



‘PRACTICE RESURRECTION’

Wendell Berry (1934 -) is an American philosopher, writer, conservationist and farmer. His writings include novels, essays and poetry. In 1972, he wrote a poem (part of a larger work) with the thought-provoking- challenging - title, PRACTICE RESURRECTION.

In this season of Eastertide, we celebrate the mystery of Jesus’ resurrection and contemplate its meaning for our lives. What does it mean for us, for me, to ‘practice resurrection’ in a world where there is conflict and death and brokenness?

Wishing you blessings of joy this Easter

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PUBLICATIONS

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4 pages of short up-to-date reports and articles. Issued bi-monthly from January.

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NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

QUEENSLAND



Consy Sakaria has been supporting clients, communities and the related service sector since the *Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT)* established its Townsville office in 2011..

‘I have been a sole worker in Townsville up until the recent appointment of Natalie Youssef as Team Leader for the North Queensland Team and Michelle Wylie as Counsellor/Advocate. As a sole worker I have worn ‘many hats’. I provide counselling and group programs for clients and communities and I work closely with service providers to build their capacity to support clients with refugee backgrounds and to advocate on behalf of clients. We have had so many interested service providers and schools calling and asking to meet with us and collaborate with QPASTT to ensure appropriate support for their clients and students.

QPASTT staff in Townsville focuses on working in partnership with communities and service providers. I deliver a lot of group work to meet the needs of the communities in Townsville – particularly family and parenting groups. I consult with communities to understand what needs they want addressed, and then I bring in services like Tenants Queensland, Child Safety, and the Queensland Police to help people understand the Australian culture, laws and systems.

Townsville refugee communities through their respective leaders have indicated the need for appropriate support for young people and more opportunities for communities and community leaders to develop effective working relationships with one another.

Townsville City Council named the city a Refugee Welcome Zone in 2009 and reaffirmed this in 2017. As a designated area for the resettlement of women at risk (visa204), Townsville was the site for the launching of an Australian government publication *Getting settled: women refugees in Australia* in 2013.

QPASTT is able to offer a framework of recovery that integrates our specialist knowledge of trauma with a bicultural approach. The challenge of the role of Counsellor/Advocate is working with a cultural lens through the western model of psychotherapy. As the practitioner, I develop the appropriate balance for each person I work with. My experiences as a migrant enables me to connect with people of different cultures through a shared understanding of the challenges of navigating a new culture. I get to build wonderful relationships with people- that is why I am so passionate about the work that I do.’

Consy Sakaria

GRAIL AWARD, Saints College, Townsville University, 2021

The Grail Award 2021 was presented at the Valedictory dinner on the 22 October. Meet *Rachel Verri*. I can confidently stand behind Rachel as an exceptional example

of the qualities the Grail Award recognises.

Rachel is an example of what regional Australians are capable of. From Tully she arrived in Saints College in 2019, enrolled in the Medical Faculty and has maintained a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5.0. As a pillar of the Saints community and outstanding among our team of Resident Assistants (RAs), she has demonstrated strong leadership qualities, and a genuine care and concern for her peers. Rachel was appointed an RA in 2021, and, in the Student Association, was also voted to be Alumni Representative. With these two roles,, Rachel has consistently shown an ability to manage relationships between both the resident body, and the administration team which is no small task, and has exceeded all of our expectations. We consider Saints very fortunate to have had the privilege of accommodating her for the time she has spent in Townsville. We wish her all the best for the future and look forward to seeing the impact she makes on the world.

Jordan Hollands, College Administration

REJECTED DAM NOW PROMISED BY GOVERNMENT Mackay, Central Queensland

Mary Anne Baillie has been an active member of the Mackay Conservation Group (MCG}for many years. The group hasn't lacked environmental issues to research and campaign on during those years and now the proposed Uranah Dam on the Broken River, some 90km west of Mackay is an alarming prospect, which they are strongly opposing. It is hard to believe but this dam, a 970,000-megalitre project, was first considered about 60 years ago and 25 feasibility studies have

denied it environmental endorsement.

Local Indigenous groups have also consistently opposed it because the area to be covered includes their burial grounds and ceremonial sites.

Coalmining would get a third of the water collected by damming the river. This would not only service existing mining but would allow for expansion and further mines to be opened. Most of the remainder would go to agricultural irrigation. The plan includes hydroelectric generation.

The government claims that its funding of the project to the tune of \$493 million will ensure that wealth producing industries will have the water security they need to thrive. This wealth guarantee is contradicted by an economic analysis prepared for the MCG, which concluded that the return on every dollar spent would be just 75 cents. A separate report claims that the dam would cover 9850 hectares suitable for high-value-cropping farm development and 12,250 hectares of improved grazing land.

The MCG has prepared a video on this project, which is in its final stages of editing and should be released in the next few weeks. 'I will let you know when that happens', writes Mary Anne.

MA Baillie(Grail Queensland) and Malcolm Farr, political journalist, Canberra,
www.mackayconservationgroup.org.au
Indigenous Wiri Birri (River People):
www.uranah.org

BRISBANE, South-East Queensland

In the Decs ember 2021 issue of the Newsletter our 2020 news was inadvertently included instead of our 2021 news. This issue includes our end-of-2021 happenings as well as an update for 2022.

In the latter months of 2021, some of our members were beset with ill health, which they faced with courage and determination. By Christmas all are on the mend and looking forward to meeting again in the new year. The many International Grail Zoom meetings, though they were rather



late at night for us, showed us that we needn't meet in person to feel part of this wonderful group.

Jill Herbert with the Grail Centenary pie she baked for us,

Two gatherings towards the end of 2021 we remember fondly. The first was our annual retreat on Bribie Island. We began these gatherings six years ago. Our first was at Boonah and since then, at the suggestion of Mary Mennis, we have met at the ToCH house on Bribie. Though an hour and a half north of Brisbane, it is a seaside treasure and a haven of tranquillity. We choose the weekend as close as possible to November 1st so we can celebrate the Grail day of remembrance together. We always start the weekend with fish and chips on Friday night. We began our days of prayer and reflection with a Creation Ritual by the water and the Rosary. When we can, we invite guest speakers, have some practical craft activities, pray together in the garden and participate in the Sunday Eucharist at the local church. We invite friends and local

women who may be interested in the Grail to join us. This year we had two speakers. Margaret Clifford who spoke on *Nourishing our Spirituality* and Fr Joe Mackay, ofm, who unpacked for us the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* on friendship and mutual support in a complex world.

Later in November, we gathered with Fr James O'Donoghue, Jan's son, for a Eucharist in Jill Herbert's home to celebrate our 100years and to remember especially Joanna Waite, whose funeral was on that day. Sadly, by this time, Jan was in hospital and, though on the mend, was with us in spirit. We were pleased that Jay Rosales Scoullar and Mary Nelson joined us and Mary led us in song. At the end of Mass, we all sang *Everyday God: Now and always, O Jesus, Alleluia, O Spirit, through all ages, come, be with us.* We hope we can continue to be together in the Spirit in 2022.

Mary Mennis offers this news :

In February this year, missionary priest, Tim Norton SVD, was consecrated Bishop for the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The liturgy included many indigenous and multicultural elements. Archbishop Douglas Young, SVD, came down from Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea (PNG), to celebrate the occasion with his brother priest. While he was here, I met with him a couple of times. He helped me with the history of the missions in PNG which I am writing for a course of study at Bomana Seminary. We also met for lunch with Jill Herbert and her husband, Pat Vidler. Fr Douglas Young was the parish priest in Kompiam when Pat, as a young lay missionary, was managing a saw mill at Porgera (1980 -1982). They had not met

each other since then, so they had a lot to catch up on. We asked him if he would like The Grail to come to Mt Hagen and he was pleased with the idea.

Correction: The September 2021 News-letter referred to the death of Helen's brother, Peter. Peter was actually the brother of Jan O'Donoghue. It was he who died surrounded by his family and community after a lifetime of service in the congregation of the Christian Brothers.

Helen Jeffcoat

SYDNEY EXPLORING THE 'ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART'

We were delighted that 80+ people joined us on Zoom for a a day seminar organised by a team of Grail women and others on Saturday 26 February,. We gathered to listen to voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reflecting on the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* (2017) and to hear their plans for a national referendum on their proposal to enshrine in the Australian Constitution a Voice to Parliament. They want this to happen in the first term of a new government that will take office in a few months. The seminar and what follows from it is our response to their invitation to all Australians to 'walk with us' and support the First Nations peoples' call for a Voice, a Treaty and Truth-telling.

Through film, videos (one of which was a compilation of the voices of strong women and youth leaders), a Ted Talk and personal stories from Indigenous people present, we heard their passion as they spoke out on a range of issues they want changed. We heard, too, their pain from past and present transgressions. A film made by activist, Rachel Perkins, covered

some important events over the past two hundred years, where elders and communities in different parts of Australia had, many times, demanded representation in Parliament for First Nations peoples. Each time they were knocked back by governments or their petitions screwed up and thrown into the dustbin!

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have learned not to trust governments and are now appealing to all Australians to work with them. They have been buoyed over the years by particular events, such as the overwhelming support of ordinary Australians at the 1967 referendum which gave them the right to vote and to be counted in the census and, in 2,000 when a mass of people walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to show solidarity for reconciliation and recognition. The current leadership of the First Nations is heartened that over 60% of Australians support a referendum for the Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

It seems that important structural changes to improve the lives of our indigenous peoples will only come when they have a voice at the table and advise on policies which impact upon them and their communities. Their call for a Voice is fair and reasonable and can make Australia a better country for all of us to live in. Ongoing self-education, spreading the word, participating in existing groups and campaigns in support of the Voice were suggested actions for non- indigenous citizens to embrace over the coming months. An extensive resource list was sent out to all participants. If you would like one, please email: admin@grailaustralia.org.au

We finished with words of wisdom attributed to Gangulu, an Aboriginal woman activist, Dr Lilla Watson, in the 1970s: *'If you have come to help me, you are wasting our time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work*

together'. Some 50 years later these words still hold a profound truth.

The Planning Team was made up of Grail members - Elizabeth Lee, Kay Hunt, Margaret Hetherington and Ruth Crowe, assisted by Ros

Bradley and others from the Women's Reconciliation Network (Redfern) and Gill Burrows from Pace e Bene. A number of parishes, Creators of Peace, Eremos and other groups supported us

Ruth Crowe



This joint project of *Women and the Australian Church (WATAC)* and *The Grail in Australia* celebrated its first anniversary on 8 March this year. To mark its lively progress into a second year of weekly homilies on the Gospel of the day by women in diverse denominations of the Christian church, we print here a warm and welcome endorsement from the Bishop of Parramatta, Vincent Long OFMConv.

'Go and tell my brothers that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. At Easter Vigil, we hear these words of the risen Jesus who empowers Mary of Magdala to reclaim her agency and to proclaim the Good News to others. She is known in the Christian tradition as apostle to the apostles.

But it was not just Mary of Magdala who had a pivotal role in the early days of the followers of the Way. Throughout salvation history, women disciples have played a critical part in forging a new future out of the hopeless present. Puah and Shiprah acted as catalysts for the Exodus by their civil disobedience. Esther boldly intervened for her Jewish people at the foreign court. Ruth broke new ground of inclusion to Israel's strictly safeguarded bloodline. Mary McKillop, of course, started a new and hitherto unheralded group of women who took the Good News to the edges of colonial Australia.

If the Church is to be faithful to the biblical narrative and responsive to the

living presence of God, it must reclaim a discipleship of equals and empower men and women disciples to share their gifts for human flourishing and the growth of the Kingdom. The Church cannot have a better future if it does not listen to women's wisdom and insight. So long as we continue to make women invisible and inferior in the Church's language, liturgy, theology and law, we impoverish ourselves.

I am pleased that there are Christian women in Australia who, like Mary of Magdala, share the Good News from their own lived experience. *Australian Women Preach* is one such group of women. It is a shared venture and innovative project designed to offer theologically informed perspectives of women from across the wealth of Christian traditions.

Their preaching will highlight women traditionally omitted or misrepresented in our lectionary and deepen our understanding of God's saving presence in the world. Those who view these preaching videos will see the deep spirituality of Christian

women who break open God's Word, with messages of hope that renew faith and encourage active engagement in the life of the Church for our work in the world.

I have made a habit of accessing *Australian Women Preach* each week as part of my own homiletic preparations. I highly recommend it to fellow clergy, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) catechists, and all who seek

nourishment from the unique insights and wisdom of Australian Christian women. I also recommend *Australian Women Preach* for the opportunity it offers for deep reform for the Catholic Church in Australia. I believe that until we have truly incorporated the gift of women and the feminine dimension of our Christian faith, we will not be able to fully energise the life of the Church.

Reprinted with permission. Bishop Long was born in Vietnam and came to Australia with family members when he was in his teens. Before becoming Bishop, he was Superior of his Franciscan Order.

MELBOURNE

The small Melbourne group has been sorting out the remainder of Joanna Waite's possessions. We have been joined by Mary McCormick and Joy Beer who are Executors of Joanna's Will, and so able to discuss one of Joanna's wishes. As Mary told us, she was very anxious that a substantial gift should be made from the estate to the Eva Tilley Memorial Home as a fitting 'thank you' for the excellent care Joanna received in the 10 years she was there. Many books and music tapes were sorted and some pieces of furniture that had been stored in the 'Hesed' garage went to Ann Niall and Dinny Culican. Lovely to have some of her things, including her handsome deep blue armchair, now in the sitting room of the Balwyn unit..

Ann and Dinny sorted a mass of photographs, separating the Grail ones from Joanna's family ones, so that these could go to her nephew. Dinny was

delighted to find some from Joanna's time at 'Ballybrac', Mackay. She plans to label these and send them to the archives in Sydney to join the as yet unpublished Mackay Grail history. We were glad that, at one stage, an Eva Tilley staff member, whom we knew from our many visits, joined us for coffee.

We now have a new resident, Patricia O'Brien, in 'Hesed', the Grail unit in Balwyn, who moved in on the 10th of March. We met with her when we gathered for *lectio divina* on Monday 21st. Getting the house ready for her arrival was a hectic time. Sophy, Dinny's granddaughter, had over the past three years or so found the Grail house a place of refuge when she needed it most, though her visits there ceased, thanks to Covid. Sophy loved the peace and quiet of the unit and planted her herbs there, too. She and Mum, Sarah Jane, together cleared and cleaned the bedroom she had used, and many of the kitchen items she had stored there. Genny Grabau did a fantastic job in

cleaning and organising cleaners to come in, also providing the finishing touches herself. We were all very pleased with the result – I have never seen the unit look so sparkling! We are all vastly relieved to have such a pleasant resident as Patricia who will join us in our fortnightly *lectios*.. We finished Monday's meeting with prayers for Andrea's mother, Gemma, and for others needing remembrance, and closed with our Julian of Norwich mantra: *All will be well, all will be well, all manner of things will be well.*

Dinny Culican

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

In memory of Maria Wate and Connie Austrai Francis

We were all very shocked and saddened to hear of Maria's death in February. Maria began her Grail life in 1981 and was very involved in many of the programs at the Wewak Grail house until ill health limited her movements in the last two years. Maria raised four daughters who are now working in the teaching and broadcasting professions. In 1957 Maria's family was the first PNG family whom Pat Noonan and Sheila Hawthorn met when they arrived as lay missionaries for the Wewak Catholic Mission. They have remained special friends ever since.

When Maria left school, she began work in the Catholic church offices and was later employed as a clerical officer in the Burns Philp Wewak store. With other Grail women. she was one of the original

members of the Wewak Young Christian group. Maria was very active in several aspects of church and community life: in the parish community, in prayer and liturgy, in social movements of women and youth. In 1989 she became co-ordinator of a number of kindergartens in Wewak. Maria was a PNG representative at some International Grail meetings.

We extend loving sympathy to Christine, Madonna, Gabrielle and Grace, all the family and Grail friends who gathered to farewell Wate (as she was mostly known) on her homeland of Mushu Island. May she rest in that really beautiful place in peace.

Connie, who died on 2 January 2022, was one of the founding members of the Grail in Lorengau, Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, in 1994. She attended the 'Health and Wholeness' workshops organised by Helen Gomez (Grail Sydney) and held at St Raphael's College in Townsville in 1995.

Connie was instrumental in organising a group of Manus Island women to attend the first PNG national Grail formation program held in Lae in 1994.

Besides supplementing the family income with a small bakery business, Connie also contributed very helpfully to fund-raising for The Grail with her rapidly-developed baking skills.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Connie's three daughters and all her family. She will be sorely missed by the Manus Grail group. May she rest in eternal peace.

Sheila Hawthorn

**INTERNATINAL GRAIL
SUMMER SCHOOL IN RADBOUD
UNIVERSITY, NETHERLANDS.**

The Grail in the Netherlands has funded a Chair, *Women and Care for the Future*, at Radboud University, Nijmegen. It was here that Fr Jacques v. Ginneken SJ, founder of The Grail, held a Professorship in Linguistics and attracted a number of

young women students to his vision of a world transformed through the lives and actions of women of faith. Among these was doctoral student, Lydwine v.

Kersbergen, who became leader of the ‘first five’ Dutch women to bring The Grail to Australia in 1936. Anyone in Australia interested in participating is invited to contact the holder of the Chair, Christa Anbeek,

www.christaanbeek@degraalbewening.nl

Excerpts from PRATICE RESURRECTION

Love the quick profit, the annual raise,
vacation with pay. Want more
of everything ready-made. Be afraid
to know your neighbors and to die.
And you will have a window in your head.
Not even your future will be a mystery
anymore. Your mind will be punched in a card
and shut away in a little drawer.
When they want you to buy something
they will call you. When they want you
to die for profit they will let you know.

So, friends, every day do something
that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Love someone who does not deserve it.

.....
Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you will not live to harvest.

..... Laugh.
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts.

.....
Practice resurrection.

*Wendell Berry. 1972
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