



Equipes Notre-Dame

## CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEAMS

**Canberra 4-5 October 2008**

**G**o to the Centrefold of the Newsletter for details about the program, registration and accommodation. The National Conference will be an opportunity to meet with people from the Oceania Teams family. The organising committee have secured an impressive list of speakers and we are very much looking forward to a stimulating weekend.

When you receive this newsletter, we may still be in Fatima Portugal attending the 2008 College meeting from July 20 - 26. As soon as we return from this meeting, we will be "in full flight" again preparing for the 2009 meeting which will be held in Rome in January 2009. This will be a very special meeting because it includes a consultation with all Regional couples worldwide. It occurs every 6 years and we are very excited that all Oceania Regional couples are planning to attend.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Marie and Pat Nolan for their generous editorship of the Newsletter, a role they relinquished after the last edition. At the last Oceania meeting in April, it was agreed to look at forming a Newsletter Team to produce future newsletters. We are planning a workshop at the National Conference to develop this concept further and we would really appreciate your feedback on this. Our email address is [is@tpg.com.au](mailto:is@tpg.com.au)

**Vee and Rene Pols**  
**Oceania Super-Regional Couple**



Marie and Pat Nolan

## TEAMS - A MOVEMENT FOR MARRIED SPIRITUALITY

*Newsletter of the Oceania Super-Region*

Registered Publication Print Post approved PP32656710052

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

**QLD, NORTHERN NSW AND NEW ZEALAND**

**A**fter four years of dedicated service to the movement, Linda & Paul Roberts handed over to us at the commencement of 2008. In reflecting on our first six months as Regional Couple, we are greatly affirmed by the love and support of our Regional Team & our Teams generally. We have set out with optimism to model Teams in our Region. Linda & Paul have continued with the Regional Team as Recruitment and Liason Couple for the Region for new couples and for new Teams. There are many areas which have inquired about Teams most notably Murwillumbah in N/NSW and Goodna in Brisbane's rapidly developing Western suburbs. We have a number of unattached couples in other areas who would like assistance, e.g. Yepoon & Warwick, as well as the Sunshine Coast where sadly, one Team recently decided not to continue.

The Region has now reorganized into two Sectors, designated as 'Lourdes' comprising Brisbane Teams 2,3,5,6,9,10,13,14 & Tewantin (Sunshine Coast) and 'Fatima' comprising Brisbane Teams - 1,4,7,8,11,12, Gold Coast & Casino. Maureen & Len Thomas continue as Sector liaison couple for Lourdes Sector & Ivy & Reg Monteiro joins us as Sector liaison couple for Fatima Sector.

February 10th saw a good Teams representation at a Mass for World Marriage Day. At the "Expo" for organisations supporting marriage we were pleased to be approached by a few interested couples, two of whom attended the first information evening for the year successfully hosted by Lynda and Paul on March 9. A Teams Montage was



Sue & Bren Milsom



prepared for this which showcased Teams.

A successful Formation Day, was held in March with most new Responsible Couples and others from most Teams attending, together with Spiritual Counsellor Br Daniel and Fr Rafal. ( New Spiritual Counsellor for Gold Coast Team). In addition to formation presentations, Sr Pat Tomlinson showed us ways of using every-day objects as a focus for Teams prayer and liturgy. Her examples were down to earth and gave everyone creative ideas to take back to their Teams.

Trish Stapleton from “Faith & Life” – followed with a brief introduction to the wealth of resources, available for the asking, to enrich our discussions at meetings and five members of The World Youth Day “Net” Team attended and shared enthusiastically their experiences of previous WYD attendance.

**Sue & Bren Milsom – Regional Couple**

## NEW ZEALAND

The year started with a special mass celebrating marriage at the Cathedral in Wellington, on St Valentine’s Day and many Teams couples attended, then met for a meal or coffee in the city.

Formation Day was again run like a mixed team meeting, giving everyone time to share news of how their team is going, their goals for the team for the year etc. and was well attended by responsible couples. We shared a reading from the Marist Messenger - “The Son of Man came to serve not to be served”, Matthew 20: 17-28, which spoke to us of the role of the Sector Team & Responsible couples.

NZ - Teams retreat is booked for the weekend of the 5,6,&7th of September, with Archbishop Dew invited and speakers confirmed. During April, Team’s made a big effort for hospitality month, as most Teams have room for at least one more couple, we hope this will bear fruit. A New Zealand couple is currently based in Brisbane and attending team meetings until November, when they will return to NZ. They live in Wanganui, we are hopeful Teams may begin there in the future.

Planning is going ahead for the annual retreat on September 6. We have our two speakers booked – the theme for the retreat is Growing Together, last year the theme was Couple spirituality. We plan on developing and working on the two endeavours we all seem to struggle with Couple Prayer and The Sit down. We are handing out flyers re our retreat after Masses, with information on Teams and our speakers, inviting



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parishioners to come and join us at any stage of the retreat weekend.

The Commemorative Book is a work in progress. Our Team is endeavouring to get everyone together for a photo! Our new banner has been ordered and will be shown for the first time at the Teams stand at World Youth Day Vocations Expo in Sydney

Hospitality month was successful with two new couples considering joining Teams. Brian Collins is speaking at our retreat reminding everyone we are all responsible for recruiting, not just Sector team – let’s hope this results in lots of good ideas.

**Kayren & Laurie Smith  
– Sector couple**

## ACT/NSW and PHILLIPINES

The theme for our Formation Day was “Befriending Life’s Changes, Nurturing our Spirits.” The focus was on transitions in all aspects of our lives. One of the sessions was devoted to looking at change in the context of our Team. The presenter was Sr Audrey Pigram, one of our Spiritual Advisors in ACT who had done some study in this area in United States. The day was well received by attendees. Of particular note were the comments by members of a Team who are grieving the loss of one of their members last year. They found the day very helpful.

In Sydney a new couple has agreed to take on the role of Sector Representative Couple and on a gathering was held in May for Sydney Team members to commission the 2008 Responsible Couples, and the new Sector Representative Couple. Lunch with couples and their families highlighted the fellowship we share in Teams. A new team has been formed in the Maronite community, after completing the piloting process. Sydney has a large and very active Maronite community. Our Lady of Lebanon church in Paramatta has 5000 attendees at mass each weekend!

In Nowra a new couple has agreed to take on the role of Sector Representative Couple for this year. The World Youth Day network has been working well. We



have been contacted by a couple of families overseas with enquiries about WYD and the ACT/NSW region is involved in organising a booth in Canberra to promote Teams to the many visitors and locals attending various celebrations.

**Faye and Kevin Noonan – Regional Couple**

## PHILIPPINES

We have attached a picture taken at our Lenten Recollection maybe to refresh your images our faces.

There were 10 couples who attended and we were blessed to have two married couples from the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement who were our resource persons for the recollection.

The theme was “Living for the Glory of God” which was the first time that married couples hosted our recollection. In the past, we had priests and a nun as speakers/facilitators.

It was a nurturing experience and many of the Teams couples were grateful for having attended the activity.

In May, we will be having again our annual Family Day but no definite plans yet as we will still discuss this in our upcoming Sector Meeting this Saturday, April 12.

We will continue with our mission (though maybe slow) as long as we can and keep the Teams going here in Cebu.

God bless and peace be with you!

**Edlin & Muyen De Los Reyes – Sector Couple**  
*Philippines Teams members*

## VIC WEST

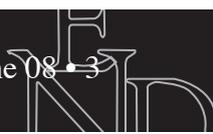
The main focus of our activity in recent months has been the organisation and involvement with Formation Days in the three Sectors.

The Bendigo Sector commenced the year with a Commencement Day on Sunday Feb 17. In previous years, the Sector has held a “Formation Day” for Responsible and Liaison couples, but given that most of our “new” Responsible Couples have had previous experience in the role, it was decided to invite all members to attend. The response was excellent.

The program opened with a liturgy and followed with a presentation on the history of Bendigo Teams. Rosemarie & Bob Prosser followed with a presentation titled ‘The power and privilege of religious commitment in an age of radical change’. Catherine & Joe Taylor were invited to repeat the sharing of their story presentation that they presented at the State Conference last year. The presentation was very powerful and touched all who were present.

Fr Joe Taylor spoke on ‘The dignity & worth of married love’. The day concluded with the commissioning of all responsible couples.

Hume and Murray Sector Formation Days



The Hume Sector's recent successful Formation Day on March 1st was titled "The Gift of Teams". A good mixture of Team members from both Wangaratta and Wodonga attended and nearly all eleven teams had at least one representative. They gathered to hear Marg O'Donnell give a most sincere and accurate history of the Team movement in Wodonga when she spoke of hospitality and generosity being hallmarks of the Teams' Movement.

This generosity was on display for all to see as we listened in succession to Pat & Marguerita Goggin enthusiastically role play "How to conduct a Meeting". John & Joan Freeman, our Regional Couple, spoke of their hopes in seeing the sector grow, while the Oceania Regional Couple, Vee and Rene Pols, gave a very balanced account of the pastoral work of Teams based on Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Spirited discussions followed on from these talks and then of course, there was the FOOD! For those who have not yet caught up with the outcome of the Formation Day appointment, we now have a sector team.

#### **Kath & Peter Sartori – Wodonga Sector Team**

There had been no leadership in both Sectors so all members were invited to attend the Formation Days. It had been some time since a Formation Day had been held in the Hume Sector and the first time such a day had been held for the Murray Pre-Sector. The day in Hume was well attended and those present were very responsive and involved with the program presented on the day. The program included a presentations on the history of Teams in the Sector, How to run a meeting and the role of the responsible couple, Pastoral Care Workshop – The Good Shepherd Model, 'Moving the sector Forward. The program concluded with a Commissioning of Responsible Couples and a Closing Liturgy.

The feedback from those who attended was very enthusiastic and positive.

As a result of the groundwork we have undertaken with the Sector in the past year, three couples have accepted the "call to service" to form a Sector Team. The group have since met and planned activities for the next 12 months.

A similar program was held the next day in Shepparton for Teams in the Murray Pre-Sector. As with the Hume Sector there has been a lack of leadership and direction in the Murray pre-sector for some time and this was the first day of this kind held for the Sector. A large component of the program consisted of small group work focusing on identifying the barriers preventing the Sector moving forward and identifying ways in which to overcome them.

The recommendations resulting from the day was that the Responsible Couple from each Team would take the information back to their Team in order to provide discussion and feedback on ways to form a Sector Team and meet again to implement the recommendations particularly on forming a Sector Team. A meeting of the regional team will be held in Shepparton in June.



**Joan and John Freeman with the Hume Sector Team**

*L to R: Back John Freeman, John Haddrick, Peter Stewart*

*Front: Joan Freeman, Christine Haddrick, Pam Steward, Kath & Peter Sartori*

#### **World Youth Day Cross-and Icon**

As part of the Journey of the World Youth Day Cross & Icon's recent visit to Bendigo it was pleasing the note the contribution that members of the Teams movement made with their involvement in organisation, parish support in carrying the Cross and Icon and involvement in the various Para liturgies and masses. It was a visible sign of the role of Teams in the parish communities.

**Joan and John Freeman – Regional Couple.**

## **VIC EAST**

The Regional Team organised a Responsible Couples Formation Day on 24 February 2008 'Refreshing the Journey' day with 70 plus people attending. Our late Spiritual Councillor Archbishop Sir Frank Little concelebrated the Mass. The Responsible Couples looked at how their Teams were travelling; how they could refresh their Teams spirituality; and the practicalities of being a Responsible Couple. Angela and Ron Waanders, from the Gippsland Sector, talked about their role on an International Committee looking at ways to bring new young couples into Teams. The day ended with a meditation session 'Listening and Sharing the Silence' presented by Chris Morris from Centreing Prayer and the distribution of a candle to each Team.

All Sectors are working well with Information Nights; Responsible Couples get together functions, such as morning teas and lunches; and Crossroads meetings. Maribyrnong/Plenty Sector also have an annual Mass for deceased Team members. We welcome Marie and Geoff Gunn from Gippsland for becoming the contact for the Gippsland Sector. The Commemorative Books are creating interest as they move through the Teams.

The Region has been invited to take part in the Days in the

Dioceses during a series of presentations being run on 10 July 2008.

It is always difficult getting people to take on leadership roles and we do have to be prepared to take on a role more than once. Bob and Rose-Marie Prosser, who have been in so many roles in Teams, have done just that, what an example! They have again become members of a Sector Team.

**Anne and Pat O'Shaughnessy – Regional Couple**

## SA/NT/WA

**O**n May 17<sup>th</sup> all Teams members were invited to a special Formation Day at Christian Brothers College. It was held to focus on the future of Teams in SA, to pray and reflect together, to report on and formally implement the restructure of the movement in South Australia and to commission two of our new Sector Couples.

Monsignor John Swann, who has been involved with Teams for 32 years, opened the day reminding us of how the Holy Spirit inspired and empowered the apostles. He led us in prayer, gave us a blessing and set the scene for a day to be focussed on hope and possibilities.

We recounted the events that had led to the May gathering in 2007 from which an Interim Team was formed to work out the fine details of how to implement the new structure. Then the work of the Interim Regional Team over the last twelve months was presented to members.

The Interim Regional Team, consisting of Barb and Clem Colla, Margaret and Denis Toohey, Judy and Tony Wainwright, Jill and Terry Tierney and Monsignor John Swann had produced two sets of documents. The first was a set of one page descriptions of the key roles in the SA Team structure and the second addressed the various support roles which supplement the key roles. These documents should enable those in, or considering, a particular role to quickly grasp the essentials of and expectations for the role. They clarify the roles of the various levels of responsibilities - the Christian married couple, Responsible Couple, Sector Couple and Regional Couple. Margaret and Denis Toohey put the documents onto a CD along with some of the core reference documents of the movement, and they were given to those attending. (It is intended that this CD will be a work in progress and that there will be updates when necessary).

The commissioning ceremony was held for our two new Sector Couples, Barb and Clem Colla and Judy and Tony Wainwright. At the moment we have no Sector Couple for the Western sector.

Our Formation Day for Responsible Couples will be held on Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup> at Christian Brothers College. The theme will be "The Couple – How Teams Serves Our Marriage". We have invited two Victorian couples who presented at the Victorian State Conference as well as a Marriage counsellor from SA Centacare as guest speakers. This year, we are delighted that we will have representation from the Western Australian team.

**Jill and Terry Tierney – Regional Couple**

## OCEANIA BUDGET 2008

Item	Actual 07	2008
Receipts		
Vic East/Tasmania	8,640.00	8,640
Vic West	7,048.00	7,048
ACT/NSW/Philippines	3,273.00	2,853
SA/NT/WA	3,953.00	3,953
Queensland/NNSW/NZ	3,046.00	3,046
Vic East donation	3,000.00	3,000
Interest	1,491.00	1,500
National Development Fund [1]	4,266.00	4,000
Donations for lapel pins	254.00	
Registrations National Conference 2008		5,000
WYD2008 Vocations Expo Appeal		1,700
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>40,740</b>
Expenditure		
Bank charges	127.00	200
ERI International Contribution	9,316	9316
Insurance	2,137.00	2,200
Printing - Teams literature	2,100.00	2,000
Newsletter printing (+ postage 2007)	5077	5,000
Postage - general	50.00	
CENSUS Survey - Print & Post		500
Printing - general	60.00	
Super Regional Meetings	4,508.00	4,500
Formation expenses - general	1,655.00	
Formation expenses in the Regions		2,500
Formation expenses (Philippines)		4,000
Additional formation expenses		2,000
National Conference		3,000
WYD2008 Vocations Expo		1,700
Travel expenses SR couple	6700	6,000
Regional Couples x 5- Rome 09 consult		6,750
SRC, SRSC- Rome 09 Consultation		6,000
Support-India Regional Team-Rome 09		3,250
Website	423.00	500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>59,416</b>
Balance at 31 December	2,818.00	-18,676

### NOTES

[1] includes: SA/NT/WA \$685; Vic East \$1945; Vic West \$530; ACT/NSW \$420; QLD/NSSW/NZ \$683

# OCEANIA GATHERING OF TEAMS, CANBERRA 2008

## Trusting in the Future- Society, Church and Relationships

*“Be ready at all times to...explain the hope you have in you.”  
1 Pet 3:15*

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

(This is the long weekend during Floriade, Canberra’s floral spectacular)

### The Theme

The conference will explore what the future may hold for families as we know them. These changes will be looked at in the context of society and the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. How might the Teams movement respond to these challenges?

### The Speakers

**Frank Brennan** AO, SJ is a Professor of Law at ACU and a “Living National Treasure”. He has written extensively on Aboriginal Land Rights, civil liberties and human rights.

**John Warhurst** is Professor of Political Science at the Australian National University and a media commentator on public affairs. He will speak on the future of traditional institutions.

**Michael Fallon** MSC is Parish Priest, Biblical scholar and the author of numerous books on scripture studies. Fr Michael has been involved in Adult Education for many years and has lectured widely throughout Australia, and in Papua New Guinea, New Zealand.

**Rose Marie Prosser** is a sessional lecturer in Practical Theology at the Yarra Theological Union in Melbourne and is involved in adult faith education across the dioceses in Victoria.

**Jan and Peter Ralton** are members of the International Leading Team and are Liaison Couple for the Eurasia Zone, encompassing Oceania, Asia and parts of Europe.

**Elizabeth and Paul Ross** have been involved in marriage enrichment programs for 18 years, including *Marriage Encounter*, *Evenings for the Engaged* and a mentoring programme called *Ministry to the Newly Marrieds*.

**Thomas and Parveen Kalliath** have similar research interests, and have published widely in the areas of stress, burnout, and work family balance. Parveen began her work in the slums of Bombay, India and is now Assistant Head at the School of Social Work at ACU. Tom is an organisational psychologist and academic at ANU.

Other speakers coming! Check the website for detailed speaker profiles, updates and developments at

[www.tol-oceania.catholic.org.au](http://www.tol-oceania.catholic.org.au)

### Special Interest Sessions

There will be special interest sessions, which will run concurrently, catering for smaller groups. These will run in two timeslots so that participants can attend any two that interest them.

### The Venue

Marist College, Marr Street, Pearce, Canberra ACT

*(Gregory’s Street Directory Ref. 70 A5)*

The organisers gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the College in allowing us to use this facility.



## The Timetable

Registration will commence at 8:30am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October with the opening ceremony at 9:15am.

Following the closing liturgy, the Gathering will close at 3:30pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. There will be a special Teams Eucharist on Sunday at 9:30am.

## Accommodation

If you require **billeting** please contact:  
Frances and John Stitt  
Telephone 02 6292 6853  
Email: [johnstitt@hotmail.com.au](mailto:johnstitt@hotmail.com.au)

For details of **hotels or motels** visit our website [www.tol-oceania.catholic.org.au](http://www.tol-oceania.catholic.org.au) or the Canberra Tourism website [www.visitcanberra.com.au](http://www.visitcanberra.com.au)

## Conference Fee

### Early Bird (by 15 August)

Full Gathering	\$140 Couple
<i>(incl Saturday Lunch, Saturday Dinner Sunday Lunch)</i>	\$70 Single

### Standard (by 22 September)

Full Gathering	\$160 Couple
<i>(inc Saturday Lunch Saturday Dinner, Sunday Lunch)</i>	\$80 Single

### Single Day

Saturday <i>(incl Lunch)</i>	\$35 per person
Sunday <i>(incl Lunch)</i>	\$30 per person
Saturday Dinner	\$33 per person

## Payment/Enquiries

Post your registration form and payment, no later than Monday 22nd September 2008

Joan and John Freeman  
Teams Oceania Gathering  
PO Box 961  
Bendigo Vic 3552



## Registration Form

Name(s) .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Telephone .....

E-mail .....

Region .....

Please specify any special dietary needs for lunch or dinner.

.....

.....

### Payment Details

**All Registrations by Monday 22nd September 2008**

Number attending: .....

Full Gathering :

Saturday only

Sunday only :

Saturday Dinner only :

Total amount payable \$ .....

Cheque enclosed  
*(payable to Teams ACT/NSW)*

Credit Card(*circle type*)

Visa                      Mastercard

Card No

Name on Card: .....

Expiry Date: .....

Signature: .....

Further details of the program and a map of the location, will be emailed, or posted following payment

## RETENTION IS AS IMPORTANT AS RECRUITMENT

One of the important seeds for growth in Teams is Couples with Teams experience moving to new or existing Teams areas. It is vital for our future that this expertise and experience is not totally lost.

When a couple moves – please encourage them to make contact with the Regional Couple in the area they are moving to. If they agree please pass their contact details through directly to their new regions, or to your Sector or regional Couple for on-forwarding.

Couples moving to isolated areas where Teams do not yet exist can retain their contact by being associated with regional mailings and events, and helped with piloting if they wish to form a new Team. Most existing Teams also can accept and welcome one more couple. The statistics show that Teams in Australia has suffered a loss of around 90 couples in the past two years, despite the formation of some new Teams. Census data shows that around 100,000 people move to Queensland from other States and Territories annually and there must be some Teams members represented in these figures. Help us to retain these members by passing on this information so that Teams in their new Region can welcome them.

**Sue and Bren Milsom**

## VALE ARCHBISHOP SIR FRANK LITTLE 30/11/1925 - 7/4/2008

Archbishop Sir Frank had a profound influence on Teams as a Team Member in the Vic East Region. Archbishop Little or Frank, as he preferred to be called, was born in Werribee in 1925 to Gerald and Kathleen Little. He undertook his secondary education at St Patrick's College in Ballarat. He recalled how he remembers at the age of 6 or 7 years seeing his father praying in a kneeling position at home even though he had lost a leg in World War 1.

He commenced training for the priesthood at Werribee Victoria but was ordained in the College Chapel of Propaganda Fide in Rome in 1950. After obtaining a Doctorate from the Urban University in Rome he returned to Melbourne where he was the only Italian speaking Priest at the Sacred Heart Parish in Carlton. Following a period from 1956 to 1959 when he was secretary to the Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Romondo Carboni he returned to Melbourne and was involved in pastoral work, lecturing at the Seminary and involved in ecumenical affairs.

It was during this period that he became the Spiritual Councillor to one of the earliest Teams in Australia, Team 2. This role ended when he became Bishop but he maintained annual contact with the Team 2 Members and he was able to resume his previous role when he retired. Frank told them "Teams helped him to broaden his understanding of 'Catholic Family life'.

He was Secretary General of the Eucharistic Congress from 1970 to 1973 and was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop during the Congress in 1973. He returned to Moonee Ponds as Parish Priest and became Archbishop of Melbourne in 1974. He spoke out on issues such as euthanasia, gambling, pornography, and racial and religious vilification. He loved God's people and did not like conflict and division. He was knighted in 1977 and after he retired in 1996 he was replaced by Archbishop George Pell.

He became Spiritual Councillor to the Vic East Regional Team in 1998 and was in that role until he died in his sleep in April 2008. During this time he had a major influence on four Regional Couples, Cathy and Bob Dixon, Jan and Peter Ralton, Catherine and Peter Bearsley and Anne and Pat O'Shaughnessy and the members of each of those Regional Teams.

We were so privileged when Frank accepted to continue this role when we became Regional Couple. He was such a spiritual, friendly, hospitable, encouraging and intelligent man with a great sense of humour that we were touched by his presence. His greatest strength was the respect that he paid everyone. He would sit quietly at meetings listening to all that was said. It was only towards the end of a lively discussion that he would quietly offer a suggestion that was the obvious solution. The two and a half years, that we have grown to know and love him, have been very special for us. We, at times struggling with our role, had been frequently encouraged by his words and many emails.

Let us remember Frank and his numerous gifts and be inspired by his continual enthusiasm for Teams as we attempt to invigorate our existing Teams and to share with others what Teams has given to us!

Teams say, thank you Archbishop  
|Sir Frank Little.

**Pat and Anne O'Shaughnessy**  
**Vic East Regional Couple 3/6/2008**

(We acknowledge the eulogy in the Age newspaper and the assistance of John Thomas and Jan Ralton)

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.**

**May they rest in peace.**

**Amen**

## FAREWELL MONSIGNOR JOHN DUFFUS

On Friday evening, 11 January this year, several family members and the clergy of Bendigo and palliative carers were around the bed at the last moments of life of Monsignor John Duffus. They saw a dedicated and greatly esteemed priest of Sandhurst quietly and peacefully leave this earthly life to enter into eternal life.

John Duffus became the Teams' Australasian Regional Chaplain (later renamed as the Oceania Super-Regional Spiritual Counsellor [SC]) in mid 1998, following Fr Tom McDonough. At the time END newsletter (September 1998) described his involvement in Teams as SC to two newly formed Teams and also SC to the Bendigo sector which had grown from five to 16 Teams in 12 years. After his term as Oceania SC he gathered another two Teams in which he found enjoyment and inspiration and they found support and prayerfulness and a great friend.

John Dennis Duffus born 26 September 1933 was raised on his family farm at Boorhaman near Wangaratta with his parents and two brothers, Edmund and Alan. His schooling at the local state school and later Xavier College Kew were very formative and later became the source of many homilies, spiritual talks and amusing anecdotes. After completing Pharmacy and practising for a while at Wangaratta Hospital he entered Corpus Christi College Werribee to study for the Priesthood for the Diocese of Sandhurst. He remembered those years with affection and gratitude.

He was ordained by Bishop Bernard Stewart in St Patrick's Wangaratta on 21 July 1962 and was appointed as assistant priests to Benalla, Kennington and Wangaratta before he followed his yearning for missionary work in Papua New Guinea. In his latter years in PNG he had the opportunity to study in Rome and work in priestly formation in the local seminary at Bomana.

As the Cathedral in Bendigo was nearing its completion he was appointed to the parish to begin planning the liturgies and music for its consecration and official opening. He remained at the Cathedral for the rest of his life fulfilling numerous offices and duties: chaplain to Mt Alvernia Hospital, St Mary's College and later Catholic College Bendigo, Bishop's secretary, Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Marriage Tribunal official, Diocesan Director of Religious Education, Spiritual Counsellor of Equipes Notre Dame, locally and for Oceania, Chancellor of the Diocesan, Secretary to the Curia, and Administrator of the Cathedral Parish. Pope John Paul II awarded him with the high papal honour of Prothonotary Apostolic in 1992. In the last two years he also became administrator of Quarry Hill Parish.

As pastor of a large parish he personally preparing many couples for marriage, baptising their children and many others and performing the ordinary duties as the local pastor with extraordinary generosity and care. He was a gifted homilist, musician and administrator, and would often find

it much quicker to do a task than to delegate it. Yet he was much loved and admired by all who worked with him and those he served as priest, healer of marriages, educator and chaplain.

After being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, with little to no hope of treatment and very limited life expectancy, he fulfilled a wish he expressed many years earlier: "I'll just keep going, fulfilling the appointments in my diary, for that is what God has given me." He was able to speak frankly and confidently about his imminent death, quietly struggled with the pain or the effects of medication, continuing to be a faithful witness of Christ to his fellow Christians.

After notification of his death tributes came worldwide from small children in his parish, past and senior students of Catholic College Bendigo, Teams members across Australia and from Teams in Brazil, Colombia, France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and India. In one memorable homily at an International College Mass he spoke in four languages.

Monsignor John White, a close friend from seminary days, preached the homily at John's funeral Mass at Bendigo's Sacred Heart Cathedral on 18 January. He said: "John was an inspiration to the many thousands he touched through his priestly ministry." He recalled John's reply when told of his terminal condition: "In manus tuas Domine, commendo spiritum meum" quoting Christ's words on the cross – "into your hands O Lord I commend my spirit" and which he had prayed daily in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Judy Browne, parishioner, Teams member, tribunal secretary with John summed it up well when she wrote: Monsignor John is held in great affection by the people and priests of the Diocese of Sandhurst and far beyond. His priestliness, prayerfulness, integrity, humility, gift of story telling, unconditional love and sense of humour will live on in our hearts.

**Fr Andrew Fewings  
SC Oceania**

## TEAMS ARE PARTICIPATING IN WYD VOCATIONS EXPO, Darling Harbour, July 14-18

We are thrilled that TEAMS will be present with a stand at the WYD Vocations Expo. Teams couples from around the regions quickly answered the call for sponsorship to pay for the stand and allow us to be represented at this important event. The object is to showcase Teams, and Marriage as a Vocation to the young pilgrims and visitors from around the world. Many young pilgrims meet and fall in love at World Youth Day and later marry. It is important that we are there, as an official Lay Movement for married spirituality. Inquiries about membership will be collected at the stand and forwarded to Regions and Sectors for follow up after the event.

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## A HISTORY OF WODONGA TEAMS

Around 1983 the then Parish Priest of Wodonga Parishes, Father Frank Hickey approached a number of couples and asked them to be part of the first Team in Wodonga – presumably at the request of Alex & Jeanette Vanderkooij. Although the Vanderkooij's lived in Melbourne, Jeanette had originated from Wodonga and they travelled up every month to pilot the new team. They had also piloted Bendigo team 1 in 1977 when Fr Joe Taylor was there and he was Bendigo's first spiritual adviser. Fr Denis Crameri was the new Wodonga team's first Spiritual Adviser, a role that was filled by Fr Tony Hill after his replacing Fr Crameri in 1986.

Wodonga Team 1 carried on for few years with support from Sector E Bendigo teams, and a liaison couple from Wangaratta. Wangaratta team 1 had also started in 1979 with Fr Joe Taylor as spiritual adviser, following his move to that town.

John & I arrived in Wodonga in 1987 when Renew was in progress in the Parish, and we led some meetings in our home. On its completion, Joan Moylan whom we'd met in the groups, invited us to their Team Retreat. When we asked "What's Teams?" she simply replied "come and see"! We did, and were blown away by the depth of the sharing and faith of the couples – we had never experienced anything like it. That was to be the start of a new stage of spiritual growth for us.

After some months Max & Loris Fletcher, a couple from Wangaratta came to our Team meeting - we were informed that they were our Liaison couple –we weren't sure why were they visiting us. Were they "gurus"? They sat quietly, taking part in the discussion and sharing like the rest of us! We were impressed that they had come all that way just to be with us for the evening. We also used to have a social day once a year with the Wangaratta teams. – one such was a picnic in the park at Wangaratta with the Team families after Sunday Mass. It was great to meet some other Teams people and feel part of something bigger.

Fr Hickey had had a year's Sabbatical about 1988-89 and on his return joined Team 1 as spiritual adviser. He came with a heightened sense of the importance of community and we enjoyed his input into our Team. Fr Joe Taylor took his place as PP in January 1991 and joined team 1. He was very enthusiastic about Teams and a great support and we soon had some "brainstorming" sessions with him about how to get another lot of couples to start team 2.

Team 2 Wodonga began mid 1991 after an introductory night, piloted by Ross & Erris Black, and assistant priest Fr Peter Austin became their spiritual adviser. Wodonga belonged to what was called Sector E at the time – it consisted of 13 teams in Bendigo, 3 in Wangaratta and 2 in Wodonga. Wangaratta & Wodonga RC's used to travel to Bendigo for Formation Days – this was a wonderful introduction to the wider movement – the Bendigo teams were so enthusiastic and alive and welcoming. We felt we were part of a big and wonderful family. Jim and Angela Allen were completing

their term as sector couple when we first attended one of these formation days, and shortly afterwards at the end of 1991 Pat & Marguerita Goggin took over the role.

In 1992 Bendigo teams travelled to Harrierville to have a combined retreat at the Sandhurst Diocese newly acquired "Feathertop Chalet" conference centre.

In January 1993 Fr Tony Hill replaced Fr Peter Austin as Spiritual adviser to Team 2.

That same year the first Bendigo, Wangaratta, Wodonga combined Teams retreat was held at Harrierville, led by the late Monsignor John Duffus" on the theme "Prayer". Mons Duffus was at the time Spiritual Adviser to what was then Sector E. It was a most spiritually uplifting and bonding time for all those present. This was the start of a number of very enthusiastically received "combined retreats" over the next few years.

Michael & Roslyn Howard had moved to Wodonga from Kerang and they were very keen on Teams. They had participated in one of the famous "Millgrove" National Teams' sessions in 1991 and were very enthusiastic. They agreed to pilot Team 3 in 1993. About this time a new sector was formed and briefly named NE. It later changed to "Hume". It was to comprise Wangaratta, Wodonga, Benalla & Shepparton.

John & I were elected to the position of Sector couple and soon formed a sector team consisting of two other couples, Bob & Janice Cairns from Wangaratta 1 and Ross and Erris Black from Wodonga 1 and Spiritual Adviser, Fr Joe Taylor. We were commissioned by the then Area Couple, George & Louise Frances at Wodonga and held our first meeting towards the end of 1993. We decided to try to hold events alternately between the two towns. The first formation day for Responsible Couples was held in Wangaratta in 1994.

As newly elected Sector couple, we were asked by our leading couple, Bob & Rose-Marie Prosser to participate in the International Training Session after the Gathering of Teams to be held at Fatima in Portugal in July 1994. This lasted for a bit over a week and from this we learned a great deal about our role and the wider movement. We also discovered that Australians were as different from the Europeans as chalk is from cheese!

In October 1994 the second combined retreat at Harrierville was held, led by Fr John Ryan, one of the Wangaratta Team's spiritual advisers. About twenty couples from Bendigo, Wangaratta & Wodonga participated. There were moments of shared sadness or grief but an overall sense of unity and inner joy pervaded.

Just after this John and I had been invited to the Canberra National conference to tell Teams about the International Gathering. The personal witness and extraordinary prayerfulness and simplicity of one Brazilian couple in particular had had a big impact on us. We returned with a renewed sense of the

importance of prayer and sharing and the place of endeavours in the teams. This was what we tried to focus on during our talk. From this I believe came a renewal of interest in and commitment to the Endeavours within many teams.

In November 1994 the former NE Sector was renamed Hume – comprising Benalla, Wangaratta & Wodonga and the following year saw the formation of Team 4 Wodonga, piloted by Ross and Erris Black. I believe this team started as a result of the Expo the Wodonga combined Parishes ran about this time showcasing the various organisations in the Parish. A table was set up as for a Team meal, including bottles of red and some literature, with couples sitting around the table engrossed in sharing! I think they are still known as the social Team.

In 1995 Laurie & Joan Moylan who had been in Team 1 from its inception or shortly thereafter, had just moved to Albury from Wodonga and had decided to leave the team in order to become more involved with their new Parish. Shortly afterwards they suffered the loss of one of their sons in a tragic car accident, so the team rallied round them for some months. Joan & Laurie eventually decided to pilot a team in Albury in 1997 after inviting couples they had met through Rotary and Parish contacts.

As the Teams expanded some of our generous Spiritual Advisers such as Fr Tony Hill, Fr Matthew O'Hagan and later Fr Paul Purcell, each in turn belonged to several teams at once. When we were Sector couple I asked one of them how he felt about being in a number of teams? He replied, "They are each very different". I think that, in fact it was for this reason, that he found the role quite stimulating. He also gained a lot of insight into the couples and was very present for them in times of tragedy or joy.

Team 5 Wodonga began in 1997 with Kevin & Diana McKinley as pilot couple

By then couples beyond the town were being drawn into the Teams. In 1997 Tony & Eileen Ransom from Wangaratta Team 1 became Hume's second Sector couple,

Team 6 Wodonga was formed in 2000, piloted by Jan & Michael Avery of Team 1 Wodonga, and Team 7 commenced the following year, again piloted by Ross and Erris Black of Team 1. Members of the new team came from Albury, Howlong and Wodonga.

Among important events in the yearly calendar is the Hospitality month when each team invites a guest couple to experience Teams. From this have come replacements for a departing couple or the possibility of couples to form a new Team. The annual Crossroads, too, is an important occasion within the sector where members get to know those in the other teams and share their faith and insights. We have had some very enjoyable crossroads taking many different forms over the years – from the mixing of couples into several different teams to hold a "normal team meeting" in someone's home or the hall, to large gatherings of couples gathered to reflect,

be informed and socialise together. One very successful gathering was a trivia night with questions based on our faith, the questions set by Fr Andrew Fewings!

I believe Wodonga Teams came of age in 2001 when with the assistance of Wangaratta teams, they ran the State Conference at Catholic College's new Catherine McAuley Arts Centre in Wodonga.. Jan & Michael Avery ably led the planning team and the co-operation from the Teams and the results were outstanding. This was also the first time a lot of the local teams had ever attended a Teams conference. They are not prone to travelling beyond our area. Around 180 people from Melbourne, Bendigo, Shepparton, Wangaratta & Wodonga participated

The Harrietville combined retreat declined in popularity after some years, but there is a possibility of its revival if enough teams are interested. We believe it may be more supported if held at intervals of a few years. It is a great way to foster friendships and an exchange of ideas between the couples, leading to an appreciation of the gifts of others in the wider movement.

Somehow Team 1 feels a bit like the parent or Responsible Team of the Wodonga Teams! The Parish Priest has always been in team 1, beginning with Fr Frank Hickey. Fr Rom Hayes joined Team 1 in 1999 after Fr Joe Taylor left and following his departure a few years later we carried on without a Spiritual Adviser until Mons. Frank Marriott joined at the end of 2007 for a brief stint before he moved back to Bendigo. Out of Team 1 have come three Sector and two Regional couples and the impetus to develop more teams. Five of the other seven teams have been piloted by a couple from team 1. Jan & Michael Avery became Regional couple after us around 2002, when Mark & Monica Wallace from Team 5 took over their role as Sector couple. The Wallaces carried on for an extra year beyond their term to the end of 2005 for want of a replacement.

Since that time the sector has been without a sector couple till Peter & Kath Sartori of Team 1 and Peter & Pam Stewart of Team 7 agreed to form a sector team in 2007. They have since been joined by another couple from Wangaratta, Chris & John Haddrick. Vic West region was without a Regional couple during some of this time also, so communication with the wider movement has suffered. "Teams" may seem to be a highly structured Movement, but without structure and direction communication breaks down and there is the danger of teams just drifting along and becoming mere social groups.

Since hospitality is one of the hallmarks of Teams, we trust that same generosity of spirit will continue to lead couples in the teams to come forward to offer their services beyond their own teams. What we share as couples in this movement is unique and life-giving., and it is surely our mission to pass it on to others.

**Margaret O'Donnell**

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