



Beyond Words: a Retreat for Writers by Writers by Phil Kimmins

Hi all. My name's Phil and I'm in my third year of a journalism degree at Griffith University. I major in Creative Writing but that doesn't make it any easier to write about myself – it always feels like grandstanding. But a parishioner and dear friend doxed me in to AM so here I am, about to tell you why the university is shouting me a trip to Bali.

The Griffith Creative Writing program took part in the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival (an annual literary festival held in Ubud, Bali) for the first time in 2011, in a gesture offering a positive experience and healing from countries of the world community following the Bali bombing. Griffith Creative Writing received funding from the federal government as part of the DEEWR Overseas Mobility Program, which enabled a group of students and staff to travel to Bali for three weeks. The First week is spent working in collaboration with the University of Ganesha in Singaraja, followed by two weeks at Ubud where students volunteer in various capacities at the Ubud Writers Festival. Ubud is considered to be one of the top six writers' festivals in the world, and students learn the fundamentals of large scale. In 2011 the festival featured over 50 international authors from more than 20 countries.

Griffith has many incentives for writers – competitions with cash prizes and the opportunity to read our winning entries at The Gold Coast Arts Centre. There are writing retreats to North Stradbroke Island for those who consistently score high grades with their assessment stories. I've been fortunate in being selected for the retreat two years running. This year our author-in-residence was Frank Moorhouse. And that was a treat. I was in Frank's house and each afternoon at the cocktail hour, Frank would appear with a bottle of whisky or bourbon, a large bowl of ice and a wealth of chat. I feel truly blessed for having had that opportunity. No, I don't mean the whisky, though it was of a consistently high quality. This year too I was the second place-getter in the School of Humanities Writing Competition. Writers at uni also have the opportunity to read our pieces at bi-monthly Small Room Writers Collective nights (a gold coin donation for bumper glasses of wine adds to the appeal).

All these events, grades and involvement with the university's writing program are taken into account when selections are made for Bali. And this dear friends is why I'm Bali bound. Anyone have a good roomy boogie board cover they can lend me?



Tugun's Blooming

(from *Connecting Southern Gold Coast*, September 29, 2014)

Gone are the days of the sleepy Tugun Village. With a host of new shops getting shiny fit-outs ready for summer trade – some of the old names are also reinventing themselves, including third generation family business, Tugun Fruit and Flowers (sponsors of A.M. for 10 years). Run by father and daughter team, Katie and Garry "Radar" O'Reilly now, and previously by Jim, the business was originally owned by the Blenkins family – then known as the Tugun Fruit Fly after owner Fly Blenkins. Since changing hands to the O'Reilly family in 1975, the shop took on its new name as Tugun Fruit and Flowers.

And it's the flowers that got everybody talking. Seeing the potential in the market for simple, fresh cut flowers, Radar began buying flowers at the Brisbane Flower Auctions 22 years ago. In keeping with the times, and keeping up with demand, he's now moved to online auctions – purchasing the night before and having the farm fresh flowers delivered the next morning.

Customers come from as far away as Runaway Bay to get their floral fix. It was only a matter of time before expansion was on the cards for the well-known shop on the corner. The store has undergone major renovations, adding a new juice and smoothie bar at the front to tempt the passing trade. Opening weekend was timed with the first weekend of the Swell Sculpture Festival, and Katie says the juice trade was booming. "We sold over 100 juices on our first weekend," she said. "The demand is here because there are no real stand-alone juice bars – the closest ones are in Burleigh or Coolangatta. More people are turning to juice, rather than having a coffee."

And the coming of summer is sure to keep them busy. "Flowers are the big ticket item, and since opening the juice bar, we've found the juices are really complementing the flowers. People love to buy both."

Reflections



Caught Out!!

by Harry Coleman

Japan declared war in December 1941 on the USA. In 1942 they rapidly invaded down through the Pacific to New Guinea. Apparently early in 1942 the Dutch government, which controlled Indonesia at that time, arranged with the Australian Government to transfer all their Dutch guilders immediately to Australian banks in Sydney, Brisbane and Townsville.

I joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1944 and immediately after training I was posted to a supply ship, HMAS *Bungaree*. The war ended on 15th August 1945, while we were on our way to Morotai. Upon our return to Sydney we were given the task of returning the money to Batavia (now Jakarta). The money was contained in thousands of cases of coins (each worth at that time approx. £1000 Aust.) and some 200 cases of notes. It was all done as a secure banking operation and our holds were guarded 24 hours a day. Because there were only 200 cases of notes, they were quickly unloaded on day one in Batavia.

Arriving in Batavia, where Japanese prisoners were used to unload the money, I went with a couple of mates to a movie. As soon as we arrived back on board, we were each taken under armed guard to our lockers and were required to open them. I soon learned that while unloading the cases of notes, one was found to be missing, and an immediate search of the ship revealed that seven of the crew, including one guard, had decided to steal one case of coins each and seven prison cells were constructed.

A week later, when the unloading was nearing completion, the missing case of notes was found at the bottom of the hold. It had taken three weeks to sail from Townsville to Batavia and obviously, with the rolling of the ship, some of the cases of coins had moved their position, and had allowed one case of notes to find its way to the bottom of the hold. I believe that God must have intervened. If this had not happened, they had arranged to exchange the stolen cases for Australian cash on the very first night after arriving in Batavia.

Most of the sailors in my branch (communications) were long time members and on our return to Sydney were discharged. However I was the only coder left on board. Because it was necessary that all signals between the ship and the Navy Board had to be fully coded, I had a very busy time. On arriving back in Sydney, the seven were dishonourably discharged from the Navy and arrested by the police!

Generation lost because of sex abuse scandal

Adapted from an article by Felicity de Fombelle, Catholic Voice Edition 302 Sept 2014

The Catholic Church has probably lost a generation of people because of its refusal to seriously address the scandal of sexual abuse. The shameful events may never have occurred if more women had been engaged in key roles. These are the strong views of Francis Sullivan, a Catholic father-of-three, who is heading the Church's response to the current Royal Commission. Appointed at the end of 2012 as the chief executive officer of the Church's Truth, Justice and Healing Council, Francis Sullivan is a seasoned political operator, who has been deeply affected by what he has heard. Mr Sullivan said most of the community had already made up its mind about the Catholic Church and found it "guilty" of failing to protect children. He said. "The sex abuse scandals have had a massive influence and have crystallised for a lot of people a sense of hypocrisy in the Church". "When you lose authority and any sense of credibility, people stop participating. They stop listening."

Mr Sullivan said the Church's male culture has almost certainly been a critical issue. "I think women are the un-told story of this. If women were in those presbyteries and in those provincial houses, would there have been a better intuitive sense of what was appropriate? That's my question. The Church has resisted an inquiry into itself for many years... what does that tell you? And that's not to mention the direct exposure with people who have been abused. It's been a terribly gruelling process for everyone... tiring, emotionally challenging and intellectually very hard."

Some victims are still strong practising Catholics but others feel like pariahs in their parish. The attitude to them is 'Get over it' and 'Stop dragging the Church down'. A lot of people feel ostracised, not just because of the abuse, but because they're made to feel like troublemakers." Archbishop Christopher Prowse demonstrates the generational change that is necessary, "Like the rest of the community, even the clergy have been left in the dark. For a long time the Church deluded itself that it was handling the issue okay, instead of understanding there was a cancer eating its guts out. We are still seeing parts of the Church in denial, that don't realise how deep the disillusionment is. The Church must seriously address its decision-making culture, and its authority and accountability within itself. We've got to have more competent people participating at the highest levels, and that means women too."

Education



An Historical Year at St Augustine's School

Friday 5 December 2014 sees the end of an era at St Augustine's. There will no longer be the Year 7 students at the school. They have been at the school since its opening in 1926. The school will say farewell not only to the Year 7 but also the Year 6 students this year. The school then becomes a school which spans from Prep (5 year olds) to Year 6 (11-12 year olds).



The numbers of the school will decrease from the current 465 to approximately 425. The nineteen classes become seventeen and we lose two talented young teachers to other schools in the area. We wish our leaving teachers and students success in the future, we thank the local and parish community for their support and we ask God for his continued blessings on our school community for 2015.

Congratulations to past students of

St Augustine's on membership of Marymount

Leadership Team for 2015



Lucy Koschel,
Vice Captain

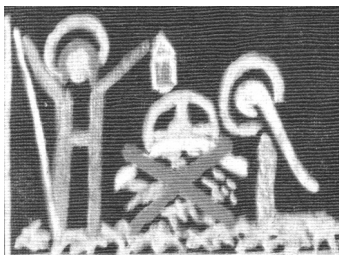


Kirby Heck



Mitchell Cavanagh

For the Young and the Young-in-Heart



The Feast of Christmas celebrates the ancient peoples stories of the birth of Jesus, whom we believe as Christians is God living in human history. If you would like to draw a Christmas picture to put on your fridge or to make a card for your family and friends, here are some easy steps:

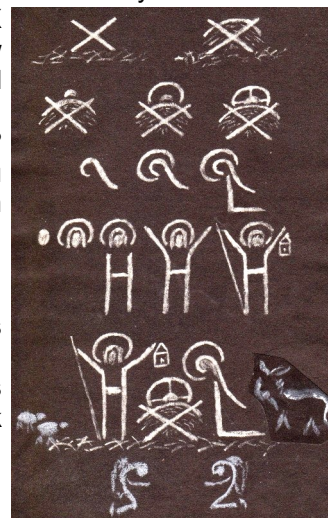
Start with a large X in brown or orange to represent a trestle-crib seen from the front. This is a manger from which animals are meant to eat, where Jesus lay as there was no room for his family at the inn. Draw some straw in the X

with little strokes of a yellow crayon or pencil and spread some straw on the floor. Draw Christ next, a small pink face above a white cover, with a halo to show He is holy. (God has become human, He is visible now and we can draw Him!)

Who of all those who welcomed Jesus at Christmas would have loved Him most? Mary, His mother. She was the one of whom God asked the question: "Will you carry my son into human history?" So, to draw Mary on the right of the crib, we begin with a large white question mark tilted to the left, and the hook of the ? covered. Our Lady begins with O, so mark Mary's golden halo O around the top of the question mark, then a large L for Lady forms her kneeling body.

St Joseph on the left of the crib being holy is formed by a large capital H with his head a small oval circle and his long hair curved around the circle. His arms are raised up in praise and he holds a staff or/and a lamp. Sheep could be large and small ovals with inverted Vs for legs. A donkey is a little bit more difficult with a wave for his back and tail, inverted Vs for legs, different shaped Vs for ears and face joined with his neck. See if you can work out some angels from a figure 2 and enjoy your picture!

(adapted from *Chalk Talks for Catechists* by Jeanne Bridges, 1967)



A TRUE STORY: A Scot, travelling in Ireland and careful with money, asked at a B & B, the price of a room.

Attendant: Do you want a bath or a shower? Scot: What's the difference?

Attendant: In a shower you stand up; in a bath you sit down.

Blessings



CELEBRATIONS!

The following celebrations have blessed our Parish life since our last edition. Please let us know your important occasions so that we can publish them and acknowledge sig-

BIRTHDAYS

Happy 90th Birthday - Dulcie Kinnane
17 October, 2014



BAPTISMS

Ethan Morrison
Mahli Parkinson
Matilda Cowper
Emillie Parekura
Goldie Singapu
Arabella Scott

Henry Bremner
Robert Ollerenshaw
Nin Tran
Kyssa Fing
Sophia Daranjo
Kade Maccan
Isla Jones

Wedding Anniversary



Rose & Bill O'Keefe – 45 years

A poem about mirrors

I look in the mirror and what do I see
A person who looks not at all like me!
The face is much older. The hair has gone grey.
The skin is all wrinkled. The eyes are astray.
I look in the mirror and what do I see,
That mirrors no longer are like they used to be.



We mourn with the loved ones and pray for the following parishioners who have died.

Keith Bosley
Norma Jarrett
Kenneth Walsh
Scholastyka Cebulak
Doreen Roberts
Carmel Thuroczy
Enid McLoughlin
Lorraine Kelleher



MARRIAGES

Neville McNeil & Kiara Robertson
Joshua Kaehler & Bernadette Poole
Bruce Atkinson & Emma Dawson
Michael Gray & Amanda Zarafa
Brendan Lunney & Amy Lee
Stewart Rodrigues & Stacey Bell

Spelling errors in marriages in last issue:

Sincere apologies to Madeline Hansen and Amanda Rizo.



Emmanuel and friend with Barbara & John Blair



The Parish Table Tennis Players and Carpet Bowlers celebrate the many blessings that sport offers us!
All welcome to join us.



Tugun Lights Up Carnival this year (with cake-baking competition) on 29th November!!!

Back Page

From the Editor's Desk

By Pat Mullins



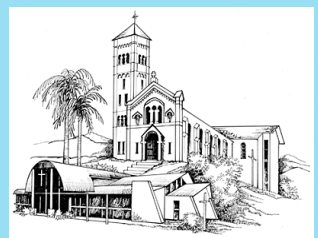
We have been horrified by the violence of peoples fired by hate, anger and revenge. Our soldiers have left for foreign lands in an attempt to halt the progression of evil. What can WE at home do? In this Christmas A.M., as we celebrate the feast which promised peace and goodwill to all, we recall Nelson Mandela's words that hate is learned, and so much easier people can be taught to love.

Pope Francis reminds us that "none of our acts of love will be lost. All of these encircle our world like a vital force (even) to shower blessings in another part of our world which we will never visit". We, each woman, man and child, can begin a campaign to spread peace, love, harmony, forgiveness, acceptance of difference, attempting to understand those who are most unlike us, by praying to God (or to the power at the essence of all life whatever name we use) to show us daily situations and people in the world around us, through which we can actively generate peace and teach love. We are capable of creating a movement in "places we may never visit" to generate love to overcome hatred. It requires only a commitment of enough of us to pray for peace and to DO peace in our little corner of the world to make it happen! Perhaps Bro. Damien Price leaves us with the question: "Is \$3 worth of God enough?"

Our congratulations and sincere thanks to those who established our parish in Coolangatta 90 years ago, and to those who (or their families) are still with us today. We place this great heritage in the hands of the church of tomorrow, some of whom are featured on our back page. We read with interest the exciting exploits of parishioners, Harry Coleman and Phil Kimmins, and of our sponsors, Tugun Fruit & Flowers. We thank Clair Burnett for her initiative in establishing a prayer group for parents to pray for their children. Francis Sullivan, commenting on the Royal Commission, stresses the need for more leadership by women.

With thanks for the support of the Editorial Committee and the community, and God's ever-present blessings for a happy, holy and safe Christmas.

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Published by the Catholic Parish of Coolangatta & Tugun printed by: Foyer Printing



In our parish at Currumbin, the SWELL carnival offered us an open-air gallery of sculptures from around the world. This year, 70 works created a free family-oriented event on the beach.



Heritage Brothers Funeral Services www.heritagebrothers.com.au Ph: 5535 8758

Young ones

Kids are Borrowed

by Stan Freeman 1981

Remember their laughter, the tears,
and the joys,
Cute little ladies, smart little boys.
It's now just an echo of days long ago
For kids are just borrowed,
so the saying goes.

Right from the nursery,
we gave them our love
Counting the blessings
sent from Above.
Memories linger of wonderful years
Bringing back laughter,
sometimes the tears
But kids are just borrowed,
and one day must go.

Summer and winter, spring
and the fall
Girls getting pretty, boys growing tall.
Sharing the hassles, imagined or real
Untidy bedrooms, unfinished meals
Last minute dashes to football or snow
But kids are just borrowed,
I want you to know.

Now out in the wide world,
with loves of their own
We still get the letters,
sometimes they phone.
It helps to remember,
when letting them go
That kids are just borrowed,
I thought you should know.

