



Provincial Chapter 2011 News

March No. 1

WELCOME TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2011

October 24-28

Melbourne

The theme for this year's Provincial Chapter is **An Enduring Story – A New Future!** In the coming weeks, through this e news, Facebook and the website, we hope to share lots of stories with you, the vast Good Shepherd network, and encourage you to be part of the new future!

Much of the Chapter in October involves just Good Shepherd Sisters, each a vital part of the enduring story. But they take with them, into the Chapter, a great sense of the future story. They carry hopes, plans and visions. They also carry the stories of the past, stories that Good Shepherd people tell us they want to hear.

The first day and a half of the October Chapter will be open to representatives from all parts of Good Shepherd. As well there will be a series of regional meetings leading up to the Chapter (see dates).

We ask you to be part of this Chapter – the next in a remarkable and enduring story!

Communications Committee

Julie McQueen, Manager Organizational Development, GSY&FS, Victoria

Sr Naomi McClements, Perth

Rosie Hoban, Communications, Mission & Justice, Melbourne



Good Shepherd: An Enduring Story...A New Future!

Provincial Chapter 2011

Good Shepherd Provincial Chapter 2011

What Is a Chapter?

Yes, it is part of a novel; the next installment in a sometimes gripping story.

But in the life of a religious Order, a Chapter is the coming together to discuss and decide specific things. Chapter facilitator Jill McCorquodale defined a Chapter as *a distinct juridical structure in each Religious Institute with definite functions defined in Canon Law.*

The Chapter is the coming together of Sisters of the Good Shepherd and Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, staff, volunteers, board members and associates.

The Chapter is the place where every six years, governance issues are discussed, major issues for the Sisters are considered and where new leaders are elected. The term of the Province leader (currently Sr Pamela Molony) and the Province Leadership Team is six years and new people will be asked to assume those roles. Importantly, the purpose of Chapter, as outlined by Jill, is:

- to promote the spiritual vitality and heritage.
- to promote the unity & growth of the Congregation.
- to deal with matters of great importance.
- to effect appropriate adaptation to contemporary needs.
- fosters renewal in fidelity to the charism.

In lay terms, the Provincial Chapter is a little like the Chapter in a book. It is the next part of the story, taking the story from the previous Chapter and setting the scene for the rest of the story.



Provincial Chapter 2011 Design

We (Chapter Communications Committee) hope you like the design for the 2011 Provincial Chapter.

It was created by Good Shepherd person Jacinta Lithgow to capture the theme of An Enduring Story ... A New Future and it features many of the symbols that are important to Good Shepherd.

Whilst the designs incorporate a number of features, a couple to highlight include the fern, or spiral, and the Indigenous artwork used in the banner and footer. The fern image was adapted from the 1993 Provincial Chapter design and symbolises a spiralling to the future as part of the enduring story.

The fern also represents the New Zealand Koru (tree fern). According to New Zealand-born Sister, Caroline Price, the Koru always has an unfolding, spiral way of growing.

The circles and thatching are part of an artwork drawn for Good Shepherd by Indigenous artist Sharon Kirby in the late 1990s. It tells of gatherings and meetings all travelling to a central place. The circles are meetings as well as resting places. They all connect because wherever it happens, it's all part of the same story. The thatching is the story we create.



“All our hopes are founded in you.”

***St Mary Euphrasia,
Foundress of the Good Shepherd
Sisters***

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Sr Pamela Molony (pictured) has been the Province Leader of Australia New Zealand for almost six years. As her term as leader draws to an end, Pam reflects on issues relating to Good Shepherd and its future. The Q & A with Pam will run in every Chapter E News leading up to October. If you would like to ask Pam a question please email the Communications Committee at rosieh@goodshep.com.au.

• **You have been Province leader for six years. What has it meant to you to be the leader of this Province?**

It's the most challenging thing I've ever done, but I feel privileged to have the opportunity. Sisters of the Good Shepherd is a dynamic and inspiring organisation - I know I'm biased - and the organisations established by the sisters share the best qualities of our tradition: willingness to engage with people who are most disadvantaged, and practical response to sometimes overwhelming need.

I enjoy the way we work together. We are able to put our personal egos aside when a high level of team work is needed....for the sake of the Mission. This is a great capacity which I never take for granted. I particularly value this in the team of sisters with whom I work a lot (the Province Leadership Team) and I experience it strongly within the work of Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand.

• **The last six years have brought great change for Good Shepherd – did you envisage such rapid developments when you became Province Leader?**

Yes, I did because we had been steadily preparing for these changes for a long time. Since the Provincial Chapter of 1999, when Bernadette Fox was completing her term as province leader, we knew we needed to explore new models of governance.



This process continued through the term of Anne Dalton as province leader.

In 2004 Anne launched Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand (GSANZ) to provide a framework for a formal partnership between Sisters of the Good Shepherd and all who identify with its vision and mission.

We knew that we needed to provide our Good Shepherd organisations with a secure future, beyond the capacity of the sisters to govern them. John Date, long standing adviser to the sisters, developed a model for a new structure, and Anne asked him to present this to the Provincial Chapter of 2005. The proposal was formally accepted, and it was clear to me and the province leadership team that the establishment of the new structure would be one of our major tasks for the next six years.

• **What has been a highlight for you in your six years?**

There have been many highlights and I will reflect on some over the coming months. But a recent highlight was at the Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand Network Gathering held in Melbourne on 28 September 2010. A sister spoke to the whole group. She said: Some years ago, as I looked at our declining numbers and increasing age, I thought that we would be out of business one day. Now, when I meet all of you and hear what you are doing, I can see that Good Shepherd will continue....





An Enduring Story...A New Future!

2011 Provincial Chapter Planning Committee Members

are:

Sr Pamela Molony (Chair)

Rhonda Cumberland

Sr Naomi McClements

Julie McQueen

Sr Monica Walsh

Michael Yore

Jo Thitchener (Minutes)

Jill McCorquodale (Facilitator)

Profiles of each member in next Chapter
News

Justice. Compassion.
Reconciliation. Respect.
Cooperation.
Creative partnerships.

Provincial Chapter 2011 Dates

The Provincial Chapter will be held in Melbourne from October 24 to 28.

In the lead-up to the Chapter there will be regional chapters around the Province which will involve Sisters, staff, volunteers, board members and associates. The dates of the regional gatherings are:

Melbourne

9 June 2011 GSANZ and Sisters

10 June 2011 Sisters

Sydney

17 June 2011 GSANZ and Sisters

18 June 2011 Sisters

Auckland

27 June 2011 Sisters (morning and early afternoon)

GSANZ and Sisters
(5pm – twilight session).

Brisbane

21 July 2011 Sisters (morning and early afternoon)

GSANZ and Sisters
(5pm – twilight session).

Perth

23 July 2011 GSANZ and Sisters

24 July 2011 Sisters.

Note: GSANZ includes all boards, staff, associates and volunteers.

More information about these meetings will be published in future editions of Chapter News and on the website at www.goodshep.net.au/chapter2011/.

goodshep.net.au/chapter2011

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Help Write the 2011 Chapter!!

Good Shepherd Sisters, staff, associates, volunteers and board members are all invited to be a part of the 2011 Chapter.

In coming weeks this Chapter News and the website will delve further into the purpose of the Chapter and explain what will happen.

Also, leading up to the regional chapters regular reflection sheets will be sent around the network inviting you to prepare for the gathering in your capital city.

As well, there will be some suggested reading that will be available on the website if you do not already have it.

The Chapter reflections are being prepared by a **Reflections & Ritual Committee** and the members are Sr Monica Walsh (Convenor), Michael Yore, Sr Anne Dalton, Sr Kay McGrath, Fran Jenkins and Jill McCorquodale (Chapter facilitator).

This committee will draw on Good Shepherd material to prepare reflection sheets, Chapter prayer and ritual.

The first Chapter Reflection will be distributed in a week and we hope you will take it into your community or workplace and begin your part of the *enduring story!*

The first reflection sheet theme is Enduring Story and while it will be distributed around the network, it will also be available on the new website.

goodshep.net.au/chapter2011



Coming Up ...

Good Shepherd staff say that they would like to know more about the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters and how that work led Good Shepherd to the place it is today.

Of course, many Good Shepherd Sisters are still active in ministries and we will cover those stories. As well, we want to give you a glimpse of the rich history that we, as a Good Shepherd organisation have been gifted. The next Chapter News will feature a profile of **Sr Carmel McFaull**.

Here is an extract of her story....

It was in Springvale that she was asked to take the weekly Friday job of going to the Springvale Cemetery and burying the paupers; the people who ended their life penniless and alone. Looking back, Carmel considers it the 'greatest privilege' of her life. Every Friday she would go to the cemetery and, watched by the bemused gravedigger, she would pray at the graveside and leave a flower on the graves of other paupers.



"Here were these people who God had loved into life and who had been loved by someone, at some time, maybe long ago. And yet here they were alone and being buried in an unmarked grave in a simple coffin with no one to cry for them," Carmel said.

"I just stood by their graves and I prayed 'The Lord Is My Shepherd'."

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