



The Padua News is the official quarterly Newsletter of

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church,
Cnr Exford & Wilson Road
Melton South, VIC 3338

Tel: 03-9747 9692
Fax: 03-9746 0422
Email:
sapsmscc@netspace.net.au

Parish Priest:
Father Martin J Fleming

Editorial Committee

Dolores Turcsan
Edwina La Rose
Godwin Barton
Lorraine Tellis
Kim Barton

If you are interested in being part of the Editorial Committee, please contact any one of the committee members.

Thank you.



Padua News

Issue 5

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Father Martin's Message

ONE DAY IN SEPTEMBER.....

We have reached the end of September and most Victorians have been caught up in the Australian Football League's (AFL) Finals. Of course, for some AFL followers, the year came to a finish a while ago. Whilst there was quite a lot of hope and a number of successes earlier on in the year, the reality of our team being 'left out of the eight' was the first indication; then, as the elimination games went on, things got a lot clearer. It certainly was not all 'black & white' for us.

Football, and indeed a lot of sport, provides a great interest for us and the merits of those people in the various teams are discussed quite a lot. The radio and television, as well as giving us the direct coverage of some the games, provide various forums with much informed (and some not so

informed) discussion and enjoyable banter.

Our Catholic parish in its own inimitable style has by the end of September come through quite a lot of different activities so far this year. Our young people were fully initiated into the life of the Catholic Church as they were Confirmed by the Bishop and came to take a more active role at our Sunday assemblies and receive Holy Communion.

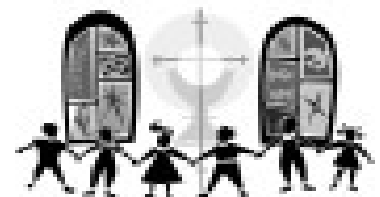
The parents of these young people responded to the Lord through their Baptismal call to the ministry of being 'teachers of their children in the ways of Faith', as was explained to them at their child's Baptism. Our young people now have an opportunity to be part of the life of our Parish.

Our Parish School not only educates our young



people but also builds on this work of ministry undertaken by their parents who are part of the Parish. Being part of a Parish Family is very much like being an active follower of our Football team. We are truly interested in each weekend's game and it does unite us week in and week out whatever the outcome. In fact, we can be a great source of comfort for each other in the down times and celebrate well together the joys of winning.

Cheers,
Rev Martin Fleming PP



Getting to know

Melton South - 60 years on



Crossing Werribee River at Melton South - John with his sister Jo. "Warrawong" in background—then owned by Gwen McLaren Robinson - about 1950

Strathtulloh, Melton South, was my second home, and Melton 34 my telephone number, when I was a boy in the late 40s early 50s. Not mine, really, but those of the Mssrs Moira and Nora Smith, my father's step cousins, at whose farm I used to stay.

My father, Leo Little and his four brothers, Tom, Gerald, David and Jack, and two sisters, Jean and Rose, were born in Bacchus Marsh in the 1890s, and roamed its hills and valleys as youngsters. I expect they even met Mary McKillop who visited their school. Three trees with the names of Gerald, Leo and David who served in WW1 still stand in the Avenue of Honour. Dad's aunt married a widowed Alfred Smith, who owned Strathtulloh from 1888. Alfie's daughters, Moira and Nora, thus became Dad's cousins. When they took over the farm from Alfred, they invited many of the next generation to stay the May or September holidays during the 30s, 40s and 50s.

I loved their home and farm, and the adventure of coming to Melton by steam train from Spencer St. Tup McShane, their



In driveway of "Strathtulloh" Melton South—about 1950. Moira Smith, John Little standing on the running board of Moira and Nora's 1948 Oldsmobile, Nora Smith, David McShane, Ann

farm manager, taught me to milk the cows, catch rabbits and drive a Bulldog diesel tractor. I helped at shearing time, and Nora taught me and my sisters to ride Judy, her horse. Moira taught me to steer her 1948 Oldsmobile along the dirt road to Melton. We got to know some neighbours too. My sister had an eye for Bernie Lavery, who then was in his 20s, she in her early teens. As we know, nothing came of it!!

We used to go to St Dominic's for Mass in Father Gavan Duffy's day. Moira would set up the altar with flowers supplied by the Laverys. After Mass, Nora would teach catechism. Colleen O'Meara was one of her pupils and recalls the time with great affection. She used to sit in the second row - the first was

for the boys - and count her place down the line, knowing what answer to have off pat as Nora used to ask the children in turn.

In Melton we used to buy fresh bread from the Jongebloed's general store and then go home and lash it with strawberry jam and fresh cream from the two cows we milked each day. Tony Coghlan came out once with his father to lop the trees around the homestead. Each day, my sisters and I would cross the Toolern Creek which separated Strathtulloh from the Lavery's place, to collect the daily paper and the mail wrapped inside.

When the Smiths left Strathtulloh in 1960, I said a sad goodbye to Melton,

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"In Melton we used to buy fresh bread from the Jongebloed's general store..."

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not knowing that 40 years later I would be living across the river at Warrawong, a property that intrigued me as a child. We passed it by the river on the way to Melton. It belonged to Mrs Robinson who lived there with her son Bill. She was a widow, her husband a naval surgeon whose ship was sunk by the Japanese in 1942. I remember her building the stone walls and gate posts on the farm.

Mila and I were passing by one day in November 2000 and noticed a "For Sale" sign at the front gate. I merely wanted to see the place. We contacted the agent and arranged a visit. To our surprise, the property "spoke" to us. We felt

drawn by its beauty and peace and decided to make an offer, which was accepted. Our four children who had left home were not so happy with our decision to leave our family home in St Kilda for the land out west.

We love Warrawong with its quiet gullies, plains, river and escarpment from where its large rocks look up Toolern Creek. The monks at Tarrawarra gave us some cows when we arrived - Bernadine, Miriam and Veronica. We now have ten cows and 154 goats. We have grown barley, planted pastures and run sheep. It has been difficult with the drought, but our neighbours have helped with advice. I do not remember talk of drought when I was at

Strathulloh. We have had a couple of family gatherings at the woolshed, built in 1857, the decade when my great grand-father came to Australia from Scotland. The next generations of the Littles now come up to Melton for holidays.

Coming to St Anthony's has been wonderful, with its mixed community of old and young from near and far. It is hard to imagine that all the land from the railway station to the river was farming. It was still farming land when my first job as a young engineer was to check calculations for the water pipes being laid out near what is now the freeway.

*Contributed by:
John Little*

"We love Warrawong with its quiet gullies, plains, river and escarpment from where its large rocks look up Toolern Creek".



Behind the Scenes at our Parish.....

Flower Arrangement Committee

Currently there are two volunteers working on the flower roster - **Gladys Clarke** and **Anna Samy**. Gladys started helping out with the flowers many years ago and is an adept florist. Behind the scene, Gladys loves cleaning. She not only polishes and shines the vases, she also mops the floor and washes the sheeting used as protective covers of the carpeted areas. She spends many hours planning her work

and carries out the floral arrangements diligently. Gladys is a wonderful friend and co-worker. We have what I call normal days and the special occasions flowers, e.g. Easter, Christmas, Confirmation, etc. We usually drive out of Melton to buy the wider range of flowers either at Sunshine or Werribee. We love the teamwork and do have fun creating the displays.

Fresh flowers—vibrant colours, nature's gift is singing the glory of God in creativity!

We would like to encourage more people to join in the team. Come along you talented people, men and women, young and the mature-looking. Let us create and recreate as the Spirit moves in each of us!

*Contributed by:
Anna Samy*



On July 28, 2007 St. Anthony of Padua Parish organised the Annual Dinner Dance in conjunction with St. Anthony's Feast Day. The theme for the night was "Christmas in July". A total of 150 guests attended the dinner. A 'tanned' Santa Claus entertained the children during dinner and everyone had a great time dancing the night away! The Limbo Rock competition was very well participated and many walked away with lucky draw prizes!

The Committee would like to thank all those who assisted in the organising of the Dinner Dance.

Dinner Dance 2007

A big 'Thank You' to the following for contributing towards the lucky draws held on the night:

*Aus Tendercuts
BJ's Dance Centre
Blazing Saddles
Bunnings Warehouse
Calder Cleaning Handyman Services
Gordon & Gladys Clarke
Cellarbrations, High St
Coles Supermarket (Melton South)
Elite Gifts
Galli Estate Winery & Restaurant
Gamekeepers Secret Country Inn
Kleins
Melton South Pharmacy
Melton Therapy Centre
Michel's Patisserie
Parish of St Anthony of Padua
The Photo Place
Q Lounge
Ron Davis Chem-Mart Pharmacy
Ruby's Pizza & Pasta Restaurant
Joe & Joyce Stellini
The Sugar Gum Hotel
Dolores Turcsan
Tracey Voss
Anglican Church, Melton
Witchmount Winery
Surya Imports
Retravision*



Lovely "Santarinas" at the reception table; dinner guests dancing the night away; dinner guests doing the Limbo Rock; and Santa Claus entertaining the children during dinner

Submissions for next newsletter

All Parishioners are welcome to give their suggestions. If you have any article of interest for the next newsletter, please submit them to the Parish Office by November 15, 2007.

Editorial Policy

The content of the articles contained herein may not necessarily reflect the official stance of the church or the committee and may differ from the opinion of the editors.

The Padua News is approved by Father Martin Fleming prior to printing. The editors and Father Martin reserves the right to edit all articles submitted. Articles may be reproduced with permission from the writer and editor.

The Hour Has Come - Walking towards a Justly Reconciled Australia

During his 1986 visit to Australia, Pope John Paul II gave a famous address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on November 29 at Blather-skite Park in Alice Springs. His words were an inspiration to those, who at the time and since, have been engaged in addressing the needs of Aboriginal people. The Kit, used in our Parish Study Group, was prepared by the Joesphite Leaders' Social Action Team. The words of Pope

John Paul II direct our thoughts to the path of Aboriginal affairs in the past, as well as present day issues, encouraging participants to assist in returning Aboriginal issues to the National Agenda.

In our Parish, we had two Prayer groups for this program; both met on a Tuesday - one after the 9am Mass, the other in the Church, at 8pm. We were all on a learning curve, hoping to grow in under-

standing of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, who have suffered so much since Invasion Day over 20 years ago. To quote Pope John Paul II in 1986:

"Certainly whatever is done cannot be undone, but what can now be done to remedy the deeds of yesterday, must not be put off until tomorrow".

*Contributed by:
Mary McArdle RSJ*

Kids Corner



