



Dr Janice Garaty and the cover of Providence Provides: Brigidine Sisters in the New South Wales Province

Book Launch in Synan Hall at Brigidine College, Randwick

The Brigidine Sisters were delighted to have many friends, ex-students and colleagues present with them for the launch of the province history on 1 May, 2013. Three Victorian Brigidines – Sue Chambers, Doris Testa and Claire Griffin (representing the Congregational Leadership) attended to celebrate the occasion. The evening event had as key speaker Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO who launched *Providence Provides: Brigidine Sisters in the New South Wales Province*.

The author of the work, Dr Janice Garaty used the NSW archives as her foundation for the work which examines the struggles and successes of the Sisters from 1883-2007. Dr Garaty researched archives in Queensland and the Archdiocesan Archives in Sydney and, as part of the living story, interviewed Sisters about their experiences in different decades and ministries. She spoke at the launch and said that she often felt “humbled” when she read of the courage and strong faith of early and later Brigidines and the struggles to establish schools and promote learning at different times in Australia’s history, and in recent years to branch into new and challenging ministries according to needs in Church and society.



Enjoying a chat at supper time

Her Excellency addressed those present and praised the work of the Sisters who brought learning and faith to the remote rural areas of Australia. She set the arrival of the first six Brigidine Sisters in the context of a developing Australia where the desire for learning was crucial for the growth of a young nation. She recalled her own experience in a rural setting where Sisters gave students the opportunity for cultural pursuits when she struggled to master the violin.

The book has been received enthusiastically and was presented at Brigidine Colleges at St Ives and Indooroopilly (with ex-students present from Scarborough days), at the Ex-Students' Reunion at Brigidine College, Randwick last Sunday and will be presented in the near future in Cooma, Coonamble, Cowra and Perth.