



SERRA COUNCIL of AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND and the SOUTH PACIFIC

October 2018

SCANZSPAC Board Meeting

The Board of SCANZSPAC Board met on Friday 19th October 2018, prior to the Convention, which was held on the Friday evening and Saturday 20th October.

The President, Anne Larkins, opened the meeting with the Serran Prayer for Vocations, and then welcomed all participants to the meeting with special thanks to Darcy Maybon and John Mason for their activities.

Anne indicated, again, that Membership has to be the main focus for the next 12 months. Matters for consideration included:

- Some younger members had joined but more were needed;
- Potential members needed to see the bigger picture of the “Family of Serra”;
- It is important to share ideas between Clubs, including the sharing of newsletters;
- The need to share programme activities in Clubs, say, twice a year;
- Sale and Bendigo Clubs are not represented on the Board;
- Serra Canada is working on the assumption that 10 members are sufficient to establish a new Club;
- “Organising a New Serra Club” (December 2013 edition) was updated for Australian conditions;
- The largest growth areas in the Church have been in Latin America, Africa and South Korea.

Apologies were received from the Episcopal Adviser to SCANZSPAC, Bishop Leslie Tomlinson, Frank McCulloch and Steven Vella.

Prayers were offered for Serrans in ill-health, and those who have died since the last meeting. One untimely death was Sean Yeo, Past President of Serra International, who visited Australia on at least two occasions, and was such a warm and prayerful man.

Report from President

Anne's report covered:

- Our focus for the year
- Telephone meeting of Council Presidents
- Serra SPARK Website
- IT matters
- Melbourne Club's fabulous Chaplain
- A summary of her report included:
 - An increased focus on membership for the next twelve months;
 - Canada accepts that 10 members are sufficient to establish a Serra Club;
 - Consideration is to be given to visiting the Bishops again in an effort to promote our cause. A visit has been done previously without a lot of success;
 - How do we best communicate with the Bishops?
 - What do we have to offer to the Bishops when we speak to them?
 - Endeavour to implement the saying of Vocations Prayers in each parish after every Mass;
 - John Short is expected to be in a position to speak to Vianney Vocations about the material it produces and its application in Australia;
 - Serra SPARK Sampler Booklets are available from Serra US Council - US\$4.00 each or US\$100.00 for 30;
 - Steven Vella has been in communication with Serra International regarding review of progress to date in developing the Serra International website and has offered some information to assist.
 - Fraynetwork (the host of SCANZSPAC'S Website) has been taken over by another company but it may be possible for us to continue using the scanzspac.org website;
 - Father Gerard Dowling (chaplain to Melbourne Club) recently celebrated his 60th anniversary of ordination;
 - Danger signals of weak Serra Clubs;
 - Membership strategic planning 2018 – 2021 was prepared by Mario Biscardi, President of Serra International. A synopsis of Mario's message was distributed to members of the Melbourne Club Board;
 - Recent retirees are a good source of membership.

Governor, District 89, Mary O'Connor, reported on recent activities, including attendance at the Knights of the Southern Cross Priests' Support and Education Fund, which Serrans have attended since the inception in 1996.

The Annual Serra District Retreat which has been held each year since 1980, and will be held again on 6th April 2019 followed by attendance with Mass and Luncheon at Corpus Christi Seminary on the next day.

The Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral to honour parents and relatives of Clergy and Religious was attended by Serrans and acknowledgment was made that this event was sponsored by Serra.

A number of Serrans attended the annual Seminary Raffle Night and Concert. The Parents and Friends of Corpus Christi College Seminary has always had representatives of Serra on the committee, and it is an important fund raiser for the Seminary.

The Oakleigh Deanery Club recently celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Chartering of the Club, which was as a result of the drive and hard work of Harry Thomson and Joe O'Donohue, both deceased.

The Bendigo Serra Club welcomed a new member in August at their Mass celebrated by Bishop Les Tomlinson and the Club Chaplain, Fr Stephen Bolling. On the following day Deacon Dean Bongat was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Les. The club has had great success in encouraging prayers for vocations in all parishes in Bendigo, and is now spreading to country areas.

In **Sale**, a seminarian was ordained to the Diaconate, Stanley Davasia, and Bishop Pat O'Reagon said that Deacon Hiep Nguyen will be ordained as a priest on 15th December, and Deacon Avinash George will be ordained in India, on 5th January also for the Sale Diocese.

Governor of District 92, Andrew Kennedy, visited the Canberra Club in August and was warmly welcomed, and a visit is planned to the North Shore in the New Year.

In **Wagga Wagga**, Marco Killingsworth was ordained by Archbishop Christopher Prowse. In September, Vianney Seminary conducted an open day with Mass followed by lunch, and a healthy discussion among the 80 in attendance. Three deacons were ordained in November.

There are 3, possibly 4, aspirants for the Confraternity of Christ the Priest who will begin at Vianney next year and one, possibly two, local boys.

North Shore

12th August – Joint visit to the Good Shepherd Seminary with Canberra Club for prayer, Mass and brunch. About 12 members attended.

23rd August – Bishop David Walker addressed Club meeting on the topic of "Rejoice and be Glad" Diocesan Administrator, Fr David Ranson, has confirmed that Broken Bay will have nine young men at the Good Shepherd Seminary in 2019.

12th September – The Trustees Meeting discussed the future role of the Chaplain with him, attendance at St Agatha's Parish Holy Hour on 5th October, the need to identify

parishes for 31 Club presentations and inviting seminarians to Club meetings. The Board will make presentations to the Catenians, discuss the use of Facebook and look at ways of promoting Serra in new ways,

21st September – Invitations to the Club Christmas function were sent to all priests, permanent deacons, consecrated men and women, ecclesial women, all seminarians for the Broken Bay Diocese, the staff of Good Shepherd Seminary and to the members of the NSW Vocations Network.

In addition to the donation of \$500 to the Inter-Seminary Soccer Competition hosted by the Redemptoris Mater Seminary Chester Hill, members of the Club donated a further \$665 to support the event making a total of \$1,165.

Vocations News for Serrans is now distributed to all members with email addresses

Canberra

Fathers Aloga Martins and Dominic Byrne of the Batemans Bay Parish would welcome a visit from the Club. The Club will proceed with the visit provided a sufficient number of members commit to the visit.

The November meeting will have Father Simon Falk and other priests in attendance for a group discussion.

The Christmas function will be held on 13th December.