

**Information for Vincent Pallotti scholarship/
study grant applicants.**

The Union of Catholic Apostolate (UAC) was founded by St. Vincent Pallotti in Rome in 1835. It endeavors to spread the concept of a Church in which all people are actively involved.

The UAC offers scholarships/study grants to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity which is consistent with UAC aims and objectives.

These grants are awarded to applicants who demonstrate enthusiasm and ability in a particular area of endeavour e.g. youth ministry, pastoral care, vocational training, community service, indigenous health and education.

Funds are allocated annually at the discretion of the scholarship committee. Up to \$2,500 will be provided towards the cost of courses of study, programs and conferences.

An application form for the scholarship/study grant is available from:

UAC Executive Officer,
85 Studley Park Road,
Kew, Victoria, 3101.

Tel. 0419 414 510

Email: uac.eo@pallottine.org.au

Applications close on 31st March 2009. Submission is via the application form to the address listed above.

Please Note With the approval of the National Coordination Council, the name "UAC Scholarship for Lay Ministry" has been changed to "Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry".

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!!
STILL IN 2008.**

Christmas Eve 8.30 p.m. Mass at Pallotti College Millgrove.

AND FOR 2009.

Thursday, 22nd January. The feast of St. Vincent Pallotti.

Kew celebration: 5pm Mass, followed by 'drinks and nibbles'.

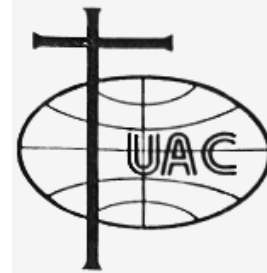
Advance notice: See March newsletter for more details.

Tuesday, 21st April: The birthday of St. Vincent

Saturday, 30th May: Feast of Queen of Apostles.

Community days at Kew; March 3rd. May 5th, July 2nd, September 1st.

Taize prayer at Kew. The first Friday of the month. February to December. 8-9pm.



**PALLOTTINE FAMILY
(UAC)
NEWSLETTER**

DECEMBER 2008

WAITING SONG

We are waiting
Again
New year, new Life, Mary's
Life
Filled with promise, with hope, with
Love
As playing before
Wisdom
Skipping over the hills, buried in
Mary's heart, the Morningstar
Arises
Again
While waiting, waiting,
Waiting
Longing,
Come Lord Jesus, come
Fully, You the
Daystar, Evenstar, Evensong, Lovesong,
The Wise Ones travelling from
Desert to desert but green, alive, rich in
Promise,
Again.
The Light shone and shines in
Our darkness, not His, not
Hers
Theirs eternal light, breathing
Spirit
The Lord, the Giver of
Life
Hover now,
Enter now,
As we wait,
Again and
Again and
Again.



SR. CARTHAGE R.S.M OUR BELOVED 'SIS'

When we heard that 'Sis' had entered eternal life, we knew there would be some many memories and so many stories about this significant woman. Thanks to Barb Shea, Mary Ward and Mary Anne Dooley for sharing their thoughts.

Barb recalls, as Mary does, that Sis came to a retreat at Pallotti College---one for members of religious communities whose role was to be cooks. Sis certainly qualified because she had cooked for a

boarding school for more than 30 years. At the end of the retreat, Fr. Walter, in his inimical style, asked is anyone would be interesting in spending some time as a member of the Team. This appealed to Sis but, on the very understandable condition, that she would do anything but cooking. Anything but cooking! Everything but cooking can really describe her work! There was a spell in the laundry. Lots of time in the wings, tackling the never ending task of cleaning and tidying after a group left and having it ready and welcoming for the next one. She was specially 'hot stuff' on cobwebs. No 'lace curtains' on her watch!!

Barb said it was so uplifting to see Sis' faithfulness to her prayer life, despite the change from the kind of community life she had lived. She loved being a Sister of Mercy and loved also the community life at Pallotti College. She enjoyed the mix of people who made up the team, the weekenders and day helpers, too and the great variety of guests. She never missed a community celebration and very often was the last to leave.

She maintained strong connections with her Waitara (Sydney) community and looked forward to returning during the winter break and in January but looked forward also to coming 'home' to Pallotti College. She was always interested in what was going on and enjoyed every opportunity for an outing. If she was sitting having a cup of tea and, out of the window, saw some tails lights, she would often say: 'I'll just see if they need anything'. For that read: 'I wonder if someone's going out' She met a disappointment on one occasion. Yes, someone was driving a car but---just around the corner' to wash the car.

Thank you, Sis. We are all so much richer for having known you..

Mary remembers:

I don't remember when I actually met Sis for the first time but it would have been

Yes, thank you to those who you recognized the real need we are experiencing in defraying the costs associated with the production of this newsletter. Your contributions have made a significant difference. **BUT**, it is easy to put such things aside, isn't it? We know there are some forgetful (and penitent) recipients who just need another reminder to 'catch up'. **\$10 per year** from everyone would very adequately cover costs.

**Pallottine Family UAC
Newsletter**

85 Studley Park Road, Kew Vic., 3101
Print Post Approved 335169/00015

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

You can read this publication also
at the SAC Website
www.Pallottine.org.au

**Pallottine Family News-
letter**

Quarterly Circular for
members of the Australian
Pallottine Family

Editor: Merle Gilbo,
Email:
merle.gilbo@blaze.net.au

Publisher:
UAC Secretariat
85 Studley Park Rd
Kew Vic. 3101
Tel.: 03) 9855 0211,
Email:
uac.eo@pallottine.org.au

Annual Subscription:
\$10.00

in the late 1970s when I was a “weekender” at Millgrove. My co-weekenders, Lorraine Cosgriff (Cosi) and Kerry Woolcock (Kez) gradually got to know her and along with Barb Shea, Sis would wait up on the Friday night, no matter how late, and greet us with a smile and a “cuppa”. Sometimes when we were early and would have a “champers” as well as a “cuppa” she would join in and occasionally have a sip of sherry usually at Fr. Walter’s encouragement. But once her cheeks reddened, which was usually after the first sip, she would say “that’s enough”. During a weekenders’ breakup at Ben and Judith Van der Haars, Kez and Cosi naturally were having “a kick” of the footy. Much to everyone’s surprise and enjoyment over went Sis and had a kick.



She would often come and stay at my home on her days off. She became almost a “grandmother to my nieces and nephews. Even my Parish Priest at the time used to call her Sis. She loved the chance to go to the “pokies” My sister and I would often take her. My sister more often than not would give her \$5 to play with. If she got to about \$12, she would suggest that she take her winnings out and keep it. She would offer the \$5 back, but how could one ever take money from a nun. During these stays at home I would usually tag team with Katrina Wilhmsen (de Groot) and meet her at Frankston where Sis would stay at McCrae with Katrina. She spent many times at Katrina’s home.

I remember attending Sis’ Golden Jubilee at Waitara in Sydney. Sr. Margaret McGovern, who was her Superior at the time, spoke glowingly of Sis. She talked of her time at the “Monty” school where she had cooked in the same kitchen for 30 years. Then she did a retreat at Millgrove. Margaret spoke of how from this time she blossomed and became the true flower God had intended her to be; the way she socialised with people and continued her service by listening to them and praying for them. She was a great pray-er. Sis didn’t think she was a good nun, but for those who knew her and loved her she was magnificent.

Well done good and faithful servant. Enjoy Paradise.

PS from Mary.

As we’ve said, Sis was always interested in new people and new places. She was very impressed by what was planned for 2001—the year of the centenary of the arrival of the Pallottine priests and

brothers in Australia. The pilgrimage to the Pallottine places in Western Australia particularly attracted her. So she became a ‘pilgrim’ in the fullest meaning of that word---a story in itself.



When she realized that Geraldton is on the Indian Ocean---on the Western side of the continent, she had to dip her toes in to the water---- reminding everyone that she had often done the same thing in the Pacific Ocean, in her native New South Wales. An achievement at any age---specially so at 89.

Thanks to Mary Anne for taking us on Sis’ last journey.

“Behold the Handmaid of the Lord” was the inscription on the front of the booklet for the funeral of Sister M. Carthage, better known as “Sis” to all who knew her at Pallotti. It was certainly a privilege to be part of the day, to hear the memories and testimonies of her life and to attest to the wonderful work and presence she was at Pallotti for so many years. Her connection to and love of Pallotti College was mentioned many times by the sisters of Mercy who were there and by her relatives. From the songs: Here I Am, Lord, Strong and Constant, Eagle’s Wings, Come as You Are and Hail Mary, Gentle Woman to the readings which spoke of God’s Love, fighting the good fight and being sure of Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life, the celebration spoke of the joyful, committed and spirit-filled presence that we knew Sis to be. We all remembered her cheerful laughter and the humble, happy service she gave to all she met. It was a fitting tribute to her and our prayers were summed up in the final prayer: *Formed of you by the hand of God, and again returning to your embrace, receive her, now, as your own.* We pray she is enfolded now in the loving embrace of her God.

No Roman Holiday by Mark Brolly

The lead-up to Christmas is busy for everyone and for two leaders of our Pallottine Family in Australia, the pace is still as hot as an Australian summer!

Fr Ray Hevern, the Australian leader of the Pallottine priests and brothers, and Cheryl Sullivan, the convenor of the Mariana Community, are in Rome this month (December) for the second ordinary General Assembly of the Union of Catholic Apostolate (the UAC, the formal name for what we in Australia have called the Pallottine Family). The meeting is to be held from November 30-December 4 at the Centro di Spiritualita San Vincenzo Pallotti at Grottaferrata, near Rome.

It comes towards the end of an historic year for the UAC. On April 25, the Pontifical Council for the Laity definitively approved the revised General Statutes of the UAC. In the words of Bishop Seamus

further assistance to the relevant health professional. They are all volunteers within Our Lady Help of Christians Parish and like most who contribute are active in multiple areas of the parish.

Susan Searls has completed a Bachelor of Theology through the Australian Catholic University. She has led an interesting life, as a child and teenager her family travelled extensively as her father was a Post Master and those who remember the office of the Post Master General would remember the relative importance of such a position particularly in rural communities. Susan has had her fair share of disadvantages being widowed fairly young in life she raised several children into fine adults. For a period of time she felt some disillusionment and left the Church to return after the changes brought about by Vatican two. The changes challenged her faith which became quite inquisitorial. Her parents and in later years her mother were very influential in instilling a passion for social justice and fairness.

Her mother was active in her town until her passing at the age of 90. Susan established a dialogue with local government and the parish is proceeding to set up a youth house to enable youth to mentor other youth. Sue is involved with Caritas and Catholic Mission and goes to schools to engage with young people and has found herself to be empowered by these students.

Corrie Gannon emigrated to Australia as a child in the 1950’s. She has a large family of five children and two grandchildren. In her youth Corrie had a strong involvement with the Young Christian Workers (Y.C.W.) This involvement was her Christian formation. During her time in Y.C.W. she was mentored by a nun who had a dedication to youth. Corrie stayed involved with Y.C.W. for over ten years and in the end due to her skills and knowledge became the diocesan youth worker. After marrying she maintained her involvement with the community but had no direct involvement with the church until recent times. She now helps out in several areas including visiting the elderly, Funeral ministry and in some financial areas.

Connie Bonzon emigrated her from the Philippines in 1973. She has two children and three grandchildren. On her arrival she was readily accepted by the Sacred Heart nuns and these nuns had a significant impact on her by their words and actions. Connie was a school teacher and taught at the school. She has had a varied career with many twists and turns but the main driving force behind her different roles has been a commitment to community. Connie’s faith is very strong with a strong devotion and involvement to the Legion of Mary. She is involved in her parish Funeral ministry following an invitation from the Parish Priest and is

involved in the parish Sacramental Programme. Beverley Hayward lives in Learmonth which is north of Ballarat. She and her husband live on a sheep farm and have four adult children. She has a strong involvement her local and church communities and enjoys tennis and reading. Her parish involvement includes visiting the elderly, taking the isolated and ill the Eucharist and being a friendly listening ear.

The course that the ladies are undertaking is quite demanding and will equip them with the skills to assist in many areas. The course will impart a knowledge of pastoral skills and ministry in hospital, the parish and rural communities. It will enable them to develop the listening skills that will enable them to detect signs of deeper problems or more significant issues requiring referral. The course has a spiritual base and is not a secular counselling course. The parish and the ladies have determined that upon completion they will have the skills to do the outreach work that is so needed in rural areas. They also plan to develop a bereavement team that will work with Funeral Directors especially in areas where no priest is available to perform the service. The team will do preliminary work in palliative care and the post funeral follow up with families.

Upon completion of this course the Ballarat Deanery will be well equipped to assist those who need help and the spirit of St Vincent carries on through this work.

Interviews and photographs by Patrick Caruana, Executive Officer.

We did ‘Remember in November’...

Saturday 22nd November, at Kew

Yes, we ‘remembered’ as we wrote the names of our loved ones---spouses, family members, friends, members of the Pallottine family in the beautiful, now permanent, memorial book. Some have gone to their eternal reward during this year---others went longer ago but are still, and always, in our hearts.

We rejoiced that many of us could be together in person and, by the many messages, many more were present in spirit. Those in person had come from ‘far and wide’-----North Queensland, country Victoria, distant and nearby suburbs. The further away, the more necessary it had been to do some long term planning. As always on these occasions, the participation in the Mass was wholehearted. This was specially so when we shared, from our hearts, the Prayers of intercession, bringing together the individuals and the groups whom we were remembering, in that simple way reminding each other of them. Of course, the sharing was continued in that traditional format of a ‘cuppa’ and a ‘bite’.

adolescence and she was quite happy to recount that she had a wonderful childhood filled with positive experiences. Whilst she didn't have any significant mentors or inspirations outside her family environment Stacey was full of praise for the teachers who provided her education and she impressed upon me the encouragement to have a go and to never give up. She does and continues to feel an affinity for the Blessed Mary McKillop because of her commitment to bringing Catholic education to all regardless of social or financial standing. Stacey began teaching herself in 2000 and counts her greatest career highlight to date as the first day in her first class. Her current role as WYD Co-ordinator in the Ballarat Diocese and in particular being a member of the Ballarat Diocese leadership team as a significant highlight for her. A recurring highlight for Stacey is when she sees "the light go on" on a child's face when they understand what she is teaching.

Stacey was attracted to her role as WYD Co-ordinator because of her experiences during WYD in Rome. She wanted to participate at an organisational level and really felt a calling to the role. Her involvement in the scholarship process began during a period when she was advertising the Ballarat Diocese WYD programme, as well as investigating the possibilities relating to the WYD Pilgrimage Course. As fate would have it she saw the Scholarship advertised in the same "publication". She trusted to faith and applied for both.

The course consisted of four modules with the final module to be completed after all WYD activities. Some of the activities required to complete the modules included understanding the history and meaning of pilgrimage in both the Christian and Non Christian environment. Stacey found this assisted her greatly in separating her "work" and faith journeys in participating in WYD. The modules required that journals be kept and submitted and discussions held between participants. The course has also enabled Stacey to delve deeper into and understand more fully her faith. The course and her participation in WYD has made Stacey feel empowered to participate more

fully in Parish and Deanery life. She really feels the connection to the Ballarat area and the young people she so admirably led to Sydney.

Stacey was deeply moved by being on the same boat with the Pope and also later when she viewed the Stations of The Cross on Television. Being a participant in the Stations of the Cross it was difficult to take it all in due to the transitory nature of "performance".

She is grateful for the scholarship which enabled her to do the World Youth Day Pilgrimage course and to also gain an insight of the works and life of St Vincent even at a basic level.



FROM THE BALLARAT CLUSTER

Sue Searls, Corrie Gannon, Connie Bonzon.

The ladies above are part of a group who applied for the scholarship grant to participate in a Pastoral Skills Counselling Course. The group consists of five in total.

The ladies have formed the basis of a pastoral care team which will reach out to those in the Ballarat Deanery and assist with those who may be struggling with issues including the drought and its impact particularly for those on the land, those who may be isolated due to distance or human condition and to those who may need someone to listen and care. They will also be able to refer those seeking

We'd love to hear from YOU!!!!

As you read this, has something come into your mind that you would like to share with our readers? That might be how you live your life as an apostle in a community, a parish "somewhere". May be you were a lay missionary and have revisited the places you worked. Are there aspects of the life of Pallottine Family that you would like to know more about. Your input is so important and gives so much life. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

Editor: Merle Gilbo; Phone: (03) 9497 1691 E mail: merle.gilbo@blaze.net.au

Executive officer: Patrick Caruana; Phone: (03) 98550211 Email: uac.eo@pallottine.org.au

Deadline for March 2009 issue: 22nd of February

Freeman: "The Church has indeed confirmed that the Union of Catholic Apostolate is a faithful expression of the Pallottine charism for the Church and world of our time."

This came into effect on October 28 and was marked by a ceremony on November 7 at which the president of the pontifical council, Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko (who was in the papal party for World Youth Day in Sydney in July), presented the official decree to the UAC.

So this month's general assembly meets in historic times. Its theme is: "From the vision to the mission: together and for one another."

One matter the assembly will attend to is to elect a successor to Bishop Seamus, the former world leader of the Pallottine priests and brothers, who is stepping down as president of the UAC's General Coordination Council. A year ago, he became bishop of his home diocese of Ossory in Ireland (based in Kilkenny) and had the opportunity to catch up with Pallottine Family friends in Australia in July when he joined WYD pilgrims from his diocese in Ballarat, Melbourne and Sydney.

As we in Australia prepare for Christmas, let's spare a prayer for Fr Ray, Cheryl, Bishop Seamus, the general assembly and for all those around the world who, like us, belong to the UAC.

If all this is a bit of an alphabet soup, here's a quick guide:

* UAC _ Union of Catholic Apostolate: we've traditionally known this in Australia as the Pallottine Family of priests, brothers (in some countries, sisters) and lay men and women, all inspired by St Vincent Pallotti's vision that all the baptised are to be apostles of Jesus Christ;

* GCC _ General Coordination Council of the UAC: Cheryl Sullivan was elected to this body, the "executive body" of the UAC internationally between five-yearly congresses, in 2005 and is eligible for re-election at this month's meeting;

* NCC _ National Coordination Council of the UAC: in Australia, this comprises Fr Ray, Fr Dean Bradbury, Cheryl, the two presidents of the Local Coordination Councils in WA and Victoria (John Nagle and Mark Brolly) and the UAC executive officer, Patrick Caruana. It is responsible for the life and work of the UAC in Australia;

* LCC _ Local Coordination Councils of the UAC: in Australia, we have two _ one in WA and the other in Victoria. Responsible for the promotion of the UAC in their areas through events such as the celebrations of Pallotti's birthday at Riverton/Rossmoyne and the annual Walter Silvester Memorial Lecture in Melbourne.

MOVING FORWARD

Gathered as apostles in the Cenacle with Mary is the obvious place to start when we consider the idea of

our moving forward, as Pallottine Family members at this stage of our lives.

We need to make three points clear, first of all:

- that the Cenacle is not a place to stay
- that the Cenacle is about survival and revival and that we are mainly considering the outcome of the Cenacle, i.e. about revival, or moving forward.

The first apostles had to do two things as a result of their Cenacle experience, first of all, to come to terms with the present, and secondly, to discern their future actions and move forward.

We are all familiar with the idea of the Cenacle as a place of refuge, retreat and safety with Mary, the apostles and other disciples, either at that first time in history, or at other times in our own histories, on other occasions when we return to pray, worship, share and re-charge our spirits with her as Queen of Apostles. The danger is that this experience can be anticipated and experienced as something static. The picture is one freeze frame. She is there. They are there. Even when the Spirit is upon them, the picture doesn't change – it's still static, a moment caught in time. A wonderful moment, a marvellous experience captured and presented to us.

However what was and is the reality, is that this scene is much more than a moment or a few moments frozen in time. What more is there? The Cenacle is for all time, and is about survival and revival, after the dreadful days of Jesus' suffering and death.

Survival precedes revival, but is pointless without newness of spirit, outward movement and the development of new life. So let's focus on revival, on our need to move forward, out of the Cenacle into the waiting world.

We can say with assurance that the apostles were in the Cenacle in order to move forward, and that this applies to all Cenacle experiences. What those first apostles had to do, and likewise what we have to do, is come to terms with the present and discern the future. Our Cenacle gatherings always involve these two facets, the static and the dynamic: prayer and action. With Mary, transformed by the Spirit, the apostles can move forward.

This is the same with us, with the UAC: we need to do those two things, come to terms with the present and discern the future, in order to move forward.

Let's look at these two realities separately. First, coming to terms with the present.

We need to ask, 'What is my present' and 'What is our, the community's present?'

Our present has to be considered and assessed both realistically and ideally, and we need to start with the notion of our personal calling and place in the community. My personal calling applies to all of us, because each of us has been chosen from eternity, called personally and marvellously, to be a spark of

God's life in this time and in this place, each of us unique, irrevocable and irreplaceable. What a vocation! What a belief. In God's eyes and we may say, in His heart, we are so important, so precious, so needed. We used to name this calling our personal ideal, and we were urged forward continually for its realization in our daily lives. The names may change, but the reality does not.

We know too, as Pallotti so dramatically states, that we are nothingness, in sin. That's the other side of the coin, the other side of our historical reality. But it's the negative side; let's keep praising God by stressing the positive side of our being, called out of love, in love, in order to love, but first of all, as individuals. In coming to terms with the present, we need to stay aware of our personal calling, of our own unique place in God's plan.

How do we do that, now, today? Firstly, we must consider our stage of life and our status. We need to consider our gifts and abilities, our limitations and disabilities. We need an accurate measure of our personal reality and goals for personal growth. Day by day, consistently, we must open our being to our personal call, letting it well up from the depths of our existence to the level of conscious and acknowledged gratitude, worship and commitment. This is the core of meditation, to lose ourselves in the love of God in order to find ourselves more fully, more transformed, more alive to our personal calling.

Secondly, we also need to come to terms with our present as members of community – we are all members of various communities, our natural family, a particular community such as SAC, Mariana, a parish community, a neighbourhood community, maybe a service community, a prayer group, or some other religious/social group. We need the structured community for personal growth in communal relationships, the *communio* which Pallotti stressed. Our place in a community gives us opportunities to give and to receive, and is an essential element in coming to terms with our present. We have been called to and through the UAC, as members of the Body of Christ, today, now, in this way, with this mission.

So coming to terms with the present is the first stage of moving forward: knowledge and assessment of our present must precede our discernment of future possibilities and action, both as individuals and as a community. (to be continued March 2009)

Pat Heywood

We wish you Christmas Joy and Many Blessings in 2009

NEWS FROM THE WEST

We still have two Western nomads, at the time of

going to press.

Fr. Ray travelled to Brazil in November, then journeyed onwards to Rome where he is attending the second UAC General Assembly. As that old song said, he'll be home for Christmas.

John Nagle, President of the W.A. LCC, set off in November too, heading for India once again. John's love affair with India, and theirs with him, is well known. We hear they kept him busy during his three week stay, even though his 'first friend', Fr. Belaji has been transferred to the States. Sorry about the Test result, John, it was not the best time to visit India!!

Denise had a week off in November, which turned out to be her annual holiday. We hope to see her next year, for a longer spell.

Rossmoyne's Rector has returned from Germany in October, after spending time at home, celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination with his family.

Fr. Joe Kearney has returned to Rossmoyne, and is recuperating after a hip replacement operation. Glad you're on the mend, Joe. Likewise, **Fr. Wendelin** is in recuperation mode, so we're wondering if the two of them share their physio exercises!

And last bit of news, the LCC will celebrate their year's outreach with a special Eucharist on 15th December. Members of the formation group and people from the parish will be invited to join in the celebration.

Pat Heywood, and W.A. associates.

2ND ANNUAL WALTER SILVESTER MEMORIAL LECTURE 2008

As all our readers know, this year's speaker for the second Walter Silvester Memorial lecture was Sr. Pat Rhatigan, of the St. John of God sisters in Broome, W.A. Pat's topic was to do with the Kimberley region where she has worked for almost 50 years, and for which work she was awarded the Order of Australia in January this year. As well, she was named as West Australia's Senior Citizen of the Year. So we were honoured to have Pat with us, and fortunate to be able to share her memories and insights over the years of her dedicated service.

Not that Pat talked about herself, although none of us present at the lecture would have minded in the least if she had – quite the contrary, we came away feeling we would love to hear more about this wonderfully committed St. John of God sister and the events/experiences of her time in the field in the Kimberley.

I don't think that Pat would be able to speak to her audience of just over 100 on the night, about herself. She much prefers to speak about the work of her whole community, about the marvellous women who pioneered the work of her order, and about their involvement over the years with the Pallottine

priests, brothers and lay missionaries. Her love for her people, especially for remote communities of Indigenous people, is evident and inspiring.

The lecture was preceded by a welcome to country by one of the Wurrundjeri Elders, Professor Joy Wandin-Murphy, and by a few recollections from Bishop Hilton Deakin who kindly presided in place of Archbishop Denis Hart who cancelled on account of illness.

As usual, the staff of the Australian Catholic University were welcoming and helpful, and our special thanks go to Professor Gabrielle McMullin, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) for her unstinting and personal kindness to our Pallottine Family.

Our special thanks go also to Fr. Ray who made the trip from Perth just for this occasion, for which he acted again as an excellent MC. We are most grateful to Ray for that 6000 km travel, arriving at midnight on Monday, consulting and speaking on Tuesday and then on the plane again on Wednesday to return to 'normal' duties. Ray tirelessly conquers the huge distances of this continent, and we thank God for his commitment.

What more can I say? Thank you everyone for your support, thanks to the committee who worked together for over twelve months to bring the lecture into being again, and thanks for all those 'periphery' people, the sponsors, the drivers, the printers and advertisers, the community of the Sisters of St. John of God, - to each and all, our gratitude and appreciation.

Pat Heywood, on behalf of the committee.

Lay Missionaries of the 1960's

Bernie and Fred Russ, Barbara and Gerhard Koziol



(not in the picture—he was the photographer!) and Ian and Ron Hammond met recently to talk about the times in the late 1960s when they worked as lay missionaries in the Kimberley. Bernie, Barbara and Ian came through the Millgrove training programme in 1968. Bernie and Barbara went to Derby. Bernie looked after the 'young girls' 120 of them, looking after their well being, in general and the laundry, ironing, lunches, preparing for

'piknicks' and all kinds of other outings. In the second year, Bernie met local 'boy' Fred Russ and it's great to say that, there they are still happily married. Barbara at first, had responsibility for the older girls and then went to Beagle Bay to again look after the older girls but also to cook for the brothers and priests. She specially remembers the shrieks and excitement when a snake was sighted and the pleasure of a Sunday trip to the beach.

Meanwhile, Ian went first to Balgo making use of his farming background and then to Derby to look after the boys. As they gathered that day, all agreed that it was a most formative time in their lives and, despite the hard work, they wouldn't have missed this special opportunity.

They are hoping to meet again in 2010 when Bernie and Fred plan to come to Melbourne and, in the meantime, would very much like to **hear from**, or **about**, anyone who was in the Kimberley about that time. There's no way like 'word of mouth' to 'find' people so here's hoping that's true this time.

Note from the Editor. I'd be very pleased to pass on any information to or put you in touch with Barbara and Gerhard. Merle. merle.gilbo@blaze.net.au

Interview With Stacey Atkins.

Stacey Atkins was one of the inaugural Vincent Pallotti Scholarship award winners. Stacey was interviewed following her World Youth Day duties in September this year. This is her story.



Stacey is a twenty – nine year old teacher originally from Devenport Tasmania, now living in Ballarat. She moved to Victoria at the end of year twelve to undertake a teaching degree at the Australian Catholic University, Aquinas Campus in Ballarat. Following the course and obtaining her teaching qualifications in both primary and secondary streams she travelled to England and Europe. There she put her majors of Theology and History to good use in several short term placements.

Upon her return to Australia, Stacey took up several fixed term teaching positions around the south western region of Victoria. Stacey prefers primary teaching and enjoys the community feeling engendered in the primary school situation. In her somewhat limited spare time Stacey enjoys playing netball and spending time with her family.

I spoke with Stacey about her childhood and