



Christian Life Community

PROFILE OF JUDY FOSTER chair SA



I have been involved in CLC for 29 years as part of the “Stepping Stones” group in Clare. Our group has had numerous changes over the years with members coming and going.

Ignatian Spirituality has become a way of life for me. Once we choose to enter into this deeper relationship with God through Ignatian Spirituality, we experience a deeper intimacy with Jesus, which hopefully transforms us to live the action of love in our everyday lives.

Taking on the role of chairperson for SA is a bit daunting for me but working with good people on this journey always makes these roles much more enjoyable.

The time seemed right to say yes to taking ‘my turn’ on EXCO as I hope to have a little more free time in the near future. At the end of this year, I finish a long history of employment, teaching at St Joseph’s School in Clare as I now live at Ardrossan with my partner on his farm. Letting go of my work and shifting to a new town is a significant change of direction for me but it feels right.

As chairperson of SA EXCO, I am looking forward to getting to know many of you more deeply at various functions. We are all journeying together to deepen our relationship with Jesus so that we can better live God’s love in the world. I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

HILDE BULLEY’S EULOGY

Rhonda and I met Hilde in the Charismatic Renewal in the early 80’s and that was a good and blessed time for us

all to experience a different type of prayer, a more freeing type of prayer to pray aloud in our own words and to praise God, which was very different from saying the formal prayers. We did Life in the Spirit seminars, and were encouraged to read scripture and learn about Jesus and we felt close to God.

In the 1980’s Rhonda invited some people to form a Christian Life Community Group. This group focussed on Ignatian Spirituality and was another way of praying and deepening our relationship with God. We met in different homes and we all loved it when it was Hilde’s turn because we were always in for a treat with her beautiful and delicious cooking, especially her apple cake, stollen or streusel to name a few. Her welcome and hospitality made us feel much loved. She enjoyed the Christmas gatherings of CLC at Norwood, and caught up with many friends.

We went as a group to Sevenhill and Aldgate for annual retreats and Hilde

loved being in nature at these venues. She especially loved being on the 2nd floor at Sevenhill where she had a magnificent view of the vineyards and beautiful gum trees and she felt very near to God.

Hilde was a very prayerful, strong, spiritual and faithful lady. Many years ago in the old church, we all went to morning mass, rain, hail or shine. She was very determined to care for Allan in the last few years of his life and this she did with much fortitude and love.

Hilde will be always remembered with much love and joy. She has touched all our lives, and as the gospel reading says 'there are many rooms in my father's house', well I am sure that it will include a kitchen for Hilde.

Jasmine Linke

SA CLC ASSEMBLY WEEKEND 23rd September 2011



**LIVING THE CLC
WAY OF LIFE**

John and I travelled to Adelaide to the SA CLC weekend and Assembly at beautiful St Ignatius College, Athelstone. We were made very welcome, and stayed with Helen and Jeff Cantwell in the Adelaide Hills and the final night with Jocelyne and Rob Randabel-Williamson at Victor Harbor.

Living the CLC way was the theme of the weekend. In response to their request, I shared my personal and communal story in the presentations illustrating the three interdependent pillars of CLC - personal, communal, mission. And how, based on a strong shared philosophy and practice of partnership, the adapted CLC way of proceeding is the way we proceed at all levels and groups around Chris, my son who lives in a nursing home e.g. Inability Possability, YPINH Consortium, "What does Chris want ?group", case management team. With Chris at the centre, it is that reflective way of

- Experience/listening/ attending and noticing,
- Sharing what we are "hearing" with him and others,
- Interpreting, discerning,
- Action/response, evaluation, and setting directions. And the cycle begins again with noticing experience. With people who are open to listen and reflect, it works!

I used photos which speak louder than words, particularly for a person who is non-verbal. Retiring President Jocelyne and I had worked together on a program via phone and email in the weeks beforehand, and it was very well received.

It was wonderful to meet old friends and new, and always good to be with other CLCers. Members from various Adelaide groups, as well as Millicent, Clare and Victor Harbour attended, and elected the new SA EXCO on Sunday.

The new President is Judy Foster/ McIntyre from Ardrossan (and Clare). EXCO members re-elected are Jocelyne, Helen, and Louise Howell, with Paris Huffman new to the role. Chris Hogan continues as ex-officio.

**Mary Nolan
(Victoria CLC)**



Participants 'responses

We were impressed with Mary's calm and peaceful manner in speaking to us initially, about her own heart breaking experiences, and then guiding us through the weekend with a quiet assured wisdom that held our attention and respect. We dealt with a number of thought provoking issues and

each of us we think contributed well in the discussions. It was good to catch up with other CLC people.

Ray and Kath Wood

Reflecting on the Assembly, I was struck by:

- The constant growth of Mary's relationship to God.
- Her desire and ability to create community
- Her desire to always spread her mission from the personal to the wider social sphere
- Her capacity to achieve the amazing, surely a sign of the Spirit at work
- The heroic witness of Chris's life, apparently one of helplessness and uselessness. It is the centre and engine for so much creative good. He is a living witness to the triumph of the cross.

Louise Howell

We were truly blessed to have heard Mary Nolan's inspirational and thought provoking talks, embracing her many challenges but never impossible tasks. Mary's determination, persistence, strong faith and trust in God have enabled her to achieve a journey of truly living the CLC way of life.

Midge Grifoni & Patricia

We were truly blessed to have C.L.Cers in our home. Our conversations over breakfast and in the car with John and Mary gave us an opportunity to share our interests in our work for CLC. This is so important to the way CLC can be part of the church of the future.

Jeff and Helen Cantwell.

I learnt a lot from Mary and made abundant notes from her input on the CLC way of life.

Mary insisted on the importance of our telling our story: This affirms the individual, makes her feel accepted and loved. This is one of the gifts of CLC. Listening is the greatest gift we can give people and help us connect with each other. Sometimes, in times of conflict and tension, we can dialogue about our differences. Each person has a key to the truth and we need to together unwrap the layers and discover the gift within.

At check in time, we become aware and present to ourselves and to the Spirit in us. During the meeting, we notice the inner movements of the Spirit in the members as they share. We must notice these shifts as they are from the Spirit.

I was also struck with how the CLC process which we maybe use in our meetings, can actually be applied in

daily situations. **Observe, reflect, share and pray, respond and then evaluate.**

Mary made concrete to me God's action in the "messiness and awfulness of life". Looking back on the difficulties of my life, I can see how God worked through it all to bring me in the place I am now.

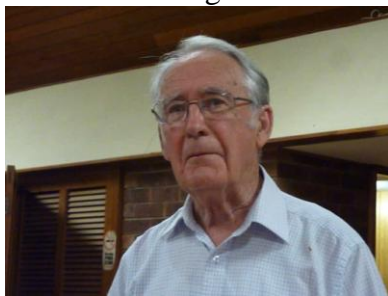
Jocelyne Randabel – Williamson END OF YEAR DINNER 5/11

It was a good night, as usual well attended. After mass at St Ignatius, a guides 'missioning ceremony was led by our new Chair, Judy, ceremony well prepared by **June Duffy and Jenny Gunson**. It was prayerful, meaningful and very moving. Each guide or its representative were given a lit candle by our oldest member, **Terri Nicholas**



After dinner, Jocelyne, exiting chair, presented a Power pt which summarized the thoughts of various groups about the last 4 years. It was a lights and shadows picture; what we were thankful for, what we failed to do, and our dreams for the next 4 years.

Following this, we had the immense pleasure of listening to our guest speaker, Gerald O’Callaghan, from the Macclesfield group. With great clarity and emotion, he summarized for us their group mission of “Spirituality in the Pub”. It was impressive to realize that they had hosted over 11 years 200 presenters, artists, theologians, etc... who talked of God and of their faith. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and also to share their thoughts at their tables. We sincerely hope that CLC SA will find in the coming year members willing to continue



this worthwhile mission.

GROUP PROFILE

The Seekers



"When 2 or 3 are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of them"

Chris Walsh, Helen Barker, Therese Casse, Rosemary Shepherd, Wendy Talbot, Agnes Kornis, Louise Howell and Gloria Sanderson (guide) are "The Seekers".

Together we decided to express our reasons for our on-going commitment to CLC like this:-

We gather as a way to deepen our relationship with God and each other.

There is a feeling of trust as we share our lives and desires and we open ourselves to the movement of the Spirit within and among us. The wisdom of the CLC process acts as a guide. When we gather there is a new consciousness through which we are challenged, encouraged and renewed.

The Seekers began in 1992 under the guidance of Merle Morris. Only three of the original members remain but we attribute the on-going life and strength of the group to our willingness to actively seek and welcome new members.



COMPANIONS MEDAL

To Kay Hooper (CLC National President)

Since its inception in Australia more than thirty years ago, Kay Hooper has demonstrated a long, selfless and sustained commitment to the Christian Life Community. In the 1970s, she had belonged to a pre-CLC group in England. When she returned to Sydney in 1980, Kay agreed to help with the development of CLC in Australia at a time when there was only one CLC group in the whole country. Kay threw herself into the work, serving as a companion in ministry to Fr Noel Bradford and contributing her organisational skills to Noel’s enthusiasm.

Kay’s constant dedication over those formative years, together with that of a number of other CLC members, helped CLC eventually grow to a hundred groups in Australia. She helped carefully nurture this growth while structures were being put in place at both State and National levels. In 1982, Kay was instrumental in facilitating the visit to Australia of the CLC Executive Secretary, José Gsell, and the Ecclesial Assistant, FrPatrick O’Sullivan. This was a significant moment in the early establishment of CLC, with Pat and José giving a series of retreats and workshops, most notably a twelve-day foundational Course at Riverview. These events offered what Kay has always sought for the

Christian Life Community in Australia – solid formation in the CLC way of life.

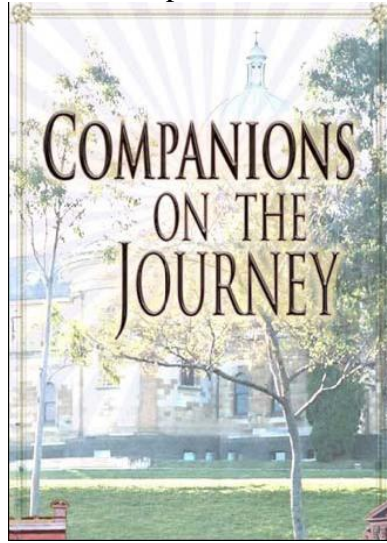
Over the 30 years since she began this work, Kay has continued to dedicate herself to CLC. She has served in leadership roles at local, state and national levels. At the international level, she was a delegate at CLC World Assemblies in Providence, USA, and Loyola, Spain. She has also been involved in important special projects, such as the national formation projects that have sought to ensure that CLC is

authentically Ignatian, universal and focused on mission and vocation. In addition, over the years, Kay has

been faithful to that key source of vitality for CLC, the small, local CLC group, meeting together to live the process of discerning, sending, supporting and evaluating (DSSE).

Kay has a deep appreciation of the CLC vocation, which she lives in an exemplary way. A significant part of her living of that vocation has been her constant desire to promote deeper and wider collaboration between CLC and the Society of Jesus and its ministries, and to find structures that will enable this collaboration to grow. We thank her for the ways she herself lives out that partnership in mission. She has truly been a companion of Ignatius and of the Society of Jesus, and so the Australian Province of the

Society of Jesus takes great pleasure in awarding her the Companions Medal.



To Mary Nolan

In Australia and internationally, Mary Nolan has been inseparable from the story of Christian Life Communities, which are in turn inseparable from the Ignatian story. She was associated with CLC from its beginnings in this country, working with Fr Noel Bradford to bring a wonderful idea to fruition.

Mary was elected President of the inaugural Victorian Executive Council of CLC from 1987 to 2000. She was also President of the inaugural Australian Executive Council over those same years. She was elected a Consultor to the World CLC Executive in 1990 and its Vice-President in 1998.

These bare facts only hint at the influence Mary has had within the CLCs through her many forms of teaching, both formal and informal. Her deep feeling for the CLC process of discernment

through prayer and intimate conversation is so integrated in her life that she teaches by showing rather than telling. Indeed, through her, many Jesuits have appreciated afresh the simple human realities that underlie the apparently technical language of Ignatian spirituality.

Mary's teaching has extended beyond the world of CLC.

Through her, many people have entered worlds new to them. In particular, she has invited them to enter the life of her son, Chris, after his catastrophic injury in 1996.

Many CLC members became involved in Inability Possibility and the Young People in Nursing Homes Consortium, which she founded. On Australia Day, 2011, Mary was made a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to people with acquired brain injuries.

In the patience, generosity of spirit and constancy that she has shown in her nurturing of Christian Life Communities, in working with governments to care properly for those who are shut in, and in the courage with which she has so often begun again after initial hopes were dashed, she has shown the meaning of the words Ignatius assigns to Jesus: 'Those who wish to join me in this enterprise must be willing to labour with me, that by following me in suffering, they may follow me in glory'.

All this has been done with sweetness of spirit and by

making connections with other people, as exemplified in the Meredith Folk Festivals. Begun by Chris and his friends and carried on by them after his illness, they are held at the farm of Mary and her husband John, and are a mark of their hospitality and their determination that hope should never be eclipsed by suffering and loss. In recognition of Mary's significance not only as a beneficiary of the Ignatian tradition, but also as an Ignatian teacher, the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus takes great pleasure in awarding her a Companions Medal.

Fr. Steve Curtin SJ
Provincial

Date: 7 July 2011

Help needed !!!!

Lucy Murulah is a Sudanese mother of four children who was part of our St. Ignatius Community when she first arrived in Adelaide. She is known and admired by many of us as we journeyed with her in the early years. With little money and much courage and hard work, she has opened her own convenience store which she hopes to combine with hair braiding. There are a few hurdles which she needs to jump before this can happen but hopefully it will not be too long. In the meantime, the convenience store is open. The shelves are very sparsely stocked. There are soft drinks, rice, pasta, canned

tomatoes and various other bits and pieces. It would be great if we could support her. **the address is 267 Portrush Rd.** There is parking behind the shop off Lambert Rd. Turn Left on Lambert Rd coming from the city and the shops are on the right.

From Gloria Sanderson

LINKS WITH WIDER CLC



Recently, CLC (SA) enjoyed a visit from Dr Margaret Tang, of CLC Singapore. CLC in Singapore began about 3-4 years ago and have one committed group of about 12 people and another "pre-CLC" group of similar size. Margaret has a leadership role in this extended group. Margaret is a dental surgeon who completed her post graduate studies in Adelaide some years ago. So she is no stranger to our town.

Margaret's visit to Adelaide was inspired by a number of possibilities. Firstly, Margaret attended a one week course by Margaret Silf held at Sevenhill, something she very much appreciated. Secondly, Margaret was also able to attend a CLC Guides' day of training here at the Loyola Spirituality Centre. CLC (SA) was grateful for her presence at this event. It was a useful exchange for us all and Margaret was able to return to Singapore with some useful resources. Margaret also visited Jocelyne at Victor Harbor (a pleasant day out) and Maxine Hogan (some CLC history). Finally, visiting Adelaide also provided Margaret with an opportunity to visit her alma mater, the Adelaide University Dental Faculty, where she was able to renew professional acquaintances.

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to spend time with Margaret. I enjoyed her sense of humour, her generous nature, and insights and commitment to all things CLC. I hope we see her again soon in Adelaide.

Chris Hogan