

The Tenison Woods Education Centre Community 6

The Tenison Woods Education Centre is primarily a community of people who share a passion for the ministry of adult faith formation. This community comprises four groups: the TWEC staff, the Administrative Board, the Friends of TWEC and the local Josephite community.

Meet the TWEC Staff

The staff are the life of the Centre and its ministry.

Centre Staff

When you visit the Centre or contact by email or phone you will meet Colleen Carney rsj, the Centre Co-ordinator, and Margaret Smith, the Administrative Assistant. Colleen manages the Centre and co-ordinates faith development programs run both at the Centre and around the diocese. Margaret's role includes clerical, financial and hospitality responsibilities.

Jenny Riley rsj, the Centre Catering Manager, is another integral member of the Centre staff. Jenny and her team ensure your stay is as nourishing of the body as it is of the spirit. Through their ministry, the Centre has developed a reputation for nutritious and generous home-style meals. Jenny also enjoys expressing her creativity in decorating the Centre for significant occasions and in providing the décor for the annual TWEC dinner.

Colleen Carney has a background in secondary teaching in schools in the Maitland-Newcastle diocese and beyond. After ministering in schools for more than 30 years she chose to move into the ministry of Spiritual Direction. To prepare herself she completed a Certificate in Spiritual Direction at the Siloam Formation Course at the Heart of Life Centre, Melbourne. As Centre Co-ordinator, Colleen particularly enjoys the opportunities to meet a wide range of people and keep them in touch with opportunities and networks that support the life of faith today.



Margaret Smith is married to Wayne and they have a son, Michael. She has been an East Maitland girl all her life and is an active member of St. Joseph's parish, participating as a RCIA team member. In her work for TWEC Margaret draws on knowledge and experience from her previous banking and conveyance work. Margaret enjoys the opportunity to meet new people and to help them with their faith journey.



Jenny Riley has a background in education, teaching Infants classes in schools throughout the diocese. In 1993 she was asked to co-ordinate Catering at Lochinvar for the Tenison Woods Education Centre, the Nursing Home and the community. Jenny undertook several courses to equip her for this ministry. Jenny brings a high degree of organization, creativity and cheerfulness to her ministry. She takes particular delight in the enjoyment mothers and fathers gain from being served wonderful home cooked meals they haven't had to prepare!



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At the Centre you will also meet (l-r) Karen Rumble, Maureen Clements and Ramona Tanner who help to keep the Centre prepared for your visit.



TWEC Teaching Staff

The TWEC teaching staff are all Sisters of St. Joseph.

Patricia Boland entered the convent as a trained and experienced high school teacher and continued as a secondary school teacher mainly in Religious Education, English and Modern History for well over thirty years, finishing at St Francis Xavier College in 1994. She had the opportunity to gain her Bachelor of Theology in Melbourne in the 1980's and eventually her Masters of Theology through the Sydney College of Divinity. Since leaving the school system, adult faith education beckoned her and she has found it both challenging and meaningful.



For many years **Virginia Bourke** was a teacher and leader in secondary schools. She taught Religion, History, Asian Studies and French and occasionally other subjects that stretched her talents considerably. This included teaching recorder, a situation that created ongoing discomfort with the tunes "Amazing grace" and "Morning has broken". Now she works with adults in faith formation programs and is amazed by a whole new grace in her life, sharing with others the things that feel important, morning to night, on the searching, sometimes messy journey that is 'faith'. She loves exploring people's awareness of God in human living, both as this relates to individual persons and to the pilgrim community. She feels she is on a quest to assist others reclaim the living Tradition, the ancient genius of the Catholic communion and the fully divine revelation of inclusive love and truth that lived in fully human flesh in Jesus.



Louise Gannon began ministry as a secondary teacher in schools across the diocese and after theological studies moved into Campus Ministry. Working with teachers in their liturgical formation led Louise to post graduate studies in theology and from there to focus more on the ministry of adult faith formation. Louise's passion is liturgy and she loves working with adults who seek to deepen their faith and their liturgical understanding and experience. In particular she loves working in the formation of lay people for ministry.



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Lynette Pearce has a background in secondary teaching in schools in the Diocese. She has a degree in Theology from the Sydney College of Divinity specialising in Systematic Theology, Scripture and Christian Spirituality. Lynette has Certificates in Spiritual Direction and Supervision of Spiritual Direction from the Centre for Religious Development, North Sydney. As a member of TWEC staff and a spiritual director, Lynette finds it deeply satisfying to share what has been given her, and see the joy in people as they discover that they are partners with the Sacred Three in their dance of Love.



Ellen Royan B.A.; M.AThs; Cert IV in Training and Assessment. After teaching in primary and secondary schools for about 25 years Ellen spent two years teaching in Zimbabwe secondary schools and then in the Catholic Teacher Training College Bondolfi for three years. In 2001 Ellen studied 'Scripture in Context' at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem. Since then she has been involved in teaching various courses with TWEC. Indeed Ellen was the first to run courses for TWEC. Ellen enjoys teaching in a variety of fields including Scripture, Introductory Theology, Church History and occasional inputs such as Islam and Christianity, sacramental preparation and RCIA.



The Centre also invites the participation of other teachers as the need arises. There is more detailed information on what the teaching staff are doing in the Ministry Report.

Meet the TWEC Board

The Congregational Leadership Team delegates responsibility for the administration of The Tenison Woods Education Centre to an Administrative Board who, in a voluntary capacity, oversees the TWEC ministry in accordance with its statutes and in the spirit of the mission of the Congregation. Generally the board meets bi-monthly and works through a variety of sub-committees to fulfil its responsibilities.

Board members are appointed by the Congregational Leader. Current members are:

Steve Britt is a District Guidance Officer (senior psychologist) with the Department Of Education working in the Mayfield/Tighes Hill area. He has been on the Board of TWEC for 2 years after completing the *Christian Formation and Ministry Course* in 2006. Steve has been married to Anne for over 30 years. They have 4 children – including country singer Catherine Britt – and 5 grandchildren. He currently lives in Kahibah and is a member of MacKillop Parish. Steve has an interest in adult faith development and thus is happy to be involved with TWEC.



Colleen Carney is a long standing member of the TWEC Board by virtue of her position as Centre Co-ordinator. Colleen brings to the Board her passion and wide practical experience of faith formation in the diocese. She sits on other diocesan bodies such as the Adult Faith Council as a TWEC representative.



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Dom Carrigan CSsR has been on the Board of TWEC since the beginning of 2007. He is a Redemptorist priest, ordained in 1970. He is one of seven children who grew up in the north Western of NSW. Dom presently works ecumenically as a chaplain at the University of Newcastle and an assistant priest in the parish of Wallsend-Shortland.



Tracey Edstein has been a member of the TWEC Board since 2004. She is currently Editor of *Aurora*, the magazine of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. For 22 years she taught in diocesan secondary schools and has been a member of a variety of parish and diocesan groups. Tracey's home parish is St. Brigid's Raymond Terrace.



Louise Gannon rsj is currently a member of the Congregational Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph Lochinvar and was appointed Chairperson of the TWEC Board by Patricia Egan, the Congregational Leader, in 2004. Louise brings to this work her experience in Catholic Education and various aspects of diocesan life. Louise enjoys the opportunity to work in collaboration with a group of very gifted and generous people who share a commitment to and passion for the ministry of adult faith formation.



Pat Healion is a Sister of Mercy, Singleton. She has been a member of the Board for 14 years. As well as this, she has been involved in the planning and teaching of the *Christian Formation Course*. She holds degrees in education, theology and law (B.Ed; M. Th; LLB (hons), Grad Dip Legal Practice, Cert IV in Mediation; Diploma in Mediation; Cert IV in Training and Assessment. Her ministry has been in secondary education, university chaplaincy, adult mediation, mediation and law.



John Lane has been a member of the TWEC Board since its inception in December 1993 and has for most of this time served as the Deputy Chairperson. John is active in diocesan life having been Chair of Chisholm Region Finance Council, Chair of St Joseph's East Maitland Finance Council, recently retired member of Diocesan Finance Council (15yrs), recently retired member of Catholic Development Fund (15yrs). He was recently appointed to the Board of Maitland Mutual Building Society and has retired as Managing Director of Ken Lane Menswear Maitland after forty years. John is married to Lynn and together they have 5 sons.



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Ray O'Brien has been a member of the TWEC Administrative Board since April 2005. He is an active member of the Raymond Terrace Parish community, where he resides with his wife Ree and 3 children. An accountant by profession, Ray is the Chief Executive of Companion Credit Union, a position he has held for the past 12 years. Ray is currently a 2nd year student of the TWEC *Christian Formation Course* being run at Lochinvar.



Michael O'Connor is the father of three adult children. He is a member of St Patrick's community in the Wallsend-Shortland parish. Michael is Manager of a child protection team in DoCS and has worked in this field over thirty years. He is hoping to retire in less than 2 years. Michael has been a member of the TWEC Board for 11 years. He is glad to be involved with TWEC because he is keen that we all learn to know Christ, and be formed in him and in and through his church.



Mary Ringstad has been the Pastoral Care Manager Calvary Mater Hospital for 11 years. A significant component of her work is education in Pastoral Care of the sick and dying; Grief and Loss; Spirituality and Spiritual Care. Mary has been a member of the TWEC Board for 4 years and values the opportunity it provides for stimulating company in a challenging and inspirational, educative pursuit. All this keeps her attuned to the great mystery in whom we all live, move and have our being. Mary is married to Jack. Together they enjoy the delights of Newcastle and the Hunter, and spend plenty of time traversing the mighty F3 and Hume keeping in touch with family and friends who live far and wide.



Lidy Waanders has been a member of the TWEC Board since completing the *Christian Formation and Ministry Course* in 2004. She retired from a career in Nursing in 2002 and continues to be involved in many aspects of parish and diocesan life, including co-ordinating SRE and RCIA and being an active participant in the Sacramental preparation of children in her Parish at Raymond Terrace. She is also an active member of Council for Australian Catholic Women and Cursillo, and completed 4 year terms on Parish, Regional and Diocesan Pastoral Councils. Her main pastoral interest is faith formation and development and her hobbies include socialising with friends over a coffee, a meal or a trip to the movies.



Over recent years the Board has farewelled Fr. Paul Mulconry who had been a long and valued member. It also farewelled Roslyn Kozlowski who, as well as being a member of the Board for a brief time, worked solidly over 12 months on the sub-committee reshaping the *Christian Formation Course*.

The Friends of TWEC

You will meet this group at TWEC events and courses, and at all manner of diocesan functions. They are ex-students of the *Christian Formation Course* who continue to support and share the ministry of TWEC. They organize an annual reunion which includes a retreat morning, a shared luncheon and a meeting. At the meeting, the retreat team for the following year is formed. Mentored by Sr Lynette and supported by the previous team, this new team takes on planning and leading the reunion retreat morning and the annual weekend retreat for all TWEC ex-students. A small group is also taking steps to become more involved in the ministry of Adult Faith Formation. Read more about that in the Ministry Report.

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Some Friends of TWEC sharing a meal at one of their gatherings.

The Lochinvar Community

Since the Tenison Woods Education Centre is located at St. Joseph's Convent Lochinvar, the local community is also an important part of the TWEC community. The Sisters support the ministry in various ways, most frequently in their encounters with people who come to the Centre and stay a while.

