

APOLOGY FOR THE LATENESS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter was supposed to go out in late June this year. However, for a variety of reasons, mainly to do with people heading off to Fatima for the International Gathering, it didn't get sent out.

So, you might expect that a newsletter going out now would contain news of the Fatima Gathering. Unfortunately, it doesn't. Instead it contains exactly what it contained back in June, before Fatima. We'll include a major report on the Gathering in the *next* newsletter.

There is one advantage of the lateness. We can confirm that the topic for the Teams event on Sunday 26 August has changed, as Sr Kerin Caldwell is no longer available to talk about 'The Spirituality of Ageing'. Instead, Dr Peter Wilkinson will now be the presenter of the Charlesworth Talk. The Chair of Catholics for Renewal, Peter will speak on the topic 'The Plenary Council: Will our voice be heard?' And we will give a brief report about the Gathering in Fatima. Other details are unchanged: it will take place at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Wattle Park at 7 pm.

We'll leave you with just a taste of the Fatima Gathering: a photo of all the Victorians who attended. We're all wearing the distinctive vests made for all of us by Joan Freeman from Vic-West Region.

- Cath and Bob Dixon
Vic-East Regional Couple
15 August 2018



Left to Right: Bob Dixon, Peter Ralton, Cath Dixon, Jan Ralton, Ron Waanders, Frank Marriott, John Freeman, Therese Proy, Joan Freeman, Paul Castley MSC



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www.teamsoceania.com.au

Vic-East Regional Newsletter 9th Edition



VIC-EAST UPDATE 2018

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

Cath and Bob Dixon are now into their 6th month as Regional Couple role. Inside this issue Cath and Bob share their thoughts on how the first 6 months have gone.

We have already seen them hard at work as MC's for the Gathering Day and they have also attended their first Oceania Team meeting in Adelaide. Reports on both these events can be read on pages 3 & 4 of this newsletter along with a report on the Gippsland Teams Retreat day. On page 6 you will find some information about the Carmelite Retreat Centre in Middle Park, so if you're looking for a retreat facility please give this some consideration.

We would welcome any information that you or your Team would like to share with the Region - please email any articles, photos and the like to me at ron@glenra.com.au

At the end of June, we will be escaping the winter chills of Victoria and heading to Portugal (and a few other places) to attend the 2018 Teams International Gathering in Fatima with approx. 20 others from around Australia (including several Vic-East Teams members). We look forward to being part of the gathering with the thousands of others who will be travelling from around the globe.

With peace and much love.

Ron & Angela Waanders

The current Oceania Team



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Vic-East Regional Newsletter 9th Edition

June 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Update from Cath & Bob Dixon
- ◆ Report from Oceania meeting
- ◆ Report on the Vic-East Formation / Gathering Day 2018
- ◆ Gippsland Team Retreat Day
- ◆ A Retreat option for Teams

Wow! It is nearly 6 months since we took on the role of VicEast Regional Couple! (only 3.5 years to go). This small article is to give you an idea of what we have been doing in that time. We could write a BIG article of what we have *not yet* done... but that is another story.

- Our first public outing was the **Gathering Day** (for Responsible Couples, Responsible Persons and any other Team members) in February. We have compiled a report on this elsewhere in this newsletter. We are very grateful for the already existing work that had been done on this before we took over the reins.
- We undertook the **distribution of the Oceania newsletters**. This enabled us to meet some of you at your meetings, on your doorstep or in our kitchen. While this has taken up a lot of time, it was a wonderful opportunity to get a bit of an idea of some of your Teams, as well as to familiarise ourselves with the membership database! Others of you will have received (or will be about to receive) your newsletter from your RC who has received (or will receive) them in the mail.
- We have attended our first **Oceania Team meeting** in Adelaide (a report on that is included in this newsletter). We will also be attending another Oceania meeting in Bendigo in August/ September. (Oh dear, maybe there is a slight chance that Melbourne might be playing in a final that weekend – a true test of priorities).
- We are also about to head off to the **International Gathering** in Fatima in July. We are looking forward to this chance to experience the VERY wide Teams movement and to be inspired by the diversity and energy that we expect to encounter.
- We loved the opportunity to meet with various Team members in **Gippsland**, at their annual Retreat day, facilitated by Bishop Pat O'Regan. We considered the theme of unity - with God, others and ourselves. We were part of a very fruitful experience of sharing the nuts and bolts of each Team's operations.

The highlight of these six months has been the privileged opportunity to **visit and participate in several Teams meetings**. We appreciate the great generosity and hospitality that we have experienced. We have been moved and humbled by the deep faith, the constancy of prayer, the very real sharing of ordinary and extraordinary life, and the powerful dedication to marriage and the endeavour to acknowledge the sanctity of this mission. And we have been inspired to hear the variety and scope of discussion topics and retreat ideas and venues. Below we have jotted down some gems that we have gleaned from these meetings. But the real gems were in the prayer, faith and love of these people.

SOME GEMS:

- ◆ Using movies as study topic material (based on a book 'Movies that Matter: reading film through the lens of faith' by Richard Leonard SJ.)
- ◆ Giving time for deep sharing within the prayer time
- ◆ Sharing structured around: Highs, lows, couple, spirituality.
- ◆ Sharing around: Where has God been in my life in the past month?
- ◆ Sharing: Highlights, lowlights, God moments. (Not a shopping list)
- ◆ Ending meeting with the Magnificat
- ◆ General Business includes reflection on the Endeavours
- ◆ Rotation of tasks of the Team meeting: Home/ Discussion/ Paraliturgy/ Reflection. (In this Team ALL contributed part of the meal, and ALL brought wine!)
- ◆ Combining with another Team for retreat.

What could it mean that the heavens opened and there was torrential rain so heavy that we had to pull off the road as we made our way to our first Oceania Team meeting? This was our first challenge, but we were soon made comfortable (and dry) in the warm hospitality of the home of Chris and John Dighton, the Oceania Couple, where we met our fellow Regional Couples and chaplain.

Over the next couple of days we were exposed to the broader Teams movement, with each Regional Couple sharing their achievements, challenges and visions. Many of the challenges are common to all regions, particularly the difficulty of attracting young couples and forming new teams. On the other hand, it was exciting to hear of Teams being formed and nurtured in East Timor, the Philippines and within the lively Maronite and Melkite Catholic communities in Sydney.

There was a lively and inspiring discussion about the contribution that Teams can make to the 2020 Plenary Council of the Church in Australia. Movements like Teams have a very valuable perspective to bring to the Council and the Oceania Team wants to find ways to make sure the voice of Teams is heard by the Council. You will hear more about this in the coming months.

The website for Teams in Oceania was another focus of our meeting. The website has become a crucial means of communication and promotion of Teams. There are some very talented, diligent and committed people working away on this. As with every website, the key is in the content, ensuring it is accurate, up-to-date, useful and compelling.

Having taken on the role of VicEast Regional Couple only in January this year, we reported to the meeting that we are still forming our vision for our four-year term. Although this is our second time as Regional Couple, we can't simply repeat what we did at the end of the 1990s: the world has changed, Teams has changed, and we have changed. We noted that while we have two fabulous task groups – the Gathering Day Planning Group and the Married Spirituality Task Group – to work with, we also feel a need for an ongoing regional team to support us in our role, a view reinforced by hearing from the other regional couples of the vital role that their regional teams play. Volunteers, anyone?

This was the last meeting as Oceania Spiritual Counsellor of long-time Teams member Fr Bob Wilkinson, a priest of the Archdiocese of Adelaide. Bob has made a tremendous contribution to Teams over the years. His place will be taken at the next meeting by Columban priest Fr Gary Walker, also a long-time member of Teams.

These jottings hopefully give you a little flavour of the Oceania Team meeting. More importantly, if anything here triggers a thought or a question, please contact us. We represent you at these meetings, so we value all feedback and queries.

Cath & Bob Dixon

The publication of the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in December last year was the culmination of a long and distressing time for Australia's Catholics.

What were we to make of the massive breach of trust by the leaders of our Church? How could we respond at the revelation of so much criminal behaviour by priests and brothers? How do we as individual Catholics maintain our faith and integrity in the face of revelations about the dysfunctional character of our Church? These were the questions addressed at this year's Vic-East Gathering Day held in February at Ss Peter and Paul's Parish in East Doncaster. And they were questions on the mind of many Teams members, since many of the 70 or so people who attended said they had come specifically to hear what the speakers had to say on the theme of 'Hurt, Healing, Hope: Teams in the wake of the sexual abuse crisis

The three speakers were:

Francis Sullivan, the Chief Executive Officer of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council. Francis did not supply us with a text of his talk, but the text of a similar talk he gave to Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn just a few weeks later can be found at www.tjhcouncil.org.au/media/145796/180322-SPEECH-Concerned-Catholics-Public-Forum-ACCC-Canberra-Francis-Sullivan.pdf

Bob Munro. Bob and his wife Kathy joined Teams in the late 80s. A psychologist, Bob is the founder of a group called 'For the Innocents' that works in support of the abused. Bob spoke on the topic 'Pathways to Healing'. Bob kindly made available the slides he used in his presentation. They accompany this newsletter as an attachment.

Rose Marie Prosser. Rose Marie and her late husband Bob's Team began over 40 years ago. She and Bob were Oceania Couple at one stage. She has been a sessional lecturer in Practical Theology at YTU for many years and is involved in adult and teacher formation.

Afterwards, we asked a few of the people who had been in attendance to share their thoughts on the day.

Genevieve Cormick wrote that:

Lisa Brick and I were delighted to be at the day. Francis Sullivan was fantastic & as usual was sincere, truthful & a genuine example of what we as Catholics should be about: no protecting the Church institution but instead providing necessary pastoral care.

I was very impressed that Francis Sullivan acknowledged his wife (who travelled with him) & that was very appropriate at a Teams function. They used to be members & I remember thinking wouldn't it be nice if all teams people could develop into such fine

public speakers!

We were impressed with Bob Munro & Rose Marie Prosser, too.

Julia Walters said that she found Francis Sullivan's talk useful as it was informative and pointed out an ongoing need for a mechanism for monitoring the Church's response to helping victims. She also commented that Bob Munro's talk highlighted for her the hidden burden carried by victims of clerical abuse and how individuals (and parishes) might be able to help.

'What a thought provoking theme and program', said Ron and Angela Waanders, who went on to say:

Francis Sullivan was able to take participants through the key points to come out of the Royal Commission. We were both impressed by his endurance and dedication to the cause as he explained the Church's response and outlined the challenges we have going forward as members of the Church. Our personal response to his presentation was quite emotional but we felt privileged to have been able to hear what he had to say.

Other feedback noted that it would be better to have more time for discussion, and that young couples would have felt a bit left out because most of those in attendance were over 70. It was also noted that the focus wasn't on formation for Responsible Couples, as in the past, and so there was no room given for consideration of, for example, good discussion material for Teams or good retreat venues. Perhaps, some thought, it would have been better to have fewer speakers so as to allow time for things like this.

Finally, several people noted that it was good that the day included joining the people of Ss Peter and Paul's for Mass in the parish church.



A Teams Retreat Day, which had representatives from Sale, Churchill and Traralgon/Rosedale Teams, was held at the St Mary MacKillop Hall in Traralgon on Saturday the 12th of May.

The retreat was gently lead by Bishop Pat O 'Regan with 3 spiritual reflection sessions, that generated lots of discussion both among couples and as a wider group.

The theme was *Unity - Unity with God, Neighbour and Ourselves*.

A shared lunch was had which gave everyone a chance to catch up.

The afternoon session saw each of the Teams share insights about their Team and how they conduct their Team meetings. Team discussion ideas and material were also shared.

Cath and Bob Dixon, the newly appointed Vic East Regional couple, wrapped up the day with an overview of our region and the other regions in Oceania.



Bishop Pat with Cath & Bob Dixon

MARRIED SPIRITUALITY GROUP 2018 CHARLESWORTH TALK

Save The Date

SPIRITUALITY OF AGEING

Presented by: **Sr. Kerin Caldwell**

Sunday 26th August 2018 - 7pm to 9pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church

299 Elgar Rd, Wattle Park



Retreats Available

**The Carmelite Centre
214-216 Richardson St
Middle Park Vic 3206**

T: 03 9690 5430

info@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

The Carmelite Spirituality Centre is based in Middle Park, Melbourne and provides a regular program of events including Spiritual Direction, Spiritual Reading groups, meditation, Lectio Divina and retreats.

The program is designed to reflect the tradition of Carmelite Spirituality and shares space with the Carmelite Library which is dedicated to research in the areas of spirituality and mysticism.

In recent years the Carmelite Centre has hosted retreats for various groups of Teams of Our Lady on topics such as Mary in Scripture, Prayer and Celtic Spirituality.

There may be retreats we are offering which suit your group. Examples of events coming up of are:

- Winter Solstice Retreat – Saturday 23 June
- Residential Carmelite Family retreat – 31 August – 2 September
- The Carmelite Way Pilgrimage walk – 9-13 November
- The Season of Advent Retreat – Saturday 24 November

For more details about these events please refer to the website: thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

In addition to our listed program we are able to host a retreat for you on a topic of your choice.

We have good facilities with pleasant surrounds.

You tell us what you are interested in and we can work with you to find a suitable date and retreat leader.

Our meeting rooms can be configured in different ways to meet the style of seating you prefer.



For more information contact Irene or Damien on info@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org