



Keeping in Touch

A quarterly newsletter for Catholic homeschooling families

TERM 2 2004

IMPORTANT: CHANGES TO THE WAY KIT IS SENT OUT

Keeping in Touch is no longer mailed out to everyone. KIT will be printed and mailed out ONLY to those who specifically request it to be mailed. For everyone else, it will be available for reading or download from the new Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc. website at www.cardinalnewman.com.au

We propose to maintain a list of email addresses of all recipients so that when a new edition of KIT is put on the website, a reminder email can be sent out to all interested parties. If you would like to be placed on this list, please send an email to Shaun Fanning at tarlohill@bigpond.com. (Shaun currently maintains the KIT address list). This information will not be used for any other purpose.

If you would rather receive *Keeping in Touch* in the traditional fashion, by mail, then please let Shaun know by email as above or by mail at 2142 Taralga Rd, Tarlo. 2580. These people are encouraged to send a donation to cover the costs of printing, postage and packing. Suggested donation is \$10 a year. These donations are sent to **Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc, PO Box 697, (342 Merrylands Rd) Merrylands. 2160 Phone (02) 9637 9406, fax (02) 9637 3351** or credit card details to fr@cardinalnewman.com.au.

Please consider receiving *Keeping in Touch* via email as this will assist the Cardinal Newman Faith Resources centre in managing the mailing, and will help to reduce their costs.

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This issue prepared by Gai Smith

Contributions for next issue - send to

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Fr James Tierney

Father Tierney will be forty years a priest on Sunday, 18th July, 2004. He was ordained by Cardinal Gilroy for the Archdiocese of Sydney on Saturday, 18th July, 1964, at St Mary's Cathedral. His first parish Mass was at St Agatha's, Pennant Hills.

Further details will be in the next *Catechetical News*: you can ask to be put on the mailing list or see www.cardinalnewman.com.au.

EWTN

Many Catholics in Australia are enjoying their access to EWTN since it became available some years ago. Although setting up a dish and receiver to receive the signals from the satellite is not exactly easy, it is within the capability of the average handyman, given some assistance.

Assuming that you have a reasonably new TV, the cost of equipment is about \$1000. Older TV sets may not be compatible.

Unlike Foxtel and other commercial services, there are no fees to receive the service although you may care to contribute a donation towards helping to maintain EWTN. Programs are published in advance on the EWTN website (www.ewtn.com). Give me a ring if you would like to know more or require any advice on getting started.

Mark

Do you want to know what is going on in the Church?

May I suggest you try www.superflumina.org. The content for the site is written by Sydney lawyer, Michael Baker, who is well known to many homeschooling families. Michael regularly reviews the site's content, ensuring that material is current and relevant.

While perusing the site, please take the time to contact Michael using the 'Contact us' link found on every page. All articles are available for download in 'Word' format.

Mark

EVANS HEAD CATHOLIC HOME SCHOOL CAMP

September 13th – 17th

Daily Mass, Benediction and Rosary

Celebrated by Fr Terence Mary Naughtin

Confirmation, First Communion Mass to be held on Wednesday the 15th

Celebrated by Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett.

Come and join us on the beach for a week of family fun and activities

The camp is fully catered and cabin style accommodation is provided.

Contact Erin 02 66433909 or Lynn 02 66495120

MANNERS FOR JOB SEEKERS

By Rev Fr James Tierney

We can be very grateful to Mr Michael Brearley for his article on page 5 of *Keeping in Touch* for Term 1, 2004, titled *Some Thoughts for Homeschooling Parents and Job-seekers*.

Michael has done a great service in (1) revealing the dozen most commonly asked questions used by selection committees, whereby parents can get -their sons and daughters to practise their responses; and (2) urging the assemblage of an impressive portfolio.

I put it to him that he had omitted to mention three items which his whole family practised already, and that he had “taken these for granted”. He agreed, and was quite happy for me to submit them to *Keeping in Touch* as an appendage to his original article.

So, as well as (1) the portfolio and (2) the candidates doing practice interviews, I would add three further points of behaviour:

1. DRESS to honour the interviewer.

This makes a good impression, and not to show off by over-dressing. In the ugly and ungraceful age in which we live, few men and women, and fewer boys and girls, know how to dress appropriately for an occasion. Even priests often do not know. Too easily we are swayed by peers and feelings, not by something more noble. Dressing includes grooming.

2. LOOK the interviewer in the eye.

This needs to be practised. It shows self-confidence, sincerity, and eagerness to please, and it helps conquer shyness.

3. SMILE when you are smiled at.

Smiling shows good will.

Looking stolid or dour conceals it. If you do not feel like smiling, make yourself smile. Practise it in a mirror (like doing your hair or making sure you're washed and shaved). This is not hypocrisy, rather it helps you become what you would like to be, (just as kneeling with the body helps the soul to be humble before God).

Now, being the eccentric sort of thinker that I am, I thought we might bring the number up to seven points of behaviour.

4. STAND to honour someone's entry to your presence.

5. SIT when asked, don't slouch (and never hover when asked to sit).

6. SPEAK without *yep* and *nope*, and say *please, thank you, sir, madam*.

7. RISE when the interviewer indicates the finish.

Social drills give security to the shy and nervous -- that's in *Bush Boys on the Move*. p. 184 when Greg is dealing with Smoodge: “For his part, Kev knew that shyness would have crippled him. For the first time, he understood the security of social drills.”

For a Christian in particular, remember Hilaire Belloc's poem, *Courtesy*: “Of Courtesy it is much less/Than courage of Heart or Holiness, /Yet in my Walks it seems to me/That the Grace of God is in Courtesy.”

Finally, I think that the social drills should be described by parents to candidates, displayed by the parents in daily life, and drilled intensely in time for the interview.

ATTITUDES

By Sarah Fanning

When one of our daughters was eighteen months or so, a fellow parishioner referred to her as ‘the one with attitude’. This was mildly amusing (especially since it must have been fairly impressive to have been that obvious from about fifteen pews back!) but lately I have been thinking that it shouldn’t have been. There is nothing to admire in strident wilfulness, and whilst it might be temporarily permissible in a child of that age, the temporary should be stressed. The bumper stickers one sees so commonly which emphasise vulgarity, discourtesy and self-importance, or the slogans on t-shirts, of which I need not give examples but with which most will be familiar, quote the twenty-first century description of ‘attitude’ (i.e. bad attitude) as if it were a virtue.

Bad attitudes are responsible for a great deal of the troubles with which we are forced to contend in our present social set-up, especially bad attitudes to authority, honesty, gentleness and modesty. Yet these bad attitudes are exactly what is held up as worthy of striving for! Examine almost any magazine available in the newsagent, almost any television show (including the news), almost any literary curriculum in schools, indeed almost any recent example of any art, and the underlying thrust is the same: defiance of authority and glorification of self. It is often subtle enough that we don’t even realise how greatly we are ourselves influenced by it. It is connected with the modern idea that anything novel is of necessity good, and that individual self-expression is essential to the flowering of the personality.

How peculiarly this is opposed to the traditional Catholic ideal that self-denial is essential to the flowering of the personality – that true maturity, the uncomplaining carrying of one’s own little crosses, brings wisdom!

I am frustrated and saddened that so many people assume there is necessarily a conflict between young people and older people. Of course youth must learn, and of course wisdom must not oppress – parents, do not drive your children to resentment – but why is it assumed that our young people must become these monsters called ‘teenagers’? What is special about the teenage years other than inexperience, enthusiasm and idealism? These are ripe to develop into good attitudes. The conflict is not necessary. Sometimes we can inadvertently make it so by *expecting* our youngsters to be ‘teenagers’; but why not expect them to be worthy, charming, reliable and pleasant people instead? I do not speak here of youngsters in school, because the pressures upon them are so extensive and difficult to combat; I am treating specifically of home-schooled young people. Most youngsters allowed to develop normally in a secure family, that is without being crippled by having thrust upon them the attitudes and expectations of secular society, will develop attitudes of decency, even without the rigorous teaching of the Church.

Haven’t you observed even young women dressed in short tight skirts and ‘crop tops’, unconsciously constantly tugging at the hemlines to try and cover their exposure? Despite the persistent message pushed at them from all directions, despite their

anxious efforts to fulfil what they have been taught to yearn for, they are somehow subconsciously aware that they are immodestly dressed. The instinct for good has been subverted.

These youngsters have been betrayed into believing that liberty lies in doing what one pleases. Of course true liberty lies in doing what Christ pleases, and the Catholic Church is the custodian of that Truth. So of course our disciplining of our children's attitudes, as of our own, must be the disciplining of the self to Christ. We must accept the authority of the Church. Humility is a necessity; obeying someone else means subduing our own pride. Our children will not accept our authority if they do not see that we accept higher authority. If they are to be co-operative and self-disciplined it will only because they

observe the same qualities, or at least a striving for the same qualities, in ourselves. What a daunting challenge! But we could not face it alone. We will only succeed through Christ. A striking example of that self-discipline which we can provide is for our children to see us go to regular Confession.

I love the companionship and joy of my older children as they grow up. I love the easy expectation among our homeschooling families that our young people are simply that; our youngsters, growing from childhood to adulthood. I love the happy relationships that our little ones have with the older children, their trustful expectation of love and tolerance. I earnestly pray that it will not be riven by bad attitudes, but rather strengthened and reinforced by good ones.

A Catholic Family Retreat/Camp

for those who know, love, and practice the Catholic Faith.

WHERE Yackandandah Back Creek Christian Camp,
Yackandandah, VIC.

27km from Albury/Wodonga, 60km from Wangaratta

WHEN Monday 20th to Friday 24th September 2004

BOOKINGS IMMEDIATELY to June Lawless (03)57443600

Email: jel2@dodo.com.au

Or to Pat Mills (03)57485594 Email: rosepark@inet.net.au

Deposit \$100 by 1st July

Full payment by 29th August

Please supply names and ages of all children

First Communion available

HEY MUMS & DADS – WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CHILDREN TO HAVE A WEEK'S SCHOOLWORK WITHOUT YOU HAVING TO TEACH THEM ANYTHING?

OR HAVE YOU EVER FELT THEY WERE MISSING ON SOME OF THE FUN SIDES OF SCHOOL LIKE DOING THE SCHOOL'S ANNUAL PLAY OR SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS?

OR PERHAPS YOU WISHED SOME GOOD OLD FASHIONED NUNS COULD TEACH YOUR CHILDREN FOR YOU.

HEY KIDS – HOW ABOUT A WEEK'S SCHOOLWORK IN A FUN ENVIRONMENT WITH FRIENDS?

WELL WE HAVE THE WEEK FOR YOU

THE CONVENTUAL SISTERS OF ST DOMINIC, ALONG WITH SOME OTHER GENEROUS PEOPLE, ARE HOLDING A **HOMESCHOOLERS' SCHOOL WEEK** AT FITZROY FALLS CONFERENCE CENTRE from **August 30th – September 3rd**.

THIS WEEK WILL INVOLVE **CLASSES FOR ALL SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN** IN RELIGION, LEARNING AND PERFORMING MUSICAL DRAMA, PRACTICAL SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS, LEARNING BASIC FIRST AID, AS WELL AS SPORT AND ORGANISED GAMES.

A CATHOLIC PRIEST WILL BE THE CHAPLAIN AND WILL PROVIDE DAILY **MASS, CONFESSIONS AND BENEDICTION**. COMMUNAL PRAYER WILL BE IN THE FORM OF **DAILY ROSARY** AND, ON FRIDAY, A **EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION**

THE **ADULTS** ARE NOT FORGOTTEN WITH A **SERIES OF TALKS** GIVEN FOR THEM ONCE DAILY AS WELL AS PLENTY OF TIME FOR **INSERVICE, RELAXING AND CHATTING** WITH OTHER PARENTS.

AND THE **PRESCHOOLERS** WILL HAVE A DAILY **CRAFT** SESSION.

ALL THIS IN THE WONDERFUL SURROUNDS OF THE FITZROY FALLS CONFERENCE CENTRE. EACH FAMILY WILL BE ACCOMODATED IN SIMPLE COMFORT, ALL MEALS ARE PROVIDED AND THE SPORTING FACILITIES ARE WONDERFUL.

So if all this appeals to you, please send \$50 deposit (made out to Homeschooling Catholics) to Michele Vieira 1585 Taralga Rd, Tarlo. 2580 For any enquiries please feel free to phone Michele Vieira on (02) 4829-0113 preferably after lunchtime.

CALCULUS IS NOT AS SCARY AS YOU THINK

By David Obeid

Calculus is a branch of study that usually appears in the senior years of a high school mathematics course.

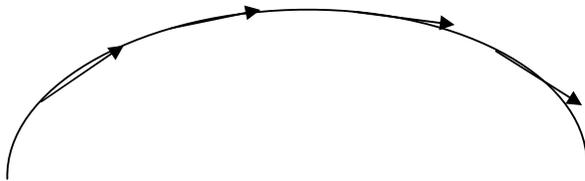
If I had to give a simple layman's definition of calculus, I'd call it the mathematics of change. Basically, calculus is about measuring how fast or slowly things change.

Calculus provided a solution to a centuries old problem posed by an ancient Greek philosopher named Zeno. Famously called "Zeno's Paradoxes", Zeno compiled four arguments to challenge what people understood about motion and distance.

Here is one of Zeno's paradoxes. See if you can see where Zeno's paradox breaks down.

Zeno once proposed that movement is impossible. He even dared to say that even if an archer shot an arrow from his bow to a target, the arrow would never be in motion. An archer, who was standing nearby, drew an arrow from his quiver and shot it at a target, saying, "See! The arrow moved from here to there!" Zeno smiled and asked him to consider what had really happened.

Zeno drew a diagram, showing the path of the arrow.



Zeno pointed at one point in the path and asked, "Was the arrow ever here?"

"Yes, it must have been," answered the archer.

"If it was here, then it must have been here, and nowhere else," said Zeno, "because it could not be in two places at once."

"Naturally," said the archer.

"Well, if it was here, and nowhere else, then it must have been here for some length of time, because if it was not here for some length of time, then it was never here, but somewhere else," reasoned Zeno.

The archer was not quite sure where Zeno was going with this, but saw no flaw in Zeno's argument, "OK, if you say so," he conceded.

"Obviously then," continued Zeno, "if it was here, and nowhere else, for some length of time, then it had to be still."

The archer shifted his weight from one foot to the other, started to say something, but stopped himself. He thought for a bit, but then conceded, "Well, yes, I guess so."

"By the same argument then, the arrow was still at every point along its path to the target. If it was still at every point in its path, then it was always still, and hence it never really moved." Zeno smiled as he left the archer totally bamboozled.

How did you go? Could you see the error in Zeno's argument? For many

centuries mathematicians and philosophers knew that Zeno was wrong, but were at a loss to point out why he was wrong.

Calculus gave one of the first real insights into what was wrong with Zeno's model of motion (or the lack of it!).

In case you haven't worked it out, Zeno looked at motion as a change in distance only. Motion is actually a change in distance with a simultaneous change in time. Distance doesn't change without time changing.

Today we speak about speed as a measure of how fast distance changes. That is why we talk about speed in terms of distance and time (for example, the speed limit on some roads is 50km/h - km is a measure of distance, and h is a measure of time). If you are comfortable with the concept of speed, then you have already worked with one of the basics of calculus. Congratulations.

In terms of textbook calculus, we are initially concerned with how fast the height of a curve is changing. The change in height is known as the gradient (or "steepness"). Having learnt from Zeno's paradox that change always involves two variables, we know that the height of a curve (or its "y-value") changes along with its "x-value".

Hence, the gradient of a curve = change in y-values divided by the change in x-values. This is relatively simple to work out if you are looking at the graph of a straight line. But when the graph is curved, the gradient or "steepness" is changing constantly.

The mechanics of calculus looks at the gradient of a curve when the changes

in x and y values is close to zero. Don't work up a lot of anxiety over this if you are a beginner. One of the best ways to learn calculus is to follow rules, do plenty of questions and then revisit the theory. A lot of people get unstuck because they try to master the theory without the drill. I wasn't smart enough to learn calculus that way, but I did get it eventually. Most people are brighter than I am, so they will almost certainly have success with calculus if they follow the same methods I did.

What are some of the basic rules?

Differentiation

Differentiation is a process that we apply to a function that will give us another function that helps us calculate the gradient of a curve.

What a mouthful. Let's look at an example:

What is the gradient of the curve $y = x^2$ when $x = 3$?

The curve $y = x^2$ is a parabola. It's gradient is constantly changing. Every single point on the curve has a different "steepness" to every other point.

What we need to do is differentiate. The most basic rule for differentiation is:

If $y = x^n$

Then $dy/dx = nx^{n-1}$

Where dy/dx is known as "the derivative of y with respect to x".

Hence if $y = x^2$

$dy/dx = 2x^{2-1} = 2x$

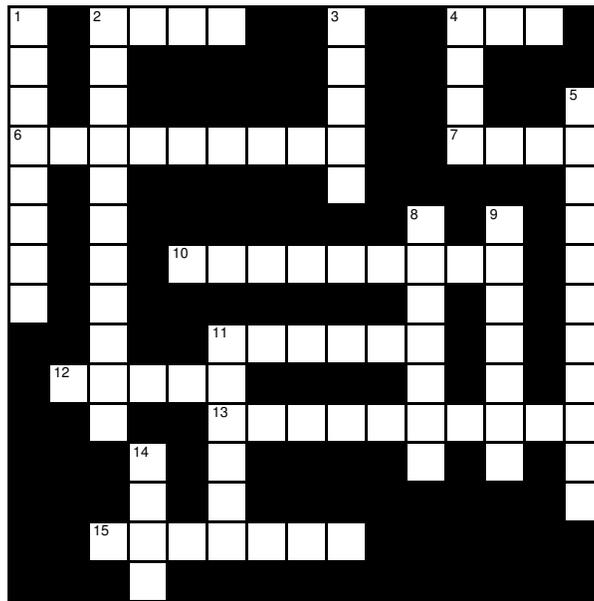
If we want the gradient of $y=x^2$ when $x = 3$, we simply substitute $x = 3$ into the derivative of y .

Therefore the gradient of $y = x^2$ when $x = 3$ is found by substituting $x = 3$ into $dy/dx = 2x$

That is, $2*3 = 6$.

Can you see why the derivative of $y = 5x^7$ is $dy/dx = 35x^6$?

When you have had a lot of practice doing pre-calculus work (algebra, equations and co-ordinate geometry) you should be ready to start with some simple differentiation. Give it a try, make mistakes and learn from them. Don't be afraid to ask for help. No question is silly. David Obeid is happy to help with maths problems over the phone (48292233) or via e-mail (dobeid@lumenverum.org).



Across

- 2 'the beloved apostle' (4)
- 4 Known as Padre ... (3)
- 6 Patron Saint of Paris (9)
- 7 A physician who wrote a gospel (4)
- 10 Declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI (9)
- 11 The good thief (6)
- 12 Died of tuberculosis, bore the stigmata (5)
- 13 Died in Auschwitz after taking another prisoner's place (10)
- 15 Founder of the Franciscans (7)

Down

- 1 Declared Christ to be 'the Son of God' at the crucifixion (8)
- 2 Cure of Ars (4,7)
- 3 'on this rock' (5)
- 4 Converted on the road to Damascus (4)
- 5 the first saint of Oceania (5,6)
- 8 Pope who helped many Jewish and other refugees during World War II (4,3)
- 9 Wrote the prayer to St Michael the Archangel (3,4)
- 11 Helped the lepers on Molokai (6)
- 14 Mother of God (4)

Influence of TV

At the recent retreat at Fitzroy Falls, Richard Lyons commented on the influence of TV and its role in the development of Attention Deficit Disorder. While I was not able to find evidence of such a link in the medical literature, a recent statement by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians cautions parents to exercise discretion in allowing their children to view television and the Internet (see also the article on pornography and the Internet).

Mark Smith

MEDIA RELEASE
18th May, 10.30am

Children and the Media: Advocating for the Future

What are the effects of video games, computers and the Internet on Children's Health?

The Paediatrics and Child Health Division of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians today released its position paper: [Children and the Media: Advocating for the Future](#).

The paper looks into the potential impact on children of media technologies, including the health effects. It is a follow on from the RACP's initial publication "Getting in the Picture: A parent's guide for better use of television for children".

Launched by Dr Jill Sewell, in-coming President of the RACP, the paper tackles crucial questions about the influence on media on children and their health.

The 32 page document highlights that for the average Australian and New Zealand child, time spent watching TV or engaging with other media

technologies will exceed, by the end of school, time spent in the classroom.

Furthermore, according to the paper, most of this time spent by children interacting with the media is unmonitored by parents.

Dr Michael McDowell, RACP spokesperson and chief author of *Children and the Media*, said today: "There is great cause for concern because above all, what our research shows is that many parents are unprepared for the challenge of how to regulate their child's use of media technologies."

He says that the impact of the media on children is two-fold: firstly, how children respond to the content they watch and secondly, what children are not doing when they are interacting with media technologies.

On the first issue, Dr McDowell suggests that children tend to blur content with associated advertising.

"Children up to the age of 8 are more likely to believe that advertising claims are true," he says.

On the second issue, Dr McDowell emphasises that time spent interacting with machines is time that could be spent doing other activities that may be more beneficial or necessary for the development and well-being of children.

Dr McDowell is quick to point out that there are potential benefits associated with media technologies if used selectively and appropriately.

"Selective use can promote academic abilities," he says.

The RACP research highlights that some of the harmful effects of media on television include obesity, exposure to discussion on the use of harmful

substances and other subjects unsuitable for children.

The RACP recommendations include:

- More government-funded research into the effects of media in childhood;
- The need for media organisations and the food industry to be held accountable for the consequences of food advertising to children;

- The need for quality media for children; and
- Increased funding for children's media in the ABC and NZBC.

The paper [Children and the Media: Advocating for the Future](#) and the two guides ("[A guide for parents and carers](#)" and "[A guide for health professionals](#)") are available on the RACP website: racp.edu.au/hpu/paed/media/index.htm

PORNOGRAPHY AND THE INTERNET

By Mark Smith, adapted from Steve Wood

I have been a user of the Internet since 1993, introduced to it by the then Catholic Resource Net (now EWTN). It has proven to be an invaluable tool and, for those of us with children studying at university, absolutely essential.

Many readers will be familiar with Steve Wood. Steve and his family are converts to the Faith. He helps to promote the Faith through his promotion of the role of fathers (see www.dads.org). Over the past few years Steve has become increasingly concerned at the role of the Internet in promoting pornography. He is especially concerned at the naivety of many men and adolescent boys in their belief that Internet pornography is harmless and not a violation of the sixth and ninth commandments.

Steve regularly runs mens conferences and he relates the story of what happened at the first conference at which he told the audience that viewing Internet pornography was sinful. The conference was being conducted at a parish church and time had been scheduled for confession. The reality of his statement obviously hit home – the priest had to call up

several of his brother priests to come and assist him as a large proportion of the audience wished to go to confession. It was at this time that Steve began to realise just how big a problem the Internet had become for many men. This has been repeated at many subsequent conferences.

Steve holds the view that the devil is using the Internet very effectively by subtly leading men and adolescent boys into an addiction to pornography. In this way, he disrupts family life - by diverting fathers away from purity and chastity in their married lives – and disrupts vocations to the priesthood or marriage – by encouraging young men into immorality.

Steve's website has much more information and he has recently published a book as well. One of his TV programs on EWTN also discusses the subject.

As he says: *Nothing less than the future of Christian fatherhood is at stake in this battle for purity. It is time for Catholics to take action.*

* * * * *

The Wedding

By Jacinta Smith

A few weeks ago, on 1st May, I was a bridesmaid for my elder sister Elisabeth, alongside my sisters Helen, Genevieve and Lis' friend Nadja. The flower girls were my four year old twin sisters, Lucy and Teresa, and Michael, our eight year old brother was the page boy. It was a wonderful day, so I've scribbled down a few words about what it was like.

Well, I woke up at 4. 45 am. I was meant to be getting my hair done first, but in the end Helen and Gen went before me. In that time, I did my regular Saturday chores and watched Kate, a friend, doing the hair.

My turn came and my hair looked very beautiful. In fact I liked it so much that I kept it in for two days. It was all piled up in curls on top of my head, and there was heaps of bobby pins and spray on it. About seven-thirty, Nadja started the girl's make-up. I alternated in watching that and watching mum getting her hair done. I put my dress on. The other girls finished getting their make-up done. Finally Lis had her hair done. It looked lovely. Nadja went to have hers done. Lis attempted to put some makeup on me but didn't really succeed. In the end I wasn't wearing much for which I was abundantly thankful.

Then Lis had to get dressed, and came out. "Ohhhhhh", we all breathed, because she looked stunning. By now it was about ten o'clock, and Serena, Troy's cousin, the photographer arrived. We were running a little late so we all packed into the front yard. Our friend Kay was minding the house and took some digital photos. The hairdresser finished the twins' hair, and we were ready for photos. We had a family photo, then Angela (the eldest in our family), Mum, Brendan, Stephen and David left for the church. David and Brendan were being altar servers and Stephen was a soloist. We took more photos, then the limousine and the Mercedes drove up.

All the bridesmaids, the flower girls and Michael got in the limo, and Lis and Dad got in the Mercedes. We drove down, arriving just in time for the 11 o'clock start. The photographer took a few

more photos, then in we walked. The music was lovely, ("Trumpet Tune" by Purcell) I did my best to walk slowly and gracefully, but I don't think I really succeeded because I was so nervous and there were about two hundred people watching me! Then we got to the front, the music changed to "Oh Perfect Love" and Lis and Dad walked down the aisle. It looked very lovely. Lis was every inch the perfect bride and Dad looked very smart too.

The Mass started, proceeded as usual, Angela read the second reading and Father Christopher Sarah gave a brilliant sermon, which really impressed most of the groomsmen and Troy's family because they were largely non-Catholics. Then the marriage. I had to stand up. As one of the bridesmaids, I had to "witness" the wedding. It was very beautiful, and proceeded very smoothly (apart from Troy accidentally saying "We do" instead of "I do" to one of the questions) When the vows were over the mass continued. Stephen sang his solos, "Panis Angelicus" and "Ave Maria" by Schubert very well. Afterwards, everyone talked about how lovely his voice is. Then the wedding finished, the "Wedding March" by Mendelssohn started, and we all marched back down the aisle. My brother-in-law gave the bridesmaids a kiss and a hug, then there was hugging and congratulations.

We left for photos by the river. I was in the Mercedes this time, with Michael, and two of the groomsmen, one of them another Michael. Lis and Troy and everyone else were in the limo, and Lis and Troy lifted the top, and stood up! Everyone cheered, took photos and we drove off for photos at the river. When we arrived the chauffeurs pulled out champagne, beer and lemonade. I had champagne, watered down with lemonade. It tasted nice at first and then it tasted disgusting. Lis and Troy went off for their own photos. We stayed back talking and Teresa fell over in the dirt, so we had to clean her up. They came back and Serena took the wedding party photos.

Then it was off to the reception. This time I was in Serena's car. There wasn't actually enough room for all of us in the wedding cars, so I went with her. If you could class her car as one of the wedding cars, then I went in all three of them! When we arrived at Panthers leagues club, we went up to the reception room. I had to take the arm of one of the groomsmen, Brendan. Then the master of ceremonies announced us, and we walked in, everyone clapping and making us feel very grand. We went and sat down, while he announced everyone else. Then, "Everyone welcome Mr and Mrs Troy and Elisabeth Viney!" They came in, and we sat down to eat. Grace was said by Fr Boes who also concelebrated Mass.

The food was very nice, and the service was excellent, with friendly and polite servers wandering here and there to make sure you were enjoying yourself. We had entree and main's, then there were speeches. First up was dad. He was very good. Everyone found Dad's speech very humorous because dad said, "Now that Troy has joined our family, he must realize that he has to change his football allegiance from the Brisbane Broncos to the Penrith Panthers" and handed him our sister Angela's Panthers jersey! Next up was Troy's step dad, Paul (filling in for his father who died when Troy was 2 years old) who was also very good. He talked about Troy's various shenanigans in the past, such as leaving a present of spilled oil on the garage floor a few years ago, and he returned to the football subject by telling us how Troy used to rush to his room crying if the Broncos were losing a game. Then Kristen, Lis' good friend, was *hilarious!* She joked about how Lis and Troy met each other working at McDonalds. Then Michael, one of the groomsmen, Troy and the best man, Tim. Gen and I had been helping him write his speech only a few minutes before! He thanked the bridesmaids, and made an unkind comment, "It's amazing what make-up can do isn't it". This was a joke suggested by one of the other groomsmen, Daniel. We plotted his slow and painful death after the speeches, but forgot all about it, because of cake, desert and dancing. (I would have thanked him to know that I was hardly wearing any, anyway!)

First there was the bridal waltz. Then Brendan (the groomsman) and I went on and pretended to dance. He had absolutely no idea. It was fun anyway. We made it up as we went along. Then the rest of the reception was dancing. It was a lot of fun, and the band was brilliant. I danced with my cousins, and a few of the groomsmen. This went on for ages. I took my shoes off for a while, because they were beginning to hurt. I really missed that extra height when I was dancing with all the tall people!

Then it was time for the bride and groom to leave. Just before they left it was the throwing of the bouquet and garter. Kristen (who is a very tall girl) caught the bouquet. Her mother took it as a serious omen and started immediately planning the wedding, even though Kristen pointed out that she didn't even have a boyfriend and that she still had three years of studying Medicine left! Then Lis and Troy left and we all cheered and clapped.

We talked for ages downstairs, then we talked outside. Mum came back from dropping Lis and Troy off. With the help of my aunties, uncles and cousins we loaded the presents into the car. It was absolutely full and then we went home. Lis and Troy were still there. We took presents in and then mum took Lis and Troy to Penrith. From there, they were going to Parramatta to stay two nights, and then they were leaving for their honeymoon on the Queensland Sunshine Coast. I was dead tired. We loaded all the presents in Lis' room, said night prayers, and Mum borrowed "Master and Commander" for Gen, David and I to watch, whilst the others all went to bed. Phew, what a day!

We found it rather ironic afterwards to learn that whilst we girls were all up very early to get ready for the wedding, Troy and his groomsmen started getting ready half an hour before!!!!

I was wearing a gold sleeveless dress with a cowl neckline, bronze high heel sandals and I held a bouquet of pink lilies. The Bride was wearing basically similar stuff except in white. (And, of course, a veil.). I had a wonderful day and I'll probably always remember it. I hope I can be a bridesmaid again in the future.

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The Secret Pool.

By Brendan Smith

It was quite early when Mr Baker came round to collect Helen, Gen, David and me. We were delighted when he told us that nobody else knew the location we were going to. After fetching sausages from the fridge we piled into Mr Baker's car.

Mr Baker asked us his usual, "Are you reprobates ready?" .

We replied with our usual answer, "No!".

We sped through Glenbrook at 15 k.p.h. We entered the National Park and splashed some unfortunate bike riders at the causeway. Laughing we entered Euroka Clearing and parked the car near the creek .

Swinging our gear onto our backs we followed Mr Baker into an especially pretty part of the bush with wattle and waratah bushes growing everywhere. About twenty minutes later we came to a patch so steep that once I slipped so far it took five minutes for me to climb back to the others. Soon after we arrived at the secret pool where David and I changed behind a rock and Gen and Helen changed behind another.

Excitement was in my heart as I rushed into the water. My excitement was dimmed somewhat as the upper part of my body touched the water. The pool was icy cold! Two seconds later I found that my luck was completely gone for as I sped out of the water at 100.k.p.h. I found that the others had hidden my towel. Snatching David's towel I gave myself a vigorous rub and, rather gingerly this time, re-entered the water. Nudging around I found some large rocks that were impossible to climb over. David grabbed his thongs and managed to

cross over to the other side. With thongs in one hand and a stick in the other he walked across the shallow bottom prodding in front of him. We watched him walk to the place that I had been trying to climb over before. He told us that apart from the rocks, we could get past by slipping through a gap in the left side of the pool. To our delight there were no sticks at the other end of the pool. The girls preferred to walk round but I climbed through the gap in the rocks with Mr Baker behind me.

Half an hour later, Mr Baker and David left the pool to grill the sausages we had brought. In next to no time we were called out of the water to eat greasy delicious grilled sausages in buttered rolls with tomato sauce and onions. This was all washed down with cups of boiling billy tea flavoured with condensed milk.

Two hours later we reluctantly set out for the car. It was a beautiful walk with the birds singing and the flowers blooming. It was with heavy hearts that we left the National Park that day.

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Most readers of *Keeping in Touch* will have read and enjoyed Fr Tierney's *Bush Boys* series of books. Maybe you know of someone who has not read them but would enjoy them, in which case why not consider buying one or more of them as a birthday present or just as a present. They are available from **Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc.** Contact details are on page 1.