



VOLUME FIFTEEN

2016

St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane
Built 1847, 1874

Proceedings

of

**BRISBANE CATHOLIC
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PROCEEDINGS
OF
BRISBANE
CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume Fifteen

2016

Brisbane Catholic Historical Society

@ Brisbane Catholic Historical Society

ISBN 978-0-9750045-5-5

Published by
Brisbane Catholic Historical Society
GPO Box 282, Brisbane QLD 4001

Printed by
Boolarong Press, Salisbury QLD

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	iii
<i>List of Contributors</i>	vi
<i>Home on the Range: Historic Buildings of the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy</i> Sr Joanne Molloy RSM	1
<i>A Passenger by the Fiery Star</i> Fr Denis Martin	11
<i>Guerrini's Stations of the Cross, Port Douglas (1883-1911): First in the North?</i> Fr Barry Craig	35
<i>Welcome Learning: A Brief History of Goodna's Catholic School</i> Mr John Browning	51
<i>Knights of the Southern Cross: A New Story from the Old Days. Queensland 1921-2015</i> Dr Neville Buch	91
<i>A Rose among the Shamrocks: The Story of Sister Mary Catherine Morgan 4.12.1820 – 23.12.1874</i> Sr Anne Hetherington RSM	101
<i>St Clements Melkite Rite Church, South Brisbane</i> Mr Simon Haddad	111

<i>History of St Saviour's School Toowoomba</i>	
Ms Gabrielle Sade	115
<i>The Wooloowin Madgalen Asylum and Holy Cross Laundry: A Symbiotic Dependency</i>	
Dr Sue Keays	135
<i>Vale Professor Tess Cramond</i>	
Sr Anne Hetherington RSM	163
<i>Books Received</i>	
Fr Chris Hanlon	165

Introduction

Welcome to the fifteenth volume of the Proceedings of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society. Much has happened since the appearance of our last volume in 2014. When such things are considered on a broad scale, the wonder is that I am writing this introduction at all!

In the first instance, we were faced with problems concerning the venue for our regular series of lectures, which form the subject-matter for these Proceedings of ours. The Irish Club, our meeting-place for several years, closed during 2015 as a result of business difficulties. A replacement suggested itself in the Australian Catholic University Leadership Centre. However, the non-negotiable fees charged to rent a room with them threatened the very financial existence of our society.

Our deepest thanks go to Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who, as Patron of our Society, was able to arrange for us to be able to meet in the Hanly Room of the Francis Rush Centre. We have been meeting there since the beginning of 2016. The articles that follow, are due to the archbishop's interest in the Society; and we have every reason to hope that this arrangement will continue in the future.

A second difficulty presented itself in the Committee which manages the Society's affairs. After many years of generous and on-going service, our Secretary/Treasurer, Sister Genevieve Carroll indicated that she would not be continuing in that position in 2016. No nominations to replace her were forthcoming at the

Society's Annual General Meeting – surely an indication of how highly she continues to be held. Such a situation would, under normal circumstances, have meant the demise of the Society; but the remainder of the marvellous Committee that we have agreed to do that little bit extra, pending a discussion at the 2017 Annual General Meeting. (I will not mention names but you, Committee members, know what you have done so far, as well as my gratitude to you.

Given the difficulties mentioned above, it gives me great pleasure to present a series of high-quality articles from across Queensland (or, in other words, the ecclesiastical province of Brisbane).

In her paper “Home on the Range”, Sister Joanne Molloy has given an account of the historic buildings of Rockhampton's Sisters of Mercy. Gabrielle Saide, has undertaken a similar project – with a different focus – in “St. Saviour's School Toowoomba.” Sister Anne Hetherington in “A Rose among the Shamrocks” tells the story of Sister Catherine Morgan and of her association with St. Anne's Industrial School. Dr. Sue Keays' topic is a study of Holy Cross Laundry at Woolloowin. Another chapter in the history of parochial schools in Brisbane archdiocese is found in John Browning's telling the story of Catholic education at St. Francis Xavier School, Goodna.

St. Clement's Melchite Catholic Church celebrated a significant anniversary in 2016. A summary of Simon Haddad's address to the Society is included in this volume.

Fr. Denis Martin, Brisbane Archdiocesan Archivist, provides a link between early Brisbane and voyages in the Southern Seas in his story of “A Passenger on the Fiery Star”. With Rev. Dr. Barry Craig’s tale of Capuchin Fr. Guerrini’s Stations of the Cross, Port Douglas our gaze moves to an episode from the story of the Church in what later became the Diocese of Cairns. Martin Sullivan presented an account of the extraordinary career of Fr. James Comerford; chaplain in the railway construction camps along the central western railway (from 1877) and later parish priest at Charters Towers (1891-1910). [Sadly, the text of this article was not available at the time this volume went to press. One can only hope it will become available in our next edition.]

Finally, but by no means least, Dr. Neville Buch spoke of the research he was undertaking – along with his research assistant Beryl Roberts – into the history of the Queensland Branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross. This research subsequently appeared as a book: “A Quest for a Fair Go – A History of the Knights of the Southern Cross (Queensland) 1921-2015” It was launched by Archbishop Coleridge on 29 October 2016. (For more see below, under Books Received).

Contributors

Sr Joanne Molloy

Sr Joanne Molloy is a Sister of Mercy who was born and raised in Mackay. Educated by the Sisters of Mercy, Joanne attended both St Patrick's Primary School and St Patrick's Convent High School. After religious profession, Joanne became a qualified teacher and taught in Rockhampton Diocesan primary schools for twenty years before becoming a member of St Joseph's Cathedral Parish Team. In the mid 1990s, Joanne assumed the role of Archivist for the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy.

Joanne has an avid interest in preserving the Mercy story and honouring the lives of many valiant women who have witnessed to Mercy in coastal towns and remote rural areas of Central Queensland. In her role of Archivist, Joanne responds to the requests for personal information of former residents of St Joseph's Home, Neerkol, as well as other archival related inquiries. Joanne has also been engaged in documenting the history and features of Middle Hall and Kenmore, two heritage-listed buildings that have played a significant role in the life and ministry of the Rockhampton Mercy story.

Fr Denis Martin

Fr Denis Martin is a priest of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, having been ordained in 1972. He served at the

Cathedral and in Maryborough before becoming the Archivist for the archdiocese. He is a foundation member of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society and has written widely on the history of the Catholic Church in Queensland. His best known work is *The Foundation of the Catholic Church in Queensland*, but he has also done research on the Maryborough and Sandgate parishes and the lives of the early priests in the Archdiocese.

Fr Barry Craig

Barry M. Craig is parish priest of Malanda (with Millaa Millaa), Diocese of Cairns, Queensland. He was born in New Zealand, moved to Papua New Guinea with his family when he was nine, attended secondary school in Cairns, studied at Pius XII Seminary, Brisbane, and was ordained a deacon in 1986 and a priest in 1987. He served in various chaplaincies and parishes before and after studying at the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy (Sant' Anselmo) in Rome in 1997-2002, gaining the doctorate in 2008. He was parish priests in Mossman–Port Douglas 2008 to 2013.

Mr John Browning

John Browning studied Modern History at the University of Oxford. Much of his professional career was in Catholic educational administration in Queensland and in retirement he continues to do consulting work in this area. His published works include a history of Catholic Education in the Rockhampton Diocese and two jointly

authored books on Queensland-produced narrow gauge locomotives, as well as many articles on private and industrial railways in Australia and overseas.

Dr Neville Buch

Dr Neville Buch is an independent researcher in intellectual history, exploring influential social thinkers in Queensland's past. He has been a Q ANZAC Fellow at the State Library of Queensland (2014-2015), and a speechwriter and higher education researcher, working with four Vice-Chancellors. Dr Buch is a certified member of the Professional Historians Associations (Queensland) Incorporated, and has responsibilities as the PHA (Qld) e-bulletin editor. He is well-published and recognised for his contribution in the histories of both Catholic secondary and state primary education in Queensland, as well as histories in the cultural and religious shaping of Protestant and Catholic organisations.

Sr Anne Hetherington

Sr Anne Hetherington is a Sister of Mercy currently living in Brisbane. A teacher by profession, she was for twelve years Principal of All Hallows' School. She was the first Director of Mission at the Brisbane Mater Hospital, and spent several years in various administrative and leadership roles in the Brisbane Congregation. Anne has a keen interest in history – especially the early history of the Sisters of Mercy in Brisbane and is co-editor of *The Correspondence of*

Mother Vincent Whitty, a collection of over three hundred letters written by, to or about Mother Vincent, the foundress of the Brisbane Congregation, between 1839 and 1892.

Ms Gabrielle Saide

Gabrielle Saide was born in Sydney in 1947. She is the eldest of ten children all of whom attended St Patrick's Primary School Toowoomba. Gabrielle and her three sisters then attended Saviour's Secondary School. Gabrielle played an active role in research for the Sesqui-Centenary celebrations of the school in 2013. Currently a member of the College Board, Gabrielle is a very proud past student of St Saviour's School.

After completing senior in 1965, Gabrielle commenced work in the Commonwealth Public Service and followed this career until 1998. Since April 2002, she has filled the role of the Toowoomba Diocesan Archivist. This position involves some research and allows Gabrielle to pursue her love of history. She is also a very active member of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Community. Gabrielle's interest in history stems from her Lebanese background and particularly from her parents' desire to keep alive the history and culture of their families. She is an active member of the Australian Lebanese Historical Society.

Dr Sue Keays

Sue Keays graduated from UQ in 1995 with a PhD on the lives of expatriate women, including missionaries, in

colonial Papua and New Guinea in the pre-world War II years. For some years she delivered papers on the topic at Pacific History Conferences, before moving into European studies. Since then she has worked as a tutor and then part-time lecturer in history at Sippy Downs, QUT and Griffith Universities until five years ago. She has published a history of the Clayton Utz law firm (which was updated and reprinted). Other work includes historical work for the Greek Orthodox Church of St George South Brisbane and several oral history projects. She has also completed a heritage study on the Old St Stephen's or Pugin Chapel (Brisbane), and some work on St Patrick's Church, Fortitude Valley (with Father Chris Hanlon). At present she has been talking with Southern Cross Care about completing and updating an earlier study she did for the Knights of the Southern Cross.