

Teams in a time of coronavirus

Greetings from the Regional Team

It has been a long time since the last Vic-East Regional Newsletter appeared in December 2018, and the world is a very different place compared to what it was then.

Fortunately, with the help of communications couple Bernadette and Robert Pell, we have been able to get important information to you via occasional emails.

At our recent Zoom meeting, we four couples that make up the Regional Team decided that one of us would call the Responsible Couple of every Team in the region to see how you are coping in these strange times and to see how we can best be of service to you.

Responsible Couples should expect to receive this call over the next two weeks or so.

Cath and Bob Dixon (Regional Couple), Jane and Scott Gould, Maureen and Bernie Parker, Anne and Kevin Taylor.



Equipes Notre-Dame

www.teamsoceania.com.au

Vic-East Regional Newsletter 11th Edition

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2020 Gathering Day

The 2020 Gathering Day held at Ss Peter and Paul's Parish in East Doncaster on 23 February was a great success. According to Joan and Michael O'Callaghan, in Teams for more than 40 years, it was one of the best they had ever been to.

Special guest for the day was Archbishop Peter Comensoli. After celebrating Mass and sharing lunch with us, he listened to three couples recount their experience of Teams before telling us, very briefly, his own story. He then spent about half an hour in informal conversation with the group, taking numerous questions. Many



of the 50 or so people present commented later that they were very pleased to have had a chance to meet him and said they were very impressed with his friendly manner and his vision for the archdiocese.

The day also included a summary from Stephen Reid of the National Centre for Pastoral Research (NCPR) of the submissions to the first phase of the Plenary Council process, a 'speed dating' session that allowed those present to share ideas about retreats and discussion materials, and a commissioning of the 2020 Responsible Couples.

Go to <https://www.teamsoceania.com.au/resources/> to find the two submissions by Teams Oceania to the Plenary Council.

See <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/> for *Listen to what the Spirit is saying*, the NCPR report on all 17,500 submissions received from around Australia.

Changes in Vic-East Region

In the last year or so, several Teams have made the decision to cease functioning as a Team, although some have decided to continue meeting as a group outside the Teams movement. This is usually due to the increasing age and ill health of members. One such Team had been meeting for over 50 years!

A closing ritual designed to help a Team navigate the process of closing down can be found at <http://www.teamsoceania.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Closing-ritual-for-a-Team-1.pdf>

Members of Teams that close down are placed on the Associate Membership List; they continue to receive communications from the movement but are not asked to pay an annual subscription.

This information has implications for us as a Teams movement in Vic-East, pointing to the ageing of our members and our decreasing numbers. The Regional Team is giving serious consideration to what this is asking of us a movement at this time.

In other news ...

2021 Gathering Day

The 2021 Gathering Day will be held in February next year, assuming that it is once again safe to gather for events like that by then. Karen and Bernard Drane have decided not to continue on the planning group and we thank them for all the good ideas and hard work that they contributed over the years to making those days a success. Jane and Scott Gould will continue to coordinate the Gathering Day planning, but they are looking for others to assist them. **Can you help? You need only commit to helping with the 2021 Gathering Day — there's no requirement for an ongoing involvement.** Please contact Jane or Scott if you would like to help: jane.gould21@gmail.com or scott.gould21@gmail.com .

2020 National Conference (Canberra) postponed

The coronavirus crisis has forced the postponement till late 2021 of the Teams National Conference originally scheduled to take place in Canberra in September.

Online Masses

We hope you have appreciated the emails that Bernadette and Rob Pell have sent out from time to time with details of Teams Masses being celebrated online from various parts of the world. Although it's not the same as actually being present with fellow Teams people from around the world, those Masses do provide a reminder that we belong to an international movement of married spirituality.

Married Spirituality Group

The Spirituality Group has been working on a planned series to be offered to Teams people on a regular basis. Its working title is 'Take a Moment' and the idea is to take a moment to reflect on the wisdom of some special women and men through reading an article or viewing a video. The aim is to find different ways of talking about the mystery we call God and our relationship with this mystery. Daniel O'Leary is one such special person. In his writing 'Windows of Wonder' he says 'All we have to do is simply to be present to the music of what happens.....Contemplation is....a way of presence, of seeing, of always being amazed.' Hopefully the series will start once the COVID restrictions are lifted.

There will be no Charlesworth Talk in 2020. We look forward to the return of this annual event in 2021.

Intercessors

The International movement invites and encourages you to consider becoming an **intercessor** – a great way to contribute to the movement – without having to attend a meeting, leave your home, or spend any money. What's not to like? For details, see: <http://www.teamsoceania.com.au/about-us/become-an-intercessor/>

Subscription reminder

A reminder that 2020 subscription notices were sent out in June. Thanks to those who have already paid, and to Brian Rochford, our Treasurer, for his work in managing the region's fund with efficiency and grace.

Let us pray in thanksgiving for our departed companions



Some Vic-East Teams members have died since our last newsletter in December 2018.

Let us keep them, their families and their Teams in our prayers.

- Cath Taylor (Geelong Team – December 2018)
- Veronika McKinnon (Team 7 – 19 June 2019)
- Sybil Levick (formerly of Team 6 – 2 September 2019)
- Sr Margaret Nabbs RSC (Team 32 – 23 January 2020)
- Adrian Harris (Team 1 – 20 April 2020)
- Owen Potter AM (Team 4 – 22 June 2020)
- Denis Hitchens (formerly of Team 25 – 7 July 2020)

The members of the Regional Team express our sincere condolences to Sue Harris (Team 1), Elizabeth and Denis Fitzgerald (Team 62; Elizabeth is Owen Potter's daughter), Mary Hitchens, and all the members of these Teams that have lost treasured members.



Please let the Regional Team know if we have missed anyone.

"Prayers when a Teams member has died" can be found at <https://www.teamsoceania.com.au/resources/>