



WA Cluster Chronicle
5/10

25th August 2010

*The voice of the WA Cluster
of the Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers*



Warm Birthday Greetings to:

In Anticipation

Brian Clery - 17th September
Warwick Bryant - 20th September
Tony Kelly - 22nd September
Pat Kelly - 30th September

PRAYERS FOR RECENTLY DECEASED



Aubrey Murray: Jim's brother who passed away at age 90 and whose Funeral Service took place in St Francis of Assisi Parish Church Maida Vale last Friday 20th August. Jim and the family received great satisfaction and support from the presence of a good number of Brothers.

Paul Coughlin: Michael's brother also passed away just over a week ago. Paul had suffered a lot from various ailments over the years but had remained uncomplaining throughout all the suffering.

Paul Ryan: Brother of Br Matt Ryan (Victoria) who passed away peacefully on Friday 13th August.

Let us keep Jim, Michael, Matt and their families in our prayers.



Let us also keep in our thoughts those among us who would appreciate our prayers:

Pat Grant at Margaret Hubery who because of his buoyant spirit is quite an inspiration to other residents and staff at MH. NB. Pat has recently been moved from the room which he has occupied for nearly two years and is now in MacKillop House, Room 22 where he is able to move freely around without having to be restricted by security doors.

Joan Rafferty: Health Care Co-ordinator for NSW is recovering from a serious road accident.

Continued Prayers are requested for Brothers Steve McLaughlin, Chris Shearer, Bernie Scott, Dan Courtney, Gonz Weston, Graeme Frawley, John Hogan and Paul Hannigan and Fr. Dan McMahon.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Extract from Annual Report 2009 recently published by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

"Particular mention should be made here of the work done by the Christian Brothers. Since the publication of *The Ryan Report*, the congregation has worked diligently to ensure that all the information they hold that references any of their members who has been suspected of being involved in abuse, is reported to the statutory authorities and to the National Office. The following represents the situation that came to light as a result of that exercise.

Following the publication of *The Ryan Report*, the Christian Brothers have increased their efforts to identify and report all knowledge held within the congregation of any safeguarding concerns arising within the Province in Ireland. They made a public apology in 1998 for previous physical or sexual abuse and encouraged all those who had been harmed through contact with the Brothers to come forward. In recent months, they have been bringing to conclusion their critical scrutiny of the records held within the congregation.

The Board has particular interest in any alleged perpetrators who are living. The congregation reports that having reviewed their files stretching back to the 1930s, they have identified 131 individuals against whom there is at least one complaint. Of these, eighty-three have left the Congregation and are no longer living in community. The remaining forty-eight are Brothers but all are out of any form of active ministry. As members of the Congregation they are under its full supervision. (Allegations that emerged for the first time within the past year have been included in the section detailing allegations notified to the National Office.) Along with this scrutiny of existing documentation, the congregation has introduced and is implementing policies and procedures in line with the *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance* document issued by the Board in February 2009. The Christian Brothers have a mandatory reporting policy in place so that any concerns that come to light today are reported without delay to the state authorities, the National Office of the Board and whoever else may need to be told in order to ensure the safety and well-being of children.

The efforts made by the Congregation to declare fully all that is known or held on record is an excellent example to be followed in the Church, and all those involved in undertaking this exercise deserve the highest praise."

VISITING EDMUND RICE IN EAST AFRICA

During the recent July school vacation four visitors from Australian EREA Schools undertook an immersion experience in East Africa, spending time with those Edmund Rice ministries in Kenya and Tanzania which their schools support. Making up the party were Robert Blackley, Director of Curriculum at St. Joseph's College Geelong, Justin Chung, Class Teacher and Director of Service Learning at Rostrevor College, Sylvia Robinson, Class teacher at Aquinas College Junior School and Geoffrey Aufderheide, President of Rostrevor College Old Scholars. Sean Wain, an Art Teacher at Aquinas who was visiting Nairobi at the time, joined the party there and spent a day at Ruben Centre, Mukuru. The group was accompanied by Brother John Carrigg and this was the fourth such visit.

The attached article was written by Robert Blackley of St. Joseph's College and published in the School's Newsletter. St. Joseph's has been strongly committed to the East African Ministries of the Brothers for many years. Its Principal, Mr. Paul Tobias, accompanied by his wife Dianne spent his study leave in 2005 at Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School in Arusha, Tanzania, as Acting Principal. This gave the Principal at the time, Brother Frank O'Shea, the opportunity to visit donor organisations in Europe. The results of Frank's visit can today be seen in Sinon's state-of-the-art Science Rooms.

The following is the text of Robert Blackley's article:

I recently had the privilege of travelling to East Africa and visiting a number of the schools and ministries that the community of St Joseph's College supports through the Christian Brothers' Foundation. I travelled with three other teachers from other Edmund Rice schools and Br John Carrigg from Perth, to see firsthand the contribution our school communities are making to the lives and wellbeing of African people.

It was a most extraordinary experience, witnessing the work and commitment of the Christian Brothers. The impact these men have on the lives of the African people is not to be underestimated. They are Christ-like in their actions and truly live out the Spirit and Charism of Edmund Rice.

I came away filled with many emotions, one being an enormous sense of pride in being associated with the Brothers. Every member of the St. Joseph's College community can feel proud of the work the Christian Brothers undertake there and the financial contributions we as a community make to their work.

The Brothers are very humble in their work and strongly maintain that they would not be able to do what they do without the support and encouragement they receive from communities like St. Joseph's.



One of the places we visited in Nairobi was Edmund Rice Ruben Centre. The Centre is managed by Brother Barry Callan, a passionate Geelong supporter, former SJC student, resident of Geelong and a truly remarkable man. Ruben is an oasis within the Mukuru 'slum', providing an opportunity for the schooling of 1700 students in Years 1-8,

and a medical centre for those who live in appalling conditions. Walking through the slum was a most confronting experience and it is difficult to comprehend how governments can allow people to live in such appalling and degrading conditions. Many of those who attend the medical centre are young women and children suffering from HIV infection. The school's Year 8 students, many of whom sit in classrooms of up to 100, are preparing for the national examinations that will determine if they are



even eligible to continue with secondary education. They arrive at school at 7am eager to learn and go home at 5pm, reluctantly.

I had the pleasure of teaching a Year 7 Social Studies class of 85 enthusiastic and extremely well behaved students. My only teaching tools were a piece of chalk and an old blackboard, a far cry from the conditions at St Joseph's. There were many other schools and centres we

visited and each time I came away being thankful for what we have, and very impressed with the commitment and dedication of the Principals and staff who have the greatest intention to do their very best for their students.

St Joseph's College has been and continues to be a significant contributor to the Ruben Centre. All are appreciative of our efforts. We are making a real difference to the lives of people in East Africa.

Rob Blackley
Director of Curriculum.



TONY SHANAHAN

Dear everyone,

I want to share with you the news that I will be leaving Kenya next year to take up a new appointment as Director of the Novitiate Formation Team at our novitiate in Tamale, northern Ghana. This appointment was confirmed and announced today by our Province Leader.

However, the possibility of this new role was broached with me some weeks back, and I have had ample time to think about the proposal. I came to Africa in 2003 when I was invited to come to help out in formation, and it was formation that was uppermost in my mind when I said Yes. That is still the case, and providing staff for our novitiates is a particular and a pressing need in Africa.

So, although I will be sad to leave east Africa and the Brothers and the friends I have made here, and although I have some fears about things like new culture, language and climate (Tamale is b***** hot!), I have accepted. At the same time I am excited at a new challenge and at the prospect of contributing something to the development of future Brothers.

I will be working with two other Brothers - an Australian, Kevin Delaney, and an Indian, Con Cerejo. Kevin had a short stint in Tamale in 2005 before an illness forced him to return to Australia for treatment. However, he has been back in east Africa and doing great work in the last five years or so, and is also looking forward to this new challenge. Con is the Tamale veteran - he was in The Gambia in west Africa before moving to Tamale a few years back, and has been the Principal of a primary school in Tamale until recently. He is currently having a break and (I think) doing some scripture study.

Tamale is in northern Ghana, about ten hours by road from Accra and two hours' drive from the border with Burkina Faso. It is a heavily Muslim part of Ghana (as with many of the west African countries, the south is more Christian, the north more Muslim) but is generally peaceful. In size I would guess it is about the same population as Arusha (around 300,000??), but it is not a centre of NGOs, tourism and intergovernmental agencies as Arusha is, so it doesn't have the same level of material development (and western-style comforts, like coffee shops!!) as Arusha.

How long will I be there? I am guessing between two and six years - we will have a new group of novices at the beginning of 2011 and the novitiate is a two-year programme, so I would want to see the group through at the very least. It is not common for someone to be in a formation role like this for longer than six years at a time, so I am seeing that as the likely outside limit. However, this is Africa, and the situation is always fluid, so my guesses about time might be blown out of the water by any number of factors.

The timing is a bit awkward, as I am due to leave Nairobi on September 2 for a 10-week sabbatical in Europe. I get back to Nairobi around December 9, and I am guessing that we will need to be in Tamale by mid-January to have planning time as a team. So I will have a limited time for saying goodbye, handing over jobs and duties and packing myself up (something I loathe at the best of times). On top of that we will have to work out a handover time with the outgoing Novice Director in Tamale, who probably won't want to be lingering there for a month or so waiting for us to arrive! So there will probably be a short dash to Tamale sandwiched in somewhere, maybe when I am back from Europe, to have that handover time with my predecessor.

Leaving Nairobi means I won't have regular contact with my brother Peter, who is working here as a volunteer and who will be around at least one more year. That is a big down side to this move, and I will miss him and our weekly coffee and chats. It also means that I will have to resign from our District Leadership Team as we have concluded that it is not practicable to have the role in Tamale and still try somehow to be DLT member. I have mixed feelings about that, as the four of us have bonded well and developed a good working relationship, but I am also happy to say goodbye to leadership team stuff, meetings and memos and all that.

Well, I think that's the gist of it. It will give me something to think about in idle moments in Wicklow and Rome during this sabbatical. I have observed to some of you before that, as my life has unfolded, I have moved further and further westwards. I was born in Sydney, grew up in Adelaide, lived and worked for about 20 years in Perth, then came to east Africa. Now it's Ghana. After that... South America, anyone? I shouldn't tempt fate.

Love and prayers Tony



Tony Kelly will turn 90 on the 22nd September and Rob Callen and Warwick Bryant have invited the Brothers to a Mass and celebration at St Thomas More College on Sunday 19th September. If you are planning on attending and have not already sent an RSVP, please do so ASAP to – Br Rob Callen at rector@stmc.uwa.edu.au or 9386 0111.

Pen Pictures – What Brothers are doing

Bob Wallace and Neville Thornton have 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 and if possible, accompanied by a photo. I can think of 39 possible articles from the WA Cluster. Feel free to write about yourself or check out with others if you'd like to write about someone else. Submit the article to nthornton@edmundrice.org or in hard copy to Neville Thornton, Oceania Publications Co-ordinator, PO Box 596, Virginia BC Queensland 4014.

Calendar

5th – 9th September	Retreat Emerging Religious Life – The New Story	Adelaide - SA
11th September	CAC Bindoon Open Day	Bindoon 10.00am – 3.00pm
19th September	Celebrating Tony Kelly’s 90th Birthday	St Thomas More College
25th September	Catholic Religious WA. Social Gathering	New Norcia 10.00am – 3.00pm
13th – 17th October	Retreat Emerging Religious Life – The New Story	Mulgoa - NSW
17th October	Canonisation of Mary MacKillop Celebration	St Mary’s Cathedral Perth 11.00am
27th – 29th October	Forum (2) - Brisbane	
31st October – 5th November	Gathering – Over 71 year olds (2) “Shepherding The Decades”	Kincumber, NSW
5th – 11th November	Retreat Creation Spirituality Retreat	St John of God Retreat Centre, Shoalwater WA
11th December	Jubilee Mass & Celebratory Meal	Aquinas College
23rd December	Westcourt Office Closes at 12.00pm and re-opens on 5th January 2011	

Please notify Karen on 9365 2859 if you would like to register an upcoming event in the Calendar Section of the Cluster Chronicle.

Contributing to the Cluster Chronicle

Please feel free to send in articles and photos for the Cluster Chronicle. Longer articles may go out as attachments when the Chronicle is emailed.



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