

**A TRIBUTE TO SR NORAH BOLAND RSM
1916–2011**

Sr Ann Hetherington rsm

Norah Boland was born in Murwillimbah, the eldest of six children. Her parents moved to Brisbane and she was educated at St Joseph's Kangaroo Point before becoming a professional dressmaker. She entered the Sisters of Mercy at All Hallows' Convent in 1939 and professed her vows there in 1942. Her religious name was Sister Mary Casimir, although she reverted to her baptismal name of Norah in the early 1970s.

Norah trained as a nurse at the Mater Hospital and worked there until 1972 when she was appointed as Director of Nursing at the newly opened Emmaus aged care facility at Nudgee. Subsequently she was in charge of Madonna Villa at Clayfield for some years.

In 1984, Norah began what she said was the most fulfilling and interesting period of her life when she was given the position of Archivist for the Brisbane Sisters of Mercy. Although she learned the skills of an archivist "on the job", her love of history and meticulous attention to detail meant that she revelled in this work.

Norah was an older sibling of Father Tom Boland, and she assisted him with his historical research and also worked with him in the Archdiocesan Archives for some years. Even after she retired, Norah was keenly interested in matters historical and her eyes would light up when she was told of some new 'find' in either the Congregation archives or the Archdiocesan archives.

A quiet, gentle woman, Norah had a special love for her family and in later years enjoyed the yearly family gatherings at Caloundra. It was a great joy for her when her brother Fr Sam Boland CSSR came to live in retirement with her at Emmaus, but the deaths of her siblings one by one were occasions of great sadness. She outlived them all. Norah is remembered as a shy but determined person, a woman of great integrity, and someone with a keen intellect and an understated dry wit.

Norah, may you rest in peace.

DENIS JOHN CLEARY

1933-2011

Berenice Wright - Sister of Denis Cleary

A foundation member of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society, Denis John Cleary, who died at St Vincent's Palliative Care Unit, Kangaroo Point on 2 July 2011, had - from his boyhood days - an intense interest in history, geography and current affairs.

Born in Brisbane on 26 March 1933, Denis was educated at St James's, Cooraroo; Mount St Joseph's Nundah, and St Columban's Christian Brothers' College, Albion before attending St Joseph's College, Nudgee, where he completed his secondary education in 1950.

An early career in the Commonwealth Public Service was blighted by severe illnesses contracted during his National Service Training in 1952, and for 2 years he worked at Bundaberg, where he was involved in the YCW.

Returning to Brisbane, Denis worked as a clerk in State Stores, spending his lunch-hours deep in reading in bookstores, thus continuing his enviable collection of books, maps and historical documents.

In the ensuing years he became a member of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, the Royal Geographical Society, the Railway Historical Society and the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society (of which he became a committee member in 2003). He was a foundation member of the Nundah and Districts Historical Society in 1984, and its President for the last ten years of his life.

As a result of his private submissions to the Queensland Place Names Board for the official naming of Brisbane suburbs, he became Secretary of the Queensland Place Names Board - later a division of the Department of Mapping and Surveying - for nearly two decades until his retirement in 1998.

His extensive, detailed knowledge of the indigenous people and pioneering families of Brisbane and beyond, is reflected in the names he chose for suburbs such as Fitzgibbon, Carseldine, Durack, Ransome and Taigum, and in the Federal electorate of Blair, named for the aboriginal tenor and civil rights activist, Harold Blair.

The depth of Denis's Catholic faith was reflected in his love for the Mass and the daily recital of the Rosary.

Denis is survived by his wife Deirdre (née Fallon) whom he married on 4 July 1981 and son Steven, as well as his four sisters: Maire Deppe, Berenice Wright, Kathleen Bogsanyi and Sheila Cleary.

His funeral cortege moved to Nudgee Catholic Cemetery following Requiem Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Hendra at which the Celebrant was parish priest Father Peter Gillham and concelebrants Fr Gerard Dore, Fr Brian Burke and Fr James O'Donoghue (a godson of Denis).