

Sr Anne Manning - Our New Province Leader

Sr Anne Manning is the new Good Shepherd Province Leader. Anne and the new Province Leadership Team will officially take up office at a special Mass and ceremony at the Abbotsford Chapel on Saturday 4th February 2012.



Many people across the Good Shepherd network associate Anne with The Trading Circle. But her Good Shepherd work extends way beyond The Trading Circle and spans close to 50 years. Anne entered the Good Shepherds in Johannesburg in December 1963, and she was professed on 4 July 1966.

She came to Australia from South Africa in February 1980.

Thanks to Anne for responding quickly to a Q&A session so that the rest of the network could learn a little more about the woman who will be Province Leader from February 4 2012.

Can you tell us about South Africa and what work you did in there?

I came to Australia in February 1980. My first ministry experiences in South Africa were in our residential care facilities for girls in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Hartbeespoort. Later, I also worked in our residential program in Durban, which I was responsible for closing as the trend was clearly moving away from residential care for most young people.

Probably the ministry I found most fulfilling was a community development program which I was part of helping to begin, in a slum area outside of Johannesburg and adjacent to Soweto. We went to Eldorado Park and Kliptown after Good Shepherd was forced to close a residential home we had run for girls of mixed race, the so-called "coloured" racial group, because, in the madness that was apartheid South Africa, the area had been re-zoned for black Africans. The first thing that struck us about Eldorado Park/Kliptown, was the large number of children obviously not in school.

On enquiry we found that they were not admitted to school because their births had not been registered and the “coloured” schools could not admit them in case they turned out to be “Black”!

Our response was to start a two-pronged program aimed at getting the children off the streets and into some sort of schooling while at the same time getting their births registered. It soon became clear that it was not only children who suffered because their births were not registered – unregistered adults could not be married, legally employed, draw the miserable pensions that were paid to South Africans who were not “white” and even funerals became problematic. The “school” quickly grew from 14 children in the garage of the priest’s house, to 500 children inside a small community centre which the City Council had built and which had been a white elephant until we took it over, and scattered in groups around the grounds.

The three sisters involved had to summon the help of women of the area, some of whom had only some primary education themselves, to help engage the children in some form of learning, while we also dealt with the hundreds of people who turned up to get help with the registration of their births. The attendance rate of the children ranging in age from 7 years to about 18 years, was remarkably high over the whole period. Three years later we were successful in getting the schools to admit all the children as long as an attempt was being made to register their births.

Before coming to Australia I was on the Province Leadership team in South Africa and also did a year’s program for religious in Denver, Colorado, where I met Patricia Tointon doing the same program, and Pamela Molony who was doing a course in Chicago.



Most Good Shepherd people associate you strongly with The Trading Circle. How did that begin?

I suppose I am associated with The Trading Circle because I began it. The idea for The Trading Circle evolved out of my involvement with a group of indigenous women in Dareton, NSW, who wished to start a small business. Seeing the difficulty they had in establishing a market for what they were making because of their isolation, I thought of our sisters working in various income generating projects in developing countries.

When we asked them how we might assist them they all asked for help in selling the products made by the women. The Province Leadership Team of the time, under the leadership of Sr Leona Deere, gave the project enthusiastic support and The Trading Circle was born.



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Over the first few years, from 1993, Helen Swiggs and Noelene White in Sydney, Jan Ryan in Melbourne, Carmel Kaveney in Auckland and Pam and myself in Brisbane, sold products at various churches, retirement villages, schools and events.

In 1995 The Trading Circle was registered as a company. Then came the shops, from a small beginning in a parish house in Brisbane and then a house in Abbotsford, to the current situation. I am very happy that The Trading Circle now benefits from the expertise of Bettina Clark and of shop staff with strong retail backgrounds as well as from the support of a growing band of volunteers, including several sisters.

What other GS work are you currently involved in?

Since coming back from the Camino* this year my time has been more taken up with some volunteer work with The Trading Circle and involvement on the Province Leadership Team and committee issues. Being away from Brisbane quite a bit has made it difficult to become seriously involved in other projects, though I did have a few in mind for myself in 2012

You live in Queensland... how will the move south suit you?

I lived in Melbourne for my first few years in Australia, and I did like the city and I am sure I will get to do so again..... My sister, Kathy, and brother-in-law Chris and nephew Tim, live in Melbourne so that will be an important plus. And I may get to see Hawthorn play and win the grand final a few times in the next 6 years!!!

Was walking the Camino good preparation for taking on the role of Province leader?

One of the lessons of the Camino was that of living each day as it came, being in the "now". Another involved letting go and moving on. Neither come easily to me and I am sure these are things I will have to re-learn many times as I continue on my life's camino.

There were many personal insights which I continue to process and work at integrating. The memories of the Camino are very fresh for me – I loved the experience (in hindsight, even the hard bits!) and I am sure that this alone will help and support me.

**Anne walked the Camino, a pilgrimage trail in Spain, from April 18 to May 28 this year. The walk covered 800 kilometres.*

Book Your Chapter 'Echo' session today!!

Good Shepherd Sisters and mission partners from the province of Australia and New Zealand attended the Chapter, which was a very significant event in the life of this province we all work in. It was a wonderful event and a presentation, capturing significant moments, images and outcomes of the Chapter, is being prepared and 'delivered' by members of the Sisters' Speakers Bank.

It is important that this presentation be offered to all staff and friends, at staff meetings, Board and committee meetings or in more informal gatherings. To arrange a date (preferably in November/early December) please contact Rosie Hoban at **Mission & Justice on 03 9270 9739, 0408 090036** or at rosieh@goodshep.com.au.



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Good Shepherd Foundation Launched

\$2.7 million 'kicks off' fund

The Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand Foundation was launched at the Provincial Chapter last Monday with a cheque for \$2,783,510.16 from the Good Shepherd Sisters.

The Foundation was the first step in a major push by Good Shepherd to develop a funding stream to support Good Shepherd works into the future.

Sr Pam Molony said the Foundation's first bequest had come from a man called Henry Cotter.

"Henry Cotter was born into very disadvantaged circumstances. As a young man, he met Good Shepherd Sisters and was employed to work within one of our communities," Pam said.

"He became friends with a number of sisters over the years, and considered the sisters to be his family. When Henry died in about 2007 he left all that he possessed to the sisters. "

The Province Leadership Team decided to set the bequest from Henry aside as a first deposit into the Good Shepherd Foundation when it was established. In subsequent years, when bequests were received by the sisters, or funds from the estate of an individual sister, these were also set aside for the same purpose.

At the launch of the Good Shepherd Foundation at the Provincial Chapter on Monday, Pam, on behalf of the Good Shepherd Sisters, presented a cheque for \$2,783,510.16 to Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand board representative, Mr Peter Bearsley, as a first deposit into the Foundation.

The Foundation, which hopes to attract donations and bequests, will help support and sustain Good Shepherd services for women and girls into the future. The Foundation will have dedicated sub-funds for each agency, as well as a general fund to



Caption: Sr Pam Molony, Rhonda Cumberland CEO of Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand and Board representative Peter Bearsley with *the Cheque*.

distribute funds to Good Shepherd projects where it is most needed.

A comprehensive Good Shepherd Foundation booklet has been published —[click here](#) to read it. (This is a large 4mb file)

If you would like to find out more call 03 9270 9700 or email

foundation@goodshep.com.au

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Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand Province Leadership Team

The new Province Leadership Team was also decided at the Chapter. The new team is (back, from left) Monica Walsh, Jan Ryan. Front - Caroline Price, Province Leader Anne Manning and Noelene White.

In her closing address, Sr Pam Molony announced the new Province Leadership Team, which will take up their leadership role on Saturday 4 February 2012 at a special Mass and ceremony at the Abbotsford Chapel.

Pam said that in a special ceremony during the Chapter, the sisters confirmed their commitment to the mission which we share. "You are called to go forth into the future with hope and trust in your Shepherd God. You are asked to proclaim with your voices, to cherish in your hearts, to underscore with your lives the mission you have lived out so faithfully. You are challenged to dedicate yourselves once again to the Good Shepherd Mission.

In the words of the Prophet Micah: 'To act justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly with your God'."

In closing the 2011 Provincial Chapter, Pam called on all sisters and mission partners to -
...set out on the next stage of our journey.
Let us all respond to the invitation extended to the Chapter group on Tuesday:

'GO - TOGETHER - AUDACIOUSLY'

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More than 250 Years of Commitment Celebrated

Sr Pamela Molony, in her Chapter Opening address, paid tribute to the Good Shepherd Sisters who have given so many years service and to those sisters who were not able to attend. In particular, Pam acknowledged the commitment of (pictured from left) Srs Joan Paul (WA), Carmel Rose Fairlie (VIC), Mary Gilhooley (WA) and Marie O'Malley (WA). Here is an extract from Pam's opening address, which can be read in full ([click here](#)).

"... The Abbotsford Chapel links us with the people who came before us in a special way. It was planned, funded and built by the pioneer sisters and the men and women of Melbourne who supported them. Today it is in the process of being renovated and refurbished.

... Good Shepherd in 2011 has weathered some stripping and refurbishment, its inner nature and integrity is revealed and it is robust. This is important because a lot depends upon us. When the Mission of Good Shepherd is lived effectively it makes a real difference in the lives of women, men and children suffering exclusion, disadvantage and hardship. Each of you could share many stories which show that....it is the only reason we are here. Among us today are four sisters who committed themselves to the mission of Good Shepherd about sixty years ago: Mary Gilhooley, Carmel Rose Fairlie, Marie O'Malley and Joan Paul. They continue to live that mission with zeal and hope.

There are many others who would love to be with us but are prevented by age and frailty. We acknowledge the sisters of Australia and New Zealand, and the sisters on whose shoulders we stand. "

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**I knelt at His Feet
 Feeling the strength of His love
 The depth of His compassion
 My tears flowed and then I saw
 Him smile
 As the Spirit of His love
 urged me,
 Break Open the Flask.**

50 years of Contemplative presence in Australia New Zealand was celebrated at the Chapter. Pictured at the 'sharing' of the celebration cake was (from left) Sr Anne Dalton, Sr Anne Josephine Carr (partly obscured), Contemplative Srs Rose Murphy, Veronica Wilkinson and Valda Singleton and Sr Pam Molony.

This prayer (above) for the 50th anniversary ritual, celebrated at the Chapter, was written by Sr Peggy Mary Fennessy.

Sr Peggy Mary, lives at the Good Shepherd nursing home in Abbotsford and was unable to attend the Chapter. Sr Veronica Wilkinson (seated) was the first Australian postulant to enter the Contemplative Sisters.

Congratulations Sisters!

Chapter Readings



Several important documents, speeches and booklets were shared at the 2011 Provincial Chapter. Click on the document to read it in full.

- ◆ [Sr Pamela Molony's Chapter Opening address.](#)
- ◆ [A message from Congregational Leader Brigid Lawlor in Rome, delivered by Sr Anne Josephine Carr.](#)
- ◆ [Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand Annual Report 2010/2011. \(2.59MB\)](#)
- ◆ [Foundation brochure released as part of the Good Shepherd Foundation launch. \(4.09MB\)](#)

"One could say that grace moves continually round us and that it continually tries to find an entrance to our hearts."

*St Mary Euphrasia
 Conferences 46.*

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