

TENISON WOODS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 08

Hi Everyone!

For some of us the reunion started on Thursday 13th November when we attended The Tenison Woods Catholic School for the Blessing and opening of the new Administration block and playground. Julian Woods from Stansbury, Colin & Helen & Norm & I were present and we enjoyed the ceremony and meeting people at the afternoon tea. We were back at the school at 9.00am the following morning for the Mass to honour Fr. Julian's birthday. Fr. Lee celebrated the Mass and his sermon was memorable. The sermon was about Noah's ark and he interacted with the children throughout the story. I won't forget it. The family was again well represented with Julian Shanahan, Julian Woods, Colin & Helen, their daughter Kate Wood and her two sons Harrison & Henry and Norm and I attending. The children had put together a power point demonstration of Fr. Julian and his work using Lego figures and they had made a copy for each family member and the children presented them to us. It was very moving.

What a great time we had at the Welcome on the Friday afternoon. 78 people attended including some young children, which was wonderful. The venue was exceptional and the staff bent over backwards for us. The food was delicious and in abundance. People were thrilled to see all the information that was on display and eager to take copies of information that was available. Sr. Marie Foale rsj - Historian-spoke to us about Julian's role as Director of Catholic Education and I have emailed a copy of that to everyone whose email I have. For those who don't have email, you will receive your copy with this Newsletter.

Those of us who went to the MacKillop Centre on Saturday morning had an enjoyable time, with an informative talk by Sr. Patricia Keane rsj. They have a wonderful display and plenty of items on offer for purchase. It was amazing to see some of Fr. Julian's sketches and water colours, the Butterflies in particular, the originals of which are in the Mitchell Library in Sydney. Morning tea was enjoyed by all.

The Dinner Saturday night was wonderful. There were 105 people present and the room was just buzzing. Again the food was excellent and exceptional value for \$40 per head. The ambience of The Feathers really suited our celebration and many people commented on the linen table napkins and the fresh flowers on the tables. Colin was MC and Jeanette introduced Bishop Greg O'Kelly AM to say Grace. During the evening Sr. Marlene Henningsen was invited to unveil a portrait of Fr. Julian which Helen Woods had painted specifically for the reunion. I later had the pleasure of announcing that we were giving it to The Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Brisbane and Sr. Mary Cresp and Sr. Helen accepted it on their behalf. I then introduced Professor Ebery Hamilton-Smith

AM who gave us some further insight into the work of Fr. Julian. Bishop Greg O'Kelly AM then launched the book "Yours Most Afftly". He did it with a great deal of humour and gusto. Sr. Anne Player responded to the launch. The Illustrator of the book Sylvia Louth had presented Sr. Mary Cresp with a humorous sculpture of Fr. Julian on his horse. Both looked bone weary and they surely must have felt like that on many occasions. People were keen to purchase copies of the book and also Sr. Margaret Press's book "Julian Tenison Woods: 'Father Founder'" and the CD of the Fr. Julian Tenison Woods song, which had been played during the Dinner. I gave a brief overview of our family heritage and our links to the royal family etc. etc. I was very touched when Colin & Helen gave me a framed portrait of Fr. Julian in tropical gear when in Asia. It's my favourite photo of Julian and Helen had done it for me. It now has pride of place on our wall.

We still have some copies of the CD available for \$10 plus postage.

Sunday morning, Norm and Helen set off in the bus to pick up passengers and drive them to Willunga to Waverley Homestead via the Adelaide Hills. Norm was the driver and Helen the Hostess as she grew up in the Adelaide Hills and was able to give commentary along the way. Many others drove themselves. Colin and Anthea and I drove to Willunga and while Colin organised the drinks etc. Anthea and I got the food ready for lunch. Just as we were finishing preparations, people began to arrive. Following lunch, Colin introduced me to speak briefly. I spoke about my journey of discovery from 1996 to the present and the auto-immune disease present within my own family and the wider Tenison Woods family. I was able to tell everyone that my Immunologist is writing up the family and that the Sisters from Lochinvar had allowed me to have a few strands of Fr. Julian's hair for research. It would seem from the records about Fr. Julian's health and that of his brother Terence that they both had one of the auto-immune diseases. Both of their death certificates state Paralysis as the cause of death. Elery Hamilton-Smith AM, then spoke about what it is that enables some people to overcome adversity and to still achieve (such as Fr. Julian) while other people just fall apart and don't cope. Copies of the discussion paper written by Elery and me were available and I still have more copies available if anyone wants one. Shortly after 2.00pm, everyone was ready to head for home with the bus taking a different route via the Adelaide beaches for the benefit of the visitors to South Australia.

Monday 17th and we were up bright and early to pick up the first passengers at 7.00am en route to Penola. We stopped at Keith for morning tea and then continued with Colin at the wheel. Colin spotted the Stone Haven Winery and we called in to say hello. They were thrilled to have some family members and Srs of St. Joseph visit and they gave us all a free sample of the Fr. Woods wine, which is usually \$5 a taste. They knew all about the reunion as David Woods had called in to get the Fr. Woods wine for the lucky door prize at the Dinner. Some of us left with a souvenir bottle. What a conversation piece!!

What a welcome we received on arrival at Penola. Margaret Muller from the MacKillop Centre committee greeted us warmly as the bus pulled up. Chris and Lorraine Goudey were there already, as were Sr. Margaret Lamb and others who had travelled by car from Adelaide. Chris gave his talk re the Goudey collection of shells and fossils which

was opened last year. This was followed by lunch and then a tour of Penola with commentary from Margaret Muller. On our return we were treated to some wonderful singing, which was a real treat. After booking into our accomodation and resting for a while, we met up at the Hotel for Dinner. There were 20 of us in all and what a great evening we all had. There is nothing like good company and good food.

The next morning we set off to visit the Fr. Woods Tree and Fr. Woods Park and then headed for Robe, first stop being at Karatta Wines owned by Peg & David Woods, who had graciously arranged for their Manager, David, to show us over the vineyard and explain the bottling process they use. David then took us to Karatta House in Robe, which Peg & David also own. It's a historic home, which was the 1st Governor of South Australia's summer residence. It is magnificent and we felt privileged to be able to visit it. With Norm at the wheel we then drove to "Our Lady Star of the Sea" church in Robe, which Fr. Julian built. Then it was time to head towards Adelaide via the Coorong, stopping for lunch at Kingston. We arrived back in Adelaide shortly after 5.00pm.

Meanwhile, while we had been travelling to Penola on Monday, Sr. Patricia Keane had taken a car full of relatives and Sisters on a trip around Adelaide and Pt. Adelaide, visiting historic sites and the West Terrace & Mitcham cemeteries. Everyone told me that they had a wonderful day and felt very moved at times.

There are a couple of important dates coming up after Christmas and they are as follows:

1. 4th January is the Anniversary of Fr. Julian's ordination.
2. 15th January is Mother Mary MacKillop's birthday.

I have just had a phone call to say that the reunion has had quite a prominent write up in 'The Southern Cross' Catholic Newspaper in Adelaide and of course Peter Goers interviewed me on ABC radio the Monday evening before the reunion. All publicity about Fr. Julian is good and will help to continue to promote his name and his life's work.

For those of you who were unable to attend the reunion, I hope the Newsletter gives you a feel for it. For those who were there, I hope it renews some memories. I have been overwhelmed by your emails and phone calls since we returned home. Thank you so much.

For those of you who gave us a donation, thank you. Your generosity has enabled us to break even in organising the reunion.

From my family to all of you, every good wish for Christmas and New Year.

Cheers
Pam