



VIC-EAST UPDATE 2018

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Vic-East Teams Newsletter.

We are nearing the end of our first year as Regional Couple and wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been happening and what is to come.

NEW REGIONAL TEAM



We have had the wonderful joy of meeting with our newly formed Regional Team in October. We say joy for three reasons:

1. It continues to excite and surprise us how generous people in Teams are. We were delighted that people accepted our invitations to join the regionals team if their circumstances allowed.
2. It is a joy to share this privileged role of service to the Vic east Teams with people who are enthusiastic and willing to share and shape vision
3. And they are a great bunch of people.

Anne and Kevin Taylor (Traralgon Team) bring wisdom, vision and skills (particularly in liturgy/ prayer and IT – a good combination.)

Maureen and Bernie Parker (Team 63 from Box Hill South) also serve on the Married Spirituality Task Group (MSTG). They bring an enormous willingness to contribute as well as having their finger on the pulse of vital work and direction of the MSTG.

Jane and Scott Gould (Team 11 from Bayswater) bring a different perspective – a different life stage (they have young children) and a vibrant experience of building a Team in recent years from the ground up. They are also joining the Gathering Day Task Group.

We are greatly looking forward to working with this Regional Team.



Equipes Notre-Dame

www.teamsoceania.com.au

Vic-East Regional Newsletter 10th Edition

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SITUATIONS VACANT

VIC-EAST TEAMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Vic-East Teams produces 2 newsletters per year. We are looking for someone to take on the role of Editor from January 2019. If you want to get more information about this role please contact Cath & Bob Dixon.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL VIC-EAST AND OCEANIA TEAMS MEMBERS



GATHERING DAY: Sunday 24 February 2018

ALL WELCOME!!

The Gathering Day Task Group (GDTG) is working on shaping up the day. We hope to use the experiences of the participants of the Fatima International Gathering to inspire us to consider the mission and vocation of Teams in the Australian context today.

GDTG members are Karen & Bernard Drane, Kristen Allen, Jane & Scott Gould, and Marg & Bernie Farrell. More information very soon.

PLENARY COUNCIL

Thanks to those Teams who have already submitted their Team's response to Plenary 2020 and also to Marnie and David Watts (marnie.watts40@gmail.com) who are collecting the responses to create a coherent and powerful submission on behalf of the Australian Teams movement.

And thanks also to those Teams who let us know that they had made a decision to not make a group submission. We are glad that you thought about the possibility and made a considered decision.

TEAMS VISITS

We have visited 13 Teams this year. We have loved our visits! What welcome, warmth and wisdom we have experienced! We hope to continue our visits Teams in 2019, as there are still plenty of Teams that we have yet to meet. Now that we have a Regional Team in place, we don't want to keep this treasure to ourselves, but hope to share it with the other members. Cath & Bob Dixon

A FRENCH-SPEAKING TEAM?

Moves are underway to establish a French-speaking Team in Melbourne, following inquiries from some French couples who have recently moved to Melbourne. It's not off the ground yet, but we have high hopes that it will eventuate. If you know of any French-speaking couples who might be interested in joining such a Team, please let them know about it. We thank Jan and Peter Ralton and Therese Proy for offering to Pilot the new Team, if it gets going.

The Oceania Team met in Bendigo in September. It was our second opportunity this year to get to know the other Regional Couples and to share experiences.

We spent time considering the Teams Oceania website – thanks to Ron Waanders and Kevin Taylor from VicEast for their work so far. It is very difficult to design a website by committee, but hopefully suggestions from the Oceania Team may prove helpful.

Participation in the Oceania Team leads to a recognition that we are very much part of a worldwide movement with obligation and responsibilities, including paying fees; a large proportion of the annual subscription we all pay is sent to the International Leading Team to fund the work done by the movement around the world. [Note: if you haven't yet paid your 2018 subs, you still have time to squeeze them in!]

On another note: we picked up more than we bargained for with almost all the members of the Oceania Team ending up with gastro or something similar in the days that followed!

The next Oceania meeting will be in Canberra in early February.

Cath & Bob Dixon

Married Spirituality Task Group - Charlesworth Lecture

Wattle Park Parish, 26 August 2018

This year's Charlesworth Lecture was due to be given by Sr Kerin Caldwell sgs on the topic 'The Spirituality of Ageing' but she had to withdraw not long before the event. Fortunately, the group organising the lecture, the Married Spirituality Task Group (MSTG), was able to obtain the services of Dr Peter Wilkinson, the President of Catholics for Renewal, who is an expert on Plenary Councils. The 50 or so Teams people present heard Peter give a very thorough account of the history of Plenary Councils in Australia and of the likely structure and composition of the 2020 Council, with the under-representation of lay people and their lack of formal influence in Council decisions causing some consternation and cynicism among those present. Nevertheless, there was strong support for the idea of individual Teams and the Australian Teams Movement as a whole making submissions to the Council.

The good news for the MSTG – and for all of us – is that it has already organised its topic for the 2019 Charlesworth Lecture (date to be advised): The Spirituality of Ageing!

Thanks to all the members of the MSTG – Maureen and Murray Cullinan, Maureen and Bernie Parker, Maureen and Garry Mahon, Rose Marie Prosser and Ian Ranson – for all their work and especially for their quick thinking in organising such a relevant and timely alternative speaker at short notice.

In July this year, a group of Oceania Teams members attended the International Gathering in Fatima with approximately 9,000 other Teams people from around the world.

Prior to arriving in Fatima, 22 of us went on a pilgrimage from Barcelona to Fatima via the north coast of Spain. (Here's our group photo taken in Zaragoza)



We were very lucky to have Mons Frank Marriott accompany us on this journey - we enjoyed Mass in many places we would never have been able to without him there to lead us.

One of the most memorable Masses was in a little chapel lined with scallop shells at Isla de la Toja (an island off the west coast of Spain a short drive from Santiago de Compostela).



On arriving in Fatima we were very impressed with how the logistics of housing 9000 people were managed. We each received a welcome pack at our respective hotels, retreat house or convent that also included a small stool and umbrella which we later found out were for the sit down.

The main venue was the Basílica da Santíssima Trindade but on arriving in the sanctuary between the 2 Basílica's you could not help but be in awe of belonging to such an amazing organisation.



The Oceania contingent though small in number compared to Brazil were easily identifiable because of our vests made by Joan Freeman.

This photo shows the Vic-East and Vic-West participants on the final night of the gathering.



The theme of the gathering was 'The Prodigal Son' and the program gave a daily reflection on this reading. As Mons Frank said 'we even squeezed the pips' out of this reading. Perhaps it was overdone but one of the greatest challenges for us was relying on the translations which were not always the best or easiest to follow. There were certainly some terrific speakers and presentations during the week. We did have one couple from Australia share their own life experiences. Their moving and honest account of their marriage journey was received with a standing ovation - well done Vee and Rene Pols.

Our favourite part of each day was the time spent in our 'home team' based at our hotel. We had couples from Brazil, Africa, America, France and Germany.



Whilst other opportunities for discussion during the day were limited we did find the 'sit-down' experience was the 'God moment' for us. The different coloured umbrella's (representing Super Regions) and portable stools made for quite a sight in the square between the 2 Basílica's.



Thinking back on our time at Fatima which is now several months ago, we still have fond memories of the whole experience.

Ron and Angela Waanders