patient with a good sense of humour and is committed to young people’s welfare and education.

### Rolf Bank

Working and living in Northam with his wife, Christine, Rolf’s interest in the Catenian Association was first aroused soon after the Avon Valley Circle was inaugurated in 1988, but it was a few years later on 28 April 1992 that he joined and was installed. In the following 1993/94 Catenian year he served as Vice President and was the Avon Valley Circle President in 1994/95.

After his term as President, Rolf served for the following six years as the Avon Valley Circle Provincial Councillor. By then Rolf and Christine were living in Karrinyup and Rolf had been installed as a full member of Liwara Circle on 4 November 1993. Then a joint member of Avon Valley Circle, Rolf continued to strongly support Avon Valley firstly in his year as President and then as its representative on Provincial Council.



*Pictured left to right: Pat McManus, Rolf Bank and Provincial President, Kevin Hefron at the Provincial luncheon on 14 October 2018*

Rolf was installed as Provincial Vice President in 1999/00 in the year that the Late Joe Coffey was President and in 2000/01 he was Provincial President.

During his year as President, Rolf Bank was responsible for several very important initiatives (source *Western Link* Vol. 7 October 2000):

- The re-establishment of a Provincial Membership and Expansion Committee under the leadership of Brian Preston; an initiative which bore fruit a few years later in 2005, then under the leadership of John Monkhouse, when the drought was broken with the inauguration of two new circles at Bouvard and Joondalup;
- The establishment of a Province 20 website, which Rolf continued to administer until about 2016 when the Catenian Association restructure was adopted; and
- A successful itinerary of meetings and functions for a United Kingdom visiting party, led by Grand President, Brian Hargreaves and his wife, Noreen.

Following his year as President, Rolf took over the onerous and responsible position of Provincial Secretary, a role he filled with distinction for seven years from 2002/03 until 2007/08. During that period Rolf also took over responsibility from Brother Gerry Emslie for the Province 20 Catenian Golf Society, which at that time was extremely active with several Provincial events each year.

### Honorary Life Memberships awarded (continued)

In about 2003 under the leadership of John Monkhouse, Rolf was a member of a select group of Liwara brothers who were responsible for the development of a circle at Joondalup, firstly as a Group then as a Circle when it was inaugurated on 25 February 2005. Rolf was a Founder and joint member of Joondalup until he resigned as a member of Liwara Circle on 11 December 2010 when Joondalup became his home circle. He subsequently served for three years as Joondalup Circle Secretary

Seven years later Rolf also became a joint member of the City of Busselton Circle after its inauguration on 20 October 2012. He has since resigned as a member of that Circle.

As an active member of the Catholic Church, Rolf has served 39 years as an acolyte, firstly at St Joseph’s Catholic Church in Northam and at Our Lady of Good Council Catholic Church in Karrinyup.

### Synopsis of Provincial Council positions held by Rolf Bank:

Six years as Provincial Councillor representing Avon Valley Circle  
Provincial Vice President 1999/00

Provincial President 2000/01

Seven years as Provincial Secretary 2002/03 until 2007/08

Three years as Provincial Councillor representing Joondalup Circle

## Honorary Life Memberships of Province 20

**Laurie Shervington** (deceased) – City of Perth Circle (2007)

**Cliff Holloway** – Fremantle Circle (2007)

**Brendan McGurk** (deceased) – City of Mandurah and City of Perth Circles (2007)

**James Kenny** – City of Perth Circle (2009)

**Terry O’Neill** – Swan Valley, Avon Valley and City of Busselton Circles (2010)

**Donald McKechnie** – Dianella Circle (2012)

**Reg Hill** (deceased) – City of Perth Circle (2014)

**Gerry Barton** – Liwara Circle (2016)

**John O’Neil** (deceased) – City of Mandurah and City of Busselton Circles (2017)

**Patrick McManus** – Como Circle (2018)

**Rolf Bank** – Joondalup Circle (2018)

## Kevin Brady award heads home to Mandurah

Congratulations to the City of Mandurah Circle; the 2018 winner of the annual Kevin Brady Award presented to the Province 20 Circle that recruits the most new members in the 12 months ended 30 September each year.

With five new brothers installed by the seaside circle in 2017/18, the award was presented to a delighted President, Wayne Wright at the Provincial luncheon held at the Swan Yacht Club on Sunday 14 October 2018. It is the third time that the City of Mandurah Circle has won the keenly contested award with previous wins in 2007 and 2014. The only other multiple winners are Liwara and Dianella who have both won the award twice.

Kevin Brady passed away in 2005. A member of Como and Fremantle Circles, he is remembered as a hard-working, committed brother who embraced the spirit of the Catenian ethos and was a regular visitor to all circles in the Province.

The award given by Province 20 comprises a perpetual trophy in Kevin’s honour plus a signed citation.



*City of Mandurah President, Wayne Wright pictured with Provincial President, Kevin Hefron*

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# Planning for survival

## Strategy working group

Contributed by Graham Mahony

In April 2018 the Central Council of the Catenian Association established the Strategy Working Group (SWG) to address the challenge of an ever-increasing ageing membership, which threatens the very survival of the Association.



The SWG is chaired by Past Grand President and Past Chairman of the Central Council, Peter Woodford (Reigate Circle in the United Kingdom) and includes two brothers from Province 20, Gerard Tonks (Darling Range Circle) and Graham Mahony (Fremantle Circle). The SWG also has two members from Province 21, one each from

Victoria Area Council, Malta and India. Great Britain has nine members, including the Chairman.

The SWG is charged with the task of producing a series of position papers for discussion and consultation by members of the Association on topics that will form a final document. The consultative process and the production of the final document for the Central Council is to be produced by April 2019.

The process began with consideration of The Sense of Mission, comprising three issues; namely, *who we are, what we are about and what makes us different from other Catholic organisations.*

Attention was then focused on four of the six topics designed to guide the research, gathering of information and discussions as part of the SWG group responses.

In summary the six topics nominated by the Central Council were:

### Ethos

Identifying the essentials and defining elements for faith-based friendship

### Context for the Association

Supporting the Church

### Relationships

The needs and expectations of young Catholics and families

### The principals

Vision, mission and purpose – are they real and containable?

### Further modernization of the Catenian Association

Desirable changes to the current model - meetings and procedures

### International development

Identification of areas for future expansion and how they might be developed

Analysis of the six topics is currently being undertaken from which draft position papers will be prepared for consideration of the SWG before they are issued to Provinces and Areas for review by all Circle members.

# The Holy Spirit is visiting Australia

## Plenary Council update

Contributed by Graham Mahony

In October 2017 the Australian Catholic Bishops announced, through the Archbishop of Brisbane The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge, a Plenary Council to be conducted in Australia with the first session in 2020; scheduled for 11 – 17 October 2020 followed by a second session in Sydney in 2021. The last Plenary Council in Australia was in 1937.

**The theme of the Plenary Council 2020 is “Listen to what the Spirit is saying.”**

Pope Francis in October 2017 stated: “A Synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realises that listening is more than simply hearing. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the College of Bishops and the Bishop of Rome; all listening to each other and listening to the Holy Spirit.”

### Catenian subcommittee

In November 2017 Province 20 of the Catenian Association established a Plenary Council 2020 subcommittee with the objective of canvassing input from all Catenian families. This subcommittee comprises Provincial President, Kevin Hefron, Past Provincial Presidents, Gerard Tonks and Stephen Williamson and Graham Mahony (Fremantle Circle).

**The objective set by this subcommittee was to support the work of Catholic parishes in which Catenian members, wives and families belong by encouraging input to the Plenary Council.**

Based on the mandate for the Plenary Council as adopted by the bishops of Australia, and to help generate ideas, the Catenian subcommittee suggests that members, wives and their families consider the following questions, which may be of assistance in framing their responses through the Archdiocese website:

- What changes, if any, are required in the Church to ensure its future in Australia?
- What leadership roles in the Church should the laity be entrusted with?
- What is required to address the changing face of the Episcopate (Church hierarchy)?
- Are there any other issues confronting your family and the Church in multi-cultural and secular Australia?
- What do these issues mean for your personal faith and for the life of the Church?
- Why have people, especially 20 to 60 year-olds, left the Church and what can be done to get them back again?
- How can we better engage with other Christians?

Members of the Province 20 subcommittee have visited ladies nights of all circles to promote the Plenary Council 2020 and to encourage members, wives and families for their input through the Archdiocese website: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

**The deadline for responses is 6 March 2019.**

# Renewal – National conference sets the scene



*Catenian delegates and wives pictured at the St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne after the 2018 National Conference*

In his opening address to the Australian National Conference of the Catenian Association in Melbourne from 19 to 21 October 2018, ANC President, Ralph Fitzpatrick reminded delegates of a challenge issued by the then National President, George Kazz two years ago at the conference held in Perth to undertake a renewal process based on fulfilling the Catenian Mission for the Association in Australia.

He said that the proposed Mission Statement was “To contribute to the realisation of Christ’s mission by strengthening the spiritual and family lives of Catholic laymen through the personal and collective example of faith-based friendship.” Ralph said that the challenge issued was to assess how and to what extent the proposed Mission Statement reflected or should reflect the activities of members.

Ralph said that over the past two years this assessment had been facilitated through a series of workshops developed and run by Phil Murray of Canberra Circle. He said that members from all Australian circles have had the opportunity to participate in one or more of these workshops, which provided a valuable forum to share ideas for ensuring the future of the Association.

“Details of the process, the issues raised and the conclusions reached have been summarised in a report presented to this conference and will be made available to all Australian circles after this conference,” Ralph said.

“This consolidated outcomes document will provide all Australian circles with ideas for change,” he said, “and I stress that each circle can take from the summary the ideas it believes can best be implemented within their circle or Province.”

**“What is vital is that each circle decides to do something to improve the way it operates and the way its members live out the Catenian mission.”**

Ralph suggested a shift of focus to publicising what we have to offer.

“Our support for men and their families on their faith journey is ongoing and long term,” he said. “It’s for life and it’s vital that this good news is spread wider than just the Catenian community and even wider than the Catholic community. We need to find good news to share in the parish newsletters, circle newsletter, Catena and the press generally.”



# Ideas for change

## A summary of Renewal Workshop outcomes

Following the 2016 Australian National Conference held in Perth, the ANC invited all circles and provinces in Australia to undertake a two-year renewal process based on fulfilling the proposed Mission Statement launched at the conference by the then ANC President, George Kazs: *“To contribute to the realisation of Christ’s mission by strengthening the spiritual and family lives of Catholic laymen through the personal and collective example of faith-based friendship.”*



The ANC subsequently asked Phil Murray (Canberra Circle) who had conducted a workshop at the 2016 conference at which the proposed Mission Statement was first exposed, to facilitate a series of renewal workshops extending over two years providing an opportunity for all Australian Catenians to participate sharing their

experiences and ideas.

When completed, around 20 per cent of Australian Catenians representing almost all Australian circles had participated and Phil’s report on the process and outcomes was presented to the 2018 Australian National Conference held in Melbourne from 19 to 21 October. This report providing ideas for change has now been distributed and made available to all Australian Catenians.

In the appendix to his report, Phil provided an extensive list of outcomes to strengthen spirituality and opportunities for developing faith-based friendships; ideas generated with the energy and enthusiasm that all of the organisers and workshop participants brought to the process.

Edited extracts of these ideas are reproduced here, but it has been recommended by ANC that councils and circles consider the complete document including summaries of workshop discussions, analysis, the challenges and outcomes.

### Opportunities for developing faith-based friendships

#### Meeting attendance and interaction

- Whilst attendance and interaction at meetings was considered satisfactory, support of other circle and province events were not well attended and the challenge is to persuade members to give priority to such events;
- Achieving high attendance rates at meetings was dependent upon informality, cost, promotion, encouragement, trying new things to raise interest levels and attracting good speakers as drawcards;
- Non-attendees need to be targeted, persuaded and helped to attend meetings and functions;
- The rising age profile of members precludes many from being involved;

- Younger members (under 50s) tend to have family and work commitments that restrict involvement;
- Interaction at meetings can be improved by random assignment of members to dining tables;
- Circles are experimenting with occasional luncheon and even breakfast meetings to meet the needs of busier members;
- Dinner talks by members about their careers, family, travels and interests help brothers to get to know each other better; and
- Encourage discussion with one another and respond to the Australian Bishops call for comments and ideas from the laity in preparation for the Plenary Council 2020.

#### Social events and interaction

A wide range of functions and events were identified in the workshops for circles to consider, expanding these events to include prospective members and parishioners, where appropriate, rather than just limited to circle members and their wives:

- Daytime meetings and functions (lunches and breakfasts) especially for older and physically challenged members;
- Participation in and managing parish events such as Lenten groups and morning teas after Mass;
- Theatre and movie nights;
- Christmas dinners;
- Participation in parish barbecues and other parish functions;
- River cruises;
- Weekend, day trips and retreats;
- Promotion of Provincial and other circle events;
- Picnics, sundowners and walking groups;
- Sons and daughters events;
- Golf, bowls or croquet events; and
- Trivia nights.

#### Personal support

- Mentoring new members and their wives is a very important duty, normally the responsibility of the circle Membership Officer and President, but shared by all brothers; and
- Appointing a circle Welfare Officer to organise needed support for widows, widowers and members, wives and their families who are not well.

#### Involvement of ladies

The involvement of wives at ladies nights and in the organisation of and participation in social functions and other events was identified as being most important.

#### Membership eligibility

- Invite non-regularly practising Catholics to circle meetings and dinners to provide them an opportunity to renew their faith and practice; and
- On ladies nights invite practicing Catholic ladies with their non-Catholic husbands who regularly accompany their wives to Mass.

This is an edited extract from Phil Murray’s Australian renewal workshop report presented at the Australian National Conference held in Melbourne from 19 to 21 October 2018 and subsequently distributed to all Australian circles.

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## Second scholarship awarded

The Catenian Charity Inc. has awarded its second scholarship of \$5,000 to a young lady, Karri Thomas who is studying at Aquinas College in Adelaide. Aged 19, she qualifies for a scholarship due to her financial circumstances.

The inaugural Catenian Charity scholarship of \$5,000 was awarded at the beginning of 2018 to Ashleigh Habkhouk who is reading Biomedical Science at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle Campus. The search for a second recipient began Australia-wide with the second round of applications closing on 3 October 2018.

Karri’s application was vetted by the Charity’s Scholarship Master and unanimously recommended by the three members of the Catenian Charity selection panel. Their views are set out hereunder:

*“Karri is an amazing young person with enviable school and first year University academic performances. I recommend that Karri be awarded a scholarship based on her obvious needs, her outstanding academic record, potential and necessitous circumstances.”*

*“Karri ticks all the boxes. She is highly motivated, smart and a worthy applicant.”*

*“Karri has demonstrated commitment to her studies and a strong will to succeed academically despite her financial need and, more recently, her cancer diagnosis. I highly recommend her as the recipient of the scholarship.”*



Karri was born in June 1999 and grew up on a sheep farm near the small town of Manoora about 120 kilometres north of Adelaide. Baptised at St Anthony of Padua Church in Manoora in September

1999, Karri attended local schools for both her primary and secondary school education. She recognised that education was a critical part of her future and in 2017 she enrolled at Aquinas College (a Catholic residential college attached to the University of Adelaide) to commence a science degree. In 2017 she achieved either high distinctions or distinctions in each of the units she was studying.

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. She made the decision to defer further university attendance because her treatment would mean that she would miss many compulsory practical units.

Recommencing study in the second semester she slowly began to get back on top of things.

She has been unable to take on any paid work on top of her study commitments, which together with the cost of her medical treatment has left her facing a difficult financial position in 2019. Her parents agreed to pay the difference between her Centrelink payments and her college fees for the first two years at college, as they did with her three older siblings, but the agreement is for her to pay for herself each year afterwards.

She would love to stay at Aquinas College in 2019 because of the high level of support she receives.

When Karri finishes as an undergraduate her wish is to undertake honours and then a Phd in the life sciences sector. She has an ambition to undertake a research project and eventually start her own business from which she can make a difference to the world.

Karri’s teacher in Year 12 writes of her *inter alia*:

*“I have known Karri Thomas for seven years and during this time she has consistently presented a dedicated, motivated and aspirational attitude towards her studies and extra curricula activities.”*

*“She is one of the few students I have taught that has the capacity to achieve anything she puts her mind to without exception. Karri has developed sound time management, prioritisation and academic skills. She consistently performs to a very high academic and moral standard, which demonstrates her capacity to learn and achieve at a high level.”*

*“Throughout her time at high school, Karri was “Dux” in every year; demonstrating her continuous commitment to excellence. She is also highly athletically driven as she participated and was successful in all sports offered by the school.”*

*“Karri’s attention to detail is unfailing in all aspects of her life, where she exhibits her drive for achievement and accomplishment. When faced with challenges she faces them head on and problem solves solutions until a positive outcome is achieved.”*

*“Even in the face of serious illness in 2018, Karri was determined to utilise her time to learn, so she focused her time on learning a language while in recovery. I am proud of the way that Karri dedicates herself to her studies, personal pursuits, interests and ethical standards. I am also grateful to know an individual who inspires me to aim high every day and to challenge myself to ensure there is no pathway left untraveled.”*

### Donations are tax deductible

All donations of \$2 and above made to the Catenian Charity Inc. are tax deductible.

If you are interested in supporting this most worthy cause please contact the Treasurer, Geoff Prendergast (City of Mandurah Circle) on 9535 9785 or by email on [pleasant@westnet.com.au](mailto:pleasant@westnet.com.au)



# Celebrating 50 years of happy marriage

**Swan Valley Catenian Kevin Parker and Lorraine tied the knot at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth on 12 October 1968 after a courtship and engagement of three years and three months.**

It was an earth shattering time for them because just two days later on 14 October 1968 an earthquake hit the Western Australian wheatbelt town of Meckering with far reaching consequences for many parts of the State including St Mary's where a heavy stone cross was vibrated off and fell to the ground and all sides of the Cathedral were littered with shattered masonry.

Would you believe it? Kevin's young brother, Ross had been forewarned by their father that the day he walked into a church it would fall down. It was a shaky start to married life, remembered by Catenian Brother Colin Broun on the occasion of Kevin and Lorraine's 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary when he sent a card asking if the earth was still moving for them.

Lorraine and Kevin survived this bumpy start and on 12 October 2018 they celebrated 50 years of marriage with Mass and the renewal of their vows at St Anthony's Catholic Church in Greenmount and the church is still standing, Kevin reports. Father Richard Sadowski concelebrated the Mass with Father Marian Brzozowski, ably assisted by Fred Miltrup who was the acolyte and Melissa Doyle did an excellent job providing the music.



**Lorraine and Kevin with the Papal Blessing, presented by Father Richard Sadowski**

The Mass and supper afterwards was attended by the Great Britain National President, John Hogan and his wife Pauline, Peter and Andrea Callaghan from Didsbury Circle in England, the Australian National President, Ralph Fitzpatrick and his wife Liana and Graham and Muriel Mahony from Fremantle Circle. Other Catenians in attendance were Terry O'Neill, Des Thompson, Colin Broun, Fred and Jean Miltrup, Patrick and Melissa Doyle, Andy and Dawn Yukich, Tom Polich and his partner Nola and Taiwo Sanusi and his fiancé Juanita.

Due to ill health good friends from the Catenian Association in England Michael and Mary Connolly and Peter and Margaret Kerr were unable to attend, however they sent cards and emails congratulating Kevin and Lorraine.

Other long distant attendees were Mike and Helen Moir (Lorraine's pen friend) from Scotland, Tom and Margaret Wright from Bridgetown and Kevin and Lorraine's daughter Michelle and

one grandson, Alex from Sydney. Young Alex, who is 11 years of age, was an excellent MC who captured everyone's hearts. Kevin and Lorraine's children Michelle and Scott did an excellent job organising the night, which was a great occasion. Other attendees included Mal and Joy Brown and Lee and Shirley Powell. Mal was a groomsman and Shirley was a bridesmaid at Kevin and Lorraine's wedding. "Many other friends and family were also in attendance including Lorraine's father Bernie who is 93," Kevin writes, "but it will take too much space to mention them all."

Kevin and Lorraine's first residence after their marriage was a flat at the side of Kevin's parents home in Bassendean, then in October 1970 they moved into their own home also in Bassendean. June 1972 saw the birth of their son, Scott and at his Christening his Godfather, Kerry Lehané who unfortunately has now passed away, did the readings. As with other big occasions, just as Kerry was performing this function thunder and lightning struck, marking this as another memorable event. Kevin's father seized the opportunity to point out that this was another message. The church was later damaged by fire. March 1975 saw the arrival of beautiful daughter Michelle and she stole the hearts of everyone. Her christening thankfully was not as eventful as her brother's.

In February 1977, Kevin was transferred to Karratha in his employment. Living in the northwest was quite an experience, which the family thoroughly enjoyed, particularly as during this period they purchased a boat, which was used extensively for providing the family and others with seafood delights including fresh oysters and delicious mud crabs. In June 1978 Kevin was transferred back to Perth and to their home in Bassendean.

Kevin and Lorraine celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in October 1993 with a home Mass and renewal of vows celebrated by Father Anton Hesse alongside the family swimming pool and under the surrounding pergolas and garden. Kevin recalls that it felt like being in a tropical paradise.

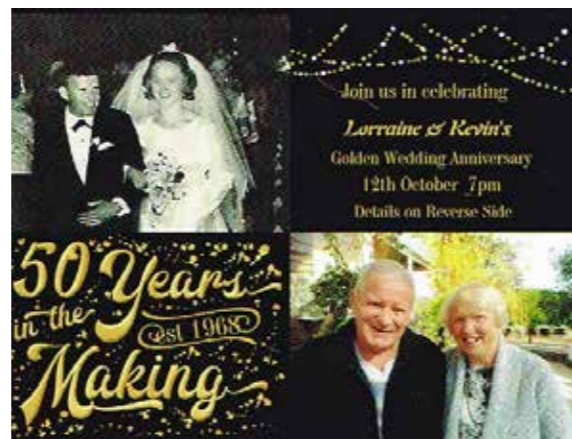
In December 1993 they moved to West Swan where they operated their own business, *Lorraine's Flowers*. Running this business kept them busy for the ensuing 12 years until May 2005.

It was during this time that Kevin joined the Swan Valley Circle of the Catenian Association where he has been an active Council member for over 16 years, currently serving as the circle's Provincial Councillor and as the Province 20 Membership and Expansion Officer.

In May 2005 Kevin and Lorraine moved into their current home in Jane Brook and two wonderful grandson's Alex and Luca and Luca's mother Jude, entered their lives.

Kevin retired from the motor industry in 2011, only to enter the field of human resources two years later in 2013, assisting people to gain employment. He finally retired in 2015.

Kevin and Lorraine are both active members of St Anthony's Catholic Parish in Greenmount. Kevin serves as an acolyte and Lorraine is involved in preparing the church flowers.



# Swan Valley's Day of Reflection

Members of Swan Valley continued their privileged tradition of uniting with the Community at St Charles' Seminary in Guildford for the circle's annual day of reflection on Sunday 9 September 2018.

A total of 21 Catenian brothers and wives joined the five Seminarians, Rector Father Phillip Fleay and Vice Rector Father Mark Payton to share a most rewarding and thought-provoking day.



The day began with a wonderful Mass officiated by Father Fleay assisted by Father Payton with the Seminarians providing some amazing singing.

## Faith and works

Then, after a delicious morning tea, Father Payton led the group through a reflection on the topic of "*Faith and Works*", concluding the session with a lively period questions and answers. In his presentation Father Payton spoke about the extensive scriptural basis and meanings of faith and works, applying his reflection to life as a Catenian brother. He said that each community of the Church faithful, such as the Catenians, has an important part to play in the mission of the universal Church.

"Each community helps form its members in the faith and takes the Gospel into the world in a particular way, through particular works," he said.

"Our faith drives us to perform particular acts of charity and the Catenians do this by making their primary purpose to establish a network of friends, which enhance their family life, strengthens their faith and sustains them in difficult times."

"The Catenians are an extension of the parish community by providing a support network of friends based on shared faith," Father Payton said. "I believe this is an important need for our parishes because faith is spread through friendships. People commonly become members of the Church through friendships, which are developed through shared interests and Catenian friendships are founded on a shared faith."

Father Payton spoke about the internal works of the Catenian community, deepening the faith of its members:

- Monthly meetings, which provided a forum to share faith and encourage the practice of the faith;
- Social events, strengthening bonds of goodwill; and
- Supporting brothers and families in difficulty or as needs arise

Father Payton also cited some of the external works of charity that are performed for the wider community:

- Supporting clergy and vocations;
- Developing young Catholics and helping to guide their careers;
- Supporting various charities;
- Making rosaries; and
- Training catechists

"These active works will be fruitful when they flow from the foundation of faith," Father Payton concluded. "These works will encourage new Catenian members as they come to see the good fruits flowing from a lived faith as a Catenian. Your community provides a structure to live the faith well."

Father Mark Payton's complete presentation is available on the website: [www.stcharlesseminary.org.au](http://www.stcharlesseminary.org.au) (click on St Charles hosts the Catenians 9 September 2018)



**The Catenian visitors were treated to an array of pre-dinner drinks followed by a delicious roast lunch complimented with an excellent selection of red and white wines hosted by the Seminarians**

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# Pilgrimage to Italy

Contributed by Harry Muller

**In October 2018, Harry Muller (who is the Province 20 Provincial Secretary and Secretary of Darling Range Circle), along with a group of young people from Holy Cross College in Ellenbrook, witnessed the Canonisation ceremony of Archbishop Oscar Romero in St Peter's Square in Rome during a pilgrimage to Italy.**

"I have done quite a bit of research on Archbishop Romero," Harry writes, "and find that he is someone who is a role model for all those who see social justice as a vital part of living like a true Christian in today's world."

Harry continues his story: "Our group landed in Rome for an eight day pilgrimage on 9 October 2018. The experience began with two full days on the *Way of St Benedict*, walking into Monte Cassino."

"Holy Cross College has a strong connection to the practice of pilgrimage. All students complete the Camino Salvado from Subiaco to New Norcia in 10 stages by the time they complete Year 12. There are also opportunities to do the last section of the Camino Portugues into Santiago de Compostela. This is the same route that Dom Rosendo Salvado would have taken from his birthplace, Tui, to Santiago de Compostela where he entered the Benedictine Monastery. This year a small group flew to Rome to attend the Canonisation Mass for the College's patron, St Oscar Romero. It was an opportunity to walk and experience a pilgrimage into a site started by St Benedict and which is his burial site."

"The first day was spent walking approximately 19 kilometres from a beautiful little town, Arpino, to Roccasecca, the birthplace of St Thomas Aquinas. On entering Roccasecca there was a huge statue of the saint. We were privileged to have his church opened for us to visit that evening. The hospitality along the pilgrimage route was exceptional."

"The second day was the last section of this Camino and in the last few kilometres the route took us through the fields and forests where some heavy battles were fought during the Second World War. The group walked in this area in silence and with some small shrines for the fallen, one could imagine the difficult terrain the soldiers would have encountered. We eventually walked into the monastery of Monte Cassino. The monastery, which was completely destroyed in the war, was rebuilt in the 1950s and is now a complete replica of the original buildings."

"After this we made our way back to Rome to witness the canonisations on 14 October. Emeritus Archbishop Barry Hickey

had organised tickets for us in one of the seated areas and he joined us for the day. There were seven new saints being canonised with a young man added to the group relatively recently to help celebrate the Year of Youth."



"In the year that Holy Cross College in Ellenbrook was opened in 2010, Oscar Romero was chosen as the College patron. In the intervening years, he has moved from Archbishop to Saint due to the intervention of Pope Francis. Many believe that Archbishop Oscar Romero should have been made

Blessed many years before, but because of the controversy that revolved around 'liberation' theology he was never considered. His work for the poor and marginalised in El Salvador where he witnessed many of his friends and fellow Catholics being murdered by the army has inspired many. In Rome we were privileged to also meet up with a man who had escaped El Salvador when his name appeared on a list of those who had known and worked with Oscar Romero during his lifetime. The list meant that he was targeted for assassination. He now lives in Brisbane. One quote we found about St Oscar Romero is written here:"

*Romero was once asked to explain that strange phrase, "option for the poor". He replied: "I offer you this by way of example. A building is on fire and you're watching it burn, standing and wondering if everyone is safe. Then someone tells you that your mother and sister are inside that building. Your attitude changes completely. You're frantic, your mother and sister are burning and you'd do anything to rescue them even at the cost of getting charred. That's what it means to be truly committed. If we look at poverty from the outside, as if we're looking at a fire, that's not to opt for the poor, no matter how concerned we may be. We should get inside as if our own mother and sister were burning. Indeed it's Christ who is there, hungry and suffering."*

"There was a choir and small orchestra with pipe organ inside the Basilica, which, when amplified out into the square still had the magical 'Cathedral' sound," Harry continues. "People had started arriving at 5.00 am and we were seated by 8.00 am. After a wait of about an hour and a half, they started to recite the rosary in Latin to help bring the tens of thousands of people in the square into a prayerful state. Mass started at 10.15 am and went for just over two hours. The music was wonderful and some of the interesting elements to a Mass here was that the whole Gospel was sung first in Latin and then again in Greek. The logistics behind distribution of Communion must be something that they now have completely under control. There were dozens of priests sent down from the altar to do this. The Pope, although maybe a little slower to his feet, was very alert and spoke well throughout the Liturgy."



"After the Mass the Pope travelled through the whole square in his 'Popemobile' so the majority of people were able to see him from a close range of less than 15 metres."

*Left: The Pope in his "Popemobile"*

"The last mission for the week was a visit to the town of Subiaco in the hills to the east of Rome. Here we walked part of the *Way of St Benedict* up to the Monastery of St Scholastica (St Benedict's sister) where we had lunch in the old refectory before completing the climb up to St Benedict's 'Sacro Speco' – the sacred cave that St Benedict lived in as a hermit for three years in the early sixth century."



*The Monastery Sacro Speco*

"Again, I have discovered that when one walks into a place like this, the overall impression and experience that you have is amplified as you find you are walking along the same paths that those who made the place a place of pilgrimage walked. It also gives you the time to reflect on the experience. We were there just at opening time and had the place to ourselves. Sitting inside the grotto that of course doesn't look the same 1500 years later, but gave the group a memorable experience. The two monasteries are definitely worth visiting."

"A fitting way to complete the pilgrimage to Rome," Harry writes. "I was very proud of the reverence shown by the young people who took part on the trip. The pain and joy of walking in all sorts of terrains and experiencing the entry into sacred spaces shows that the journey of experiencing spirituality in its true sense can be obtained. It follows the path that Jesus took and anyone who has been there will agree that there are many ways to experience the presence of God in our lives."

## Letter of appreciation from scholarship winner

Anna Bakogianis, the recipient of the 2018 Youth Support Fund scholarship of \$4,000, writes from London where she is completing her final elective placement at St Thomas' Hospital prior to her graduation with a medical degree from the School of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame Fremantle. The following extract of a letter of thanks from Anna was addressed to the Catenian Association.

Dear Catenians,

I feel very fortunate as I sit in a London café writing to you. I am here in London completing my final elective, a placement in intensive care at St Thomas' Hospital facilitated by Kings College. It has been a whirlwind trip and I can't believe it's coming to an end.

Less than 48 hours after finishing my first semester exams in mid 2018 at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle campus I was on a plane to London where I am completing my last ever placement as a student. It has been an incredible opportunity. The scholarship so generously provided to me by the Youth Support Fund of the Catenian Association has greatly assisted me on this journey and I am extremely thankful.

There are many intensive care units at St Thomas' because it is a very large hospital. I have spent my time with the consultant caring for the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) patients. These are the patients who are on machines acting as external lungs and/or hearts during a time where their own are not functioning as they should. It is a very specialised service and Australia does not have large specialised units just dedicated to ECMO such as this. It has been so interesting and I have learned a great deal.

Additionally I have been able to spend my weekends touring England and catching up with friends and family living in the UK. However, very soon I will be on a plane back home for graduation. Although I am ready to no longer be a student, I also can't really believe it's happening after all this time. Next year will be very different but a good and necessary change. I am excited that my family is travelling over from Victoria for the graduation events then afterwards I will go back with them for Christmas. When I return to Perth in early January I start my internship at Royal Perth Hospital, which I really look forward to.

I don't feel that I am truly able to express my gratitude to you all for this scholarship. Financial stress is a concern of many students and the Catenian Association has greatly assisted in alleviating that worry from my shoulders this year. It is something I will always remember as my career journey progresses.

Sincerely,  
Anna Bakogianis



# The story of a WWI Military Medal recipient

Dianella Brother John Gartner and his wife, Clare have for a long time harbored a yearning to take part in a commemorative tour of some of the World War One battlefields in northern France and Belgium, particularly to visit those places in which Australian soldiers served.

Their dream was finally realised in 2018, the centenary anniversary year marking the end of the First World War when John and Clare travelled to Europe in May/June 2018 to visit friends in England, Ireland and Moscow. Their trip included a 14-day cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam and finished with a tour of the battlefields.

John found from his research that a number of his forebears had joined up to serve in the First World War, including his great grandfather and Clare's great uncle, Vincent Thomas Stone. In preparing for the tour, John had researched the history of Vincent Stone and had the unique opportunity to relate his story to the tour group at his gravesite.



**Vincent Thomas Stone (seated) with his older brother, Joseph Stone taken prior to Vincent's embarkation for Europe**

Vincent enlisted with the Australian Army on 25 September 1915, stating he was born in South Australia, was 19 years of age and his occupation was a postal worker. He was 5ft 9 in (1.75m) in height, chest measurement was 31/34 inches (78/84cm), weighed 155 lbs (70.5kg), had light brown hair, was of fair complexion and his religion was Roman Catholic. Later his medical examiner stated that he was under 18 years of age and subsequently, his mother gave permission for him to join the army.

He did some basic training at Black Boy Hill in the eastern suburbs of Perth and left Fremantle on the "Borda" disembarking at Suez and then travelling over land to Alexandria to join the "Transylvania" finally arriving in Marseilles in France on 5 April 1916. Vincent joined the 1st Entrenching Battalion on 26 June 1916 and then on 4 August 1916 joined the 12th Battalion, which was deployed to the Somme about this time. There is no record of his involvement in any action prior to April 1917, however the 12th Battalion was involved in actions in the Somme and Pozieres during that period.

Vincent was involved in an action at Lagincourt on 15 April 1917 when the Germans counter attacked with 16,000 troops. Fewer than 4,000 men of the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions repulsed this attack and in the action Vincent was wounded in the thigh. For his part he was awarded the Military Medal and his citation reads:

*"For pluck and tenacity under heavy machine gun fire. At Lagincourt at dawn on 15 April 1917 when the enemy attacked in force, Private Stone was in charge of a Lewis gun. Under direction of Lieutenant Roper he took up a position in rear of the sunken road and succeeded in turning back a strong German attack against our rear, being all the time under intense fire from two enemy machine guns. Although wounded, he continued firing until relieved by his No. 2 gunner."*

The medal was noted as being awarded in person by General Birdwood.

Vincent took a long time recuperating from his wound, being treated in various military hospitals in Havre and Boulogne. He left hospital on 16 November 1917 arriving at the 12th Battalion on 24 November 1917. Between being wounded and returning to the Battalion he was promoted to lance corporal and then demoted the next day, having been absent without leave; probably celebrating his promotion.

On the night of 15 January 1918, Vincent was a guide for a ration party proceeding to "D" Company. When the party returned to base, Vincent was reported missing. He was subsequently found drowned in a bomb crater. Witnesses stated that he would have been unable to get out of the crater unassisted and his death was recorded as accidental drowning by the military inquiry. He is buried at this spot at the Ration Farm (La Plus Douve Annex) cemetery, Reference 111.B.19. His mother was supplied with three photographs (postcards) of the original grave marking and the wooden cross has subsequently been replaced with the headstone that stands today.

Vincent's grave is set in a small Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery on a farm where he is buried with about 60 other soldiers of the Great War.

In searching for his grave, John and Clare had to walk a short way through a field with dairy cattle looking on. Visiting the grave made the tour very personal for John and Clare, overshadowing the commemorative Last Post service at Menin Gate, Ypres and other memorials, museums and cemeteries of the Great War that were part of the tour. Their visit to the other Australian war memorials and the Sir John Monash Centre were also significant highlights.



**Clare standing behind her great uncle's headstone**

# Catenian lady's passion for arts and crafts

Barbara Pannell, the wife of Bouvard Circle Brother John Pannell and a very active parishioner of St Damien's Catholic Church at Dawesville was a lady with a love of arts and crafts, a skill she put to good use throughout her adult life.

Sadly, Barbara passed away on the morning of 30 September 2018 at Peel Hospital in Mandurah with John at her side. Her ashes will rest in the columbarium in the grounds of St Damien's Church.

Barbara Pannell (nee Loring) was born on the Feast of the Assumption in 1938. She grew up on a dairy farm in Kentdale, west of Denmark in the lower southwest of Western Australia, the youngest of four girls and a brother. Her parents had migrated from England where her father had been a professional soldier having fought in the First World War and in Russia during the Russian Revolution.



She was educated at Denmark State School and, later, at St Joseph's in Albany after which she helped on the farm and in the house. Her happy memories of this time included dances in the local halls that scattered the region.

Moving to Perth to live with her eldest sister, Barbara worked at Avery Scales for a time and then at the State Library where she developed a great love of books.

She married Allan Beaton, an engineer whose work included the commissioning and maintenance of power stations in towns distant from Perth. When that involved long stays away, Barbara moved with him to towns like Derby and Port Hedland. They had two daughters, Frances and Carolyn.

Eventually settling in Perth, Barbara taught fabric crafts at the local TAFE. They holidayed in Mandurah and eventually bought a holiday house in Falcon and after Allan was diagnosed with cancer they moved there and ran a lunch bar in Mandurah.

When Allan passed away Barbara was just too young to claim a widow's pension so, with her elder daughter's help, she set up a business marbling silk fabrics for use as scarves and the like, which were sold in tourist outlets statewide. She also taught the techniques in towns all over the State sponsored by the WA Arts Council.

Meanwhile, John Pannell who also had been widowed, was organising community workshops under the auspices of TAFE, teaching activities of many kinds, largely to retired people of the district. He invited Barbara to run a workshop in marbling and she came on board enthusiastically and joined the organising group.

They were married in our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church in Mandurah.

Barbara continued and expanded her teaching activities and, with John's assistance, organised activities where local arts and crafts practitioners could come together for a community based

project (e.g. The Masks of Mandurah). Each year a theme was chosen; The Estuary, The Shore, The Forest and in this way local artists who normally worked in isolation, came together and shared ideas and techniques.

Barbara was keen to establish in Mandurah an event that had proved very successful in New Zealand; a Wearable Art competition. From small beginnings it has now grown into a major event that attracts entries worldwide.

For these and other initiatives, Barbara was twice nominated as Mandurah's Citizen of the Year.

Later in life, Barbara and her great friend Judith Gardiner, the wife of City of Mandurah and Bouvard Circles' Brother Max Gardiner, started a knitting group in Mandurah where ladies can spend time together and knit for welfare organisations such as Wheelchairs for Kids.

Barbara was a very active parishioner in St Damien's Parish in Dawesville. She and Judith Gardiner made fabric furnishings for the church, ran craft stalls and raised the money for, among other things, the slumped glass doors at the entrance of the church and the windows above the altar. She headed the flower arrangement group and started another group called "The Anything Club" where people, mainly ladies, could do their own thing, share knowledge and skills or just enjoy the company.

Sadly, Barbara developed the same kind of cancer that killed her husband, Allan. Complications set in and she passed away on 30 September 2018. She will be sorely missed, not only in the parish but also in the wider Peel Region.

**Contributed by John Pannell  
Bouvard Circle**

**Standing out  
from the crowd.**

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

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## Ray Polglase 1942 – 2018



City of Mandurah brothers and wives were saddened by the loss of Ray Polglase who passed away on 7 September 2018 at the age of 76. His Requiem Mass was held at Our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church in Mandurah on 12 September 2018 attended by family, friends and a large number of Catenian Brothers who formed a guard of honour as the hearse was driven away.

Ray joined the City of Mandurah Circle in 1994 serving two terms as Treasurer, Vice President in 2000/01, President in 2001/02, Welfare Officer and Provincial Councillor. He was President when the circle won the prestigious Province 20 Visitors Cup in 2001 and was the driving force behind the establishment of a scholarship called the Christian Leadership Scholarship with an annual award of \$500 provided to a student of the Mandurah Catholic College.

Ray grew up in Beaconsfield in Western Australia and attended the Christ the King Primary School and then CBC Fremantle through to year 12. His first job was with Cooperative Bulk Handling, before moving to the country to work on the wheat bins in the Eastern wheat belt.

Just before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Ray went to Darwin and worked in the accounts section of the Department of Health. He loved the Darwin life style and enjoyed the hot tropical weather and the sporting life, especially the camping.

When his mother passed away in 1967 leaving his father alone, Ray left Darwin and returned to Perth joining accounting firm Francis A Jones and Associates where he was made a partner after qualifying as an accountant.

It was during this time that Ray and Irene married and had two children, Mark and Kathryn. He remained with Francis A Jones for 18 years after which he and Irene purchased a caravan park in Geraldton, which they operated for four years before returning to Perth. In 1992 Ray purchased a tax agency, ITP in Mandurah and the family has enjoyed living in this part of the world ever since.

Ray was introduced to Reg Newman who was the Founder President of the City of Mandurah Circle and he joined the circle in 1994. He became a faithful and popular Catenian for 24 years.

In recent years Ray suffered from Alzheimer's disease and lived in Mandurah in high care. He was no longer able to attend meetings, but retained his status in the Association as a Catenian "friend."

In eulogies given at their father's Requiem Mass, Mark and Kathryn related memories of the camping and caravan holidays that the family enjoyed: swimming, crabbing and fishing. Kathryn said that it was the simple things that made her father happy. His favourite holidays were in caravans and tents; ideally sitting around a fire or a barbecue and a bonus was if there was water nearby so that he could go fishing.

## John O'Neil 1935 – 2018

Just eight months after the death of his beloved wife, JoAnn, John O'Neil passed away peacefully in Mandurah on 21 September 2018 after a long illness. A member of the City of Mandurah Circle for 23 years, in 2017 John was honoured with Life Membership of Province 20 in recognition of his 12 years of service on Provincial Council. John joined the seaside circle in 1995, serving as Membership Officer, Vice President and President for two years before his election as the circle's Provincial Councillor in 2001.

He was then appointed Provincial Membership Officer, a position he held for two years before taking over the important role of Records Officer in 2004, serving in that role until 2011. During this time John was instrumental in the enhancement and development of the Province database. In his last year on Provincial Council in 2011/12 he held the office of Provincial Secretary.

John was an active Catenian, strengthening the Association through his willingness to work hard and promote membership. He made a significant contribution to the formation and inauguration of new circles at Bouvard and the City of Busselton and was a Founder member of both.

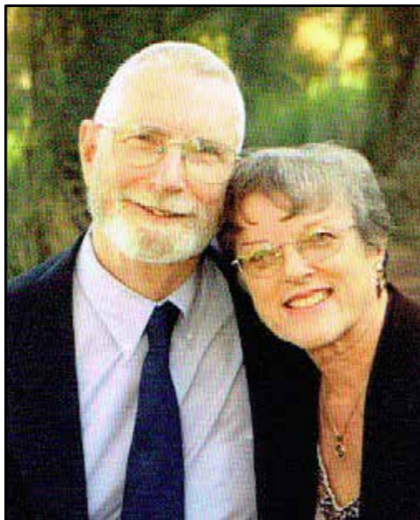
John was also active in the parish life of the Catholic Church. He served as an acolyte at Our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church in Mandurah for many years and with his wife JoAnn had a long involvement in the Catholic Marriage Encounter program, which was an important part of their lives for over 40 years.

Born in the USA on 27 August 1935, John grew up in Los Angeles. He met JoAnn in 1963 when he was working for the Sanoma State College managing the student records system. They were married on 4 April 1964 at the Catholic Church in Cotati in California and lived in Sebastopol in California. About 11 months after their marriage in March 1965 their son Bill was born and soon after that they adopted two children from JoAnn's first marriage, Kristi and John and the family moved to Sydney in 1968.

John had a number of teaching positions including time at the Toowoomba Institute of Technology in Queensland before moving to Western Australia where he had secured a lecturing position at the Western Australian Institute of Technology (now Curtin University) where he worked for several years.

Prior to their move to Halls Head in Mandurah, John and JoAnn lived in Bunbury for two and a half years where John worked for the Bishop of Bunbury. On moving to Mandurah they immediately became active in Our Lady's Assumption Parish where they successfully obtained Federal Government funding and formed Quality Relationships Australia, which sought to enrich family lives of people living in the Peel Region.

Both John and JoAnn will be remembered as a loving couple, completely devoted to each other and their family and for their outstanding contribution to the Church and community in which they lived.



## John Lowe 1933 – 2018

Fremantle Circle lost one of its longest serving and committed brothers with the passing of John Lowe on 5 October 2018. John joined the circle in 1984, not long after it was inaugurated in February 1981 and was a loyal member for 34 years. He will be



sadly missed and remembered by his fellow brothers for his amazing general knowledge. In his eulogy at John's Requiem Mass held at Mater Christi Catholic Church in Yangebup, his long time friend and Fremantle Brother, Dick Finucane said that a limit of two prizes had to be set for the traditional quiz conducted at monthly meetings, otherwise John would have answered all the questions and scooped the prize pool.

Dick said that John was the kind of person you could trust your life with; very organised, loyal, totally honest and trustworthy, but although he possessed all these excellent qualities, he was also a remarkably humble man.

A family eulogy written by his daughter, Brenda with the help of her three sisters, Donna, Marie and Carla was read by Brenda's husband, Adam on behalf of John's wife of 52 years, Yvonne, his four daughters and their partners and his eight grandchildren.

Brenda wrote: "Dad was the third of five children. His two brothers have already passed away and his surviving sisters, Mary and Shirley, were unable to attend his Requiem Mass due to their own ill health."

"Dad was always there for us in our childhood. An accountant, he worked hard during the week, but his weekends were devoted to his wife and daughters, whether this involved ferrying us all to netball in the winter or having a game of backyard cricket in the summer. He was a very devout Catholic and made sure that we all attended Mass every Sunday and developed our faith. Afterwards he would cook us a bacon and chip breakfast, which became a great family tradition."

"Like many men of his generation, Dad had a real sense of community, decency and integrity, holding committee positions either for his sporting clubs or the Catenians."

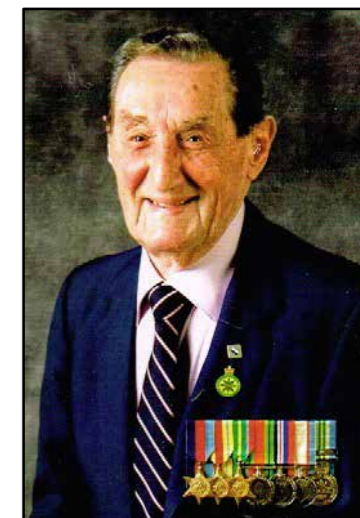
"In his younger days Dad had a great love of fishing, taking his family on trips to Woodman's Point, Albany, Kalbarri and Port Gregory, amongst other places. After he retired fishing became a great source of enjoyment for Dad and he took many trips to the Abrolhos. He was also a keen cricketer, playing with the CBC Cricket Club until well into his 40s and then coaching at the club. He loved soccer and always followed the English football league, listening to the radio roundup on Sunday evenings. Dad also enjoyed golf and played for many years until eventually having to give it up due to ill health."

After his daughters had all left home, John retired and he and Yvonne enjoyed travelling on cruises and taking other holidays

## Reg Newman 1920 – 2018

A large number of Catenian brothers and wives joined with family and friends to celebrate the life of Reg Newman at our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church in Mandurah on 27 November 2018. Reg passed away peacefully on 13 November 2018, the dearly loved husband of Mavis, loving father of Paul, Kathleen, Gregory and Rosemary adored Pop of nine grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

At the age of 98 Reg was the oldest Catenian in Province 20. He joined Como Circle in 1987, about two years after the circle was inaugurated, and was instrumental in the formation of the City of Mandurah Circle where he was the Founder President when it was inaugurated in 1991. He remained a loyal and committed brother for 31 years in his latter years as a "friend" when no longer able to attend meetings. His fellow Catenian brothers formed a traditional Guard of Honour after the Mass in recognition of his outstanding service and friendship.



Reg was born in England on 1 July 1920 and migrated to Australia in 1931, spending his early life working as a jackaroo on sheep stations at Carnarvon and Dalwallinu. Later he managed a citrus farm in Gosnells at the same time attending night school to gain qualifications in commercial law, bookkeeping and business principles.

In 1940 Reg enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and had a distinguished record with the 1/16<sup>th</sup> Infantry serving in India, Palestine, the Western Desert, Mersa Matruh, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon during the following two years. He was promoted to Corporal in the Intelligence Corps, and his battalion was moved for jungle training in Queensland where he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. When he learned that the 2/16<sup>th</sup> was going to be sent to New Guinea, Reg applied for a transfer back to his old unit where he assumed the rank of Corporal and headed for Port Moresby. He was on active service in Papua New Guinea from 1942 to 1944, including on the legendary Kokoda Track.

Returning to civilian life he joined the Public Service and was employed as District Employment Officer at Bridgetown where he met and married the love of his life, Mavis in 1948. Reg and Mavis celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August 2018.

Over the 55 years of his working life, Reg found time to be the Founder President of the Bunbury Jaycees, was a representative on State Council for Government Aid for Catholic Schools, a member of the Holy Name Society, a member of the Knights of the Southern Cross and the Catenian Association.

After his retirement Reg and Mavis moved to Mandurah where he became active in church activities at our Lady's Assumption Parish in Mandurah.

Reg will be remembered as a high achiever and a hard worker who had to fend for himself at a young age; a devoted husband to Mavis and loving father, grandfather and great grandfather.





# CIRCLE ROUNDUP

CONTRIBUTED ITEMS & PHOTOGRAPHS

## Avon Valley

### Twins galore in the Webb family

Brian and Maxena Webb have been blessed with three sets of twin grandchildren and Brian's brother also has a set of twin grandchildren born in 1996, the same year that Brian and Maxena welcomed their own.

This year they are celebrating the start of another generation of twins with the birth of twin great grandchildren, born to the eldest twin grandchild male and his wife.

"The Lord has looked kindly on us," writes Brian.

The photograph shows Oliver and Lincoln pictured in jump suits when they were one month old.



## Contributions wanted

The pages of the *Western Link* are open for contributions from all circles and members of the Catenian Association.

Articles about circle activities are particularly sought, but personal travel experiences and other family pieces or items of general interest, including photos, are also wanted. Please help.

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

## Bouvard

### Parading the latest in millinery creations

Following long-established Bouvard Circle tradition the ladies attending the Melbourne Cup luncheon on 6 November 2018 went to an enormous amount of trouble to display the very latest in cup styles for the annual "fashions in the field" competition leaving the judges an unenviable task of choosing the winner.

In a closely contested contest, the elegant Anne Harries emerged as the victor and the debonair Peter Brown was awarded the best-dressed male.



Left to right: The "fashions in the field winner", Anne Harries, Elsie Lohoar and Barbara Brown



Left to right: Patricia Hand, Teresa Kingdon and Olga Reid



Left to right: Wayne Wright, Peter Brown (the men's winner) and Greg Payne

The annual Melbourne Cup luncheon is now a time-honoured event on Bouvard Circle's social calendar attracting visitors from neighbouring City of Mandurah Circle and many parishioners from St Damien's Catholic Church in Dawesville. Once again the event was hosted by Rod and Elsie Lohoar at their delightful residence at Pleasant Grove, a southern suburb of Mandurah.

Sweeps and raffles, capably run by circle stalwarts, Don Allen and John Starcevich ensured that everyone had a personal interest in the big race. Then followed a delectable smorgasbord of savoury dishes and mouthwatering desserts.



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## City of Busselton

### Welcoming popular UK visitors

The City of Busselton Circle has held several informal meetings and social functions during 2018 embracing visitors and guests from Our Lady of the Bay Catholic Parish in Busselton and well-attended by visitors from Perth and Mandurah.

On Sunday 28 October visitors from the United Kingdom, Mike and Anne-Marie O'Malley, attended one such function at the Quindalup residence of joint member and Como Circle Brother, Brian Kerman. Mike, a past Grand President of the Catenian Association, and Anne-Marie were very involved and provided great support when the City of Busselton circle was formed in 2012. Mike and Anne-Marie were on a short holiday visit to Perth, visiting their close friends, Brian and Beryl Kerman.



Happy visitors at the October function, Mike and Anne-Marie O'Malley pictured with City of Busselton joint member and Como Brother, Barry O'Malley bearing the same surname, but not directly related



Standing, left to right: George and Liz Bazzica, Bill and Kaye Middleton, Jack Stretch, Marlene Monkhouse, Max Brandenburg, Terry O'Neill and John Monkhouse  
Seated: Terry Shine, Brian and Beryl Kerman, Anne-Marie and Mike O'Malley and Patricia and Barry O'Malley



Mike O'Malley, Terry O'Neill and John Monkhouse



# Canning

## Thoughtful message from a Catenian lady

After attending a dinner meeting in September, an anonymous Canning lady expressed her thanks to the circle through a message to Welfare and Hospitality Officer, Doug Williams. Doug was so overwhelmed that he wanted to share these sentiments with all Catenian brothers.

“Dear Brother Doug,

As a proud Catenian wife of an equally proud Canning Circle husband, I was very pleased to attend last Thursday evening’s delightful and highly successful joint September dinner meeting and ladies night. I always like to regularly attend these evenings too. I’m a firm believer in them because, overall, I feel they contributed very successfully towards the strength and vitality of both the Canning Circle and the Catenian Association.”

“Last week’s terrific attendance and turnout of both brothers and ladies from the two circles, Canning and Fremantle, plus a lovely number of special guests also contributed towards the success of this happy event.”

“It was certainly one of the best and most enjoyable ladies evenings I’ve attended. However, whilst past occasions have been a lovely success too, I have to say that this Thursday’s September meeting was exceptional. Whilst it’s not my intention to embarrass you, it should be mentioned that I felt a large part of this evening’s success must be attributed to you, as our caring, efficient and dedicated Hospitality Officer.”

“In talking to other lovely ladies on this same night, we all agreed that, not only were we extremely surprised, but delighted upon entering the hall for dinner, to be personally greeted by you, prior to presenting each and every lady either a beautiful Australian birds coffee cup or a beautiful birds plate. Then later, to be spoilt with not one, but two chocolate roses on our side dinner plates.”

“During dinner I also noticed that both you and your fellow brother assistant were amazing with the distribution of a table prize to each and everyone in attendance. Even though I realise you’re also proud to be part of the Canning Circle team, I must sum up here by further stating that the above evening would not have been the fantastic success that it was without these efforts.”

“Please accept this small vote of thanks from the ladies present to you, and everyone in the circle for a wonderful evening. May God continue to bless you and everyone in both our Canning Circle and the Catenian Association.”

Anonymous

## Big reward for membership drive

Canning Circle’s focus on the recruitment of new members has been rewarded with the installation of five new brothers in 2018. Members of the circle are to be congratulated on their endeavour, which sees it well ahead of all other circles in Province 20 in the quest for new brothers.

It began in September 2018, which was a joint meeting with Fremantle Circle held at Wings Restaurant, RAAFA in Bullcreek when Rod Marsh (not the famous Australian cricketer) and Patrick Ellison were installed.

Then on 25 October 2018 another two brothers, Vicente Roque and Ken Paterson were installed.



**Provincial President, Kevin Hefron (right) presents Rod Marsh with his membership certificate at Canning Circle's September meeting**



**Patrick Ellison (left) receives his membership certificate from Provincial President, Kevin Hefron**

**Patrick Ellison** was born on 1 October 1958 in Singapore where he completed his primary and secondary education at St Michael’s Primary School and then St Joseph’s Institution. His tertiary training was at Singapore Polytechnic and Manukau Polytechnic in Auckland, New Zealand.

After serving three years in National Service with the Singapore Armed Forces, Patrick worked as a seafarer for 14 years with Neptune Orient Lines. When he settled in Perth in 1994, he lectured for about 12 years at the Fremantle Maritime Centre (TAFE) then worked as Cargo Superintendent with the Mediterranean Shipping Company before returning to the Fremantle Maritime Centre in 2010 to resume lecturing.

Patrick met an Irish girl, Stella Rodrigues in the early 1980s when they were both singing in the same church choir. They were married on 24 May 1986 and have two beautiful daughters, Charlene (born in Singapore in 1991) and Charlotte (born in Perth in 1998).

Patrick and his family are parishioners at Saints John and Paul Catholic Church in Willetton where he serves as an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist. He enjoys sport, (especially AFL football and soccer), travelling and fishing.

A fellow parishioner introduced him to the Catenian Association and he looks forward to the fellowship that being a Catenian offers.



**Ken Patterson pictured with Canning Circle President, Alex Munut**

**Ken Patterson** was born on 10 September 1961 in Sydney, and completed his primary and secondary education at Ipswich State School in Ipswich, Queensland and RAAF School in Penang, Malaysia. He completed a Mechanical Apprenticeship with the Royal Australian Air Force and later completed degrees with the University of South Australia (Bachelor of Business) and the University of Sydney (Bachelor of Education).

He served with the RAAF for four years, and then worked with ICI, Renison Underground Tin Mine, CIVMEC Construction and Engineering and Boart Longyear Drilling Services before starting his own business about 13 years ago.

Patrick and his wife, Ederlyn were married in 2007 in the Philippines and have one child, Kyle and four from a previous marriage, Jasmin, Kenny, Emily and Kurtis. They are also the proud grandparents of Harlow and Archie.

Patrick is an acolyte at Saints John and Paul Catholic Church in Willetton and he looks forward to the friendship that is offered from being part of a Catholic men’s group.



**Vicente Roque with Canning Circle Vice President, Russell Godsall**

**Vicente (Vic) Roque** was born on 15 July 1967 in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga in the Philippines and completed his primary

and secondary education at the Panipuan Elementary School and Holy Angel University in the Philippines where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering. When he migrated to Perth in 2006 he attended Curtin University where he was awarded Master of Business Administration.

Vic’s career has seen him work in a number of jobs in the electrical engineering field, more recently with Western Power where he was offered an appointment as Complex Metering Team Leader in December 2006 triggering his move to settle with his family in Perth.

He met Jenny when invited by a friend to sponsor his son’s baptism. At the church he was overcome at the sight of a dazzling young lady who he was afterwards told was his friend’s niece. Their courtship started from then and they were married at Sacred Heart Parish Church in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga in the Philippines on 29 August 1998.

Vic and Jenny have two lovely children: Aaron who is 18 years of age and is in his first year of a nursing degree at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle campus and Nina who is 14 years of age and a Year 9 student at Perth Modern School.

Vic and his family have been devout Catholics since birth. He has been a member of the Saints John and Paul Catholic Church since 2012 and an acolyte since 2009. He is also a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem (Knights of the Holy Sepulcher).

With no close relatives living in Perth, Vic’s humble expectations from the Catenian Association evolve around the spirit of brotherhood and charity, learning from his experienced and spiritually matured brothers and involvement in charitable work. He also hopes to contribute to the Catenian brotherhood with his life experiences and the knowledge and skills he has gained throughout his career and as a devout Catholic.



**Canning President, Russell Godsall presents Maurice Ballantyne with his membership certificate at the circle's December meeting**

Maurice had the privilege of being installed in the presence of a large number of brothers at a joint meeting and Christmas function in December 2018 shared by Canning and Como Circles.

He is an Employability Skills Trainer. Maurice and his wife, Denzilene live in Canning Vale and attend the Thornlie parish.



# Como

## Joining forces for Christmas meeting



*The happy Como/Canning dinner party at Wings Restaurant*

For a number of years now, Como and Canning Circles conduct their December meeting on Como's normal meeting night because it's sufficiently early in the month not to conflict with Christmas, however the two circles alternate the hosting responsibility for the dinner, which is the traditional Christmas function held at Wings Restaurant, RAAFA Memorial Estate in Bullcreek. This year Como was the hosting circle.

It was pleasing to have as guests for the dinner, Moira Stokes and Iris Rodereda, widows of deceased Como brothers, Joe Stokes and Edgar Rodereda.

A prospective member was also a guest at the meeting and dinner and the circle also has two other Catholic gentlemen on Como's list of prospective members.

The two circles are very well looked-after by RAAFA staff at the Wings Restaurant, and each year the host circle makes a presentation on behalf of both circles in appreciation.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation made to Brian Jarvis in recognition of his 34 years of membership of Como Circle. Brian was a Founder member of the circle, which was inaugurated in November 1984.



*Left to right: Brian Jarvis, Como President, Maurice Kilroe and Brian's wife, Margaret*

President, Maurice Kilroe said that similar certificates would be presented at a later date to those other Founder brothers who are still active members of Como Circle.

## Restaurant outing

Two widows of deceased members, Kerry Fimmel (the wife of Bob Fimmel) and Anne Tyler (the wife of Ron Tyler) were among the 17 Como people who enjoyed first class company, a pleasant venue and a very tasty three-course meal on 7 November 2018 at the Pines Restaurant within the Bentley campus of the Southwest college of TAFE.

This social outing has become a regular feature of Como's social calendar.



*Michael and Geraldine Taylor enjoying a night out at the Pines Restaurant*

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# Darling Range

## President's Charity



*Gerard Tonks presenting the Darling Range 2018 President's Charity award to Isabelle Lindsey*

Darling Range Circle has used its annual \$500 President's Charity fund to sponsor university student, Isabelle Lindsey to attend Campion College in Sydney for a week of familiarization. Isabelle, aged 20, is the daughter of former Catenian, political activist Frank Lindsey and his nurse wife, Bernadette. She is active in Catholic student action and the activities of Holy Family Parish in Kalamunda.

Isabelle, known as Izzy, has completed a year at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle campus and her ambition is to complete her degree in Liberal Arts at the Catholic accredited Campion College, which is a small Liberal Arts College near Parramatta in Sydney. Campion College is strong in teaching literature, history, philosophy and theology. These are the subjects that the Ramsay Foundation want to fund in a degree of Western Civilisation in a major Australian university such as Australian National University, which has rejected it, and now Sydney University where resistance to it is strong.

Campion College, along with the University of Notre Dame Australia and Australian Catholic University, are gems of Christian education among the secular world of universities in Australia.

Members of Darling Range circle hope that Isabelle will go to Campion and will excel so as to become a learned and articulate champion of Christianity in her future career.

## Your stories are important

If you have a story to tell about your circle activities or a personal story about an interesting travel experience of trip overseas you are welcome to submit them for publication in the Western Link.

Articles about circle activities are particularly sought, but personal family pieces or items of general interest, including photos, are also wanted. Please help.

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

# Dianella

## Well done, Ken Durnin

In recent issues of the *Western Link*, Dianella Circle has acknowledged Brian Preston and Graham Pittaway, two of three Catholic men who joined as Founder brothers when the circle was inaugurated in November 1984 and are still active members. The third of these Founder brothers is Ken Durnin, completing the trilogy.

Ken was born in 1937 in Aberdeen in Scotland and raised in a strong Catholic family along with a brother and sister. He says that his early childhood was enjoyable, but challenging as Catholics were in the minority in that community. Ken met the love of his life while being nursed in hospital and married Margaret on Boxing Day, 26 December 1962 at St Mary's Cathedral in Aberdeen.

He trained as a teacher and his passion was to teach deaf and handicapped children. In early 1970 he was attracted by an employment advertisement for a teacher of hearing impaired people in Perth and on 11 March 1970 he packed up Margaret and their three children and boarded a ship bound for Western Australia. Their fourth child was born in October 1970.

Graham Pittaway, who was then serving on the Board of the Speech and Hearing Centre, was there to meet them when they arrived at Fremantle Port. Ken, Margaret and their children lived in Mt Hawthorn for several months and then purchased a house in Belmont.

After working at the Speech and Hearing Centre for a number of years, Ken moved into the Catholic Education system employed as Deputy Principal at Infant Jesus Primary School in Morley until in 1984 he was appointed Principal of Mary's Mount Primary School in Kalamunda.

At that time Donald McKechnie was Chairman of the school board and also a member of the Darling Range Circle. Ken accepted Donald's invitation to attend a circle meeting, as he was familiar with the Catenian Association because his father and three brothers had been members in Aberdeen. At that time a new circle was being formed in Dianella and, following a little encouragement, Ken was enticed to join as a Founder brother.

Ken's wife, Margaret relates an interesting story about being the wife of an active Catenian. Ken was involved in a major traffic accident and was lucky to survive. For a lengthy period while Ken was recuperating, Margaret was overwhelmed with offers of assistance from other brothers in the Dianella Circle and she really appreciated the help that was freely offered and given to her during that time.

Ken is still passionate about the Catenian Association and remains an active and committed member of Dianella Circle. He held the office of Marshall in his early years, was Vice President of Dianella for two terms and President in 1999/2000. Ken also has fond memories of his trip with Margaret to Manchester in 2008 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catenian Association; an experience very special to them both,

Ken has served the Catholic Church as an altar server for over 70 years and as an acolyte since 1975. He is also an Extraordinary Minister and regularly takes Holy Communion to residents in Marist Lodge in Belmont.

Ken and Margaret now live at the Faulkner Park Retirement Village in Cloverdale where Ken is President of the Residents' Association. His main hobby or passion is as a supporter of the West Coast Eagles in the Australian Football League and over the past eight years Ken and his two sons; two sons-in-law and four grandsons have travelled to Melbourne on selected weekends to watch their beloved team perform.



## Dianella (continued)

Over many years, Ken has been one of the strongest supporters of the annual Dianella Circle sons and daughters nights. The photograph below shows Ken with many of his family members at the 2018 sons and daughters night held at the Mt Lawley Golf Club.

Congratulations from your fellow brothers of Dianella Circle, Ken, for your friendship and contribution and for a job well done.



**Seated: Matt Snadden (Ken's eldest grandson) and Ken Durnin**  
**Standing, left to right: Michelle Arnowitz (Matt's girlfriend), Gerard Snadden (Nicola's husband), Alex Snadden (Gerard and Nicola's youngest), Maureen Hunt (Ken's eldest daughter), Lorne Hunt (Maureen's husband), Gemma Greenaway (Andrew's fiancée), Stephen Durnin (Ken's eldest son), Andrew Durnin (Ken's youngest son) and Nicola Snadden (Ken's second eldest daughter)**  
**Absent were Ken's other grandchildren, Rebekah Snadden, Brendan, Emily and Thomas Hunt**

## Welcome addition to the brotherhood

Dianella Circle's latest addition to its brotherhood is Dino Cecchi who lives in the Vines Resort and Country Club in the Swan Valley with his wife, Elena. They are parishioners at the Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Morley where Dino regularly plays the organ for the choir at the 11.30 am Sunday Italian Mass. Dino was installed at the circle meeting held on 29 August 2018 at the Mt Lawley Golf Club.



**Dianella President, Lou Daily with Dino Cecchi**

Dino was born in 1944 in the City of Lucca in the Tuscany region of Italy. His childhood and schooling were in Lucca where he qualified as a schoolteacher.

In 1983 he came to Perth for a holiday, staying with relatives in Fremantle for about six months. He returned to his homeland and in 1994 married Elena, raising three sons all born in Italy.

The family migrated to Perth in 1996 living in Bassendean. For about eight years the family owned and operated a restaurant then called "Savini" located in Walcott Street, Mt Lawley.

The eldest of Dino and Elena's three sons, John is an archaeologist, Steven is a doctor at Royal Perth Hospital and the youngest, Mark is the chef at the family restaurant "Cecchis" in Beaufort Street, Inglewood. The family has owned this restaurant for about six years.

Dino and Elena have three grandchildren, two twin boys and a girl. They are also long-term carers of Dino's elder brother, Attitio. Apart from all of the family commitments, Dino's other interest is music, particularly playing the piano, organ and piano accordion. In his younger days he enjoyed playing soccer and still retains an interest in the sport.

## Another new Brother



**Left to right: Lou Daily, John Margaria and Peter Kora**

Another new addition to the rapidly growing Dianella membership list occurred at the Circle's meeting held at the Mt Lawley Golf Club on 26 September 2018 with the installation of John Margaria who lives in Burswood and is a parishioner of St Joachim Catholic Church in East Victoria Park.

John was born in Perth in 1946 and spent the early days of his life in East Victoria Park. He attended St Joachim Primary School (now Ursula Frayne) and then completed his secondary school at the Christian Brothers College in St Georges Terrace (now Trinity College).

John commenced his first job at the ES&A Bank in February 1965. One of his workmates was Peter Kora who claims that he taught John everything he knows. John and Peter have known each other for 53 years.

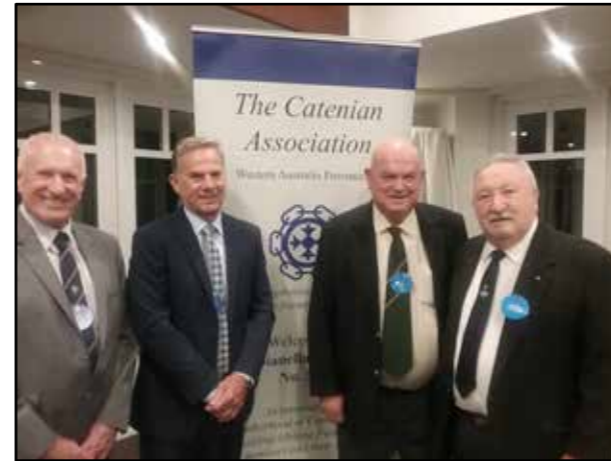
John's career in the finance industry included working with the ANZ Bank in 1970, then as a finance broker with a number of firms such as Esanda, Beneficial, Blackburne & Dixon and later Global Finance Group. He is still semi active in the industry in a consulting role.

John's grandparents had a mix of Italian and Irish heritage and when his grandfather migrated from Italy he worked at the Gwalia gold mine in the goldfields before relocating to Perth where he became a market gardener. Some Catenian brothers may remember John's three cousins, Frank, Ray and Fred Margaria who played league football for the West Perth WAFL club in the 1960's.

John is married to Jill and they have two children and two grandchildren. His main interests are gardening, cooking, all sports and social golf.

## And, another

Dianella continued its extended run of success in recruiting new members with the installation of John Strijk at the circle's November meeting. Sponsored by Gerry Butler, John and his wife life in Noranda and are parishioners at the Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Morley.



**Pictured left to right: Gerry Butler, John Strijk, Dianella Circle President Lou Daily and Graham Pittaway**

## A Catenian for 25 years



**Lou Daily with Dianella Circle's Mario D'Uva**

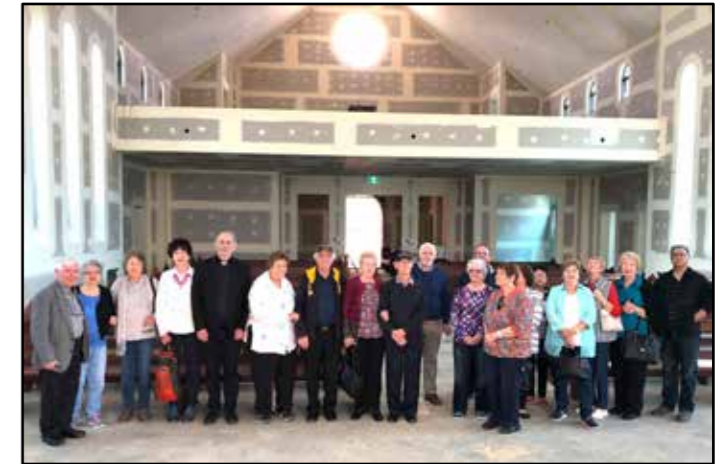
Mario D'Uva was honoured at Dianella Circle's meeting on 31 October 2018 when presented with a certificate recognising his 25 years of membership. He and his wife, Lesley have made a significant contribution to the activities of the circle, particularly ensuring that there is always a good variety and plenty of prizes available for the regular raffles.

## President's Mass and barbecue

On 5 December 2018 Dianella held its annual President's Mass and barbecue hosted by Lou Daily in his second term as President. Mass was celebrated by Father Greg Burke, Parish Priest at the Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Morley. With guests including Fathers Burke and Tadgh a total of 65 people met at the Morley/Noranda Recreation Club for the barbecue, a record attendance for the circle. During the evening guests were entertained by Rob Horrocks and the three other members of the "Zucchini Brothers" with a mix of Irish and Italian songs and a few Christmas Carols.

## Fremantle

### Mid-west excursion



**Fremantle brothers and wives pictured at the Church of Divine Mercy in Lower Chittering**

A good turnout of Fremantle Circle brothers and wives ventured north in September 2018 to visit Lower Chittering and New Norcia.

Father Paul Fox and two parishioners, who had prepared a wonderful morning-tea, gave the visitors a typical country-style welcome at the Church of Divine Mercy in Lower Chittering. Father Fox has undertaken the building of the Catholic Church and already has a primary school established in the Church grounds with a current enrolment of around 220 students. A splendid parish hall has been built. All improvement have been financed by the local community without assistance from the Archdiocese of Perth.

Fremantle Brother Dick Finucane is a member of the School Advisory Board, which operates independently of the Catholic Education WA (CEWA).

Following their Lower Chittering visit, the group continued to spend some time at the Monastic town of New Norcia, run by the Benedictine Monks.

### Good turnout at ladies night



**Standing left to right: Denise Hefron, Muriel Mahony, Jan Bourne, Leslie Sutton, Margaret Kerrigan and Judy Humphris**  
**Seated: Jenny De Silva, Jan Coffey, Patricia Hanrahan and Janice Alilovic**

Fremantle's last meeting for the year on 15 November 2018, a ladies night, attracted a good crowd of brothers and wives once again enjoying each other's company. Pictured above are the ladies gathered together while the men were holding their meeting.



## Fremantle (continued)

The circles final event for the year was the Christmas dinner held on Thursday 13 December at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle.

Following an extended drive in the numerous Catholic parishes in the Fremantle district, two men, Bob Williams and Peter McKendrick are expected to be installed in January 2019 with a further five prospective members showing interest in joining.

## A worth winner of circle's service award



*Alex Banovich presents the Fremantle Circle service award to Samuel Sanginiti*

Samuel Sanginiti who graduated from Christian Brothers College (CBC) in Fremantle in October 2018 has been awarded the Fremantle Circle sponsored Catenian Association service award. The award recognises Samuel's commitment to the sacramental life of CBC College and to the Catholic Church and its teachings. Fremantle Circle Brother Alex Banovich presented the award and bursary.

Samuel said that he was deeply humbled to have been chosen to receive the award and will continue to be active in the service of the church and the community.

"I am an advocate for Edmund Rice Camps for kids and believe in my school motto *Palma Virtuti*; goodness is its own reward." Samuel said.

"Through attending CBC and with the support of my family I have developed core values and recognise the dignity in each and every person," he said. "I have developed a close relationship with God and my faith and this has helped me develop attitudes based on gospel values."

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## Joondalup

### Coffee break for the ladies

Morning tea at Hillary's Marina has become a regular feature on the social calendar of Joondalup Circle ladies. Numbers were down on a cold, windy and wet spring morning on Wednesday 5 September 2018, but it did not stop a small group of seven ladies, and a couple of "gate crashing husbands" to get together at the Dome.

They had plenty to talk about and the coffee cups had long since been taken away before the group finally broke up to return home, but not before it had been unanimously agreed that the event should be repeated on a regular basis.



*Pictured left to right around the table: Gail Sinagra, Maree Johnston, Dot Colgan, Elizabeth Webb, Jocelyn Doak, Jenny Rae and Carol Murphy with "gatecrashers" Mick Doak and Martin Colgan in the background*

### Croquet afternoon remains popular

Once again, the annual Joondalup Circle croquet afternoon held at the Cambridge Croquet Club in Floreat on 21 October was an outstanding success with a good crowd of 18 brothers and wives turning out to compete and enjoy the social occasion.

The competition was keenly contested in fine, sunny conditions. Everyone played in four games comprising 20 minutes each with John Hollywood winning the afternoon.



*Vince Sinagra presents the Joondalup Circle perpetual croquet trophy to 2018 champion, John Hollywood*

It was an excellent social outing followed by some well-earned drinks for the weary players, a chicken and salad dinner and dessert of fruit salad and ice cream.

Thanks again to the Cambridge Croquet Club for making the courts available to the Joondalup group of rank amateurs and to Joondalup Brother Vince Sinagra who is a prominent playing member of the croquet club.



*The happy crowd of Joondalup croquet players*

### Hosting the UK visitors

Joondalup was privileged to entertain the Grand President of Great Britain, John Hogan and his wife, Pamela and other visitors from the United Kingdom at the circle's normal monthly meeting and dinner at RAAFA Cambrai on 17 October 2018. The UK visitors were having a six day Perth stopover on their journey to Melbourne to attend the Australian National Conference on the weekend 19 to 21 October.

Over 20 brothers and wives from Province 20 also attended the Joondalup dinner together with two special guests, Jenny Rae and Father Konrad Cagatek of St Andrews Catholic Parish in Clarkson.

The Joondalup dinner ended a hectic six-day stay for the visitors, which began with a Kings Park walk on Saturday 13 October, Provincial Mass for deceased Catenian brothers at St Mary's Cathedral followed by a luncheon at the Swan Yacht Club on Sunday and a joint meeting of the City of Perth and Liwara Circles at the Royal Perth Golf Club on Monday evening. Interspersed between these more formal functions was a boat trip down the Swan River organised by Brian Kerman (Dianella Circle) and a tour of the northern beaches and lunch organised by Liwara circle.



*Joondalup President, Barry Webb and his wife Elizabeth presenting gifts to the Grand President of Great Britain, John Hogan and his wife, Pauline*



*Anne-Marie and Mike O'Malley from the United Kingdom at the Joondalup dinner*



*Michael and Gail Finch*



*Tracy and Wayne McKay*



*Barry and Liz Webb with Dot Colgan, presented with a bouquet of flowers at the October meeting in appreciation of the valuable contribution she and her husband, Martin have made in hosting various social functions at their Neerabup family home*



Fair weather golfers

For many years now, a happy group of “would-be” players have been meeting in the early hours of each Monday morning, usually at the Hamersley public course in Trigg’s, for 18 holes of golf.

The number of players varies from time to time especially when the weather is wet, but when the sun is shining they are always there.



Ready for action on the first tee, left to right: Mick Doak, Andrew Swanson, Peter Johnston and Rolf Bank

Party time at the Sinagras’

Vince and Gail Sinagra opened their spacious home in Wanneroo for the Joondalup Circle Christmas party on Saturday 8 December 2018 with 30 brothers and wives attending a very special evening.

Special guests were widows, Merle Reid (wife of Dennis who passed away in March 2013) and Jenny Rae (wife of Jim who passed away in May 2008). Merle and Jenny are always made most welcome and regularly participate in circle social functions.

Guests were treated to a gourmet table of cold meats and salads followed by a tempting range of delicious desserts, prepared by the circle ladies.



Joondalup Catenians welcome the festive season

Liwara

Sons and daughters share their experiences

The Liwara sons and daughters night on 6 September 2018 attracted a good crowd of 20 young visitors, many of whom shared their experiences with brief after dinner talks.

Another “first” initiated by President, Kevin McKersey was to invite sons and daughters to the circle meeting prior to dinner. It was a particularly refreshing innovation, providing a better understanding of the fellowship that exists between Catenian brothers and removing the perceived “mystery” that might exist about what goes on behind the previously closed meeting doors.



Tony Stefanoff (right) with his son, Damian



Ron Brukwinski (centre) with his son, Eric and daughter-in-law, Pamela



Dino Mascione with his son, Denis



Francis Barr with his son, Denham

Joint meeting for UK visitors

On Monday 15 October 2018, Liwara teamed up with the City of Perth Circle to hold a joint meeting that included the Grand President of Great Britain, John Hogan and his wife, Pauline and their touring party together with a large number of visitors from other circles in Province 20. The function was held at the Royal Perth Golf Club in South Perth.



Pictured at the joint meeting, Liwara President Kevin McKersey and his wife, Elizabeth



Left to right: Des Wright, Ron Brukwinski and Allan Rose

Challenging day for golfers

As if golf is not already a difficult enough game to master, even for the best players, the Liwara Circle annual golf day at the Peninsula Public Golf Course in Maylands on Wednesday 28 November 2018 presented a few more challengers for novices and good players alike. It was a typical November Perth day with clear skies and a warm but not unpleasant temperature, but players were greeted with a howling sea breeze blowing directly off the nearby Swan River. Then there was the mammoth coring machines, lumbering up and down the fairways, churning up the grass with billowing dust in their wake.

Teeing off from about 10.45 am onwards, the weary and very thirsty golfers were finally able to relax in the clubrooms over five hours later from about 4.00 pm.

Notwithstanding the conditions some good scores were returned by many of the players and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day.

A good turnout of about 24 golfers competed, made up of Liwara Circle members, visitors from other Province 20 circles and a few guests thanks to the efforts of organisers, Terry Marbeck and John Weselman.



Ready for action, left to right: Bill Boyd (Dianella), Rod Willix (Darling Range), Des Wright (Liwara), Mick Doak (Joondalup) and Gerard Tonks (Darling Range)



Winning smiles: Bruno Gianotti (Dianella) winner of the visiting brothers trophy and Terry Marbeck (Liwara) winner of the Liwara Circle champions' trophy



## Remembering deceased brothers


The Liwara Circle President's Mass for deceased brothers was held on Sunday 18 November 2018 at All Saints Catholic Church in Greenwood and attended by over 25 brothers and wives.

Since its inception in 1982, the circle has seen the passing of Tony Petale, Roy Hopkins, Ron Skinner, Leo Dols, Henry Hall, Henry King, Vincent Hart, Ed Lampe, Kevin De Silva, Ian Stubbs, Paul Woodward, Tom Alford and John O'Rourke. Brothers also remembered the circle's Founder President, Laurie Shervington and deceased wives of brothers, Angela Payne, wife of Phil, Jan Storey, wife of Geoff and Maria Mascione, wife of Dino.

Following Mass circle the Liwara circle gathering enjoyed a casual morning tea at the church, welcoming special visitors Bobby McMullin from Tasmania and Garry and June Tardrew, home again after their extended holiday travelling around Australia.




*Garry Tardrew and Eddie Medina enjoying refreshments after the President's Mass*



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## City of Mandurah

### Christian leadership award

Inaugurated in 2002 under the presidency of the late Ray Polglase, the City of Mandurah sponsors an annual award called the "Christian Leadership Award".

Students of the Mandurah Catholic College who have been active participants in all areas of Catholic faith are eligible for the award of \$500. Winners are exceptional role models in their faith and are publicly involved in College masses, liturgies and other programs.



*City of Mandurah President, Wayne Wright presents the 2018 Christian Leadership Award winner, Miss Maneesha Das of Mandurah Catholic College*

### Assumption Catholic primary school awards

The City of Mandurah Circle has for many years sponsored Christian leadership, music and visual arts awards for students of Assumption Catholic Primary School in Mandurah.

The award is presented each year directly to the school to contribute to the education cost for the students selected by the teaching staff. In 2018 awards were presented to Christopher Galindo, Tasha Nguyen, Aaron Mathew and Stephanie Dixon (Christian leadership), Josie McKay (visual arts) and Gian Zuparov (music). City of Mandurah Brother, Rob Troost who is a former Head Master of the school, made the presentations.



*Rob Troost presents an award to Stephanie Dixon (Christian leadership)*

## City of Perth

### Joint meeting for UK visitors

The City of Perth Circle hosted a joint meeting with Liwara Circle at the Royal Perth Golf Club in South Perth on 15 October 2018 that included the Grand President of Great Britain, John Hogan and his wife, Pauline and their touring party together with a large number of visitors from other circles in Province 20.

The City of Perth organisers were delighted with the response with over 100 people seated for an excellent dinner and an outstanding evening. The United Kingdom visitors were making a six-day stopover in Perth on their way to attend the Australian National Conference in Melbourne over the weekend 19 to 21 October 2018.



*City of Perth President, John Murray with his wife, Marie*



*Phil Zeid and John Clune*



*Bob Stidwell, Terry Dwyer (Liwara) and the Editor of the Catena magazine, James Power*

A very special guest at the joint meeting was Betty Ryan, the widow of City of Perth Brother Tom Ryan who passed away on 21 December 2002. Tom and Betty were married for nearly 38 years raising two sons, Peter and Timothy and a daughter, Kerry.

Since Tom's death Betty has been a regular guest at City of Perth ladies functions and has also been a strong supporter of the Province 20 annual Widows Mass and luncheon organised by Pamela McKechnie, including this year's event held on 24 May 2018.



*Betty Ryan (right) pictured at the Royal Perth Golf Club dinner with Denise Hefron, wife of Provincial President, Kevin*

## Swan Valley

### Picnic and Bocce at Lake Leschenaultia

On a beautiful, mild spring day on Sunday 27 October 2018 a group of Swan Valley Catenian brothers and families joined hundreds of like-minded people to enjoy a pleasant time at Lake Leschenaultia located a few kilometres from the small town of Chidlow, less than half an hour's drive east of Perth.

The lake, which was overflowing after the abundant winter rains, is a popular place for swimming, kayaking, mountain bike riding, barbecues, picnics and camping. The dam was constructed in 1897 to collect water for steam engines using the old Midland to Chidlow's Well rail line, but it's only purpose now is recreational. The dam's capacity is 520 million litres and it reaches a depth of nine metres.

Swan Valley Circle hired the large shelter adjacent to a sandy beach for it's barbecue, with splendid views across the lake. It was an ideal venue and time to relax and share food in the picturesque setting.



*Garry and Patricia Wetton*



## Swan Valley (continued)

Then it was time to play *Bocce* on the lawn adjacent to the shelter. After friendly, but intense competition the prize for the best player was awarded to Lynne, wife of Aidan Walsh.



**Brian Murphy shows how the game of Bocce should be played with Angelo Fanetti and Aidan Walsh looking on**

## Sons and daughters support their fathers

A highlight of the Swan Valley Circle year is the annual sons and daughters' night, this year held on 7 November 2018 with 15 attending to support their fathers.



**The happy Swan Valley sons and daughters**

In addition to the visiting sons and daughters the circle was privileged to welcome David Adams who, while a student at Trinity College, was awarded the Catenian Association Scholarship Awards for Excellence for Secondary School Solo or Duet Woodwind or Brass instruments in the Annual Performing Arts Festival for Catholic Schools. David entertained the function with items performed on keyboard and saxophone.

The guest speaker was author Linda Bettenay who enthralled her audience on her chosen topic, *History of the Hills*. Linda told a series of amusing yarns, all aimed at encouraging the audience to record their own Australian stories as she weaved fact and fiction together in an amusing and entertaining way. The author's pioneering family has lived in the hills since the 1890s and her books tell stories of these early days of Western Australia.

The audience was entranced by the unbelievable true story behind Linda's first book, *Secrets Mothers Keep*. In the book Linda revealed how her husband discovered that his grandfather had been murdered and grandmother, mother and two aunts had been savagely assaulted, so unearthing a carefully kept secret that had existed in the family for over 85 years.

*Wishes for Starlight*, Linda's second novel, is a story of a deaf-mute Aboriginal boy who grew up in a time when our indigenous

fellow-Australians were treated as though they were second-class citizens. *Starlight's* story is full of intrigue, injustice, unlikely friendships and a degree of hope.

Linda also introduced her latest book, *The Apple Core Wars*, a tale based on the astounding war experience of Charlie Parkin, one of seven brothers to serve during the Second World War, and his boyhood enemy Jacky Bellamy from nearby Karragullen. Their childhood dislike for each other, morphed into Mateship as they became prisoners of war and faced unspeakable ordeals. By war's end, Jacky and Charlie had found that they had more in common than divided them.

If you would like to know more about Linda's books or need a guest speaker for your next Catenian dinner go to [www.lindasbooks.com.au](http://www.lindasbooks.com.au)



**David Adams and author, Linda Bettenay**

It is Swan Valley tradition that sons and daughters have the opportunity to provide news about themselves and their families. The daughter of Alex Coe, in an emotional speech, spoke of her pride and love of her father and Catherine Humphries; daughter of Jim and Elizabeth Schelfhout introduced her husband, Glen and joyfully told of their healthy early pregnancy.



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