



## REPORT OF 69TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, 14 MARCH, 2011**

**ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL COLLEGE HALL**

The retiring President, Howard Murray, presided over the Annual General Meeting, at which 29 members were present. After the confirmation of the Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting, Mr. Murray expressed the Society's regrets on the passing of several members. He then proceeded to deliver his report on the Society's activities throughout the year and outlined several proposed strategies for improving the membership of the Society, including the possible establishment of links with a tertiary institution and students. Retiring Councillors were thanked for their contributions throughout the year. The reports of the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor were then presented.

**President:** John Carmody

**Vice President:** Geoff Hogan

**Secretary:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Helen Scanlon

**Councillors:** Patricia Jacobsen, Peter Makinson, John Farrell

After a general business discussion, the meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.

## 2011 LECTURE PROGRAMME

**Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held at St. Mary's Cathedral College Hall and commence at 2.30 p.m.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker and Topic *(Actual title to be decided.)</b>
17 July	Anne Henderson, " <i>Faith and Politics: Dame Enid Lyons</i> "
14 August	Vince Crow, " <i>Secular and Religious Firsts of Haberfield</i> "
11 September	Excursion to Mary MacKillop Place, 7-11 Mount Street, North Sydney, NSW – Chapel, Museum, Talk
9 October	James Dominguez, Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta *
13 November	Jane Carolan, Catholic Church Insurance Centenary*
10 December	Christmas Lunch. Venue to be advised. Speaker, Father Jim Boland, " <i>Religious Services at Sydney Olympics</i> "

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE AWARD TO ACHS MEMBER

### DR. NANCE MILLAR

On 8 March, 2011, the eve of the Centenary of International Women's Day, Dr. Millar was one of sixteen women who received awards, in the words of Dr. Dan White, Executive Director of Catholic Schools in the Sydney Archdiocese, "...for their outstanding contributions to Catholic schools, students and the promotion of educational and community partnerships". Dr. Millar, who holds a Doctorate in Philosophy and Sociology, received a Category 3 Award for her contribution to educational and community partnerships.

During the presentation of her award, Dr. Millar described her passion for education and her advocacy for parental involvement in their children's education. She accepted the award as an acknowledgment of the sustained efforts and fidelity of the parents with whom she had worked over many years in Catholic schools. Dr. Millar's recently published book, "*Bridging the Gap between families and students*", has become an essential handbook for many Australian Catholic educators.

# Centenary of Armidale Cathedral's Foundation Stone

**O**n the first weekend in February 100 years ago, the foundation stone of Armidale's Catholic Cathedral was laid.

Designed by Sydney architects, Messrs. Sheerin and Hennessy, with local building George Nott as the contractor, the new cathedral replaced an earlier building which served from 1872 to 1912.

Enthusiastic collecting began in 1909 and £10,000 was soon in hand, with the foundations already completed when a date was set for laying the ceremonial foundation stone, but ongoing wet weather resulted in some changes in the plans on the weekend of February 4 and 5, 1911.

Cardinal Moran (the Archbishop of Sydney) and a great number of visitors, including the bishops of Maitland, Goulburn, Lismore and Rockhampton, arrived in Armidale by train on the Saturday morning and were briefly welcomed at the railway station by Bishop Patrick O'Connor and given a police escort to the Town Hall, which was crowded for an official welcome by the Mayor, Alderman William Curtis, who outlined the benefits the new cathedral would bring.

Rain fell almost continuously on the Saturday night but held off during the ceremonies on the Sunday morning, when there was a massive attendance, including 300 people who arrived on a special train from the south.

After Pontifical High Mass in the old cathedral, everyone adjourned to the foundation stone site, where Cardinal Moran, who was vested in cope and mitre, blessed the stone and laid it in position with a silver trowel donated by George Nott.

Bishop O'Connor led by example and laid a cheque for

£1,000 on the stone and, amid hearty cheering, £5,000 was given. A "very sumptuous repast" for 300 people at the Town Hall was followed by a great many toasts. Not even the extra seating in the aisles was adequate for the vast congregation in the cathedral at the evening devotions when Father O'Reilly from Bathurst had them "riveted to the masterly sermon", declaring "no edifice could be too costly or too magnificent for the house of God".

On the Monday morning, there was a Solemn Requiem Mass for Bishop Elzear Torreggiani, in whose memory the new cathedral was being built. Various other functions were held, including an afternoon tea at De La Salle College and a concert at St. Ursula's College.

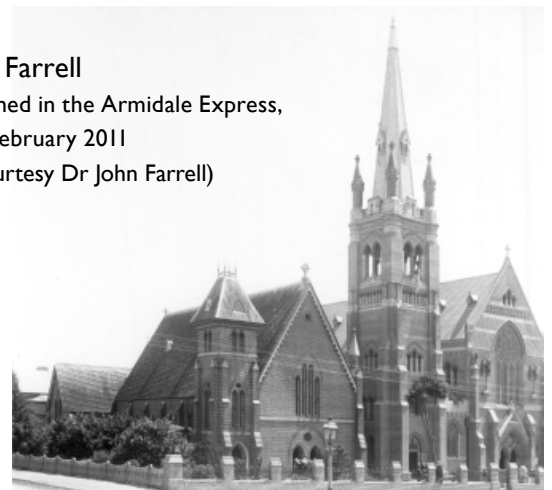
Generations have known Cardinal Moran's name in Armidale because it is literally writ large on the foundation stone near the

front door of the magnificent cathedral, but curiously, there is no similar memorial to the opening in October 1912.



**Dr. John Farrell**

(As published in the Armidale Express, Friday, 4 February 2011  
Images courtesy Dr John Farrell)



March 2011 Lecture

## Knights of the Southern Cross of New South Wales

**M**r. Cliff Baxter, Journalist and Author, presented an interesting account of the 90 year history of the Knights of the Southern Cross of New South Wales ("KSCs"), as recorded in his recently published book, "Reach for the Stars". Mr. Baxter reminded the audience of the enormous progress made by Australian Catholics since their humble origins in colonial Australia, when they suffered from religious, social and political repression. By comparison, today they enjoy equal opportunities in every aspect of their lives and are playing leading political roles.

Baxter outlined the events that led to the foundation

of the KSCs on 1 September, 1919 during a period of extreme anti-Catholic fervour, which was exacerbated by the unsuccessful World War 1 conscription referenda. It was argued then that the rejections were largely due to the work of leading Catholics and the Catholic clergy, such as Archbishop Mannix. As Baxter pointed out, at that time, Catholics were very sensitive about the 1916 execution of Irish rebels and most were on the left of the Australian political spectrum.

Baxter provided brief descriptions of the founding members of the KSCs. Patrick Moynihan, a prominent Irish Catholic Labor politician and campaigner against anti-Catholic sectarianism, was the first Chairman of

the KSCs and Grand Knight. The Co-Founder, Joseph Lynch, a School Inspector, was particularly concerned about the emerging threat of rationalism, the lack of social mobility available to Australian Catholics and the growing number of failed Catholics. Baxter went on to outline the early focus and achievements of the KSCs, with particular emphasis on their vigorous campaigns to ensure that young Catholics received a good education, in order to secure decent employment. As he pointed out, the KSCs played a most effective role in organizing the extremely successful 29th Eucharistic Congress in 1928. He paid particular tribute to the promotional campaign of the Radio Announcer, Bill Ross, for which

Lecture April 2011

## The Grail International Women's Movement

**O**n Sunday 10 April 2011, Alison Healey spoke to the ACHS on "The Grail" and covered many aspects of The Grail's development and work. The following is a brief summary of Alison's presentation.

The Grail evolved from The Women of Nazareth an organisation for lay woman founded in the Netherlands by the Jesuit scholar Jacques van Ginneken in 1921. The Grail has maintained its lay status, which, under current Canon Law, is a private Association of Christ's Faithful.

The growing secularism in Northern Europe concerned van Ginneken, as did rigid, lukewarm Catholicism. His vision was of a deep, vigorous, passionate Catholicism, drawing inspiration from early Christianity, which would meet the challenges of modernity. He believed that women could embody this. A number of young women responded and entered a program of spiritual formation before formally dedicating their lives to the 'conversion of the world'. In 1928, this group responded to a request from the Bishop of Haarlem to take responsibility for forming and leading a national movement of Catholic girls. The name 'Grail' was given to the girls' movement and, over time, was adopted by the Women of Nazareth also. By 1932 there were 8000 members in the 23 Grail Centres in cities and 700 branches in villages and towns in the Netherlands. By 1941 there were 21000 members, but during Nazi occupation of WWII the Grail was proscribed.

The 'first five' Dutch Grail women arrived in Sydney in 1936. They were welcomed with enthusiasm but, with little understanding. The Church culture in Sydney was strongly Irish in orientation; masculine and generally non-intellectual. It emphasized individual and family piety and devotion, with some acts of public devotion. There was a firm expectation of lay obedience to bishops and priests.

Grail members were, to an extent, at odds with this and resisted moves by bishops to impose priest chaplains.

he was later awarded a Vatican Cross of Leo.

Baxter cautioned against the KSCs supporting any particular political parties, which can lead to divisiveness within the Catholic community, although their involvement in the Goulburn campaign for State Aid for Catholic Schools in the 1960s had resulted in an excellent outcome. Nevertheless, he suggested that individual politicians may provide support for the KSCs' efforts to address such threats to society as the new barbarisms of consumerism and religious fundamentalism.

Patricia Jacobsen, ACHS Councillor

While Grail women always sought guidance and inspiration from beyond The Grail, they wanted to choose those sources themselves. Notwithstanding this tension the Grail had success. In 3 years there were 1000 active Grail members in Sydney, and The Grail had attracted support from women in Melbourne, Brisbane, and Adelaide, regional centres in NSW, Victoria and Queensland and also in New Zealand.

Alison outlined many aspects of the Grail's development, work and experience in Australia and mentioned two crises. One was in Melbourne which involved a disagreement between Grail members and some clergy involved with "Catholic Action". This caused a withdrawal from some activities, but The Grail retained a positive relationship with Archbishop Mannix who was supportive of them.

In Sydney the Grail declined to continue with the Catholic Library in CUSA House under changed guidelines and provision. This resulted in a falling out with the Archbishop, Cardinal Gilroy. Fortunately a generous benefactor, Mrs. Collins, provided the Sydney Grail members with a secure home and they continued with other work. After the installation of James Freeman as Archbishop of Sydney in 1971, The Grail resumed a more public stance in Sydney.

Bishop Doody of Armidale once asked Adelaide Crookall of The Grail, what the Grail had achieved during the last twenty years. Adelaide replied, 'We have survived, My Lord'.

Alison pointed to many other aspects of the Grail's work in Australia and beyond, including residential establishments for young woman and its outreach to the wider Church community. She concluded by returning to van Ginneken's founding imperative that The Grail embody the vision of a vigorous Catholicism engaging with the world. Alison suggested that "It's a challenge that we've at times risen to and at times failed to meet".

Geoff Hogan, ACHS Councillor

## The Institute of Counselling

In his presentation at the Members' monthly meeting, Dr. David Bollen, spoke about the origins and history of the Institute of Counselling, which was a post Vatican II initiative of the Sydney Archdiocese. Mary Lewis, a social worker, persuaded Dr. Muldoon that there was need within the Diocese for a course on counselling, which, at the time, was considered overseas to be linked with pastoral care.

An Institute Board was formed, which included many lay people, including three women. In 1970, classes were held initially in the Parish Hall at Lavender Bay. The Institute was supported by the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau, the Christian Brothers and members of other religious orders. At first, all but 7 of the 92 students admitted were members of religious orders,

most of whom were women. The ages of the students ranged from young to middle aged and most of the lecturers were male and held university positions. By 1975, the students were comprised of 42 sisters, 22 brothers and 5 priests. Because of the emphasis placed on students learning from one another, it developed as a community of learners.

Today, the Institute forms part of the Australian Catholic University. There are 40 to 50 students, the majority of whom are non-Catholic, and the current course is secular. The aim of the Institute is to provide students with academic counselling qualifications, such as diplomas and degrees, at the expense of its former mutual learning atmosphere.

Helen Scanlon, ACHS Councillor

### EXCURSION TO MARY MACKILLOP PLACE

**The annual excursion has been booked for Sunday, 11 September, 2011. The programme for the day is:**

12 noon	Mass in the Chapel in Mount Street, North Sydney to be said by our Chaplain, Father George Connolly.
12.45-1.30 p.m.	Lunch to be served in Anderley Lodge Dining Room (Soup, sandwiches, wraps, fruits, cakes, tea, coffee and juice)
1.45-2.45 p.m.	A talk on the "Process of Canonisation of Mother Mary of the Cross"
2.45-4.00 p.m.	A tour of the Mary MacKillop Museum
<b>TRANSPORT:</b>	<b>The Mary MacKillop Centre is reached by:</b>
<b>Car:</b>	(Street parking near Mount Street is difficult until about 11.30 a.m. because there is a 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday.)
<b>Train:</b>	<b>to North Sydney</b> and then an uphill walk
<b>Bus:</b>	<b>M20 departing 11.28 a.m. or 252 at 11.18 a.m.</b> from Clarence Street stop near Margaret Street in the City. Alight at Berry Street, North Sydney and walk
<b>COST:</b>	
<b>Lunch:</b>	\$18.00 (Payable to the Secretary, ACHS)*
<b>Museum Entry:</b>	\$8.00 or \$6 for Seniors (To be paid at the Museum)

#### BOOKING:

Firm reservations for the luncheon are required by 25 August, 2011. Please send your name and contact details (telephone or email), together with a cheque for \$18.00 made payable to the Australian Catholic Historical Society, to:

ACHS  
PO Box A621  
Sydney South, NSW, 1235

**\*(Please note that, alternatively, lunch may be purchased also at the Café near the Museum and Chapel.)**

### Campion College Course - His302 Australian Politics, Religion and Culture Since 1788.

Campion College, a Liberal Arts College, at Toongabbie conducts the above course, which includes the history of Australian Catholicism.

For further information, please contact the course lecturer at [s.rizzo@campion.edu.au](mailto:s.rizzo@campion.edu.au)

### Obituary

Dr. Peter Quinn, an ACHS member for many years, Councillor and Treasurer for two years, passed away on 17 May, 2011. Peter made important contributions in the area of Child Welfare as an administrator and through research.

### Errata – Christmas 2010 Lunch Images

Please amend the image caption reading "Dr. John and Mrs. Margaret MacDonald" to read "Mr. John and Mrs. Anne Taylor". Apologies to both couples.