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NAME 

## Province 20's job support project

### Caring for Catenians and their families

**Recognising the current and longer-term affects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had and is likely to have on its members and their families, in July 2020 the Province 20 Provincial Council launched its Job Support Project to provide support and assistance to those affected.**

Apart from health issues, it has been recognised that the other most serious outcome from the crisis will be the lasting affect on the economy and employment. Many people have already lost their jobs and even when the crisis is over there is no certainty about employment prospects.

As a result Province 20 has initiated a "Job Support Project" modelled on an identical service provided by the Catenian Association in the United Kingdom for over 30 years and promoted with free advertisements in the monthly *Catena* magazine.



In announcing the initiative, Provincial President Lou Daily said: "The UK program has been and continues to be very successful and it is intended in Province 20 to provide a very similar service in Western Australia to help Catenian brothers and their immediate families in their employment endeavours in these difficult economic times."

"This service is not intended to replace traditional ways of seeking employment and career opportunities," Lou said, "but it will open the door to a wider audience within the Catenian Association to obtain employment and a business oriented networking site to seek career advice, help with resume writing and presentation and networking.

The Catenian Australia *LinkedIn* unlisted group will enable brother members to network discretely about job opportunities or to facilitate connections for brothers outside the group. It's important to note that unlisted groups such as the Catenian *LinkedIn* and the identical UK version cannot be searched for, nor do they appear on personal profiles. It is totally discrete.

Province 20 has established a steering committee to guide the process and a separate panel of subject matter experts who have a diverse range of business experiences and skills, many at executive levels.

Brothers seeking employment will also be able to place a free classified advertisement in the *Western Link* and in the *E-bulletin*, which will be distributed to all members through their circles on a frequent basis. Edition No 1 was released to members in July 2020 followed by Edition No 2 in August.

Members who are also employers will be able to place free job advertisements in these two publications. Both types of advertisements will be given a numerical code to protect the privacy of each type of advertiser.



The email address if you wish to register as a job seeker is [p20jobssupport@thecatenians.org.au](mailto:p20jobssupport@thecatenians.org.au). When you register the program will then be sent together with your resume to the Administrator who will process your application.

### Province 20 Steering Committee

Lou Daily (Chairman)	0419 953 507
Chris Downey	0419 040 947
Peter Johnston	0417 180 843
Harry Muller	0408 193 664

*Catenians linking together (see page 3)*

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## Your help is needed – every donation is precious

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For further information search: [www.catenian.org](http://www.catenian.org) or contact either:

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**P20 Job Support Project**  
A CATENIAN ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA SERVICE

## Catenians linking together

### Attention all Province 20 brothers

As part of Province 20's newly inaugurated *Job Support Project* which assists Catenian brothers and their immediate families in finding employment in these very challenging times a successful working practice used by United Kingdom brothers has been adopted, uniting together on **LinkedIn**, the professional and specialised occupations employment networking online site.

**LinkedIn** works by connecting people with similar interests, occupations or fields of activity and forms an online support network. Not all are seeking employment. Connections share news of interesting developments and major items of mutual interest. Like many online platforms it is a free service. Additionally, major companies and all recruitment agencies use its "premium" service to search for potential employees who they, or their clients could utilise in a new position. So, "head hunting": painlessly and discretely!

Chris Downey is the Provincial Vice President and a member of the Province 20 Steering Committee responsible for developing the new Job Support Project. He writes: "We have now created a **Catenians Australia** unlisted group on **LinkedIn**, which will enable brother members of network discretely about job opportunities."

"It also facilitates connections for brothers outside the group," he said, "perhaps resulting in employment for those who have advertised in our recently introduced E-bulletins."

"It's important to note that unlisted groups such as ours (and the identical UK version) cannot be searched for, nor do they appear on your profile. It's totally discrete."

"In the mid-term future the **Catenians Australia** group will canvass for members in Province 21 (New South Wales) and Area Victoria. For now, we need to establish a strong network in Western Australia."

"If any Catenian brother is an existing **LinkedIn** member, I'm asking for your support."

"Please invite me to "connect" with you, or contact me for information and once that's established I will invite you to join with me on **Catenians Australia**. Together we will form a strong Catenian chain, which will assist our families and promote our fraternal association."

"It forms a significant face for the future of the Catenian Association."

Fraternal regards,

**Chris Downey**  
Provincial Vice President  
Province 20

## Encouraging progress with recruitment and expansion

In the June 2020 edition of the *Western Link* it was reported that Province 20 had established a working group charged with the task of recruitment and expansion.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected and slowed the practical activities of this working group now chaired by Provincial Vice President Chris Downey (Darling Range Circle).



**Chris Downey**

"Most Catenian and parish meetings together with social gatherings could not be held during the period of State-wide self-isolation and restrictions," Chris reports, "however some encouraging progress has been made in recent times."

"Thanks to some alert feedback from City of Mandurah brothers, Peter Bygrave and Colin Purcell the strong interest in the Catenian Association expressed by the parish priest at Kwinana was followed up. Brother John Sutton (Canning and Fremantle Circles) is a personal friend of Father Daniel Boyd who, together with another two parish priests, were invited to Canning Circle's June meeting chosen because Fremantle, the closest circle to Kwinana, was at that time still unable to meet."

"The three priests brought along some interested parishioners," Chris said, "three from the Kwinana Parish and two from the Baldivis Parish and the Canning Circle meeting with its usual conviviality was quite successful in furthering their interest."

"Recruitment remains the local task of all circle membership officers and our working group is available and keen to assist them at Mass presentations and parish meetings. We only need an invitation," Chris said.

"Expansion projects are in the pipeline for the southeastern and northeastern corridors of the metropolitan area together with expansion in the near-city suburbs."

"As with all projects, 'many hands make light work', and I ask brothers, particularly those in the areas mentioned, to give earnest consideration to coming on-board our working group to assist in the development of our Association."

**Chris Downey**  
Provincial Vice President  
Chair Recruitment and Expansion working group  
Province 20





## New headquarters

After being closed for over five months because of the COVID-19 pandemic and taking into account the age of its volunteer workers and their safety, the Wheelchairs of Kids factory at Wangara is now back in production in new premises.

With the help of a long time Melbourne donor, financing Wheelchairs for Kids on extremely good terms, the factory has been relocated from its old workshop of four separate units to a much larger factory in the same vicinity.

The volunteer Workshop Manager, Brother Olly Pickett is delighted with the move. Whilst strictly adhering to the virus "social distancing" rules during the shutdown isolation period, Olly and a few volunteers have worked hard on the fit out and transfer of plant, fittings and stock to the new premises.



*Internal view of the spacious new factory*

An initiative of the Rotary Club of Scarborough, Wheelchairs for Kids started building wheelchairs in 1998 for needy children in developing countries. With the support of the Christian Brothers including Workshop Manager Olly Pickett, the project now has a pool of over 300 local retiree volunteers, producing and distributing up to 350 wheelchairs per month. In addition 80 ladies working from home sew colourful covers (eight per wheelchair) and hundreds of people all over Australia produce and donate

blankets and soft toys to go with the wheelchairs. Incredibly, approximately 800 volunteers commit their time and energy to the project.

"With our country's freedom and wealth, we can't imagine the tragedy of being poor and born in an under-resourced country with a disability caused by birth or land mines," Olly said.

"Disabled children are battling with no medical facilities and no government care. Children who can only sit in the dirt all day, every day."

"For most life lacks hope. No schooling, no education and no chance of ever gaining a job."

"Imagine the difference it will make to this child and to this child's family, just providing a suitable wheelchair," Olly said.

### **Over 46,000 wheelchairs to date**

In the last 22 years the organisation has produced and distributed over 46,000 wheelchairs with 3,000 distributed last year.

Each wheelchair is built for only about \$200, providing needy children in under-resourced counties with a therapeutic wheelchair, including postural supports, harnesses, headrest, tray, knee separator, waterproof cushion, knee rug, soft toy and a tool kit.

This low cost is made possible because production is entirely by volunteers, rent and expenses are donated, suppliers provide materials at discounts (some free), transport to the Eastern States is donated by Toll and ongoing distribution and freight costs are provided by established aid agencies and Rotary Clubs.

### **Spreading the word**

The factory shutdown due to the COVID-19 virus has resulted in a backlog of demand for wheelchairs, which will keep volunteers very busy in the months and years ahead.

However, due to the virus donations have plummeted and as the organisation gets back into production in its new premises more financial support is desperately needed.

Contacts are: Gordon Hudson (volunteer CEO) and Olly Pickett (volunteer Workshop Manager) and for more information visit [www.wheelchairsforkids.org](http://www.wheelchairsforkids.org)

Many Catenian circles in Province 20 have supported, and continue to provide valuable support to this worthwhile project as volunteers, through their Presidents Charity, private donations and just "spreading the word."

# St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop

## Patron Saint of the Catenian Association in Australia

**With the blessing of the Sisters of Saint Joseph their foundress and Australia's first Saint, St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop has become a Patron Saint of the Catenian Association in Australia.**

Prior to the restrictions imposed on every-day activities by the COVID-19 pandemic it was intended to formally consummate this important Catenian milestone during the Association's Sydney Conference Mass in August 2020. With that not possible, the formal ceremony occurred at a Mass in the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney to celebrate her Feast Day on 8 August 2020, the Solemnity of the Saint.

Speaking after the Mass, the Catenian Association's Australian National President George Kazs said that since the beatification of Mary MacKillop in 1995, Australian Catenians have adopted the practice of seeking her intercession at the commencement of meetings and when new members join the Association.

Sister Monica Cavanagh, the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, said that the Sisters are delighted to share the occasion with the Catenians. She said that from the earliest days of the Institute Mary MacKillop recognised the importance of establishing partnerships with people who supported her work and mission.

"Mary MacKillop's way of living the gospel in our Australian context aligns closely with the values at the heart of what it means to be a Catenian," she said. "Her practical down to earth spirituality has much to offer the work of the Catenians in Australia today."



**Presentation of the image of St. Mary MacKillop – the Mass celebrant, Father David Ranson (Parish Priest Holy Name Wairoa) and Vicar General Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay), Catenian Association Australian National President, George Kazs and Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, Sister Monica Cavanagh**

## The story of Mary MacKillop

Mary MacKillop was born in Fitzroy, Melbourne on 15 January 1842 to Scottish immigrant parents Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald. She was the eldest of eight children and well educated by her father who had spent some years studying for the priesthood in Rome and Scotland but on his own choosing decided not to continue to ordination. Alexander was not able to hold down a permanent job so the family was often without a home of their own; depending on relatives and friends to assist where they could.

From the age of 16 Mary assumed financial responsibility for her family working as a governess, a clerk for Sands and Kenny and as a teacher in Portland. In 1866, greatly inspired by Father Julian Woods, Mary opened the first St. Joseph's school in a disused stable in Penola.

In 1867 Mary took her first vows in Adelaide. Bishop Sheil approved the Rule for the new Congregation of Sisters, the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Other young women soon came to join her and together they opened schools for the working-class children in the poorer parts of our cities and in the isolated towns and communities across the newly emerging colonies of Australia.

With the help of the Sisters other centres of care were established such as orphanages, refuges and houses of Providence for the destitute, lonely and sick. Mary MacKillop brought hope and love to those considered least in the Australian colonies of this period.

Throughout her life Mary faced many painful experiences including excommunication in September 1871. In 1883 Bishop Reynolds of Adelaide investigated the affairs of the Institute. False accusations were made and yet Mary believed that in the end all would be well.

Some of the Bishops of her time felt that the Congregation should be under the control of each local Bishop. However, in order to sustain a sense of unity and common purpose in mission, Mary envisioned a Congregation over which the leader would have responsibility for the day-to-day affairs of the Congregation and the appointment of Sisters to their local communities. In fact Rome had given approval to such a style of leadership for the Congregation.

This caused conflict with some of the Bishops. In Brisbane it meant the withdrawal of the Sisters from the Diocese and in Bathurst it led to the establishment of a Diocesan form of the Sisters of St Joseph. In these difficult times Mary refused to attack those who undermined her work; she was ever ready to forgive those who had wronged her.

Throughout her life Mary suffered from poor health. She died on 8 August 1909 at Mount Street, North Sydney where she is now buried.

**On 19 January 1995 she was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Sydney and on 17 October 2010 was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome.**

Saint Mary MacKillop's holiness is marked by her deep love, her courage in the face of adversity, her willingness to forgive those who harmed her, her compassionate response to those who were in trouble and her constant trust in the God who walked the journey with her.

One of her outstanding qualities was her strong leadership both within the Church and beyond. The Cross was her constant companion; finding here the strength and courage to respond with hope and compassion to the many demands that being the Founder of a new Religious Institute demanded. Her life continues to inspire people around the world in living faithfully the Gospel call to love.

*Written by Sister Monica Cavanagh, Sisters of St Joseph*



# Province 20 Director appointed chairman of Central Council

**Liwara Circle Brother and Province 20 Director, Ralph Fitzpatrick was appointed Chairman of the Central Council of the Catenian Association on 19 June 2020, the first Catenian to hold this position from a Western Australian circle.**

Ralph joined the Association in November 1995 when he was in his mid 40s, married with two teenage sons and working full



time. During the ensuing 25 years he has held a variety of positions in Liwara Circle, Province 20 and the Catenian Association. His current roles include Director of Province 20, Vice President of the Australian National Council, Director of The Catenian Association Limited, Director of Catena Publications

Limited, Director of the Catenian Association Australia Limited and now Chairman of Central Council. These positions keep Ralph extremely busy and allow him to utilize his experience gained from his working life.

Ralph was born on 20 December 1949 in Perth, Western Australia and has lived in WA all his life. His parents Ron and Albertine (Tine) Fitzpatrick met in Penang, Malaysia. Ron was a prisoner of war in Singapore for five years during the Second World War and Tine spent the war years in Penang. In 1947, a couple of months after they married, they migrated to WA. Ralph is their second child and has two brothers and one sister. Their home was always filled with people, as their family was the “go to” place for visiting families from Malaysia.

Ralph attended Holy Family School in Como and then Christian Brothers College Perth, which later became Trinity College. In 1966 he was Dux of the college. He then studied at the University of Western Australia and gained a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in mathematics and applied mathematics followed by a postgraduate Diploma in Computation. At this time computing was in its infancy.

After leaving university Ralph commenced work in 1971 with the WA State Public Service Board in the Organisation and Methods (O&M) section and studied part-time to complete a Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in accounting. After seven years in the O&M section he spent 18 months as a Senior Industrial Officer at the Public Service Board performing duties which included advocacy before the State and Federal Industrial Commissions, briefing Counsel to appear in the WA Supreme Court and appearing on behalf of the State Government in the National Wage Case.

In 1981 Ralph was appointed Executive Officer to the WA Government Computer Policy Committee, which liaised with the Computing Division of Treasurer and the Public Service Board on all State Government computing and information technology matters. This was early days for computers in business. Following the establishment in 1984 of the Department of Computing and Information Technology (DOCIT), Ralph held several positions within the department. In 1986 he was seconded for 18 months to the Functional Review Committee as Review Coordinator.

He returned to DOCIT as Senior Consultant and then as Manager, Consultancy and Review Branch. During this time Ralph was a regular IT advisor to the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet and was a member of the Tender Board. When DOCIT was disbanded in 1991, Ralph was transferred to the Department of State Services where he continued as Manager of the Consultancy and Review Branch and Assistant Director of State Information Technology.

In 1991 Ralph took a voluntary redundancy offer and enjoyed two years at home while also working part-time with his wife Liana in their Amway business. In 1992 he travelled to Indonesia for the launch of this business.

Realising he was too young to retire, Ralph started work in 1993 for Acctser (now called Classic Information Systems). Three years later Ralph and a colleague bought the business. He was now part owner and Managing Director and the business went from strength to strength. Ralph and his partner built the company from a small accounting software business to a successful international software development company specialising in accounting software for mining, exploration and oil companies. Ralph’s work involved a large amount of travel to mining sites within Australia and overseas to Africa and the Philippines. Even while working, Ralph was actively involved in All Saints Catholic Church in Greenwood for more than ten years serving as a committee member, Chairman of the Parish Council and Chairman of the Finance Committee.

After 21 years in the Public Service and 21 years working in software design and development he retired in 2014.

In 1970 while at university he met Liana who had just started a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in mathematics. They married in the Trinity College Chapel in May 1972 and lived in South Perth for a year before buying a new house in Duncraig where they have lived for 47 years, although many renovations have occurred during this time. They have two sons, Tony born in 1977 and Alan born in 1980. During their earlier years Ralph travelled a lot for work. In one year he had 25 business trips and Tony could tell where his dad was going by the time of day that he left home to catch a plane (e.g. 5 am was Kalgoorlie, 11 pm was Melbourne, etc.).

His mother and father nurtured Ralph’s love of hockey, which he played at school and later for the Trinity Hockey Club. Ralph was President and Treasurer of the hockey club where he and Liana received the joint Best Clubman award. Both Tony and Alan attended Trinity College and Ralph passed on his love of hockey to them. Injuries and work travel put an end to his playing days in 2004 and now he enjoys watching his sons and grandsons play.

The family grew in 2003 when Alan married Jill and then in 2004 when Tony married Maria. Ralph and Liana are blessed to have wonderful sons and daughters-in-law with whom they have great relationships.

Tony and Maria live in Perth and have three sons and Ralph is a doting granddad to Xavier, Evan and Ryan. They enjoy fishing, playing cards and just spending time together.

Alan and Jill lived in London for 13 years and have now been in California in the United States of America for two years. They have been a driving reason for Ralph and Liana travelling overseas so much. Ralph particularly likes watching Alan play hockey plus going away for short trips together. In recent years Ralph has taken up golf and plays (not very well) twice a week if possible. In 2019 Ralph and Liana attended the Great Britain National Catenian golf week in Oxford, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Ralph played a couple of games and thankfully didn’t disgrace himself, but didn’t take home any trophies.

Liana is involved in family history and has been an active member of the Western Australian Genealogical Society for 15 years and six years as President. Her contribution to the Society was recognised in 2019 when she was awarded life membership.

Ralph and Liana are a good partnership and support each other in their endeavours. Even though they have busy schedules they visit all Province 20 circles at least once each year and attend Catenian events whenever possible.



In 2006 when Mike O’Malley led the Grand President’s tour of Western Australia Ralph and Liana were introduced to the wider Catenian world and it marked the beginning of their involvement in Catenian events

nationally and internationally.

They have been actively involved in five Grand Presidents tours to Australia: in 2008 (Province 20 and 21), 2009 (Province 20), 2012 (Province 20), 2014 (Province 21) and 2015 (Province 20) plus one tour of the President of the Great Britain National Council in 2018 (Province 20 and 21).

They have attended all six Australian Conferences and nine international Catenian Conferences; the first for the 100-year celebrations in Manchester in 2008 and every year since 2012. They were booked to attend the conference in Aberdeen in May 2020, which was cancelled due to COVID-19. They espouse the benefits of attending local, provincial and international events and visiting Catenians when travelling. The Catenian friendships they have made are very strong and extend all around Australia, Great Britain, India and Malta. Their friendships and face-to-face meetings make it easier when Ralph attends meetings to discuss Catenian issues via phone, email, *Skype* or *Zoom*.

Ralph has recently been re-elected Director of Province 20 for a further term of three years so is likely to be involved for at least five years to come on the Australian National Council and Central Council.

Liana and Ralph wholeheartedly recommend membership of the Association to anyone considering joining. Ralph is always mindful of the advice he was given by a friend of his father when he asked if he had heard of the Catenians. He said: “Ralph, just join. It will be the best decision you ever make,” and it was (apart from marrying Liana, of course!)

- Joined Liwara Circle 1995
- Liwara Circle Registrar 2003
- Liwara Circle Council 2003-2012
- Liwara Circle Vice President 2005/06
- Liwara Circle President 2006/07
- Liwara Circle Provincial Councillor 2009/10
- Provincial Vice President 2011/12
- Provincial President 2012/13
- Province 20 Membership and Expansion Officer 2013-2015
- Australian Committee (Auscom) 2012-2016
- Information Technology sub-committee of Auscom (AusIT) 2012-2015
- Province 20 Director 2016 – current
- Grand Council for six months prior to restructure 2016
- Australian National Council since inception 2016-current
- Australian National Council President 2017-2019
- Catenian Central Council June 2017-current

# Feeding faith-based friendship in these challenging times

To my mind good friendships, whilst always enduring of the gaps caused by time and distance, still need ‘feeding’ from time to time through some form of interaction whether human or divine, writes **JOHN SECKER** the Secretary of Australian National Council.

Today’s technology generally (but not always), is a much better conduit for communication than what most of us grew up with, which is most fortunate in this COVID-19 world in which we live. It certainly is changing the way we exercise our faith and stay in touch with friends; in some ways good and in some ways less so.

From a faith-based perspective amongst the good I’ve heard are some parishes that are getting many more people watching on-line Masses than previously sat in the pews over the weekend. The less good being the expert assessments I see in some journals about the permanent loss of Mass attendees and opportunities to attend Mass that will likely eventuate when once again our churches are able to fully reopen.

From a friendship perspective and drawing from my experiences with my own Catenian Circle and my friendships more broadly, our use of the modern electronic communication methods has mixed blessings.

Amongst the good must be the plethora of social media and video conferencing tools allowing us to share our everyday lives with those near and dear to us; so long as they have a good connection to the internet, able to use it and we remember to invite them to join in.

For some of those who can meet those criteria, COVID-19 brings blessings indeed. I think particularly of some of my friends who are once again participating in gatherings that their physical frailty had led them to withdraw from. However, for those deficient in anyone of those ways, COVID-19 is increasing their isolation significantly and we need to ensure that we do stay in touch with these friends, whether Catenians or not.

The one form of communication that is still widely accessible is the written word. So, as we embrace the ever growing pool of electronic communication tools, do not let us forget to continue to ‘put pen to paper’ in the form of letters and newsletters.

By doing so, those of our friends not connected to our new and emerging electronic friendships will still be able to share what is happening in our COVID-19 lives.

*Fraternally,*  
**John Secker**  
Secretary  
Australian National Council



# Uni students, dealing with COVID-19

## Cultural awakening in Sweden

“It’s been a bit of a crazy time for everyone this year”, writes **KARRI THOMAS** who was awarded the Catenian Charity’s second scholarship of \$5,000 in March 2019 to study at the University of Adelaide for her Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in molecular biotechnology.

This year Karri was granted the opportunity to study overseas as part of her degree on exchange at Uppsala University in Sweden, a university well renowned for research and teaching in biological sciences.

I started out intending to complete a semester abroad at Uppsala University, Karri said, which given the global COVID-19 pandemic may not have been the best timing. In the first two and a bit months I did get to experience living there, however and had many amazing experiences. During my studies, I met people from all over the world and adjusted to a whole new way of living, which really opened my eyes to a lot of new perspectives. I engaged as much as I could in local culture and traditions and, while some of it seemed very strange, it really was quite special to experience.

My studies also gave me a fresh perspective on learning and academia as they run classes and other aspects of learning very differently to how it’s done in Australia.



While in Sweden I was also lucky enough to do a bit of travelling and exploring my local surroundings, doing everything from visiting Viking museums, to hiking through forests. I also travelled north and went dog sledding as well as staying a night in an igloo that I built myself.

After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, things became stressful, very quickly, but after many different cancelled flights and two full days of travelling I was lucky enough to find a way home. Both the University of Adelaide and Uppsala University were very supportive and I was able to receive some credit for the studies I had completed in Sweden, while enrolling in another subject back in Adelaide, which I was able to catch up on.

This meant the semester could be completed as normal (almost), which resulted in the completion of my Bachelors degree. Despite all the difficulties I was able to achieve a distinction in my subject at Adelaide while my subject in Sweden was counted as exchange credit and hence was recorded as a non-graded pass.

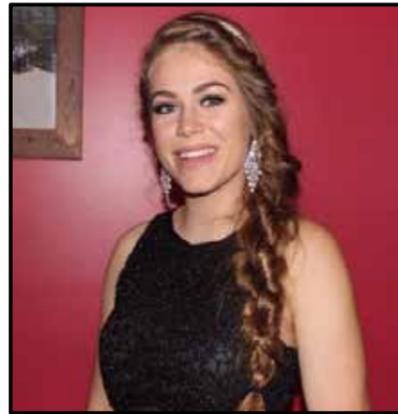
My isolation period back in Australia also gave me time to think about my future career direction and with that I have decided to further my studies by adding an Honours year, which I am now undertaking at Flinders University. My project involves improving the production of biodegradable plastics from wastewater and in the future I hope to keep contributing to the field of environmental biotechnology and improving the sustainability of ecosystems.

Thanks to the Catenian Association and the Catenian Charity Inc. for your wonderful support, Karri said.

## Rocky times at uni and St. Thomas More College

“The first half of 2020 has been a rocky one with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting all aspects of my life,” writes **JESSICA FENTON** who was awarded the third Catenian Charity Scholarship of \$5,000 per annum (continuous) in September 2019 to study medicine at the University of Western Australia.

Jessica is currently reading for a postgraduate degree of Doctor of Medicine and resides at St. Thomas More College at Crawley, which is attached to the university.



Jessica Fenton

Despite the changes implemented as a result of the pandemic, my studies have continued uninterrupted using an online format, Jessica said. So far I have completed a rotation in surgery, psychiatry, geriatrics and rheumatology and internal medicine. My grades have been good with an average of 89.3 per cent across all assessments so far. Our preclinical examinations were unfortunately cancelled so I haven’t yet received any practical marks.

Outside of study, I’ve worked tirelessly at the St. Thomas More residential college to keep the community spirit alive despite the restrictions enforced by the virus. My main goal has been to encourage everyone I can to aim for some form of leadership in his or her future.

Outside of college I have been keeping up with friends and family and attending Mass regularly. Father Peter has been an absolute blessing through these troubling times.

Also, after a rigorous selection process I have been offered a position at rural clinical school in Northam for 2021 with a focus on service learning. This is excellent news for my long-term learning as I have a strong interest in rural health and helping disadvantaged groups.

Finally, some extra exciting news: my sister is now officially 20 weeks pregnant so we are very keenly underway planning the arrival of my first nephew; a wonderful period in the mix during these otherwise worrying times.

I’m sending my prayers to everyone in the Catenian Association right now as I finish writing this report. Please stay safe and may God bless.

Jessica Fenton

## Uni students, dealing with COVID-19 (Cont.)

## Challenging, but rewarding times

“Having just finished by first semester 2020 exams I feel incredibly relieved,” writes **EMMA JACKSON** who in 2019 was awarded the Catenian Association Youth Support Fund scholarship of \$4,000 per annum (continuous) to read medicine at the University of Notre Dame Australia (Fremantle campus). “This has been a challenging yet rewarding semester for many reasons.”



Firstly, the step-up in workload from first to second year medicine has been immense. It took me a few weeks to adjust to these new expectations and to determine how I could best manage my time. Thankfully, by about week six I finally felt that I had established a routine, which allowed me to

honour all my commitments whilst allowing some time for relaxation. And then the COVID-19 pandemic hit Australia.

By mid-March it became apparent that the university would be shutting down and moving online, so I seized the opportunity to spend time with my family in Sydney where I could live and continue my studies electronically.

Online classes have been an interesting experience. On one hand I have found a lot more time to spare, as there is no need to travel back and forth from uni. That has been very welcome. On the other hand, I have missed the face-to-face interaction that is really important in a course like medicine. It helps you feel like you are not alone in facing the sometimes-overwhelming workload and expectations. I miss my friends in Perth and look forward to seeing them again when I return in the second half of 2020.

This has been an unprecedented year for the whole world, full of uncertainty and anxiety. It is at times like this that I am especially grateful to my generous scholarship donors. Knowing that I have guaranteed financial support is not something I take lightly in this current climate. I feel so incredibly lucky to be free to focus solely on my studies and wellbeing without needing to worry about money. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to members of the Catenian Association and the Youth Support Fund and everyone who has contributed towards my scholarship fund this year.

As a future doctor, it has been eye-opening, humbling and inspiring to witness how our brave health professionals on the frontline are dedicating themselves and risking their own health to help those in need.

Their selfless example will certainly be at the forefront of my mind as I embark upon my future career.

Emma Jackson

## Rollercoaster ride through COVID-19 and family issues

“As a grateful recipient of Catenian Association financial assistance, I am pleased to provide this update on how my studies are progressing,” writes **DEBORAH BAIKIE** who in 2019 was awarded a Youth Support Fund scholarship of \$2,000 per annum (continuous) to further her studies as an enrolled nursing student at the University of Notre Dame (Broome campus).

The first semester 2020 has been a rollercoaster ride. I was excited to begin my studies at the beginning of the year in the knowledge that by year-end I would be a graduate enrolled nurse, however the COVID-19 pandemic suddenly intervened and with face-to-face learning halted, I faced an unknown waiting period to return to the classroom and complete my final placements. Thankfully, most of our course was already delivered online.



I continued to work at home in Northampton (about 50 kilometres north of Geraldton) with online education and focused on completing my assignments whilst waiting to hear when and if we could return to full time work and study.

Then, sadly, in April 2020 my father passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at home causing me to push my studies aside so that I could be with family and have personal time to grieve. During this time, the University of Notre Dame provided wonderful support, easing my concern about falling behind and encouraging me to focus on family and myself. After two months I began to slowly return to work and study and have discovered that the workload has increased markedly in the final semester.

At the time of writing I am currently in the process of completing assignments and waiting for my final placement, which will comprise a total of five weeks; two weeks medical, two weeks mental health and one week renal nursing.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, I am unlikely to be able to return to Broome and instead will complete the remainder of my study at the University of Notre Dame at the Fremantle campus or at Geraldton. Whilst I’m sad not to be returning to class with the rest of my cohorts at the University of Notre Dame Broome campus, I am grateful that I will be able to stay closer to family in these difficult times.

Once again I would like to thank members of the Catenian Association and the Province 20 Youth Support Fund for their generous assistance in supporting me in my journey to become a Graduate Nurse.

Deborah Baikie



# Artist in residence

## Artistic history of a talented Catenian

Most Province 20 brothers will know or have heard of **GEORGE BAZZICA** who was a Founder member of the City of Busselton Circle and President for many years while the circle struggled for survival. Although the Busselton Circle is now "in recess" having handed back its Charter in April 2019 and no longer meets, George and others from the circle have retained their membership of the Catenian Association by joining the Australian National Council Central Circle. The Australian Central Circle doesn't meet but in all other respects is an important part of the Association, conveying the same Catenian privileges to its members.

Perhaps a lesser-known aspect of the life of George Bazzica is his passion and love of art, a pastime that has played and continues to play an enormous part of his life. This is his artistic history.



"Red Gums" by George Bazzica

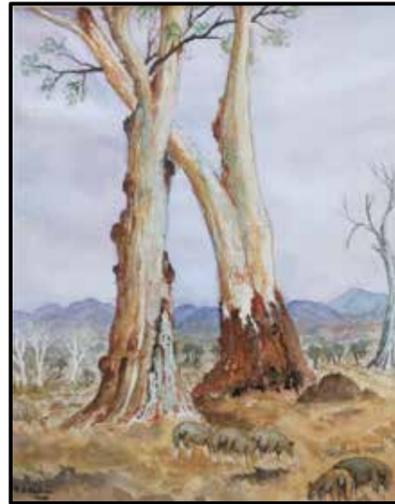
Born in Kalgoorlie in January 1943 George was educated and spent most of his working life in South Australia, where he met and married Elizabeth. They have two children and live in Busselton in their retirement.

George began work as a Laboratory Assistant at the Port Pirie Uranium Plant in South Australia and was later the Assistant Manager of the Pirie Tile Co in Port Pirie and Whyalla.

Moving to Western Australia George was the owner Manager of Universal Terrazzo Tiles in Fremantle and then worked for 25 years with Alcoa Australia Pty Ltd as Laboratory Senior Analyst Team Leader before retiring due to ill health in 1996.

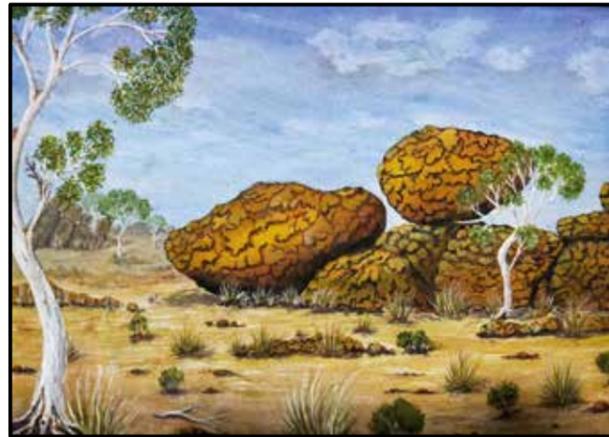
George studied watercolour painting under Tony Smibert in Tasmania, Jill Aston (BA) in South Australia and Arthur Raston in Western Australia.

He also studied techniques and ethnics under Gillian Peebles (London School of Arts) and pastels under Lynn Holden in Western Australia.



"Two gum trees" by George Bazzica

In 2004 George won the Faith Hemsley Award at the Busselton Art in the Park exhibition and in 2007 the Great Southern Art Award at Katanning judged by R. Vallis, Director Edith Cowan University Collection and J. Davies, Director Bunbury Regional Art Galleries.



"Devil Rocks" by George Bazzica



"Three gum trees" by George Bazzica

George was an active committee member of the Rockingham Visual Art Society 1996-2003, a Foundation Member of the Rockingham Water Colour Society 1998-2003 and a member of the Rockingham Council for the Arts and Crafts from 2007 and President 1999-2001. He has also been a member of the Busselton Art Society from 2003 and has served on numerous committees.

# Life story of a dedicated brother

## 25 years service as a Catenian Secretary

**BARRY WEBB** has been a Catenian brother for over 30 years. He joined Liwara Circle in November 1989 and after serving twelve months as Membership Officer spent the ensuing 12 years as Secretary. Barry was a founder member of Joondalup Circle when it was inaugurated in February 2005 where he is now in his 13<sup>th</sup> year as Secretary.

In 2018/19 Barry was both President and Secretary of Joondalup Circle and was also its Welfare Officer for three years.

He was a founder member of the Province 20 Youth Support Fund when it was formed in 2007 and has been the Secretary for 13 years.

"One of the highlights of my career as Liwara Secretary," Barry writes, "was when I was presented with a head lamp when he began to experience difficulty reading notices and minutes at meetings because I thought the lights at the venue were fading. I discovered later that I had cataracts that needed to be removed and after the operation I can now see clearly."

"Another highlight occurred after I was presented with the 'dreaded wooden spoon' for the fourth time compelling the Liwara Council to make a decision that it would no longer be awarded to hard-working secretaries. Hence my motto 'he who's made no mistake has done nothing.'"

Barry was born in Durban, South Africa the middle one of three siblings, an older sister now deceased and a younger brother. Their father was a career soldier in the army pay corps and their mother was a shop assistant at the local military general store. The family lived in a long bungalow in the army married quarters.

Barry spent most of his primary school days at the local government school in a place called Voortrekkerhogte near Pretoria. Then followed two years at Christian Boys College at Pretoria and his final school years at the local technical college where he matriculated after completing mechanical engineering studies. He then served five years in the South African army completing an apprenticeship as a fitter and turner, rising to the rank of corporal.

In 1968 Barry left the army to investigate the wide world. He spent a year touring England, Scotland and Europe with a mate in a mini panel van. Seven months of this trip were spent in England working on a hop farm, picking and packing apples and pears in Kent and working in a small engineering works making "secret" components for the admiralty.

"My only claim to international fame occurred in this time of my life," Barry writes. "I appeared in the audience on British television with the Beatles when they made a video for the program *Top of the Pops* and recorded the song *Hey Jude*."

"Interwoven with all these adventures I met, wooed and won my wife Elizabeth who was also doing her 'thing' overseas."

Barry and Elizabeth were married in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare Zimbabwe) and settled in Durban where Barry spent a year as a maintenance fitter in a jute mill before turning his hand to teaching, firstly to apprentices for ten years and then lecturing to mechanical engineering technicians for a further seven years. He lectured in subjects most people would never have heard of such as mechanics of machines, applied thermodynamics and mechanotechnics.



Barry and Elizabeth Webb

In 1986 Barry and Elizabeth migrated to Australia to provide a more secure future for their three children namely, Duncan a degreed Environmental Health Officer married with their only grandchild Emily who is 15 living in Vancouver, Canada, Geoffrey a graduate Electronic Engineer also living in Vancouver and Mary who is a radiographer living and working in a hospital in Gibraltar.

Barry spent 21 years teaching at Newman College where he taught mathematics, religion, technical drawing and computer aided drawing to students from years eight to 12.

"I have taught the children of a large number of Catenian brothers over the years at Newman College," Barry writes.

"I am now retired from full time teaching but for many years after retirement continued to do relief teaching at various high schools when needed as well as some private tutoring. I also worked for the Ronald MacDonald Foundation as a maths tutor for ten years."

"My interests are sport, reading, quizzing and doing crossword puzzles. I played grade cricket for 25 years, up to but not beyond second grade as a wicketkeeper/batsman but never scored a century. My father was an avid cricket follower, hence my initials are LBW, Lynn Barry Webb."

"I also played soccer for the army side and was Secretary of a cricket club in Durban for nine years. I coached junior soccer and cricket both in South Africa and Perth for a number of years and was a qualified soccer referee."

"Now I'm an armchair critic for almost all sports and enjoying retirement."

"Who says life is uneventful and dull?"

Barry Webb  
Secretary  
Joondalup Circle



## Brian Kerman's story

My parents Harry and Eileen Kerman lived in South Wales, writes **BRIAN KERMAN**. When they married in 1924 they took the decision to move to Australia for a potentially better life because of the depression. My father who was a fitter and turner by trade came out in 1925 to find a job several months ahead of my mother and when she arrived they settled into life in Shenton Park.

My parents had two daughters initially, but unfortunately their first child died at four days and their second daughter died from pneumonia aged four years. I was born in 1931.

My mother was a very active person with a very positive attitude and was always involved with community activities including the Shenton Park Progress Association and the Catholic Women's League. She was elected as a Councillor of the City of Subiaco, only the second woman elected in local Government at that time.

Tragically my mother was diagnosed with terminal bowel cancer and in the final stages was cared for in a small private hospital in North Perth owned by a very close nursing friend, Margaret Rigg. She passed away on 3 August 1950 aged 46. I was 18 years of age and was devastated by her untimely death. Several years later my father married Margaret.

I attended St Aloysius Convent School in Shenton Park for four years and then one year at St Ildephonsus College at New Norcia followed by seven years at St Louis School in Claremont where I completed my Leaving Certificate in 1949,

I commenced an engineering cadetship in 1950 at Forwood Down WA Pty Ltd and studied part time at Perth Technical College for a Diploma in Structural Engineering. I also obtained a Diploma in Building together with a Builders Registration Certificate at Leederville Technical College. Following a period in the Engineering/Drawing Office I was given the role of supervising and managing the Company's structural steel field construction activities involving high-rise steel framed buildings such as Council House, the Reserve Bank, ANZ Bank, a 12-story Language Institute Building in Kuala Lumpur, the Channel 7 TV tower and oil storage tanks.

In 1962 the company formed a joint venture with Pittsburg Des Moines Steel Co (USA) to construct all of the tankage and process structures for Alcoa's new alumina refinery at Kwinana. I was given a senior role as Construction Superintendent for the project.

Apart from work I did have a social life. I was heavily involved in the Shenton Park YCW where together with the NCGM we had a very strong youth group. It was there that I met Beryl Rowbottam (another past St Aloysius student) and we married on 4 February 1954 at St Aloysius Church. Beryl and I have been blessed with a beautiful family of three daughters and four sons.



Our Children have given us great joy by presenting us with 16 wonderful grandchildren who in turn have presented seven beautiful great grandchildren.



*The extended Kerman family*

Back on the working front, after 31 years with the company and as Deputy General Manager, I decided to resign in order to start my own business. This was an enormous risk given our circumstances with seven children and little funds other than my superannuation, however I was encouraged by my business associates to take the plunge so, on 21 July 1981 at the age of 50, I started Kerman Contracting Pty Ltd operating from a single-room office in Applecross. Kerman Contracting grew rapidly and in the 39 years of operation has completed a wide range of projects with a total value in excess of two billion dollars.

The company has specialised in the design, project management and construction of major infrastructure projects in the mining and processing industries as well as major bulk storage facilities for grain, fertilisers, heavy mineral sands and iron ore for projects throughout Australia and overseas.



*Westralian Sands Ltd dry separation plant 1998 (total civil and structural design and construction together with mechanical installation)*



*Co-Operative Bulk Handling Ltd grain cleaning plant 1998 (total design and construction together with installation)*

As the company has grown I was extremely fortunate to have our four sons join progressively becoming a major part of its success. Our second son Christopher has been with the company for 35 years and was well placed to take over as Managing Director when I retired. Our sons Michael and Peter are on the Board of Directors and I chair the Board.

For recreation I am a keen sailor. When I was around 40 I decided to build a small sailing dinghy so that we could get into a sport in which we could enjoy as a family. We joined the Perth Dinghy Club, a highly successful family orientated club, which was founded in 1903.

In 1974 with my son Chris as crew we won our first National Signet Class championship on the Swan River followed in 1976 when with my son Peter we won our second National Championship in Melbourne. The boat was called "Just Jenny". Our youngest daughter, Jenny is still sailing "Just Jenny" with her own son as crew.

In 1990 I changed classes moving into a Javelin Skiff, crewed by our son Michael and later by our godson Michael Wear. The Javelin is very fast, very wet and exciting, but after 27 years and much success and enjoyment I decided to retire from the sport at the age of 86.



*Brian and son race sailing Javelin Class on the Swan River with Perth City in the background*

I have been very privileged to have been a Commodore, Trustee and Life Member of the Perth Dinghy Sailing Club and immensely proud that our youngest son Gary was also elected as a Commodore of the club.

Beryl and I are very proud of our family and have a lot to be grateful for. In recognition of this in 2005 we established the Kerman Charitable Foundation.

**We have been truly blessed.**

*Brian Kerman  
Dianella Circle*

## Experience New Norcia at the Guesthouse



Set around a courtyard garden in the southern cloister of the monastery, the **NEW NORCIA GUESTHOUSE** provides accommodation and meals to those who wish to spend some time leaving behind the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Group bookings are welcome. The guesthouse is the ideal venue for parish retreats and the monks are happy to provide input for spiritual programmes on request. A maximum of 24 people can be accommodated.

The guesthouse comprises eight twin-share rooms with ensuite bathrooms and reverse cycle air-conditioning (adult accommodation only) or one twin share room and six single rooms with a shared bathroom facility and a column oil heater and a pedestal fan (adult accommodation only).

All meals are provided in the guesthouse dining room with an option to join the monks in the Refectory if you wish. The monks eat in silence whilst a reader reads from the text of the day, scripture and the Rule of St Benedict.

Tariffs are a suggested donation. The guesthouse is both a place of service and a source of monastery livelihood and the recommended donation helps cover operating costs and contributes to income.

### Catenian day-trips and retreats

A very strong bond has developed between Catenians and the monks of New Norcia dating back to when the Association was formed in Western Australia in 1977. Both day visitors and groups from circles have regularly chosen to experience the peaceful, tranquil and prayerful ambience of New Norcia to share a day or a weekend together.

In planning your next Catenian circle event, a visit to New Norcia would always be an easy and popular choice to offer members, wives and their families.

Ideal time to visit: From early April to late November.

Guesthouse contact details:

Phone: (08) 9654 8002

Email: [guesthouse@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:guesthouse@newnorcia.wa.edu.au)



# Leaving Apartheid behind

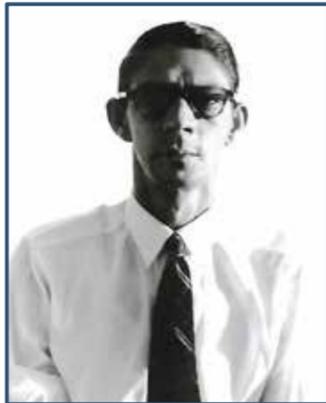
## Courageous decisions

Written by Lionel Thompson

*A country that actively works against the majority of its people is unlikely to generate happy growing-up memories. It is more likely that people affected will seek to erase those memories not only from their own minds but also keep them from the minds of succeeding generations. Such is one poisoned legacy from Apartheid even over a quarter century after it was abolished.*

*Apartheid defined four main racial groups in descending order: White, Asian, Coloureds (people of mixed origins) and Black. Coloureds had a greater diversity in looks and origins than white or black bloodlines. My parents were classed in a sub-group of Cape Coloureds. The diversity in looks could even be evident within families. Some members could pass for white because of skin colour and many actually played the game to get around steadily tightening restrictions. In some cases this led to divisions within families. It was a yoke my parents were not prepared to live or raise a family under. This is their story.*

## Beginnings



My father Walter Ross Thompson was born in January 1921 to George and Molly Thompson (nee Van Aswegan) in Johannesburg, South Africa. He and his sister Mary were the eldest, followed by five younger brothers before their natural mother passed away. Dad did not get on with his stepmother and was often beaten, so he left home at an early opportunity.



My mother Ethel Thompson (nee Harris) had her family origins in the Eastern Cape Province. Born in August 1922 she had the affectionate nickname "Gussy" for an unknown reason and carried it throughout her life. She had six older siblings and a younger brother who died at 17 leaving her the youngest of the family.

We do not know anything of their lives growing up but the beginnings of segregation were probably already being felt. They married in November 1945 and my brother Wally was born in December 1946 with me following in September 1948.

They decided to become Catholics and we were duly christened.

## Early years

Being very young Wally and I were unaware of the trials our parents were going through on almost a daily basis while we were in South Africa. Only in later years would sketchy stories emerge of life on the other side of the tracks. Then, fortuitously our parents' fortunes changed. An upholsterer and skilled carpenter, Dad was successful in securing a job he heard about in East Africa on a diamond mining operation and in 1952 we left South Africa forever.

Leaving behind oppressive government policies was the easy part. The effect on family, however, was much more keenly felt as we learned from some cousins years later. With only spasmodic correspondence in the years that followed, Wally and I were not aware about grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. The conditions under which close relatives were living became a complete void for us.

## The big break

Dad and Mum both worked for Williamson Diamond Mines at Mwadui in Tanzania, a remote company town with the nearest big city being Nairobi in Kenya. Working there came with very generous living concessions including paid school fees and holiday fares. Dad was responsible for producing furniture for company housing; probably not a highly paid job but he had an innate ability to save money for the future. What he put away over the following 11 years was to serve us well.

Mwadui's remoteness meant flying to and from high school on the company owned DC3 aircraft. Wally and I attended St Mary's School in Nairobi as boarders and were away from home for much of the time each year. Run by the Holy Ghost Fathers, discipline was enforced by the "Saints" and good manners learned the hard way.

Although strict, there was fairness in the school's ethos, however, bullying was a fact of life in all schools for weaker individuals and St Mary's was no exception. Schooldays away from home were not always happy but they proved to be paving stones for the future. We learned to adapt and we learned resilience.

In a wider world inhabited by parents, politics was the focus. The Mau Mau Uprising in Kenya was in progress and the African colonies were pushing for their independence from Britain and other European powers. Tanzania (formerly Tanganyika) gained independence in 1961 and Kenya followed in 1963. This quantum shift in power made Europeans uneasy, my parents among them. We were now British subjects and possible targets for any violence that might arise.

This was in fact what Dad had been putting money away for and it was time for another courageous decision.

## A future in Australia

The key drivers for my parents move to Australia was due to the political instability in Africa and the prospect of Wally and I having to go overseas for tertiary studies, spending even more time away from home.

Later we learned that Mum and Dad had to choose between Australia and Canada and I suspect Perth won because it would be warmer with probably better job prospects in upholstery for Dad.

We tearfully left friends behind in Mwadui in December 1963, but at least we were complete as a family unit. Although sad to leave friends, seeing the majestic Kilimanjaro from the train for the last time aroused no emotions. The adventure of a new country awaited, but little did I know I would spend much of my adult life learning about the continent I once called home. We arrived in Western Australia on 11 January 1964.

Dad's prowess at saving money paid handsome dividends in Perth. He never had to mortgage a house we lived in and always seemed to have sufficient cash for large outlays such as cars. Although not well paid we lacked for nothing. Dad built most of our furniture and continually made house improvements requested by Mum. Capital gains from houses in Dianella, then Bentley and then Crawley saw them finally move to Mt Claremont for their twilight years.

Over the years our parents maintained contact discretely with a few siblings, but my brother and I were not aware of it until we started to get visits from aunts. Dad's sister Mary and Mum's sister Sarah both travelled to Perth on holidays on a few occasions, however we still did not learn much about cousins and uncles. Nevertheless our parents gradually began to talk to us about the past. Disappointingly, Dad still dwelt on the negatives and his anger would often surface, but Mum was much more positive and consequently disclosed much more information.

I distinctly remember a watershed event as I was approaching 20 in 1968. National Service was in force in Australia and with the likelihood of my brother and I being drafted proof of age was required. Reluctantly Dad had to apply to South Africa for copies of our birth certificates. When he showed me the document there was a heading on it: *Ras (race)* followed by the words "Cape Coloured". Until then I had no idea I was anything other than white. My parents had in fact destroyed the original birth certificates when we went to East Africa and never told us what they regarded as their shame. They were profusely apologetic to Wally and I, but what sort of son could hold that against his parents? It was simply a roll of the dice from a long time ago and had nothing to do with the opportunities that lay before us.

The copy of my birth certificate is still with me. It's the document of my existence and there is absolutely no shame in it.

Despite now knowing something of my heritage, I confess I paid precious little attention to the stories of Apartheid oppressions that were coming out of South Africa. The Soweto uprising of June 1976 was hardly a blip on my radar. Similarly, news of forced relocations and the bulldozing of people's homes in suburbs designated to be "white" did not raise alarm bells. I was too busy working and raising a family here to consider family I hardly knew suffering over there. If there is any shame in my life it is that it has taken up to my twilight years to realise how much inhumanity I have managed to dodge in my sheltered life and to feel immense respect for those who endured it.

## Life after retirement

Mum and Dad retired in 1986 with enough saved to guarantee them a comfortable life. Dad had long enjoyed travel and they saw Australia as well as overseas destinations such as New Zealand, Indonesia, Europe, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Mum, however was not too fussed on travel so Dad did a trip to the Holy Land on his own. His last trip overseas in 2000 was surprisingly to South Africa to visit one of his few remaining brothers.

Not long after he returned he was seriously injured when hit by a car while crossing the road. It was to mark the start of a 12-year decline in his quality of life. After time in intensive care he had to undergo many extensive surgeries on his legs to retain some mobility. Despite his drive to keep going he gradually became more crippled and was moved into a nursing home for the final two years of his life.

Immobility finally resulted in gangrene due to poor blood supply and the removal of his right leg above the knee in late July 2013 was the final straw. He died less than two weeks later at the age of 92.



Lionel Thompson (left) and his brother Wally (right) with their parents on their father's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

Mum was his staunchest advocate during Dad's final years. He became the full focus of her life and her devotion never wavered despite the fact that he had not been easy to live with. He ruled with an iron fist and was often quick to anger. Nevertheless, he had provided well for his family and his fidelity to her was never questioned. Mum proved herself the quintessential wife and mother.

Eventually she too ended up in a nursing home and passed away from heart failure on Anzac Day 2015, just 22 months after her husband. It was also the day of the Nepal earthquake.

## The tale of two brothers

How different can two brothers be? Markedly so in our case. In my younger days I merely assumed Wally had the brains and I didn't and it was only in later years I realised the difference between us was his capacity for sheer hard work.

Wally was the academic one. He won a scholarship to study medicine at the University of Western Australia and graduated in 1972. After he and his wife Gay completed internships he chose to specialise in anaesthetics and worked extensively overseas including New Zealand and Canada before they settled back in Perth.

He has held position at several major Perth hospitals including head of intensive care at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. He served as President of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists from 1996 to 1998 and was also President of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. His dedication to advancing the science of anaesthesia in the medical profession earned him a Member of Order of Australia in 2011. Wally retired in 2012 and now happily plays "Poppa Wal" to seven grandchildren.

It is often said that behind every great man is a supportive wife. Gay played that role to perfection. Working in general practice she understood the workload and technical demands of medicine and supported Wally's ascendance by looking after their growing family. Their grandchildren affectionately know her as "Geegee".

I had a reputation for doodling at school, which did not do much for my exam results but it was an aptitude for drawing that ultimately led me into cartography or what is now known as the mapping sciences.

After finishing high school I was fortunate to get a draughtsman's job with Western Mining Corporation (WMC), a successful mining and mineral exploration company. Not long after that I met Mary when we both decided to take tennis coaching lessons.

My working life was interrupted when I was called up for National Service in 1970 and learned all about the winters in Victoria while at basic training at Puckapunyal. As it turned out our



intake only had to serve 18 months instead of two years due to a change to Labor government who abolished National Service.

After being discharged Mary and I were married in 1972 and we moved to Wittenoom in the Pilbara where WMC had an exploration office. I duly gained a Diploma in Cartography and came to appreciate the value of maps in our everyday lives. When you think about it, it's actually a God's eye view of the world. The bigger picture so to speak.

Indeed, knowing where we are underpins so much of our daily lives from navigating suburban streets, to finding people lost in the bush, to flying between Perth and London on a nonstop flight, to understanding our effect on the entire planet and its ecosystems. The mapping sciences have a footprint in just about every technical venture the human race embarks on.

Apart from the 18 months doing National Service and four years doing graphic services for the aviation industry, I spent 41 years in the mapping field and have seen it morph from hand-drawn lines and text into intelligent data bases where every symbol drawn has attributes assigned that enable interrogation of any class of data.

It has been a privilege to work in the mapping sciences and to be part of Australia's great mining and minerals industry. It has also been a privilege to wear the Australian army uniform during National Service. Contrary to what some believed in those days, it was not a waste of time. I know that Anzac Day means much more to me having worn the uniform.

I spent 34 years with WMC, mostly in the exploration team.

Mary and I raised our three daughters, Nicole, Christina and Sarah while working in various locations around Australia. Sadly, Nicole developed mental health issues when we got back to Perth and her mental and physical health has continued to decline steadily. She met and married a markedly unsuitable man and had a daughter, Miriam followed by a son Peter to him. The marriage ended in divorce, at which stage they came to live with Mary and I in 1999.

Nicole's daughter also has mental health problems and both of them are on disability pensions and supported by the NDIS. Mary acts as primary carer for Nicole and Miriam. It is an exhausting task but she steadfastly refuses to take a decent break from it. Fortunately Peter is okay and a great antidote to being surrounded by women. We regularly crack a beer and play chess at which he just as regularly gives me a hiding.

Running a house with two disabled and unstable people is not a recommended strategy for retirement, however it is what it is and Christian duty requires us to keep trying to the bitter end.

Along with good friends, art, photography and aviation, membership of the Catenian Association (Darling Range Circle) is one of my escape outlets. The monthly meetings are a welcome break from the home dynamic and a chance to have some normal conversation.



Lionel, art brush in hand, on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday

It is fair to say my faith has increased over the years. Whether it is partly due to being a Catenian or simply a factor of growing older and feeling vulnerable, the fact remains that when I walk into church I am at peace.

### Two brothers; a final word

Despite having vastly different life experiences, Wally and I are very close. We both acknowledge the debt we owe to Mum and Dad and understand their motives for choosing the path they did.

We are indeed beneficiaries of all their hard work and difficult choices. I think there would be very few sons or daughters of migrants who would not thank their parents for coming to Australia and, specifically, Perth. This has been home for 56 years and that is not likely to change.

Mum and Dad chose well and it is fitting that their final resting place is probably one of the most peaceful corners of the earth; free from the prejudices that dogged their younger years.

Since their passing, Wally and I have worked together to build contacts with cousins and relations in South Africa and tapping into their family knowledge. From it we have some insight into what they endured, often through no choice of their own.

Interestingly, some cousins have confirmed that their parents also played the game of silence about the past when children asked about other family members. It seems that they too are seeking answers from scraps of information and as yet nobody has the total picture.

Ultimately, I suppose our joint aim is to compile and understand a very complex family tree.

God willing, we may have enough time left to succeed. Apartheid may have made it difficult, but while there is life it is not impossible.

Lionel Thompson

## Plenary Council 2020 on hold

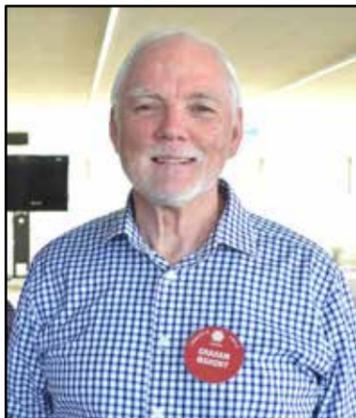
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the first Plenary Council Assembly has been postponed for one year until October 2021, reports Dr. Graham Mahony, Fremantle Circle member and Province 20 Councillor.

The outcomes from the Phase 2 *Listening and Discernment* sessions were processed by the Writing and Discernment Groups and have resulted in the production of six Thematic Discernment papers, which will form the basis of the agenda for the First Assembly in October 2021.

The Writing and Discernment Groups were strongly guided by theological academics and religious. The papers can be reviewed on <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>.

The Archdiocese of Perth Archdiocesan Coordinator of Plenary Council 2020 Tony Giglia has advised that Archbishop Costelloe is drafting a paper on discernment with an accompanying video to be used in conjunction with the six Theme papers referred to above.

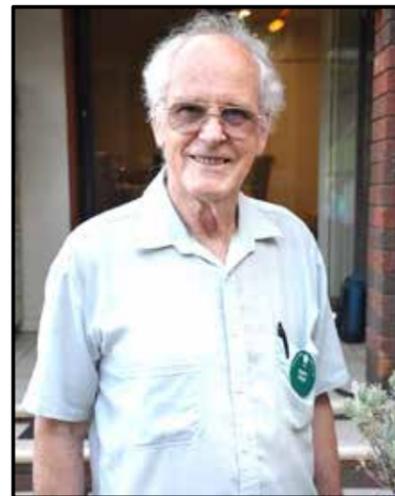
Graham Mahony



## Understanding Christianity

### The writings of St Paul the Apostle

**As St Paul wrote most of the New Testament (the Christian Scriptures) we need to know as much as possible about him to understand what he wrote and hence to understand Christianity. Even though his pastoral letters were to become the centre of the New Testament, he was totally unaware of this. For Paul and the early converts the scriptures were what we call the Old Testament.**



Barry Drew  
Darling Range Circle

It is my belief, writes **BARRY DREW**, that Paul was the first man to understand Christianity. It is fairly obvious that St Peter and the other apostles were confused to say the least. Peter's break from his Jewish background to understand the liberation that is Christianity was a slow and painful transition.

The Mosaic religion was a moral religion based on laws and commandments. It saw God as a lawgiver who demanded obedience in return for his patronage. The challenge for the apostles and their countrymen was that Christ claimed to be equal with the Father, "The Father and I are one." Christ is at the centre of Christianity and we are called to a personal relationship with him. Three times Christ challenged Simon Peter, "Simon Peter do you love me?" Most Jews found this concept of Christ being equal to the Father too hard to accept and few became Christians.

A further complication is that Scripture says, "Cursed is he who hangs upon a cross." How could Christ who was executed as a criminal be divine and equal to the Father? This was not the Messiah that most Jewish people expected.

Paul was born around 5 AD in Tarsus in modern Turkey. He tells us nothing about his parents or family. He had citizenship of Tarsus and Rome. The simplest explanation is that his father may have been a Roman official and his mother, Jewish. It is the eastern tradition that children would be brought up in the faith of their mother.

We have no idea of what Paul looked like, but in art he is always shown with sandy hair. This is highly unlikely and there is no basis for this tradition.

As a young man Paul travelled to Jerusalem to study scripture under Gamaliel, a well-known teacher. Here he became a Pharisee, a sect based on scripture. He was noted for his zeal for the Mosaic religion.

We are all familiar with the account of his conversion on the road to Damascus. He was struck down from his horse and got up stunned and blinded. Some days later he was taken to the house of Ananias where he was cured and baptised. His conversion and re-orientation was hardly instantaneous. Not accepted or trusted by the Christian converts he withdrew to the Arabian Desert for three years to meditate on his situation. He says that Christ appeared to him and appointed him an apostle equal with the twelve. He then returned to Damascus to preach Christianity to the Jews but was poorly received. Next he travelled to Jerusalem to present himself to the Jerusalem church. Again he was poorly received so he went back home to Tarsus.

He was rescued from oblivion by Barnabas who took him to Antioch, a gentile church. This church commissioned him to preach to the pagans/gentiles provided he worked under the watchful eye of Barnabas.

By the end of his first missionary journey it was clear that the communities had a major crisis on their hands. Since Christianity had its origins in Judaism, the Jewish converts felt that the pagan converts should have to submit to all of the laws and practices of Judaism. The question of circumcision was central since it was a major barrier to the conversion of pagans. Many adult pagans admired the teachings of Judaism but were not prepared to undergo this rite. Such people later proved to be a major source of converts to Christianity.

Paul clearly understood the principle involved. Christians were followers of Christ, not Moses. If they were to be subject to the Mosaic Law this would mean that Christianity was just a branch of Judaism and that Moses was more important than Christ. Fortunately Paul's argument carried the day before the Council of Jerusalem. Christians had the freedom of the children of God and obeyed all of the commandments of the law only to the extent that they were "loving God and their neighbours as themselves."

Paul was now emboldened to continue on his mission of preaching to the pagans. Luke and Mark, who later became evangelists, seem to have joined his entourage at this stage.

Paul was always a controversial character who sparked riots wherever he went. This was too much for Mark who was supported by Barnabas. So Mark went home to Jerusalem and Paul and Barnabas agreed to go their separate ways.

On his second missionary journey Paul took Silas as his main companion. They visited many of the churches of Turkey founded on the first journey. As a result of a dream Paul was drawn towards Greece. Again there was hostility to Paul and Silas and they were imprisoned at Beroea. When released Paul went to Athens leaving Silas and Timothy to carry on with the work at Beroea. In Athens Paul had little impact being treated merely with philosophical interest. The Greeks had many gods and saw Christ as just another proposed god. This was no big deal.

Paul then moved to Corinth via Thessalonica where he founded his most important church. The governor, Gallio, was not worried by Paul's work. This peaceful environment inspired him to stay for two years. It is probable that he wrote his first and second epistles from Corinth (viz. Epistles one and two to the Thessalonians). These epistles may be the first New Testament writings.

Some Thessalonians felt that if the end of the world was near then there was no point in working and so they became a burden on the community. Paul insisted that anyone who did not work should not be fed. Since Paul had no special knowledge of when the world would end he could not resolve their uncertainty and may even have made it worse by some of his comments.

From Corinth he sailed to Palestine, visited Jerusalem and then returned to Antioch.



## Understanding Christianity (continued)

On his third missionary journey he returned to what is today central Turkey. Here he founded the churches of Ephesus and nearby Colossae. From here he wrote the First Epistle to the Corinthians. From Macedonia he wrote the Second Epistle to the Corinthians and from Corinth his Epistle to the Romans. His Epistle to the Romans is written with much care because he had not visited Rome nor founded the church there. Further, he needed their financial support for his future missions. From Ephesus he returned to Jerusalem.

Back in Jerusalem he prepared for a fourth missionary journey to Spain via Rome but fate prevented him. He was arrested as a troublemaker and transferred to Caesarea for his own protection. The Governor, Felix wanted a bribe before he would release him. When Felix was replaced by Festus Paul decided to take his chances with an appeal to have his case heard in Rome. Arriving in Rome about 62 AD, he was kept under house arrest for two years. During this time he wrote his Epistles to the Philippians, Philemon, Colossians and Ephesians.

We do not know the outcome of his trial in Rome. We believe that Nero executed both Peter and Paul in about 68 AD. There is no basis for the tradition that Peter was crucified upside down.

Paul's main contribution through his writings were:

- ❖ His Theology. Since Paul wrote most of the New Testament then his theology and beliefs became the basis of Christian theology. When he wrote his epistles there were no accounts of the life of the founder (Gospels), no creed of beliefs, no church organisation and few other writings. The churches were all autonomous.
- ❖ The centrality of Christ to Christianity. He mentions his activities as a zealous Pharisee and says, "He now counts them as nothing compared to the knowledge of Christ."
- ❖ He makes it clear that salvation for the Gentiles comes through faith in Jesus Christ not obedience to the Mosaic Law.
- ❖ He introduced the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ in his epistles to the Romans, Colossians and Ephesians. He is NOT saying that the Church is like a body with Christ as its head, RATHER he is saying the Church IS the Body of Christ. Christ earned salvation for his church by his bodily suffering, which reconciled Christians to the Father.
- ❖ In his pastoral letters Paul looked at each case in particular rather than laying down general principles. When the Canon of books, which formed the New Testament was drawn up in the second century Paul's pastoral letters were included, which meant they are now read as Scripture and hence general instructions for all Christians.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that no great movement in Christianity, good or bad, has taken place without a basis in Paul's writings.

Contributed by Barry Drew  
Darling Range Circle

## About the author

**BARRY DREW**, the author of *Understanding Christianity* and an article entitled *Christianity; a thinking man's religion* published in a previous edition of the *Western Link*, was born in Melbourne where he was educated at local schools. He went to university and obtained a science degree, later becoming a science teacher.

His working career was spent teaching science, computing and religious knowledge in the eastern states, New Zealand and South Africa.

Barry has always been interested in scripture studies and has read widely on the topic.

He met his wife, Yvonne while on a holiday in Cairns. Yvonne is from South Africa and has been widowed twice. She has a daughter, a son and two grandchildren.

Barry has been a member of Darling Range Circle for about five years, regularly attending meetings and social functions. He has served as Treasurer for the last three years. Barry is a member of the Holy Family Catholic Parish in Kalamunda.

## In praise of solitude

*The Australian website Catholica.com.au published the following extract from Mauricio Garcia Villegas, a Columbian Professor of Law and Sociology, praising the opportunity for solitude brought about by the COVID-19 lockdown.*

I have always liked solitude. Or rather, solitude that can come to an end at any time by being with people. As Victor Hugo said: "I love solitude as long as I am not alone." That is why, despite all the anguish that this COVID-19 confinement has brought, I have enjoyed the additional moments of solitude that have come with the quarantine.

The society in which we live, the same one that seems to have disappeared with the pandemic but that will soon return, disdains being alone, which it sees as a failure that must be corrected. It offers us television, radio and social networks to provide us with company. But, more than providing us with company, these things provide us with visual and auditory distraction, a bombardment of shocking images and sounds so that our attention does not wander, a sedative to spend time quietly, without being disturbed, as if we were lazy without being aware of it.

If, as Orson Wells said: "We are born alone, we live alone, we die alone and only through love and friendship can we create the momentary illusion that we are not alone." It seems unhealthy to ignore this inescapable fact of being alone, or ruin it with images and noise.

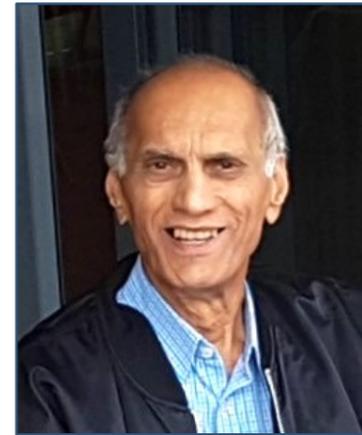
Perhaps the life we had before, running tirelessly from one end to the other, meant that introspection has gone out the window. Maybe I'm nostalgic about solitude, and that's why I think we're spoiling it with endless work and empty entertainment. Perhaps we should be more aware that meditation, religions and philosophy also obey the need that human beings have to meet our inner selves and to give an intimate meaning to what we do.

You don't have to be a philosopher, a priest, or a Buddhist monk to have an inner life or enjoy solitude. We can always run away, even in the midst of the bombardment of sounds and images, to meet the self that we call carry inside, to cultivate and protect it, so that it does not become a strange being that bothers us or gets in our way.

## Emeric Fonseca

### 1938 - 2020

Members and wives of Darling Range Circle were saddened by the loss of Emeric Fonseca who passed away peacefully at his home in Wattle Grove on 11 June 2020 surrounded by his wife Meryl, three sons and their families. Emeric was a member of the



Catenian Association for 23 years, serving for many years as the circle's Chamberlain. He was a very highly regarded member of the circle attending virtually every meeting, except when prevented to by his deteriorating health.

Emeric was 82 years of age and died just a month short of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his marriage to Meryl, which

would have occurred on 18 July 2020.

He was born in November 1938 in the seaside town of Mombasa in Kenya. He was the second youngest of eight children of Alexander and Rosinha Fonseca.

The family migrated to India where Emeric did most of his early schooling. He only ever spoke fondly of his childhood in India despite the challenges that must have been present living in a large family with limited income. Emeric often told the story of all eight children sharing one bed, sleeping across the bed to fit everyone in and, as the children got taller, adding furniture to accommodate their dangling feet.

Emeric completed his high school years back in Kenya where he began his career as a junior land surveyor, saving his money so that he could head off to London to further his qualifications.

On returning to Nairobi Emeric met Meryl in 1968 and they were married on 18 July 1970. Their three sons were born in Kenya and then, in 1984, the family left everything behind and migrated to Perth where they have lived in Wattle Grove for the last 36 years.

Emeric had many interests including travel, history and geography. He had a strong Catholic faith, perhaps not the "shout from the street corner" type of Christian, but a man who never missed weekend Mass, always said grace before meals and, even in his 80s could still recite the post rosary Memoriaire prayer off by heart.

Emeric will be remembered as a man with a great sense of humour and ability to make others laugh not only adults, but also babies and children. His famous party trick was that he could stick his tongue out and touch his nose, a trick that never failed to baffle any young child.

His three sons recall fond memories of a rich childhood, filled with family holidays and boundless opportunities. He also enjoyed being a grandfather. He was very "hands on", feeding, changing nappies and putting them down for naps. His first granddaughter, Lia named him "Emic", a title he tried to change over the years to Granddad Emic, but by then the name Emic was well entrenched for all five grandkids.

May he rest in peace

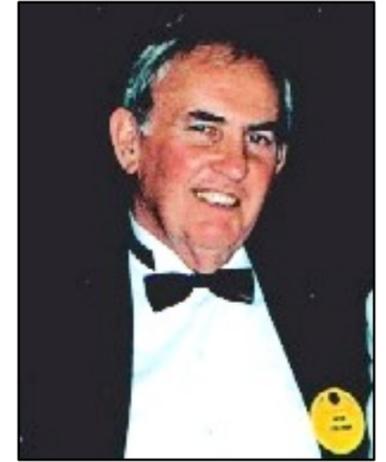
## Peter Colleran

### 1932 - 2020

A Requiem Mass to celebrate the life of Como Circle Brother Peter Colleran was held at St Benedicts Catholic Church in Ardross on 18 June 2020. Peter passed away on 8 June 2020, the beloved husband of

Jocelyn, cherished and devoted father of Rochelle and Craig (USA), Tim and Gina (USA), Carolyn and grandchildren Thomas, Wesley and Keeley (USA).

Peter joined the Catenian Association in 1999 and served as Vice President of Como Circle in 2000/01, President in 2001/02 and part of 2002/03 and Secretary 2004 to 2006 and again for three years from 2009.



Peter was born on 22 May 1932 in East Fremantle and grew up working in the family bakery business and attending CBC Fremantle where he swam, boxed and played water polo and was Dux of the college in his final year.

After high school he worked in the bank and travelled extensively backpacking through countries in post World War II Europe. After returning from Europe he worked with the ANZ bank and joined the St Vincent de Paul Society where he met Jocelyn. They were married on 12 June 1961 and lived in Mosman Park and then in Alfred Cove.

In the late 1960s he moved with the family to Wollongong in New South Wales and then to Sydney in 1974, living in Turramurra. Peter continued to travel, this time with Burroughs on business trips to North and South America. His final move was back to Perth, which was a career change for Peter when he became the Marketing Director of FAL.

When he retired Peter and Jocelyn travelled to Europe, learning Italian and living in Barga, Italy for three months sharing some great adventures. It was around this time that they began taking regular trips to the United States to see their son, Tim who was playing tennis at the University of Alabama.

In 1991 Peter walked his daughter Rochelle down the aisle when she married Craig and three years later became a grandfather to Thomas, Followed by Wesley and Keeley. In 1999 Rochelle and Craig moved with their growing family to the USA and for the next 15 years Peter and Jocelyn regularly travelled to see their grandchildren and Tim who by then had moved to Kentucky. They were in the USA for several important events, the birth of Keeley, the grandchildren's graduations and Tim's wedding to Gina in 2009.

Peter will be remembered as a compassionate, generous and loyal friend who knew how to love and how to show it. He had a strong Catholic faith serving as an acolyte, a role that was important to him particularly giving communion to the sick and frail. He enjoyed his involvement with the Catenian Association, was a member of Probus and worked tirelessly as the Secretary of the Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving Club.

May he rest in peace



## Colin Johnson

1930 – 2020

A large number of Catenian brothers representing most circles in Province 20 attended a Requiem Mass celebrating the life of Colin Johnson at All Saints Catholic Church in Greenwood on 14



July 2020. Colin was the loving and caring husband of Pat, devoted father of Christine, Marie, David, Carolyn and Susan, father-in-law of Peter and Nigel, the adoring Pop of 12 and Great Poppy of three.

Colin was a committed member of Liwara Circle of the Catenian Association, although unable to attend meetings and functions in recent times due to his poor health.

Born in Geraldton on 17 January 1930, Colin was the seventh child of Ethel and Victor Johnson and as the youngest the older children were often designated to care for "Baby Colin", seriously restricting their social lives. He moved to Perth in 1936 where he went to school in Highgate, finishing at Christian Brothers College graduating with his leaving certificate. Athletics were very important to Colin, breaking records and receiving many awards including the honour of being all-round State champion in track and field.

When he finished school in 1948 Colin joined the Commonwealth Audit Office and studied accounting by correspondence to become an Associate of the Australian Auditor General's Office. He was promoted through the ranks ultimately achieving the role of Senior Audit Inspector and had the honour of being appointed a "Fellow" on his retirement.

Colin enjoyed attending local dances and it was there that Pat caught his eye. During their courtship he would see Pat safely home on his prized motorbike. They were married on 26 January 1953.

Their first home was in Manning where they lived until they built a home in Doubleview. During this time they were blessed with their five children so in 1965, needing a bigger home, they moved to Woodlands where they lived for 50 happy years.

Colin retired in 1988 after spending 40 years in the same office, but he continued to do some part-time work in his early retirement after passing university exams enabling him to work as an independent auditor.

Travelling became a favourite pastime of Colin and Pat with several trips driving across Australia and overseas trips to the USA and the United Kingdom. In later years they bought a caravan and enjoyed many trips exploring Western Australia.

The church was very important to Colin, a man of strong principles, faith and core values. He was generous with his time helping the church with accounting, fundraising and serving on many committees. He also loved family gatherings and formed many wonderful friendships with the Catenian Association, swimming with the "Polar Bears" at Scarborough beach and at the Doubleview Bowling Club.

May he rest in peace

## Gerald (Ged) Kerrigan

1939 – 2020

Members of Fremantle Circle were saddened by the loss of Brother Gerald Kerrigan who passed peacefully away on 4 August 2020 at the age of 80. A large gathering of members

representing all circles in Province 20 joined family and friends to celebrate his life at a Requiem Mass held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Bateman on Thursday 13 August 2020 celebrated by Father Phong Nguyen. Ged was a committed member of Fremantle Circle for about 15 years, serving as Membership Officer.

He was the loving husband of Margaret, married for 55 years, father of Kathleen, Maureen, Martin and Ben, father-in-law of Tony, Clayton and Sonya and "Pop" of eight grandchildren.

Ged was born on 10 October 1939 in Subiaco, the second child in the family. He had an older sister Joan and a younger sister Pat. He was from a strong Catholic family, growing up with his aunt and uncle living next door in Wembley.

As a child Ged was frequently sick, with three bouts of Rheumatic Fever between the ages of seven and 19 from which he was not expected to recover much less live to 80. He was often away from school, sometimes missing whole years due to illness.

Ged began his working life at Walsh's Menswear and had lots of jobs over the years, including being a "postie" at many different post offices across the metropolitan area and working at Ricky's fruit and vegetable shop in Hamilton Hill.

He met Margaret at a Catholic drama group at the 3-Bee's and they went out together to a lot of balls and YCW picnics before Ged proposed and married when he was 25. A year later Kathleen arrived followed by three children in quick succession, Maureen, Martin and Ben. Ged and Margaret built a house in Myaree, which is still their home 55 years later.

Ged was a committed and passionate member of the Australian Labor Party, coming from a Labor stalwart family. In 1972 he was Kim Beazley's senior campaign manager, helping to re-elect the long serving Western Australian politician to a place on Gough Whitlam's cabinet as Minister for Education. This was the beginning of a strong link with the Beazley family recognised in a death notice in which Kim Beazley said that Ged was a quiet but substantial contributor to the political life of this State in Local Government and endless campaigns at a State and Federal level.

Margaret and Ged were passionate about caravanning. They started with their four young children in a Cargill Trailer Tent graduating later to their first caravan even though they didn't have a car big enough to pull it. Margaret and Ged were members and on the organising committees of several caravan clubs.

Ged will be remembered as a man of strong faith and his best legacy is his four children and eight grandchildren. He was very proud of his family and will be greatly missed.



May he rest in peace



# CIRCLE ROUNDUP

CONTRIBUTED ITEMS & PHOTOGRAPHS

## Bouvard

### *The story of a faithful warrior*

When my father started our pastoral station on the Nullarbor in 1962 a reliable means of carting the essentials from our existing farm at Burra in the mid-north of South Australia was needed, writes Bouvard Catenian Brother **PETER BROWN**.

The truck my father chose was a Ford F600, which had a 17-foot tray and a removable two-deck sheep crate.

Because of the long cabin it was more comfortable to ride in than other cab/over vehicles especially on the dirt roads. It had a V8 petrol motor, which literally ate up the juice, but boy, could it go.

I personally claimed a world land speed record for Ford trucks when I carted a load of 144 sheep from the Burra farm out to a remote block known as 'Worlds End' some 30 kilometres away.

When I returned from the round trip Dad asked where I had unloaded the sheep. I told him the block to which he replied: "I think I'll go and check". He exclaimed: "you must have been motoring!" I said I was going to claim a new land speed record of 89 miles per hour fully loaded to which Dad marvelled and remarked he did not believe the truck could go that fast. Mind you, it only ran at three miles per gallon fuel consumption.

For many years the F600 served faithfully carting grain at harvest time and many trips to the pastoral station in the west carrying windmills, troughs, tanks and other heavy equipment.

The Eyre Highway was mostly dirt from Ceduna to Norseman in the 60s. It was a real pioneering effort opening up a virgin pastoral lease north of Cocklebiddy in Western Australia.

In those early development years the station had a manager and the Brown family continued at Burra.



Peter and Barbara Brown

In 1972 I married Barbara and two years later I moved with my younger brother to manage the pastoral property way out west. Barbara was expecting our first child and followed several months later when it was safe to travel with the little one.

The F600 was still serving us well although the miles were mounting up and old age catching up with the 'green machine'.

My parents set out on the last trip from the South Australian property to Cocklebiddy in the old truck in 1979 carrying a full load of fencing wire, hay and about 30 rams.

They were a bit overdue arriving and we became concerned until a message came through via the Royal Flying Doctor base at Kalgoorlie that they would be a day late arriving due to vehicle problems. Barbara and I duly went down to the roadhouse at Cocklebiddy to welcome the weary travellers.

The engine of the old truck certainly didn't sound the best when they limped into Cocklebiddy.

It was a sight to behold! If they had been carrying a few chooks on board with the rest of the load they would have been "dead ringers" for Ma and Pa Kettle.

Barbara and I were thoroughly amused but my parents didn't share our humour. Dad approached me with hand outstretched, giving me the keys to the truck and said: "There you are son, you've got yourself a new truck; it's not going back to South Australia." On examination the engine was found to be running on only six of its eight cylinders.

A sad end to a true beast of burden; it should have had a plaque acknowledging its excellent service over many years as our faithful warrior.

Peter Brown

### *Bouvard's night of nights*

Bouvard Circle's meeting and dinner held on Tuesday 18 August at the Café Coast restaurant located on the Dawesville Cut was an outstanding success with many highlights, writes Max Gardiner.

It was the first dinner meeting with ladies for over six months and in what is a rarity for Bouvard six visiting brothers from other Province 20 circles were in attendance, headlined by Provincial President Lou Daily (Dianella Circle).

The other visitors were Vern Scanlan (President Dianella Circle), Colin Purcell (President City of Mandurah Circle), Gerry Butler (Dianella), John Weselman (Liwara) and Peter Bygrave (City of Mandurah).

The meeting was enhanced by the enrolment of a new brother, Graeme Weselman the brother of Liwara circle member, John who travelled to Mandurah for the occasion.



**Bouvard (continued)**

To cap of a very well attended and enjoyable evening the guest speaker was a very impressive young lady, Jessica Fenton, the recipient of a Catenian Charity scholarship to study medicine at the University of Western Australia. Jessica, who attended the dinner with her father Mark, provided an interesting insight into her studies and aspirations for the future.



**New Bouvard Brother Graeme Weselman (left) installed by circle President, Peter Brown**



**Left to right: Jessica Fenton, Mark Fenton, Lynnette Wilson, Judith Gardiner and Eveline Coates**



**Left to right: Gerry Marshall, Sorina and Anthony McKay, Peter Bygrave, John and Lorraine Starcevic and Bernie Marshall**

**Busselton**

**Koffee Klub serving a purpose**

Although the City of Busselton Circle handed back its Charter in April 2019 and has been in recess since then, most members now belong to the Australian National Council Central Circle and together with their wives continue to get together and care for each other in the true spirit of Catenianism.

In the absence of traditional Catenian meetings the *Koffee Klub* has proven to be a worthwhile alternative providing members and wives with a forum at which they can meet, often with visitors from other circles in Province 20.

Socialising regulations imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the Klub could not meet for three months, but the lifting of restrictions saw members reconvene at the Goose Café on Sunday 28 June 2020.

Special guests were Father Jay Bee from Our Lady of the Bay Catholic Church in Busselton and Provincial President Lou Daily from Dianella Circle.



**Father Jay Bee, Lou Daily and Bill and Kaye Middleton**



**Standing: Lou Daily pictured with Jack Stretch and George and Elizabeth Bazzica**

The coordinator, George Bazzica is always keen to welcome visitors from Perth. The Klub meets on the fourth Sunday of every month at the Goose Café located at the head of the famous Busselton jetty on the redeveloped foreshore.

**Canning**

**Fish and chips and pizza to get restarted**

Emerging from restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Canning Circle combined its postponed Annual General Meeting with a clergy night of fish and chips and pizza on Thursday 25 June 2020 at the St Pius X Parish Hall in Manning. It was a capacity meeting due to the virus-restricted gatherings of a maximum of 40 persons.

The circle welcomed three members of the clergy. They were Father Anibal Leite Da Cunha, the Parish Priest at Hamilton Hill, Father Geoff Aldous, the Parish Priest at Baldivis and Father Daniel Boyd, the Parish Priest at Kwinana. Guests included three parishioners from the Kwinana Parish and two from the Baldivis Parish.

Canning Circle also welcomed six visiting Catenian brothers from other Province 20 circles. They were Murray Harrington, Pat McManus, Jim Phillips and Mike Taylor (Como Circle), Chris Downey (Darling Range Circle) and Provincial President Lou Daily (Dianella Circle).

Despite the long break between meetings, Canning's Welfare and Hospitality Officer Doug Williams was quick to return to his best form freely handing out door prizes and Anzac biscuits for all in attendance and birthday gifts for Sean O'Hara and Russell Godsall. Jeff De Silva and Keith Morgan kept everyone entertained with some delightful after dinner jokes.

Lou Daily provided an outline of the Province 20 Job Support Project that will operate similarly to the scheme successfully run for the past 30 years in the United Kingdom. The Province 20 Membership and Expansion Officer Chris Downey also addressed the meeting, seeking Canning Circle's help in establishing new circles in the southern corridor of Perth.

**The story in pictures:**



**Jeff De Silva with Father Anibal Leite Da Cunha**



**Left to right: Sean O'Hara, Doug Williams and Russell Godsall**



**Father Geoff Aldous says grace with Father Anibal Leite Da Cunha in the background**



**After dinner speakers Chris Downey and Lou Daily (standing) with John Sutton seated**

**Back at home base again**

Canning members made a very welcome return to its traditional meeting venue at the RAAFA Memorial Estate in Bull Creek on 23 July 2020, celebrating the occasion with a ladies night.

Welfare and Hospitality Officer, Doug Williams added his touch to a most entertaining evening with a vast array of gifts and chocolates, liberally distributed during the evening.

A highlight of the evening was the installation of a new brother, Steve Oliver from Sacred Heart Parish in Thornlie.



**Left to right: Doug Williams, Membership Officer Cliff Chalton and newly installed Brother Steve Oliver**



## Como

### Trivia, but not trivial

With time on his hands during the Covid-19 isolation period, Como Secretary, Pat McManus produced some interesting marriage statistics.

As at the beginning of April 2020 the total number of years of marriage enjoyed by Como members was 1,306 years. The length of marriage ranged from two to seventy-two and a half years and the average was a little over 50 years. Brother Peter Cox and his wife Joan (deceased) had been married for seventy-two and a half years at the time of Joan's death on 20 April 2020.

Founder Brother Con Stacey and his wife Beryl will celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 20 November 2020.

"This information should be shouted from the rooftops," Pat said.

### Passing the batons

Como Circle Brother Ted Mulcock who was enrolled as member on 8 November 1994 and Brother Bryan Lillis who was enrolled on 5 May 1998 have stepped down from the positions of Chamberlain and Treasurer after many years of loyal service.

Ted served as Chamberlain for 16 years in two stints, the first from 1997 to 1999 and the second from 2008 to 2020. He has now passed the baton to Murray Harrington who was enrolled as a member of the Catenian Association on 6 August 2019. It really is a case of "the old" and the "new". Thanks are extended to Ted for his commitment and dedication and to Murray for taking over.

Bryan gave nine years of dedicated service overseeing the circles finances from 2011 to 2020. His work was completed diligently and meticulously and Como members thank him most sincerely for that work and his long period of service. Bryan has passed the books to Godfrey Weldt who was enrolled on 12 November 2019. Again, it's a case of the "the old" to "the new". Thanks are extended to both Bryan and Godfrey.

### Four for the year

Under the leadership of Membership Officer Frank O'Connor and President Michael Taylor, four new members were enrolled into Como Circle during the 2019/20 Catenian year.

Members were delighted to welcome Gary Caulfield, Murray Harrington and his wife Margaret and Jim Phillips and his wife Megan all from Como Parish and Godfrey Weldt from St Thomas More Bateman Parish.

### Introducing Jim and Megan Phillips



Left to right: President Michael Taylor, Megan and Jim Phillips and Geraldine Taylor

Jim and Megan Phillips are not exactly new to the Catenian Association. Jim finally succumbed to gentle pressure applied over several years by a number of Como Circle members and with encouragement from his wife Megan was installed as a Catenian on 6 August 2019.

Jim was born on 20 September 1943 in Devonleigh Hospital in Perth. His primary school education began at the Inglewood Primary School (grade one), continuing at the South Bunbury Primary School (grades two to six) and completed at Mosman Park Primary School (grade seven). He attended John Curtin Senior High School in Fremantle and then went to the University of Western Australia and Claremont Teachers College to graduate with B.A. Dip. Ed.

Following his graduation Jim joined the Education Department and taught at the Donnybrook District High School in 1966 and 1967 before electing to take a change in career path to become a school psychologist. In that capacity he worked in the southwest based in Bunbury from 1968 to 1971, then in the lower Great Southern based in Albany from 1972 to 1983.

From 1984 until his retirement from the Education Department in 2015, Jim continued his work as a school psychologist mostly around Fremantle and with some time based in Midland. During this time he also spent some stints in the Catholic Education central office.

From 2015 onwards Jim had casual appointments as practicum supervisor with the University of Western Australia.

Megan and Jim met in 1966 when they were both teaching in Donnybrook and were married in 1968. They have four children and five grandchildren. Their youngest son, his wife and their three children live in Newcastle in New South Wales and the others all live in Perth.

During their married life Megan and Jim have lived in Bunbury, London (on a working holiday), Albany, Leeming, Como and now in Shelley. For about ten years they also had a "getaway" cottage in York.

Megan and Jim have had a long involvement in the Catholic Church as presenting couples of *Marriage Encounter* weekends and also *Evenings for Engaged Couples* (marriage preparation) and *Jesus Invites us to Love* (six evening sessions for upper school Secondary students). They have also been involved in RCIA sponsorship and group leaders and Small Communities Prayer Group at Como Parish. Jim is also an Extraordinary Minister for the Eucharist and a reader. He has served on school boards and as a member of the Parents and Friends Association in Albany and Perth.

In his spare time Jim enjoys photography and producing photo books as against having prints made. He is interested in wood sculpture and a subscriber to the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra.

### Face-to-face again

Como's meeting on 7 July 2020 was face-to-face again, attended by 23 members. It was the best turnout for some considerable time reflecting perhaps some relief for the months of isolation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The April meeting was cancelled and the May and June were "Skype" meetings.

With the circle's normal venue at the RAAFA Memorial Estate Bull Creek still unavailable, the July meeting was held in the Parish Hall at St Pius X Catholic Church in Manning with a menu of fish and chips or pizza. Drinks and glassware were BYO. The atmosphere was very relaxed and the paper wrapped fish and chips and boxed pizza meant there was no washing up to be done.



A happy and relaxed trio at Como's July meeting, left to right: Andy Bryceland, John Screen and John Trainor

Como's "heads and tails" game conducted at every meeting to raise funds for the President's Charity failed to produce a winner at the July meeting, something that nobody could recall ever happening before in the circle's 35-year history.



Bryan Jarvis spins the coins with his two-up kip for the traditional "heads and tails" game

The meeting was not without a story or two as two members managed to lose their way driving to the venue. They were resourceful enough, however in extracting themselves from their predicament. They knocked on a door and explained to the young woman who answered that they didn't have a clue where they were. She was most helpful, calling her son who got to work on "Mr. Google" to help the lost travellers out. It is pleasing to report that the two members made it to the meeting and enjoyed a relaxing evening and the fish and chip and pizza feast.



Desmond Cooray looking very relaxed at Como's July meeting

Interestingly, this was the first occasion on which the circle "intentionally" moved from its traditional venue. A few years ago a different meeting place had to be found one night unexpectedly when members arrived at RAAFA Bull Creek to find the place in total darkness. On that occasion the circle hadn't made a booking and, after a couple of frantic phone calls, an alternative venue was found. Thanks to an enterprising wife of one member who rallied around to place a meal order with a local Chinese restaurant and a member who called on a nearby liquor outlet to arrange drinks it finished up being a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

## Darling Range

### Lucky to be alive

The story of how a future Catenian, walked away from a plane crash

In July 1972 I was working in Port Hedland for the Department of Civil Aviation as a Flight Service Officer responsible for remote area communications *FlightWatch* and *Search and Rescue Alerting*, writes **CHRIS DOWNEY**.

Although I was due to be married in September of the same year, the public service in its infinite wisdom transferred me there early. More about Monica's reaction to that, later.

The weather in the Pilbara in winter is beautiful so a colleague and I (he a commercial pilot and me a grounded student pilot) agreed to hire a light aircraft, a Cessna 150, and fly to Rosemary Island in the Dampier Archipelago offshore from Karratha. It was our intention to enjoy a camping and fishing overnighter.

The flight is about 130 nautical miles and about 75 minutes flying time, some of which is over water, but less than ten nautical miles safe gliding distance from land.

It was perfect weather for flying with minimum clouds, free of hot air 'bumps' and what appeared to be only a minor headwind blowing off the sea. Sitting in the right hand seat sharing the instrument panel, the gauges were right in front of me and I commented to my friend on the fuel flow. "No worries" he said, it's the headwind. We'll have a tail wind on the way back."

Of more concern was the landing on Rosemary Island flying across the top of a small hill at the northern end then "full flaps" and reduction of power to sit the plane down between sand dunes stopping within 1,000 feet. It was a perfectly executed landing.

We set up camp; put out the fishing lines and enjoyed a few cold beers - ahhh, the northwest lifestyle! The fish escaped our attention, but the sandflies didn't; so we were up early next morning from our swags to pack the aircraft.



A Cessna light aircraft similar to the one Chris flew in to Rosemary Island



## Darling Range (continued)

Take-off wasn't as challenging as the landing," Chris continues. "We cleared the lower end of the strip, pointed in the right direction and headed for home. We finished our over-water segment and flew past Wedgefield, which is Port Hedland's light industrial area. The fuel gauges, which I had been monitoring, seemed to be stuck on near empty. I pointed this out to my friend who said: "Cessna gauges are notoriously unreliable."

Immediately after that and still about two nautical miles from the airport fence, the engine failed and the propeller stopped in front of us, horizontally stationary.

Now, don't ever think that light aircraft glide well. We descended like a stone, but under control, about 1,800 feet towards the ground. The pilot made a Mayday call and instructed me to open the right hand door so that we wouldn't be trapped on our imminent crash landing. The air buffeting from our steep descent was incredible, so I held the door open with my leg out. In the distance ahead I could see a large fire tender (LFT) rushing from the airport towards where we were headed.

Just before we reached the ground the pilot rounded out nicely and we 'arrived', crashing through the spinifex, saltbush and light trees well short of the airport fence. Dust, debris, twigs and sand flew all around us. I'll never forget the lovely turpentine smell of crushed spinifex. We nosed over but on quickly releasing our seat belts and 'vacating the aircraft' it settled down on its main wheels, cushioned by vegetation debris. We didn't need to rush our exit; there was no fire, although the straight-on arrival of the LFT with silver suited fireman manning the foam turret was entirely reassuring.

After checking our safe surroundings and a first aid quiz, the 'firies' enjoyed a laugh with us. They were our airport colleagues and all of part of the DCA family.

There were no injuries to the pilot and passenger and the C150 only needed some panel beating after being towed back by the LFT to the tarmac. The greater 'injury' was to the pilot's pride, allowing it to run out of fuel, but to his defence and mine (I should have known better too) the investigation revealed a distorted tachometer working erratically and not showing our true RPM. We had flown on average readings but obviously estimated too low using our fuel excessively.

At the time Monica worked in HM Customs in Perth where private phone calls were not welcome during the working day. So when I rang her to short-circuit the news item, that invaluable women's intuition told her straight away that something was seriously wrong and her words can't be printed here.

The pilot and I had some 'dues' to pay for the entire DCA family at the airport's 'wet canteen'.

Chris Downey

## Back to meeting again

Darling Range Circle brothers were very pleased to be able to meet again in June 2020 at the Lesmurdie church hall. The caterer for functions in this venue happens to be from the Lesmurdie parish and serves a great two-course meal. The only downside, **HARRY MULLER** writes, is that members need to help in the laying-out of tables and cleaning up the dishes after the meal.

As it turns out, he says, these tasks have also helped bring brothers closer together, especially with the new COVID-19 cleaning regime in place when many hands definitely make the work lighter.

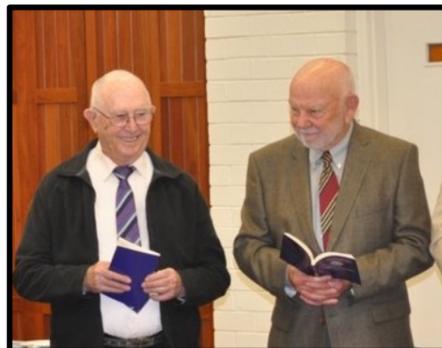
For its August meeting the circle's old venue, Hartfield Country Club in Forrestfield was available with venue staff pleased to have the circle back and happy to serve everyone again.

## Enrollments delayed by COVID-19

Darling Range Circle finalised application forms for two gentlemen in March and was ready to proceed with installation ceremonies at the scheduled April Annual General Meeting.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck and rather than go on with the enrollments through the use of *Zoom* or *Skype*, it was decided to defer them. Meetings were cancelled in April and May, but members were delighted to welcome two new brothers, Norm Carter and Kevin Mosey at the June meeting. Both men are acolytes, Norm at the Maida Vale Parish and Kevin at the Kalamunda Parish and have already made a positive contribution to the circle.

Norm Carter (left) and Kevin Mosey



**NORM CARTER** was born in Bayswater in Western Australia attending primary school at St. Columba's Catholic Primary School and completing his high school education at Christian Brothers College in Highgate.

Leaving school he worked as a projectionist for Hoyts Cinemas/Theatres in Perth for 46 years and in later years as Manager of Hoyts Cinemas.

In 1967 he met a young lady, Rosemary Honisett at the Plaza Theatre in Perth where they both worked and they were married at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth on 11 October 1968, raising two sons and with four grandchildren. Sadly, Rosemary passed away a number of years ago.

Church and his Catholic faith have been important to Norm and he has been actively involved in parish life at the St Francis of Assisi Parish in Maida Vale as a Special Minister and now as an Acolyte. Norm first became aware of the Catenian Association when two brothers from Darling Range Circle made presentations at a weekend Mass. He is looking forward to the fellowship offered by being a Catenian and strengthening of his own faith.

**KEVIN MOSEY** was born in Perth on 8 October 1945 attending primary school at Belmay and secondary school at Belmont High School. He started work in the banking industry with the National Australia Bank where he worked for 40 years in senior management positions.

Kevin met Anne at a social gathering. They were married in Dianella on 31 August 1968 and have raised three daughters and now have eight grandchildren. Kevin and Anne have spent their entire married life living in the northern suburbs of Perth in Scarborough, Lesmurdie and Gooseberry Hill.

Kevin has had a long involvement in the Catholic Church serving on various parish finance committees for 20 years, Treasurer of the St Vincent de Paul, Lesmurdie Conference for almost 12 years and as an acolyte at Lesmurdie, Maida Vale and Kalamunda parishes for over 30 years.

Kevin's main interests are AFL, cricket, walking and swimming and he now looks forward to the fellowship and faith development offered by the Catenian Association.

## Winter wear "the norm" for July soup night

Normal dress standards were put aside in July for the traditional winter soup night this year held at the Lesmurdie Church hall. It seems that brothers of Darling Range Circle prefer to cook the food and self-serve.

A cold night in the middle of winter is the perfect time to meet and enjoy a bowl of hot soup from a selection of at least four different varieties along with fresh, crusty bread buns. Brothers (most likely guided by their wives) always take time and a competitive pride in coming up with a different range of flavours, which accounts for the high attendance at the annual function.



Enjoying the soup night and a few drinks with friends

Brothers were pleased to learn at the July meeting that donations made from the circle's *Dick Rosair Bursary Fund* had been paid to St Brigid's College and Mazenod College and had been applied to help a family remain at a Catholic College and to help other families experiencing financial stress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the main aims of the bursary fund continues to be that recipients get to use the funds to meet their own needs rather than to be used to subsidise school fees, which is now covered mainly by the schools.

## Dianella

### Coffee in the park, COVID-19 style

After an enforced few months break, in June 2020 Dianella Circle took advantage of the eased COVID-19 restrictions for communal gatherings. Brothers celebrated the return to some sort of normality with "coffee in the park."

Members adhered to the "social distancing" rules, forming groups in separate locations for a fun morning where brothers did their best to keep conversation on a happy and good-humoured vein with plenty of jokes and sharing of fun experiences, trying to avoid any discussion about COVID-19 issues.

You may be curious about the vacant white chair in both of the following photos. Well, someone had to take the photos and that was Dianella Publicity Officer, Norm Thompson. Well done, Norm.

It was a very successful occasion with everyone welcoming the chance to share a good time together.



## Returning to normal

Emerging after its enforced shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dianella Circle held its postponed Annual General Meeting with a dinner at the Forrest Park Croquet Club in Mt Lawley on Wednesday 24 June 2020 attended by 29 brothers. Brother John Gartner who is a member of the croquet club arranged the venue and the President's wife Helene Scanlan organised dinner arrangements.

Vern Scanlan officiated at the meeting and agreed to carry on as President for the remainder of the Catenian year. The only changes to the circle committee was George Bartoli who stood down after serving for many years in this position and Mario D'Uva who advised that he would not be able to continue as raffle organiser. The President thanked both brothers for their support over the years.

All members had an enjoyable evening in casual dress on this occasion but were looking forward to when the circle is able to return to its normal venue at the Mt Lawley Golf Club.



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## Dianella (continued)



President, Vern Scanlan at the AGM



Singing the Australian National Anthem



Annual General Meeting dinner at the Forrest Park Croquet Club in Mt Lawley



Birthday girl Roma Bamford

## Calling Australia home

An excellent turnout of 48 Dianella brothers, wives and friends enjoyed a wonderful dinner evening on the circle's first night back at the Mt Lawley Golf Club in July 2020 after a few months away because of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

The social committee went to great lengths to make this a fun night for all, so the scene was set to make members and guests feel part of a close-knit circle that will stay strong and grow stronger together through the current health crisis.

Introducing the theme, Norm Thompson gave a short outline of the night's proceedings. He told of how he had experienced some personal falling-off in recent months and the steps he had to taken to overcome his negative thoughts and realise how fortunate we all are to be not only Australians, but also Catenians and Western Australians.



Peter Kora setting the scene

Vice President Peter Kora started the fun evening by donning his Australian umbrella cap and with an Aussie flag in hand asked everyone to raise the flag provided on their table and sing together the Australian Anthem joined on the screen by the Seekers, also proudly Australian.

## Fremantle

### Emerging from isolation

After a long break due to the COVID-19 enforced self-isolation, the Fremantle Circle Executive Council was back in action on 15 June 2020 preparing for life after the pandemic.



Council members left to right: Richard Finucane, Graham Mahony, John Sutton and Alex Banovich with the vacant chair reserved for photographer, Kevin Hefron

### Story of a Midland pioneer

During the COVID-19 self-isolation, Fremantle Circle Brother KEVIN HEFRON used his spare time to work on his family tree and shares here the story of his grandfather and his grandfather's nephew who was a prominent figure in the early history of Midland Junction.

Kevin's grandfather was James Joseph Niland who passed away on 28 May 1923 at the age of 57 leaving a wife and three daughters. Upon the death of James, his nephew TOM NILAND came to Midland Junction to support his aunty (Kevin's grandmother) and to help with the funeral arrangements.

During his research Kevin came across an obituary in the *Swan Express* following the death of Tom Niland. This an abbreviated extract supplied by Kevin:

*One of the old pioneers of Midland Junction in the person of Councillor Thomas Joseph Niland passed away on 18 January. Cr. Niland arrived from New Zealand in the early 90s and settled in the Midland district. The deceased took an active interest in local public affairs prior to 1895 when Midland Junction became incorporated as Municipal Council.*

*When the new conditions came about Mr. Niland was elected to the Midland Junction Council in April 1898 and served until November 1904. He had tenure of office in November 1905 to November 1908.*

*Cr. Niland at this stage took a farm down in the southwest, but came back to Midland Junction and was again elected to the Council in November 1922 and remained a councillor until the time of his death.*

*Cr. Niland was a worthy and well-respected citizen of Midland Junction. He always took an active interest in matters of public interest that tended to push along the Municipality he resided in. The late councillor was for a time engaged in hotel keeping, farming and contracting and lately resided in Commercial Road, Midland Junction.*

*Most of his best years were spent in the service of the ratepayers of Midland. He died at the age of 76 and is buried in the Roman Catholic section at Karrakatta Cemetery.*

### Midland Inn

During his research Kevin has discovered amongst his deceased mother's files a number of points of interest relating to his grandfather's nephew, Tom Niland:

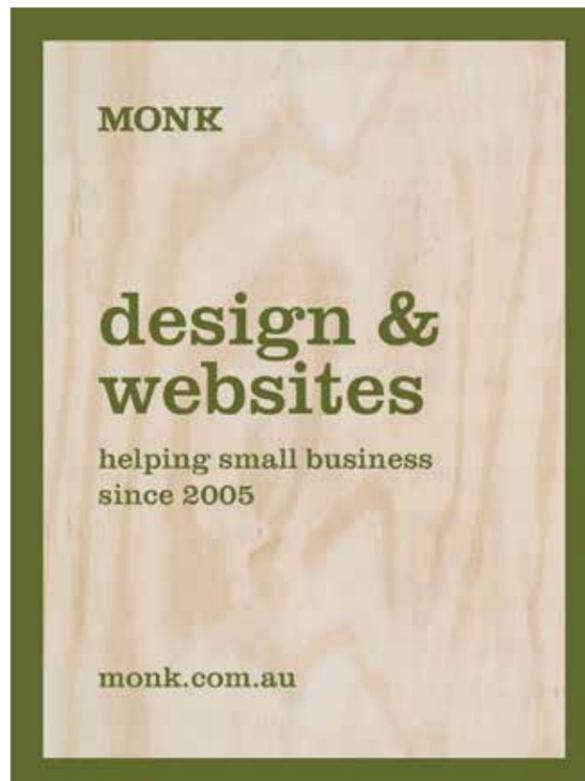
*Midland Inn is historically significant for its close association with Thomas Joseph Niland, a local businessman and hotelier, who operated a small boarding and lodging house (also known as the Railway Hotel) on the site from 1895. The two-storey brick hotel in the Federation Free Classical style was constructed in 1901.*

*Midland Inn had a social value for the local community as evidenced by its inclusion in the Shire of Swan's Municipal Heritage inventory. The value of the place was again evidenced by the public sense of loss and concern expressed in Perth newspapers after a fire that occurred on 17 November 1999.*

*In 1903 Tom built a substantial home for his family in Holmesdale Road in the Montreal Estate and named it "Holmesdale". In 1905 he moved to a farm he had acquired at Wokalup where he cultivated potatoes and trained Clydesdale horses that he sold to the Midland Junction Council.*

*Tom was also influential in the acquisition of the clock tower for the Midland Town Hall and had a park and a street named after him. Two plaques in the Town Hall recognise his role and contribution to Midland as a Councillor.*

Kevin Hefron  
Fremantle Circle



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# Joondalup

## Coffee in the park



Standing: Mick and Jocelyn Doak, Neal Garswood and Sheila McBride

Seated: Maree Johnston and Marlene and John Monkhouse

After an enforced COVID-19 recess for three months, the Joondalup Coffee Club resurfaced on Wednesday 3 June 2020 at the Mullaloo beach foreshore with a turnout of eight including photographer Peter Johnston. Coordinator Barry Webb and his wife Elizabeth were unable to attend due to a family illness that necessitated a rushed trip to Bunbury.

On this occasion it was take-away coffee from the *Dome* and biscuits provided by Marlene and John Monkhouse. The weather was sunny and pleasant with just a light breeze combining to produce a most enjoyable two-hour outing.

With the lift of restrictions, the club has now returned to its usual meeting place at the Hillary's Marina at 10.00 am on the first Wednesday of each month.

## Recognition of long service

The long service to the Catenian Association of **JIM DOHERTY** was recognised at the June meeting of Joondalup Circle with the presentation of his 40-year membership certificate.



Jim Doherty with his certificate presented by President Peter Johnston

Jim joined the City of Perth Circle in 1979 a little over two years after the circle was inaugurated marking the establishment of the Catenian Association in Western Australia.

When Joondalup Circle was inaugurated in February 2005 Jim and his wife Pat were living in Mindarie and he was enticed by his good friend Gene Vance (deceased) to join the new circle. Jim was a Founder Member of the new circle where he has served as Chamberlain for many years. He has also maintained contact with brothers from the City of Perth Circle where he is still a joint member.

Jim was a builder during his working life and in retirement has become a valued voluntary worker with *Wheelchairs for Kids*, working each Friday in the Malaga factory. He is also actively involved in *Men's Sheds* where he continues to put his building skills to good use.

Jim and Pat now live in the Ocean Gardens Retirement Village in City Beach; a long way from Mindarie where Joondalup Circle meets at the RAAFA Cambrai Retirement Village, but Jim rarely misses a meeting or a Catenian social function.

## At long last – out of isolation

Thanks to the generosity of hosts Marlene and John Monkhouse, Joondalup brothers finally emerged from the COVID-19 separation to enjoy a fantastic evening of fellowship and a wonderful home cooked meal on 17 June 2020.



Left to right: Barry Webb, Jim Doherty, Andrew Swanson and Les Croxford

## Monday golfers reunion

The Joondalup Circle "fair weather golfers" and wives gathered together for lunch at the Greenwood Tavern on Thursday 2 July 2020.

The informal club was formed over ten years ago by Rolf Bank and Peter Johnston who played together, mainly at the public Hamersley golf course in Karrinyup, as just a twosome for a couple of years. Later numbers grew with the permanent addition of a very close friend and work colleague of Rolf's, Rick McGuire and numbers in the last couple of years have been boosted with Andrew Swanson, Mick Doak, a former Joondalup Catenian Geoff Daniel (Woodvale Parish) and a St Vincent de Paul volunteer with the Woodvale Conference, Phil Meynert.

The lunch was organised as a get-together with Rolf who is incapacitated and no longer able to play.

It was an enjoyable occasion that extended late into the afternoon while the "would-be" golfers exchanged highly exaggerated stories of their golfing achievements over the years.



Standing: Rick McGuire, Andrew Swanson and Peter Johnston  
Seated: Mick Doak and Rolf Bank

## Pizza night at St Simon Peter Parish

With the circle's normal venue at RAAFA Cambrai in lockdown until 1 August as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, brothers met at St Simon Peter Parish Centre in Ocean Reef on Wednesday 15 July 2020 for the monthly meeting followed by a very informal pizza feast.

Although it was a very cold and wet winters night, 17 brothers braved the condition for a most enjoyable evening. Special guests were St Simon Peter Parish Priest, Father Francis Kot and visiting Brother Tony Friedlieb of Liwara Circle.



John Hollywood and Father Francis

Father Francis extended a warm welcome to circle members and talked about the history of the Salvatorians that began in Australia in 1961. In 1966 the new St Anthony's Church together with accommodation for priests and the parish centre was opened in Bellevue. The parish of St Anthony was the only Salvatorian centre in Australia until the year 1982 when Father Aloysius McDonagh became the Parish Priest in Esperance in the Diocese of Bunbury.

In the late 1970s, prompted by the shortage of numbers, the British Province of the Salvatorians passed on their ministry in Australia the vibrant Polish Province. Thanks to their wonderful support they have been able to expand and undertake pastoral care in a number of parishes in Perth and country areas of Australia.

St Simon Peter Parish at Ocean Reef was founded in 1985 with Father Simon Carson appointed as Parish Priest. The first Mass was held at Prendiville College and Archbishop Barry Hickey opened the church, parish centre and presbytery on 19 December 1999. Father Francis Kot has been Parish Priest at St Simon Peter in Ocean Reef for six years.

Thanks were extended to St Simon Peter parishioner and Joondalup Circle Brother John Hollywood for organising the venue and to John Monkhouse for arranging the well-appreciated meal of delicious pizzas.



Left to right: Mike Wright, Vince Sinagra and Pat Winton

# Liwara

## Meeting the challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly presented a large number of challenges for the world, the Church and our own Catenian Association. This has been reflected in the adjustments made by Liwara Circle around meetings and calendar events since the lockdown in Western Australia began in March 2020 and for the remainder of the year.

Liwara's first COVID-19 meeting was held in June 2020, when the circle was limited to 20 people. Given the imposed limit and taking into account the many members who almost always attend it was decided to call this meeting No 410A, so that no one would be recorded as absent. It was called a "semi-circle" meeting for that reason and was run by the new Executive Council, even though the Annual General Meeting hadn't been held and new office bearers not yet installed.



"Social distancing" in practice



The Annual General meeting (called meeting No 410B) was held in July and the new Council inducted: Terry Dwyer (President), Tony Clark (Vice President), Terry Reilly (Secretary), Mike Keating (Registrar) and Neal Miranda (Chamberlain). Seventy-three brothers, wives and widows attended the dinner. Kevin McKersey was thanked for his three years service as, firstly Vice President and then President.

Incoming President, Terry Dwyer presents Kevin McKersey with his bar in recognition of three years service





Liz McKersey, Membership Officer, Steve Halley-Wright presents the wife of Immediate Past President, Kevin McKersey with a gift of appreciation with President and MC for the night Terry Dwyer in the background

Liwara Circle's August meeting was a casual pizza night held at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in North Beach. It was well attended and a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The Circle is looking forward to post COVID-19 with some confidence with three more gentlemen who have expressed interest in joining the Catenian Association.

### Planning for a post COVID-19 revival

Members of Liwara are now engaged in a "discussion document" examining how the circle might function post COVID-19. All brothers have been challenged to voice their opinion about how the circle might do things better or differently, how the meetings might be changed to become more efficient and relevant and how to attract and hold younger members.

Brothers have been provided with a 12-point discussion paper and invited to indicate yes/no to questions and where relevant to comment and express their opinion.

The discussion points are set out hereunder:

- ❖ Regalia – only for formal meetings (e.g. AGM's and joint meetings) otherwise just to be worn by the President
- ❖ Dress code – smart casual except for formal meetings
- ❖ Prayers – the prayers for our sick, families and deceased brothers to remain; there is already provision in the standing orders for the President to choose one of the three bidding prayers (vocations, world prayer or addicts), or to choose an alternative prayer (e.g. a COVID-19 prayer)
- ❖ There is provision in the standing orders for the President from time to time to present a short reflection
- ❖ There is provision for having a circle chaplain – is there a need or appetite for this appointment
- ❖ More involvement with local Catholic schools with perhaps a "teachers night" involving principals and R.E. coordinators
- ❖ Input from long standing Catenians about how they think the circle is going, particularly if they are thinking about resigning
- ❖ Suggestions from the "newer" brothers about how they are finding Catenians and what could be done better
- ❖ Recruitment – what exactly is it we are offering that would make a possible new member happy to join us (the Catenian Mission and Spirituality documents with its aims and values might be a good place to start)
- ❖ Social events – we had five on the pre COVID-19 calendar, but is that enough or do we need more or something different
- ❖ Mentoring new members – whose role is it (the sponsor?) and how should it be done
- ❖ Keeping in touch with brothers between meetings (especially those in difficulty or need), keeping contact 'ad hoc' as at present or more formally as we did during the COVID-19 lockdown

When responses have been received and collated it is intended to present findings to Liwara Circle members for consideration and further debate.

## City of Mandurah

### The Tony Lane story



I first saw the light of day on 29 June 1934 on a farm in Victoria, **TONY LANE** writes. It was an era when most cars had canvas roofs and the motor was started by a crank, quite literally. Churches were numerous and well attended with the priest travelling up to 80 miles to say two masses.

The farm was mainly wheat growing, but to hedge our bets because of frequent drought, we became pretty self-sufficient with a variety of animals as well and we always retained a two-year supply of haystacks and seed wheat. The war years were very tough on my parents but us kids were always well fed and everyone had a job to do, no matter how young. If you were mobile you had a job. Emergency plans were well advanced to evacuate people from the big cities to the country if needed and if you had four verandahs on your house you were eligible to take eight evacuees. Fortunately it never happened. During that time there were huge stacks of wheat in new jute bags at the rail sidings awaiting shipment. We drove sheep on wide roads in the lean times, learned shearing and consistently sheared sheep for eight months of the year.

I did my National Service training at Puckapunyal at the same time as Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip toured the great 'Land of Oz', so our intake lined the streets for the Royals in Bendigo and Melbourne. Quite a buzz!

I drove the Nullarbor four times on my own in a new Vauxhall ute. What could possibly go wrong? The ute had no locking petrol cap in those days and mysteriously some wheat ended up in the fuel tank so it was fuel blockages every day. At that time the Nullarbor was then a long series of grazing leases with gates across the wide limestone road. While opening one such gate to get through I saw oil pouring out from under the vehicle. I was very relieved to find that it was the timing case bolts that had shaken loose on the rough road and thankfully the problem was easily fixed, as the nearest help from a General Motors Holden dealer was over two hundred miles away. On the return trip I stopped to listen to the *silence of the plains*, but the engine was revving extremely high. It was a broken engine mount and the listing of the engine had pulled the choke on full, which I fixed temporarily with a piece of tyre as a chock.

Well they say there's someone for everyone and Teresa became the love of my life. We were married on 26 May 1962 at St Joseph's Church at Charlton in Victoria. We raised seven lovely children, six girls and one boy, and all have gone on to achieve success in their own careers. In 1963 we purchased a farm at McAlinden some 300 kilometres southeast of Perth in Western Australia. This turned out to be the best move we ever made with good seasons every year and no droughts. There was a great community spirit in the famous *Blue Wool* district.

After 25 years at McAlinden and another 15 years at Noggerup the 'snow was settling on my hair' so by 2003 we had sold up and moved to our new home in Mandurah.

We purchased a four-wheel drive and an off-road caravan and travelled extensively around Australia for ten years. We did some gold prospecting from Clermont in Queensland to the Golden Triangle in Victoria and up to the Wiluna and Meekatharra gold fields.

In a decade of caravanning we had only one flat tyre. We had pulled off the road to change drivers when a sliver of steel went clean into the rear tandem tyre. That very same afternoon the caravan's door handle snapped off so we soldiered on to Coober Pedy without our customary four o'clock 'cuppa'.

We had a policy of not picking up hitchhikers, but on the way to Erldunda in South Australia we made an exception. The evening was drawing close when we passed a huge wild dog loping along the road. A few hundred metres further on we came upon a bloke hitch hiking; so we just pulled up and said, 'hop in mate'. He was blissfully unaware of his close call from the danger lurking behind him.

In 2006 we visited the Wolf Creek crater, which is an easy 100-foot climb-down but a bit harder climbing out. The crater is about 800 metres across and the base is covered with small trees like Banksias.

We flew to the Horizontal Falls in a light seaplane and later heard that a similar aircraft attempting to land on the water flipped over as the pilot had forgotten to retract the landing wheels.

We absolutely loved the Kimberley region, Darwin and all stops to Cairns and were fortunate to see 'the rain on the rock' and the famous dust storms on one of our trips to Uluru.



Tony and Teresa Lane

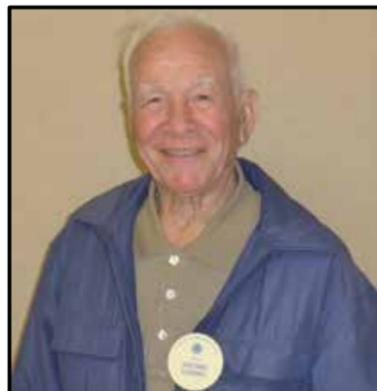
These days we enjoy a quieter lifestyle in a RAAFA operated, gated community in a suburb called Erskine, just south of Mandurah, and we love it!

Tony Lane

### Sharing his Italian heritage

One of the City of Mandurah's newest brothers, **GAETANO LAZZARO** joined the circle in October 2018.

He is 83 years of age with a proud Italian heritage, which he shared with brothers at the July 2020 meeting of the circle, where he was the guest speaker.



## Mandurah (continued)

Gaetano was born in Italy in September 1937 in a little coastal town of Capo D'Orlando in the Province of Messina.

At the age of 17, Gaetano decided to "try his luck" in Australia and migrated to Fremantle, arriving in Fremantle by ship on Saturday 13 January 1955.

I arrived on my own, he writes, but I had an uncle living in Spearwood, which is where I settled. Not speaking or understanding English it was difficult to find work, but eventually I landed a job with Watsons Smallgoods in Spearwood where I worked for about a year. Then in 1956 I was employed at the Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR) located in Mosman Park overlooking the Swan River and later that same year I moved to Merredin in the wheatbelt where I was able to get employment with the State Water Supply.

In 1957 I got work in the butchering trade at a local abattoir where I gained valuable experience and lifetime skills. I returned to Fremantle in 1958 and bought my own butcher shop located in South Terrace in partnership with an acquaintance and a year later in 1959 I bought out my partner and became a sole trader.

In 1960 I met a young girl newly arrived from Italy and it was love at first sight. Teresa and I were married in April 1961 and we have lived most of our married life in Spearwood raising a family of two sons and a daughter. During this time until 1993 we owned and ran several butcher shops.

We moved to our present home in Lakelands, an outer suburb of Mandurah in 2004 and have settled in and thoroughly enjoy the lifestyle.

Teresa is involved in church activities including charity work and I enjoy my hobby of making Italian sausage and red wine.

Since joining the Catenian Association I have thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of the City of Mandurah Circle brotherhood that has welcomed both Teresa and me into their fold. Teresa also enjoys attending Ladies nights and circle social functions.

Gaetano Lazzaro

## Catenian of the year



Gerard OTS presented with the City of Mandurah's "Catenian of the Year award" for 2020/21 by President, Colin Purcell

The Brendan McGurk Memorial Award is presented each year to acknowledge the City of Mandurah brother who has made a significant contribution to the good of the circle in action and deeds.

This year's award was presented at the July meeting of the circle to Membership Officer **GERARD OTS**. Although Gerard has only served in this role for a short time, he has been active in seeking new members and has already introduced a number of newcomers to the circle. He is also involved in other sub-committees of the circle Council, particularly in entertainment and social functions.

The award was initially introduced and strongly supported by the Late Brendan McGurk in 2003/04 and has been awarded each year since. Brendan, who passed away on 24 July 2015, was a Founder member of the City of Perth Circle when it was inaugurated on 8 February 1977 and later joined the City of Mandurah and Bouvard Circles when he and his wife Helen moved to live in Mandurah.

Brendan was a dedicated and hard-working Catenian who was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2007 for his contribution to Province 20 and the Association. He was Editor of the *Western Link* from its beginning in 1997 until 2012.

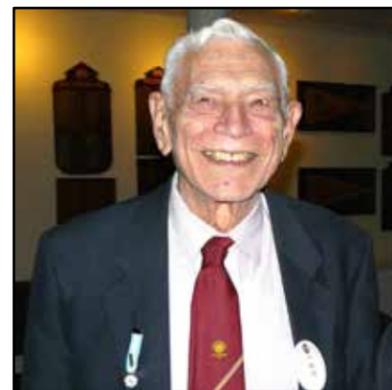
## City of Perth

### The reality of being a "prisoner" at home

"Prison has always had a clear meaning throughout history: a place of isolation from society in a punitive penal setting," writes City of Perth Brother Ian Moncrieff.

"For the elderly, of course, being a 'prisoner in one's own home' has also been a reality and the current COVID-19 pandemic has probably given all of us a new sense of what a prison our homes can be."

"**PHIL ZEID**, who has recently announced his retirement as the City of Perth's Welfare Officer, is one person who has always understood first hand the terrible feelings of isolation of his sick Catenian brothers and their extended families. He has served as Welfare Officer with distinction from just a few years after he joined the Catenian Association on 21 June 1988, acknowledged in 2015 when awarded honorary Life Membership of the circle."



Phil Zeid

"The brilliance of his service in this capacity is widely recognized, not only by City of Perth brothers, but also broadly across Province 20 and the Association."

"Features of his routine include visiting the sick in hospital or at home and following up by phone and email during convalescence. He sends birthday and anniversary cards to brothers and their wives as well as to the widows of brothers. Even when his own health is flagging, Phil strives to keep in touch with others and his cheerful and positive approach to his health issues is inspirational."

"Phil even remembered those, like Elliott Levitt a former City of Perth member who moved on to join Joondalup and has so wonderfully been cared for by that circle. Housed at Bethany in Yanchep, Elliott is not just a five-minute drive away. I clearly remember accompanying Phil on two trips to visit Elliott during which he taught me other lessons about him; he is a rally-driver at heart. The first trip was hair-raising for me; the second trip, I drove."

"I'm not sure of when, why and how Phil developed his great sense of looking after and making others feel loved," writes Ian, "but I know that if the City of Perth Circle has nothing else to offer Province 20 we can always claim to 'own' Phil Zeid."

"Phil has written a very interesting and financially successful story of his life. This has run to two editions, although I've only read the first. It makes a good read, as they say, and perhaps the reasons for his innate charity are to be found there."

"Phil, old friend, I stand taller when you are around; you make me feel good."

Ian Moncrieff

## Making a difference

A change of venue and the move to lunchtime meetings has proved a popular innovation for City of Perth members. The new venue at Newman Siena Centre is closer to home for all members and within easy reach for all of the northern and western suburbs circles as well as being a very attractive and accommodating place.

The circle has also switched its meeting times to the middle of the day, which avoids travel at night and leaves evenings free for home and family.



Left to right: Tom Dowling, Brian Arculus, President John Murray, Phil Zeid, Michael Yip and John Hicks

A highlight of the City of Perth July meeting was the installation of a new brother, John Hicks (right) pictured with President, John Murray



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# Swan Valley

## Memories of the Camino Frances



Colin Broun, Father Stan Bendkowski and Liz Broun

A few years ago **COLIN BROUN** and his wife Liz and great friend Father Stan Bendkowski arose early one April morning and departed St. Jean Pied de Port to walk Route de Napoleon over the Pyrenees leaving France and entering Spain.

"It was the first day of our pilgrimage on Camino de Santiago, the Way of St. James," Colin said. "Thirty four days later we entered Cathedral Santiago."

"During the journey I composed some *haiku style* poetry. The words create pictures, which I hope readers enjoy and relate to."



### Paths

Bitumen, grass, snow, leaf  
Moist, mud, sharp,  
treacherous  
Flat, undulating, dry, hard,  
Straight forever  
Meandering, enticing  
Shade, walls, gentle  
Boot polished stone  
Ancient, new  
Yellow arrows  
Pilgrims  
To Santiago



Abandoned boots on a mountain pathway

### Cordillera Cantabrica

The Cantabrian Mountains are one of the main systems of mountain ranges in Spain. They stretch for over 300 kilometres across northern Spain from the Western limit of the Pyrenees to the Galician Massif in Galicia, along the coast of the Cantabrian Sea.

Mountain  
Snow  
Cold gentle  
wind  
Valleys,  
deep, purple,  
white  
Greens  
Paths  
meandering  
Clay  
Rocks,  
round,  
sharp.  
Layered  
Embedded history  
Tread carefully mindfully  
Respectfully  
Weathered, broken  
New dwellings  
Ancient walls, stone walls, new walls  
Your soul, past souls, commune  
Slowly now  
Softly, quietly  
Embracing silence  
Serene peace



### Mass in Cathedral Santiago

Vast, vaulted Cathedral  
Portico de la Gloria  
Golden Retablo  
St. James  
Tree of Jess  
Touching  
Peregrinos, backpacks, sticks  
Expectant, awed, journeys reason  
Reconciliation  
Alter, Priests,  
Botafumeiro  
Mass  
Emotions  
uncontained  
Tears  
Blessing  
Peace



Colin Broun

