

# SA News – 2010 Number 06

## 1 JULY 2010

Newsletter of the SA Cluster of the Christian Brothers



## NEWS

### SANDRA SCHNEIDERS SEMINAR

This Seminar was held on Saturday 29 May at Sacred Heart College. The challenge that Sandra presented to the audience largely composed of Religious was that we were called to be truly Prophetic people, committed to bringing about the Reign of God. Sandra explored the Vows within this context of being Prophetic signs. The day was extremely challenging and a powerful call to living our life with integrity and idealism.

### EDMUND RICE ASSOCIATES

The Associates gathering was held on Wednesday 23 June. The focus of the evening was on the experience of parenting and grand-parenting and bringing up and nurturing children. The opening prayer was led by Trevor Dean and focused on God's relationship with us and the image of God's parenting of us.

We had three presentations. Cathy Taggart reflected with us how God can be found in the very mundane things of life. She did this through various symbols of the activities of the everyday. The care of children and their importance was also emphasised. Cherrell Murray spoke of her life and the way she felt that she was called to Special Education and her idealism in following this call. Finally Barbara and Tony McGuire movingly told the story of the challenges they faced in bringing up one of their grandsons. The major impression left on me was the courage of these people in sharing their stories so openly.

### *Upcoming Birthdays*

#### **OLT MEMBERS**

**Peter Harney—Monday July 5th**

**Vince Duggan—Friday July 9th**

#### **SA CLUSTER**

**John Moylan—Friday, July 16th**

**Michael Flaherty—Sunday July 18th**

### RETURN OF JOHN MOYLAN

All will know that John has returned to Australia after his huge generosity of almost eight years teaching at Chavagnes in France. We wish him every blessing on his re-entry.

John had a great influence on many of the students. **Below is a letter from one of John's students,** a French student who had little English when he came to Chavagnes. He gave the letter to John just as he was leaving:

*Dear Brother,*

*Once you'll read this letter, you will probably already be gone on your way to Australia. I just want to thank you for all you have done for me and for the school and my friends. All these three years I had at Chavagnes were wonderful. I hope it was the same for you, you who loves each one of us here at the college, you who gave your life for us, so that we may live a life in the Christian faith and gentlemen like. I thank you also for all the wonderful and happy moments we passed, doing maths, talking about the Vendée Globe. You were always present for us when we needed you and always understood each one of us. It is with faith and joy that I really will miss you and always think about you and the exemplary man you are. I ask you to pray for me and my friends and hope that God will give you the grace to continue what you started and end it in holiness and joy.*

*Thank you very much Brother, I will miss you. You are like a grand-father for me.*

*With much love and friendliness.*

*Benjamin*

## SOME REMINDERS

### DISCERNMENT OF CLUSTER LEADER

Please keep in mind that nominations are to be returned to Joe Lauren by 8 July for this first phase of the discernment.

*Continued on page 2 . . .*

## **SOME REMINDERS** *continued* . . .

### **COMMUNITY LIVING ALLOWANCE CONSULTATION**

The response sheet for this consultation needs to be sent in order to be received at the Province Centre by 21 July. You can send it either electronically – [cladialogue@edmundrice.org](mailto:cladialogue@edmundrice.org) or by post to:  
CLA Dialogue, Oceania Province Centre, PO Box 596, Virginia BC QLD 4014.

### **THE REQUEST FROM OUR CONGREGATION AND PROVINCE LEADERS IN ROME**

The request they made of our communities in the recent letter is for support for our Formation Programs in Africa. Their letter paints a picture of Internationality and outlines the need for financial support for our young members in training in the less affluent parts of our Congregation. Our Oceania novices, Andrew and Willie, are in Lusaka and we hope two others will begin their novitiate in Africa in 2011.

I recommend the request of our Leaders to you. Maybe your Community could agree for some money to be sent to our OLT for forwarding to this cause.

### **GOING PUBLIC**

Neville Thornton has suggested that there be a regular feature in the Brothers Oceania Newsletter. The **suggested topic would be “What Brothers are doing”** and would consist of between 100 and 200 words, if possible, accompanied by a photo.

We are encouraged to feel free to write about ourselves **or check out with others if you'd like to write about someone else.**

Submit the article to [ntthornton@edmundrice.org](mailto:ntthornton@edmundrice.org) or in hard copy to Neville Thornton, Oceania Publications Co-ordinator, PO Box 596, Virginia BC Queensland 4014..

### **PETER HARDIMAN'S BOOK**

The book, Edmund Rice—Restoring *the Circle to the Celtic Cross* is being launched next week. This colourful carefully researched book presents the life of Edmund Rice and his times in rich story format. The cost of the book will be around \$40. I will let you know when more details come to light.

### **VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED AT FAME**

In the latest FAME Newsletter there was the following message:

*We are seeking people willing to work as Volunteer Tutors in a one-to-one situation with secondary students to assist them with their learning needs, in particular literacy and numeracy.*

- ◇ *As a Volunteer Tutor you are able to negotiate the days and hours that you would like to volunteer your time and your commitment is flexible.*
- ◇ *An Induction is provided*
- ◇ *A National Criminal History Record Check is required (paid for by FAME)*
- ◇ *You can also become involved in MULTILIT, a structured reading tutor program - training is provided.*
- ◇ *The focus of the tutoring sessions includes building literacy and numeracy skills, self-esteem, confidence, life and social skills!*

*If you are someone who would like to make a contribution to a young person's life, then the role of Volunteer Tutor could be perfect for you!*

*For more information, phone Deb on 8186 2000 or send her an email to [deb.fame@hotmail.com](mailto:deb.fame@hotmail.com)*

Some Brothers may feel that they could give some time each week to this work.

If you do not receive the FAME newsletter and would like to do so, please let me know.



FAME Student with garden chair made at woodwork

### **FINAL NOTE**

I apologise for the lateness of this June SA News, but I had a fall on Sunday and badly bruised my left hand. This has made typing very difficult. You will also notice that there are no photos! This has nothing to do with the hand; I just forgot to take any photos!

Every best wish to all with all that is coming up in the near future.

John Webb

## Coming Events

### **NOW IS THE TIME GATHERING**

This is to be held this weekend from Friday July 2 till Sunday July 4 at Riverglenn Conference Centre. Each region in the Province has been asked to set up Wisdom reflection groups to discern the direction for the Edmund Rice Network. Over 35 delegates from those Wisdom Groups will meet with members of the OLT, some of the Province Directors as well as with some Directors from EREA. The focus will be: to tell the story of the ERN in Oceania; to clarify what is meant by network and networking; and to explore possibilities for the future. This process will then be shared with other groups in each region as the Network works towards an identity, a commitment and a parallel structure to meet in 2014 at the same time **as the Brother's chapter meets.**

SA will be presented by our Wisdom Group: Jim Dwyer, Natasha Siebert, Mark McGlaughlin, Helena Sweeney, Martin McCarthy, Heather Hier, Shaun Clarke, Peter Caporaso and John Webb.

This is a most significant gathering and we would appreciate the support of your prayers.

### **PORT MORSEBY GATHERING OF OUR BROTHERS 60 YEARS AND UNDER**

This gathering will be held all next week at Bomana which I believe is near Port Moresby. There are 25 brothers from Oceania attending and 13 brothers from PNG. The theme is the Power of Partnerships. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity to establish solid links and connections across Oceania and a good opportunity for our brothers to see and immerse themselves in the culture and ministry of PNG. John Ahern from the SA Cluster will be part of this gathering. Your prayers for all attending at this time would be appreciated.

## Prayers

**James Murray's Brother:** *James was recently in Perth to celebrate the 90th Birthday of his brother who has been seriously ill with bone cancer. I understand that his brother is a little better but let's continue our prayers for him.*

**Kevin Ryan:** *Kevin is continuing his convalescence. I do not have recent news of his health, but let us keep Kevin in our prayers for full recovery.*

## Recently Died

### **DORIS RYAN**

*Doris was the sister-in-law of Br Kevin Alan Ryan. A number of the Brothers got to know Doris and her family over the years at celebrations of significant events of Kevin's life. There were a number of us present at the funeral. Let us pray for Doris and for the comforting of her family and all who loved her.*

## Coming Events continued . . .

### **RETREAT AT MIDDLETON—JULY 4 TO 10**

This retreat commences with the evening meal Sunday 4 July and concludes on Sunday Afternoon 10 July. The theme is "*Be My Disciple*" with emphasis on heart-centred spirituality. Thanks to Michael Flaherty for organising this retreat and to Ben for getting Middleton ready for retreatants. Every best wish for those attending.

### **REVIEW OF PROVINCE STRUCTURE – SATURDAY AUGUST 7**

This consultation, reviewing Province Structures will be held on Saturday 7th August. Those facilitating the review here in SA are OLT member, Chris Meehl and two Cluster Leaders, Kev Laws and Dan Stewart. It will be held at Thebarton from 9.30 (morning tea) for 10.00 am start and will go till about 12 30 pm. Brothers are invited to stay for lunch which will be provided. For catering purposes, please let me know if you will not be staying for lunch.

## Coming Events continued . . .

### VISITATION – JULY 23 TO 29

As previously announced, the Visitation is to be conducted by Joe Lauren and Peter Harney from Friday 23rd to Thursday 29th July. They have asked for two hours with communities.

Times for sessions in communities are as follows so far:

- ◊ **Thebarton** Sunday 25th from 9.15 to 11.15 am ;
- ◊ **Regent St:** Tuesday 27th July from 4.00 to 6.00 pm followed by dinner?
- ◊ **Huntfield Heights** and **West Beach** will combine at Huntfield Heights at a time yet to be notified.
- ◊ **Magill:** time yet to be notified

Others please let me know your preferred times when worked out.

Remember to bring your reflection with you to the Visitation session.

## BOOK REVIEW

By **MICHAEL FLAHERTY**

### **Jesus Today: A Spirituality of Radical Freedom by Albert Nolan**

(Orbis Books Maryknoll, N.Y. 10545 (2006) 248.4 NOL)

Many would be familiar with Albert Nolan's classic work 'Jesus Before Christianity' which stressed the political context of Jesus' mission. Now 30 years later, this is the long awaited sequel which focuses on the spirituality of Jesus and its relevance to us today.

Part One gives an insightful summary of the signs of the times as regards spirituality.

A cursory glance at what is happening today enables us to see that we are living on the edge of chaos. A giant leap forward in our history and our evolution has become a real possibility. There is a hunger for spirituality but also a crisis of individualism in the Western industrialised world with its emphasis on the self-made, self-sufficient, autonomous individual who stands by himself or herself, not needing anyone else and not beholden to anyone or anything. Globalisation is a reality. Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955) was able to demonstrate that the mechanistic worldview that we call science is simply unscientific. The vast worldwide community of scientists, with few exceptions, have moved beyond the mechanistic view of reality. The universe is expanding. Nolan gives a clear explanation of difficult world and scientific terms. The new cosmology is a celebration of the unfolding of the Cosmos. The

## BOOK REVIEW continued . . .

universe is a system of systems, within systems and we humans are not in control of the universe.

**Part Two considers Jesus' spirituality by looking at what Jesus did, said and taught.** Jesus turned things upside down. Paradox was a feature of his teaching. He was a radical critic of his society but Jesus was never judgmental. He did not blame, accuse or condemn any individual person. In **Jesus' time as in our own time, if anything goes wrong we look around to blame someone.** They looked for scapegoats. But Jesus taught forgiveness and saw God as our loving and forgiving Father, our Abba.

Part Three shifts focus from the spirituality of Jesus in his time to a practical spirituality for today and points to the practical steps we need to take to live in our day as Jesus lived in his. Part Three reinforces the relevant ideas of **Eckhart Tolle's 'The Power of Now' and 'A New Earth' and Br David Steindl-Rast 'Gratefulness'.** Sections on the ego, the flesh, the true self, and the guilt complex are clear, insightful and easy to comprehend. Getting to know yourself is vital and the Enneagram can be a help. Jesus often retired to lonely places or the desert to pray. Nolan stresses the need for silence and solitude in our busyness. The chapter '**Like a little Child**' is excellent.

Part Four explores a particular kind of awareness or consciousness cf. **Eckhart Tolle's writings.** He speaks of oneness rather than unity, union, reconciliation, harmony, peace or love. Oneness with God, ourselves, other human beings and the universe are considered. Nolan favours naming God as Mystery. Jesus challenged his followers to strive for freedom and it is that radical freedom that challenges us today.

This book is easy to read and to understand. It is based on a deep understanding and love of the scriptures. It brings together the present wisdom of eminent writers on spirituality. Nolan captures the heart of the gospel in such a way that **in an age when many don't take Jesus seriously, we can find challenge and a deep wisdom.** The book is the fruit of **Albert Nolan's own lived spirituality as a mystic and a present day prophet.**

Michael Flaherty

(Note from John Webb: I am reading Nolan's later 2009 book: *Hope in an Age of Despair*, which is excellent. It is available if anyone wants to borrow it).