

The Heart of the Matter

God said: I myself will dream within you.
Good dreams come from me, you know.
My dreams seem impossible, not too practical,
not for the cautious man or woman;
a little risky sometimes, a trifle brash, perhaps.
Some of my friends prefer to rest more comfortably
in sounder sleep with visionless eyes.

But from those who share my dreams
I ask a little patience, a little humour,
some small courage and a listening heart.
I will do the rest.

Then they will risk and wonder at their daring,
run and marvel at their speed,
build and stand in awe at the beauty of their building.

You will meet me often at your work;
in your companions who share your risks;
in your friends who believe in you enough
to lend you their own dreams, their own hands,
their own hearts, to your building;
in the people who find your doorway,
stay a while and find
they too can find a dream.

There will be sun-filled days
and, sometimes, it will rain, a little variety.
Both come from me.
So, come now, be content.
It is my dream you dream,
my house you build,
my caring you witness,
my love you share.
And this is the heart of the matter.

Charles Péguy (1873-1914, French poet and essayist)

CONTENTS

The Heart of the Matter.....	1
<i>Charles Péguy</i>	
National News.....	3 - 5
News from Here and There.....	5 – 11
Melbourne	
Sydney	
Brisbane	
North Queensland	
Films to see	
International News.....	12
A psychological tip.....	13

PUBLICATIONS

A Personal Journal - \$10 per copy

When you buy one, you gift one to a prisoner in a NSW Correctional Centre

Contact grailjournal@ozemail.com.au

Global Justice Overcoming Poverty Bulletin - Free

4 pages of short up-to-date reports and articles

To receive a copy, contact grailsydney@ozemail.com.au

Pacific Outlook - Free

4 pages on economic, social and environmental issues of the small island nations of the Pacific

To receive a copy, contact grailsydney@ozemail.com.au

ADDRESSES

The Grail Centre
22 McHatton Street
North Sydney. NSW 2060.
Tel: 02 9955-3053
Fax: 02 9954-0697
grailsydney@ozemail.com.au

Andrea Venier
2/25 McBean Street
Clayton. VIC 3168. (Melbourne)
Tel: 03 9548-9432
avenier@bigpond.com

Jill Herbert
14 Carawatha Avenue
Ferny Hills. QLD 4055
(Brisbane)
Tel: 07 3351-5390
vidler_herbert@aapt.net.au

New contact in North Queensland
TBA
Meanwhile, ref. Sheila Hawthorn
at Sydney address above.

Website: www.grailaustralia.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GrailAustralia/

NATIONAL NEWS

75th Anniversary of Dedication



Joanna 1942, Photo: Damien Parer

15 August this year marked the 75th anniversary of Joanna Waite's dedication in the Nucleus of The Grail. What a great excuse for a special celebration!

On the day itself, the other Nucleus members travelled to Melbourne to spend some hours together with Joanna, first over lunch and then in grateful prayer and reflection on the Gospel of the day – the account of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and Mary's Spirit-filled *Magnificat*. How timely that Crescentia Lementi, the only Nucleus Grail member in Papua New Guinea, was with us to share our joy in Joanna's life of love and fidelity.

Andrea Venier had organised a gathering at the Eva Tilley Retirement Centre on the previous Sunday afternoon, when members and friends of Joanna expressed their deep appreciation of her (see Melbourne news).



Photo: Mary Anne Baillie

Formation Resources Program

It began with the frustration of plans for three Papua New Guinean (PNG) Grail women to attend an international Formation Program in Portugal. They obtained Australian visas but then were unable to get visas for Europe. Kay Hunt, a member of the International Formation Team, suggested taking advantage of those Australian visas and offering them their own program here. A small team met to explore Kay's idea: *If we're going to do this shouldn't we invite more PNG women? We should send an invitation to the Philippines. What about inviting Australians, too? ... Why not?*

And so, in June-July, a 2-week residential pro-gram took place in the St Raphael's precinct of Saints Catholic College on the campus of James Cook University, Townsville, with women from Port Moresby, Rabaul, Manus, Wewak, Manila, Townsville, Mackay, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. The days were full of diverse content and activity; the commitment and energy and keen perceptions of the women were mutually heartening. The mission of The Grail in their hands has a hopeful future.

We were fortunate that NAIDOC¹ week occurred during the program and that Carol Kyle, sister of Erykah, was one of our group. We joined her Aboriginal and Islander community of Townsville in a special Eucharist in the Garbutt parish church on the Sunday that marked the close of the week's celebrations.

The team responsible for the program were Kay Hunt, Anne Day, Alison Healey and Sheila Hawthorn. Happily, Mary Anne Baillie came up from Mackay and led two challenging sessions on 'ecological conversion' based on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*. And Mary Mennis (Grail Brisbane), who has published several books on PNG culture and on Christian missions in PNG, presented two fascinating sessions with slides from her most recent book on Madang, [*Rempi to Rebiامل: Missions from Madang to Mt Hagen, 1896 to 2016*](#).

The women returned home with hard copies and USB sticks containing all the resources presented for their sharing with others. The hospitality at St Raphael's was warm and generous. We are especially grateful to Gina Lamari in the office who was wonderfully helpful producing materials as we needed.

Consulata Mahina Sakaria (Consy), originally from Tokelau, now a Trauma Counsellor in Townsville, reflects on her experience of being with the women from PNG and the Philippines:

"I sat in the room listening to Anne facilitating the conversations and was amazed to hear what the PNG women were saying. There were many experiences we have in common - eloquently spoken of and also unspoken, relayed through nods and other expressions of common knowledge and understanding. These Pacific women clearly knew what I knew— a strong desire to move forward on our Grail journey together with feelings of isolation. I felt inspired by the passionate voice of the PNG women. In a small group conversation we agreed that coming together across whatever boundaries separate us can be trans-forming.

How can we, as Pacific Grail women, plan local, national and international events and programs that enable The Grail to enhance and harness diverse cultures in our region? How can we better connect as Grail members at the local, national and international levels? How can we make the most of the enrichment that comes through sharing the commonalities of diverse cultures?

¹ Each year NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements.

Listening to the PNG women made me look into where I was. I acknowledged that I needed other like-minded people in the Pacific community with whom I could move forward and share vision, pathways and goals. One of the barriers I find (and others agreed) is that, as a Grail woman I am challenged all the time by such comments and questions as, 'We already have our prayer group, how are you different?'

With all our common interests we could weave a lot of empowerment through the lives of Pacific women and grow The Grail among them. One such commonality is global warming. Many Pacific island nations are under the world's radar in regard to their vulnerabilities to the devastating effects of global warming and the resulting rise in sea levels in the Pacific".

Strategic Planning Meeting

As we foreshadowed in the last Newsletter, this meeting, facilitated by Diana Girle, took place in Brisbane in May. Those present reported a demanding weekend. Ann Aboud has since submitted a draft Report for comment and critique in the Regions. In the remaining months of the year, the Regional Groups will be preparing some proposals for 2018 in view of the agreed strategy.

We all express our thanks to Diana and to the Brisbane members, especially Ann, for hosting and organising this important meeting.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Melbourne

Our news this time spans the period from a very fruitful late autumn through a cold winter to a most happy celebration in August.

Dinny Culican, Kathy Wayland and Andrea Venier represented the Melbourne region at the National Strategic Planning weekend in Brisbane in May. It was a most intense and worthwhile event. We thank Ann Aboud and the Brisbane group for all the energy and thought they put into making this event hap-pen. There has since been much discussion following the release of the Report and we continue to mull over the decisions and plans made as we look toward the future.

Sarah Mabanja, visiting Australia for two months from Kenya, returned with us to Melbourne after the Strategic Planning meeting and spent a rewarding eight days with various members - Kathy, Dinny, Lauren and Mark Lockwood Porter, Ann Niall and Andrea. She also met members at a Grail lunch, followed by a discussion on her Grail work in Kenya. She went to the Van Gogh exhibition and spent a day at the Education Faculty at Monash University with Janet Hubner whom she had met at the Pace e Bene training programs on living non-violently. Sarah also visited Pat Sheeran at Corpus Christi Nursing Home, Clayton. Ann made the early morning airport run to see Sarah safely away. Kathy produced a photo album of Sarah's visit, which was sent via Tricia Gemmell to the International General Assembly.

No sooner had Sarah left us than the Melbourne group launched into a Biggest Morning Tea. A wonderful total was raised for the [Christina Ghobadi Foundation](#)², providing respite and spiritual support to young people living with cancer. Twenty-one women attended. Ann was a wonderful host, Kathy contributed a most appropriate Buddhist prayer and the Grail members in the group prepared food with a 'mauve' theme!

Over recent weeks, we have had a number of visitors from interstate, including Ruth Crowe, Sheila Hawthorn and Christine Reynolds from Sydney and Mary Anne Baillie from Mackay, who all spent about a week with various Grail members or family, as well as Helen Gomez and Crescentia Lementi who came on a flying visit with Alison Healey on the 15 August. They were all here for Joanna Waite's 75th anniversary of Dedication in the Grail Nucleus (see National News). Mary Anne shared some of her experiences and insights with us at our August Regional Meeting and made time for some sightseeing. She, Sheila and Ruth visited Pat, and Ruth had the chance to see Mary Considine a few times. The day after Joanna's party, Sheila and Mary Anne joined Andrea and her mother for lunch and a pleasant afternoon.

The afternoon tea in Joanna's honour at Eva Tilley Retirement Centre on Sunday, 13th August, was a lovely 'gold-themed' gathering. Along with the local and visiting Grail members were some close friends of Joanna and The Grail in Melbourne - Mary McCormick, Denise de Gruchy, Joy Beer, Cecily Johns and Janet and Leo Kelly. The occasion included a time for reflection and sharing of anecdotes of Joanna's past in 'Ballybrac' Mackay, in 'Tay Creggan' Melbourne, and in South Africa, as well as appreciative testimonials. We have gathered photos of Joanna over the years and Mary Anne took some lovely shots on the day. These will all be organised in an album for Joanna. Some of Mary Anne's photos will also be posted on the website. Joanna was presented with a 'tree of life' pendant on behalf of all the Australian members. We thank you, Joanna, for your years of dedication and inspiration to us all!

Lauren and Mark have recently purchased a house in Emerald in the Dandenongs and plan to move there at the end of the year. In the meantime, they continue to look after 'Hesed', while Lauren begins her new job and Mark finishes his studies.

The Melbourne winter has struck hard this year with illnesses and mishaps laying many of our members low. In early June, Pat had a stint in the Valley Hospital because of an in-jury to her hip. Since her return to Corpus Christi, she has continued to suffer a few health problems which are being monitored. Alice Ley has been undergoing rehabilitation following a fall and operation on her hip, and both Clare Price and June Ryan have now recovered from some minor surgery. Other members have been struck down by dreaded flus and viruses which are widespread in several States and seem to linger. We would especially ask members and friends to keep Mary Considine in your prayers, as she faces palliative care with dignity and strength.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Carol Webb's mother in the USA, but we are thankful that Carol was able to be with her in recent years and to spend some time with her family members.

Before concluding, the Melbourne group would like to thank Tricia Gemmell, Ann Aboud and Kay Hunt for representing us all so capably at the International General Assembly (see International News).

Andrea Venier

² Christina's mother, Vali, was one of the graduates of Monash University who helped set up the Yarraville Neighbourhood House in Melbourne (1984 – present day).

Sydney

Long-running regular activities continue and continue to satisfy.

Weekly on Wednesday evenings, 7.30 – 9.00, a group meets for *lectio divina*. We have, with regret, come to the end of our pondering John's Gospel, at least for the present. We found it so profound and beautiful. We have chosen *The Song of Songs*, to reflect on now. Some years ago, Alison Healey followed an intensive 3-week course on this book of Wisdom, led jointly by two Brazilian Scripture professors and liberation theologians. Knowing from them the context in which this book is written, we are appreciating, in our own context, these songs of authentic search for the binding love that frees. **All are welcome to join us any Wednesday evening.**

The *Book Club* read and discussed Tim Winton's book of essays, [The Boy Behind the Curtain](#), in August and agreed that, reflecting on his personal experience, he can be extraordinarily insightful and write with fine fluency, delicacy and clarity. Our books for September and October are Elizabeth Strout's Pulitzer Prize winning [Olive Kitteridge](#) and David Lodge's [Deaf Sentence](#).

Our Regional Group meetings on the second Saturday of each month are times for sustaining our close bonds with one another, finding spiritual nourishment in shared prayer and reflection and planning and evaluating our programs of action. Taking up the challenges in the national Strategic Planning meeting in May will be an agenda item in the remaining months of 2017.

On Tuesdays this year at the Grail Centre, Tricia Gemmell has been leading a series of reflection mornings on Kathleen Dowling Singh's book, [The Grace in Dying: how we are transformed as we die](#). There are two more sessions remaining on 10 October and 14 November, 10 am – 12 noon, both on the theme, 'The path of transformation'. Singh explores in her book the correlation between the inner journey of the dying process and the spiritual journey to which we are all called. Responding to a request from some unable to attend on Tuesdays, Tricia is offering the program in a condensed form at the same time on three Friday mornings, 6 and 27 October and 24 November. [See here for more details](#). **All are welcome.**

This year we were asked by Eremos if we would partner with them in some programming. Eremos describes itself as 'an ecumenical network founded over 30 years ago to provide a forum for spiritual exploration'. As a result, a jointly sponsored forum in August with the title, [Spirituality and Social Justice: Citizens and Change](#), attracted a keen audience. Four women from different spiritual and faith traditions shared how their spirituality informs their involvement in social change. Their stories set the foundation for a larger conversation on the subject.

Ruth Crowe is interested in developing further our connections with groups committed to peace-making. To this end, she has participated in a training program of Pace e Bene in Melbourne in living non-violently; planned with Gill Burrows, Pace e Bene NSW Secretary, the seminar on 'the Anzac Myth' that we reported on in our last Newsletter. She is also attending meetings with Catholics for Non-Violence, a group hosted by Anne Lanyon in the Columban Mission Institute for Peace and Ecology; and is learning more about the international multi-faith *Circle for Peace* initiative.

Fran Warner has been coordinating a small team preparing a statement on behalf of The Grail in Australia in relation to the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The draft has been sent to each Regional Group for comment and, when approved, will be circulated.

Nour Barcha heads up a team planning a [retreat for young women](#), 13th-15th October, at the Jamberoo Benedictine Abbey. The team advertises it as 'a time of contemplation and conversation on the topic of caring for our planet and The Other'. For all details, contact the Sydney Centre (see Addresses p.2) or go to [the Events page on our website](#).

Anne Marie George writes about another initiative of some Sydney members, the *Listening Group*: 'The intention of the *Listening Group* is to spend time regularly to be with persons who are isolated from others, either in their own homes or in institutional care. After our first few consultation meetings, the group, now consisting of Sheila Hawthorn, Helen Gomez, Kay Hunt, Norma Tracey and myself, agreed that we would each contact the Coordinator of our local Community Volunteer Scheme, or other comparable organisation, to arrange to visit persons in our different areas. Once these visits become part of our lives the group will meet regularly for peer support.'

Sheila Hawthorn writes of the July meeting in Sydney of the Australian Association for Mission Studies (AAMS) which drew her and Alison to Morling Baptist College for a session entitled *Dialogue with Ecology*:

'Dr Ian Robinson from the United Theological College and Jessica Morthorpe from Uniting Mission and Education were the presenters. Dr Robinson reminded us that dialogue with the ecology was an essential part of Christian mission and we need to be re-connected with "all things created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible" (Col. 1.16). Jessica spoke to a series of slides, showing the innovative practical ways many church communities around Australia are in dialogue with the ecology - impressive signs of hope - such as community gardens, repairing and recycling, installing solar panels. (On one church roof, the panels were installed in the form of a cross)'

At the end of the Formation Program in Townsville in July (see National news), Crescentia Lementi from The Grail in Wewak made her way slowly south. Mary Anne Baillie drove her to visit Jenny Mitchell in Sarina; she then went on to Brisbane to see again her old friend from home, Maggie Jenatsch, and her family; then on to stay in the Sydney Centre for the best part of a month for some personal refreshment. It was a joy to have her here and be able to include her in a wide range of events and programs. Every other spare moment her head was in a book.

Sonia and George Mrva and Elizabeth and John Lee are currently all on the move. Sonia and George are in China and Elizabeth and John travelling in Ireland and Scotland including a week on Iona, taking part in *The Pilgrimage of Life* with Alistair McIntosh. We wish them all happy journeying and a safe return home. When Tricia Gemmell went to Portugal in July, her husband, Geoffrey, who wrote of his Camino to Compostela in the last Newsletter, made a second Camino, this time from Portugal.

We are saddened that Nour Barcha and Helen McAuley have suffered the loss of their mothers in recent months. Nour and Helen each accompanied her mother with constant loving care through a long period of increasing frailty. They will find comfort in this. We pray for and with them and their families, confident that their admirable mothers are now in the peace of the Lord.

In August we had the news of the death of Bill Byrne after a prolonged illness. Alison Healey writes:

'I met Bill in 1970 and worked with him in the national *Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace* and the national ecumenical movement, *Action for World Development (AWD)*. At the time he held an executive position with *Australian Catholic Relief* (now *Caritas Australia*). And over the years we have remained in touch. Anne and Bill together have maintained their commitment in faith to justice and mercy throughout their married lives. I find myself recalling Abraham's bargaining with God to save the city of Sodom. God sought five just men. Bill was one such just man - and there are

many others, we know. I wonder how much “saving” these just men have achieved in our contemporary world by living in a way that “moved God in their time on earth, stirred God with sincere striving and just works” (Hildegard of Bingen)’

Our prayerful sympathy is with Anne and the rest of Bill’s family.

The Sydney Group

Brisbane

Jan O'Donoghue gave an excellent presentation on *The Grail in Mackay* at the Catholic Historical Society on 1 August 2017, which several of our Grail group attended. It generated lots of interest. Some of the audience were featured in the presentation, e.g. Liz Lancaster and Jill Herbert. Joan Draman leapt to her feet and added some interesting historical data before she needed to rush off and we all took photos. Liz Lancaster, Bernadette McLay and Ann About spoke about their time at ‘Ballybrac’, the Grail Centre in Mackay, and how they loved the liturgies and the fun they had together with Pat Sheeran, Alice Eccles, Gloria Lazzarini and others. Jan paid tribute to the work done by Sonia Laverty and Ruth Crowe in catechetics and facilitating submissions to the Inquiry on the Status of Women.

There were many photographs in Jan’s presentation, including those of the pioneers of the Centre: Catherine Bagley, whose family home it once was, Joanna Waite and Pat Sheeran who opened the Centre in 1954 and Bishop Tynan who first invited The Grail to Mackay and valued their contribution in the community. Jill suggested exploring more avenues in Mackay for [Jan’s presentation](#), for example, during Catholic Education Week in 2018. Jan noted that there are plans to publish monographs on various aspects of the history of The Grail in Australia, including the Mackay history.

Ann About, an Australian delegate to the International General Assembly in July (see International News), gave a report at the last Regional Group meeting, including the Assembly agenda, the recommendations and decisions, voting results and her personal impressions, as well as copies of the reflections and the song book. She also brought greetings and cards to Brisbane members from Assembly participants. She was full of praise for the Portuguese Grail's organisation and hospitality. When the official Report becomes available, members will be asked to respond thoughtfully to the Assembly proceedings. In the meantime, Ann will canvass interest among young women to attend the leadership training in Mozambique in July 2018, in accordance with the proposal put to the Assembly by the Grail Link to the United National Network (GLUNN).

Jan gave a glowing account of the days she was able to attend the Formation Program in Townsville (see National News), especially the reports from the PNG participants that Alison facilitated. She wished she could have stayed longer. Mary Nelson who was there for the last four days of the program, was delighted to see Elizabeth Paisat (Rabaul), Joanne Pepi and Mary Kewueh (Manus Island) whom she had previously met in Port Moresby in May 2013. She found James Cook University much grown since she was there and had difficulty locating the Chemistry building, the place of many lectures!

Jill will contact and offer hospitality to Elizabeth and Gabriel Waken's daughter-in-law, Philma Waken, who is studying Agribusiness at the Gatton campus of the University of Queensland.

We are seeking to make our meetings more spiritually focussed. In that endeavour, Janet Galos led a reflection on the Transfiguration at our August meeting and we prayed some powerful intercessions for peace, justice, truth, hope and love in our world. Janet suggested we read Judy

Cannato's *Radical Amazement*. Ann suggested *Awareness* by Anthony de Mello and *Women of Vision* by Marian Ronan, recently published on a number of significant women in The Grail in the USA. Mary Mennis has booked a venue on Bribie Island for our Retreat in November which will be advertised in *The Catholic Leader*. Ann will invite the group of former 'Ballybrac' residents who meet annually in Brisbane.

Ann attended a forum, *Engaging with Christian Diversity*, a project of Believing Women for a Culture of Peace, at the Multi-faith Centre, Griffith University. It followed a very successful forum on *Engaging with Islamic Diversity* in May. Aboriginal women and women from the Mormon, Anglican and Uniting churches responded to searching questions from a Muslim moderator. We emerged better informed and appreciative of other faith traditions.

Mary Nelson participated in a 6-day silent retreat at Mercy Place, Bardonia in June, facilitated by Dr Kerrie Hide on the theme, *An Endless Melody of Love*. Kerrie drew on the wisdom of the Scriptures and mystics - Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart - and the writings of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Ilia Delio, Ursula King, Beatrice Bruteau and Cynthia Bourgeault. On 25th June, Darryl and Mary celebrated their anniversary at Byron Bay where they had their honeymoon 34 years ago! The climb to the lighthouse seemed steeper this time, but they were rewarded with sightings of whales with their calves and dolphins surfing the waves.

In late July, Mary was delighted to see Elizabeth Lee of the Sydney Grail at a reflection day at Rouse Mill in the Northern Rivers district of New South Wales. The occasion was the launch of the Northern Rivers branch of the Australian Network of Spiritual Directors.

Ann Aboud

North Queensland

Consulata (Consy) Sakaria has written of her response to the Formation Program in Townsville. You will find this in the National News, following a brief report of that Program. She was unexpectedly called to New Zealand to be with her sister who became seriously ill and so joined the program only briefly. However, Townsville was well represented in this program with the full-time participation of Carol Kyle, Erykah's sister, and the involvement of other Pacific women whenever they could be available.

Some of the Program participants had once lived in Townsville and welcomed the opportunity to return – Sheila Hawthorn most of all, but also Alison Healey, Mary Nelson, Mary Anne Baillie and Crescentia Lementi. Crescentia had worked in St Raphael's College when she came to Townsville to prepare her-self for managing the Catholic Bookshop in Wewak, Papua New Guinea. She studied bookshop management at TAFE (Technical and Further Education) and in the St Vincent de Paul book store.

Sheila stayed on for an extra week to see again a number of dear friends and colleagues she had worked with for many years and had left only 12 months ago – in The Grail, in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, in the Little Theatre, in the House of Prayer community and the Multicultural Support Group responsible for settling refugees in the district. She was delighted to be able to attend a large breakfast gathering, part of Refugee Week activities, where the occasional speaker was Eileen Pittaway, Ph.D., AM, former Director of Refugee Research in the University of New South Wales. Eileen has spent 50 years in research, practical work and advocacy on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees. She has visited several refugee camps around the world and

presented at the United Nations in New York. At the breakfast, she spoke about fearful and violent conditions in the camps, especially for women and girls.

Sheila Hawthorn

FILMS TO SEE

Peace, justice, human rights and care for planet earth were themes of films we saw in Sydney recently.

[*The Sultan and the Saint*](#) is the little known story of the journey to Egypt of Francis of Assisi in 1219 during the Fifth Crusade to speak with the Sultan, Malik al-Kamil, nephew of Saladin. Nothing is known of what passed between them. We know that the Sultan received Francis hospitably, spoke with him at some length and ensured he had safe passage when he left. And we also know that, soon after, when the Nile flooded and bogged down the Christian forces, rendering them helpless before their enemy, Malik al-Kamil rejected the advice of his commanders to seize the opportunity to slaughter them, and, instead, ordered that his men take food for the stranded army and their horses and allow them secure retreat. This is a multiple award-winning film that speaks urgently to our time: how two men of faith, in the midst of ruthless conflict, nobly chose to act in mutual respect and peace. (Contact St Columbans Mission Society for information about screenings.)

[*The Opposition*](#) documents graphically the struggle of the people who were living at Paga Hill, a headland overlooking the sea in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, but have suffered violent eviction and the destruction of their homes, gardens and community to make way for a large complex of hotels, apartments, conference facilities and a marina for wealthy clients and overseas visitors. Among the earliest of these will be the representatives of the 21 member countries attending the next APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) meeting in 2018. It is anticipated that the Australian Government's funding for Papua New Guinea's hosting of APEC will total more than \$100 million, and has already contributed directly to the dispossession and dislocation of nearly 3000 Paga Hill people, a substantial number of whom have not been re-housed and exist on an inland location with no water, power or sanitation. This powerful film addresses 'the ethical issues in building business ventures in developing countries'.

[*Guarding the Galilee*](#) is a documentary on the current battle to stop the biggest coal mine in Australian history, Adani's Carmichael project in the Galilee Basin. This mine threatens to destroy essential water resources, on which farmers depend, and will add further to global warming and its devastating consequences. The enlargement of the port facilities at Abbot Point, to handle the increased movement of ships, gravely endangers the Great Barrier Reef and the associated tourist industry. Major banks in Australia and other countries have declared that they will not lend money to this Adani venture, but the Australian Government's Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) may still lend the mining corporation nearly \$1 billion to build a railway between the mine and the port. Grail member, Mary Anne Baillie, Secretary of the Mackay Conservation Group actively campaigning against the mine, is interviewed in this film.

These last two films are available for private screening, *Guarding the Galilee* is free. See their respective websites.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International General Assembly (IGA)

Delegates from all the national groupings of The Grail around the world gathered in Fatima, Portugal, 12 – 23 July, to share their reflections on the years since the last IGA in 2011 and to make decisions and plans for the years ahead. The Assembly Report is not yet available. Further details will have to wait for the next Newsletter. Australia's delegates were Ann Aboud and Tricia Gemmell and Kay Hunt was there representing the International Formation Team.

International Leadership Team (ILT) elections

The three current members of the ILT complete their term of office at the end of this year – Maria Carlos Ramos (Portugal), Zodwa Mabaso (South Africa) and Marian Schwab (USA). Election for a new team is in process. There are seven candidates from Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Portugal, South Africa, Tanzania and the USA, who offer the movement a variety of skills and capacities. The quality of the candidates is cause for confidence, whatever the results of the voting.

Grail History Updates

An International History Work Group decided to produce an update of an earlier publication of summary histories of The Grail in the various countries. It is due to be launched on 1 November this year. These updates cover the period, 1981 – 2016.

The history of The Grail in Papua New Guinea (PNG) fits exactly into these years. Crescentia Lementi had compiled and printed in Wewak an historical time line covering much of this period. Because of communication difficulties in PNG, we invited Crescentia to spend some time in Australia in July-August to achieve PNG's contribution to this international project. The women attending the Formation Program in Townsville (see National News) brought up-to-date documentation from their regions. The job was completed at 500 pm on the eve of Crescentia's departure for home!

Anyone interested in what was written about this period in Australia or Papua New Guinea may ask for a copy from the Sydney Centre (see address on p. 2.)

A PSYCHOLOGICAL TIP

Whenever you're called on to make up your mind
and you're hampered by not having any,
the best way to solve the dilemma, you'll find,
is simply by spinning a penny.

No – not so that chance shall decide the affair
while you're passively standing there moping;
but the moment the penny is up in the air
you suddenly know what you're hoping.

(Original source unknown)

