The Westerly Centre

The Westerly Centre, based at the University of Western Australia, was established in 1982. Its focus is on Australian and Asian writing. The centre publishes the leading literary journal *Westerly* and a range of scholarly works. It fosters and coordinates innovative research in Australian literary and cultural studies.

Westerly

Since 1956, the journal *Westerly* has been publishing lively fiction and poetry as well as intelligent articles. The magazine has always sought to provide a Western Australian-based voice, although its contributors and subject matter haven’t ever been geographically exclusive. *Westerly* has a strong international reputation, being listed in all of the world’s major cultural indexes, and has been instrumental in the careers of many of the regions most prominent and internationally renowned writers. These include major Western Australian writers such as Randolph Stow, Dorothy Hewett, TAG Hungerford and Elizabeth Jolley; highly-awarded contemporary writers, including Tim Winton, Kim Scott, and Sally Morgan; and important local poets like John Kinsella, Tracy Ryan, John Mateer and Lucy Dougan.

Veronica Brady: A Living Legacy

On 5 February 2016, the Westerly Centre will hold an event entitled *Veronica Brady: A Living Legacy*. For more information, contact the centre on westerly@uwa.edu.au.

Veronica Brady made such an important contribution to the teaching and appreciation of Australian literature, it is hardly surprising that *Westerly* is to honour and celebrate her.

Australian literature

Veronica Brady, a Catholic religious sister in the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, better known as the Loretos, joined the English Department at the University of Western Australia in early 1972. As former colleague Emeritus professor Dennis Haskell recalled in a tribute to Veronica soon after her death last year, “With the late Bruce Bennett she championed the introduction of studies in Australian literature at the time in the face of sometimes stern opposition.” Professor Haskell continued “Veronica Brady gained a national and international reputation as a public intellectual, literary critic and tireless moral crusader. She was fearless, a Mother Courage whose causes were her ‘children’. That courage often put her at odds with governments or the Church, and drew controversy but also admiration from many people across a wide range of Australian and overseas societies.

Veronica Brady’s Theology

One of the topics to be covered when the Westerly Centre remembers Veronica Brady is her theology. She wrote several theological books including *A Crucible of Prophets* and *The God-Shaped Hole*. She was constantly in the media, especially on ABC Radio National, as a commentator offering a religious perspective on social questions. In particular, she spoke about the insights that are on offer to a theologian writing in Australia. Perhaps the most profound influence on Veronica Brady was Patrick White, still the only Australian to have won the Nobel Prize in Literature. She was fond of quoting from one of White’s characters in *The Vivisector*: “God is dead. At least, thank God, in Australia.”

Judith Wright

Veronica Brady gave several talks for the Centre for Ethics, including one on her biography of the distinguished Australian poet and social activist Judith Wright. Judith Wright requested that Veronica be her biographer. We had a wonderful evening here in the chapel as Veronica spoke about Judith Wright, her poetry and her radical views on social justice.

The Centre for Ethics newsletter is a quarterly publication informing the community of forthcoming speakers and events.
Patrick White
Patrick White and Veronica Brady were profoundly religious. In an interview for Radio National, Professor Brady was asked in what sense White was a religious writer. She answered: “He was religious in the very best sense of the word, in that he had a sense of the otherness of existence and of God.” She spoke about White’s sense of a “difficult God” and that “God is not made in our own image.” She often spoke about the notion of false gods, a theme so prominent in the bible.

God in our own image
Going further, Veronica Brady offered the view that it is rather easy to worship images we have made in our own image: that God is simply a projection of our own social, emotional and sometimes political needs and desires. As she observed, for Patrick White religion is about something exploding into people’s lives. As she said “To use the wonderful image in The Vivesector, of the sting of the wasp: that which is, stings you sometimes and existence for him is always dialectical. It is always at its best being open, broken open and shattered, called to go further.”

Simone Weil
Another to influence Veronica Brady’s theological view was the French philosopher Simone Weil who attempted to rethink philosophy by beginning not with Descartes’ ‘I think, therefore I am’ and its emphasis on the mind but with the proposition that, as Veronica says, “I live in a body, I’m subject to physical needs of all kinds. I can get sick. I have these physical needs, some of which are humiliating.’ As she put it “Above all, I am in absence from God who can never be absolutely present to me as God but who will always be present to me only in terms of the wounded crucified God.”

The Crucified God
This last reference is a reference to the 1973 theological work The Crucified God by the German Reformed theologian Jurgen Moltmann. This book gained considerable international attention and re-established the cross as the foundation for Christian hope. Moltmann’s dramatic innovation was to see the cross not as a problem of theodicy but instead as an act of ultimate solidarity between God and humanity. In this, he drew on liberation theology, and he was among the first to bring third-world theologies into a first-world context. All this appealed to Veronica Brady.

Thoughts on euthanasia
Later, when offering her opinion on euthanasia, Veronica noted that her views were to be seen in the light of Christ’s death. As she put it “I began writing this on Good Friday. I thought it would help because the whole question of death and dying, suffering and pain is so confused by charge and counter-charge, by presumptions of virtue and accusations of moral turpitude and by invocations of authority, of reason, of the Church, of medicine and of feeling, and of the rights and freedoms that it seemed to me that I needed some clarity.”

“Man is more than man”
In her article, Veronica wrote: “Generalisations are impossible for me. What remains are certain propositions which seem in a sense contradictory; that there is a God, to whom life and death belong and whose will we must obey; but that God is compassionate and full of love for each human being whom he destines for dignity and happiness; that God did not create suffering but that it is the consequence of the choices we have chosen and that, to quote Judith Wright: “man is more than man….is central to the maze where all’s made new.”

Juliana of Norwich
Veronica Brady once said that her favourite religious writer was Juliana of Norwich (1342-1416), an English anchoress and mystic who wrote Revelations of Divine Love. When Juliana is quoted, it is almost always the following remark that is brought forward: “All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manners of things shall be well.” Juliana’s serenity in the faith appealed to Veronica but as I think of her theology I am also drawn to these words from Revelations of Divine Love: ‘He said not ’Thou shall not be tempested, thou shall not be travailed, thou shalt not be dis-eased’; but he said ’Thou shalt not be overcome.’ I think that this theological stance was one that Veronica understood at depth.

Frank Sheehan
School chaplain
Director of the Centre for Ethics

Given that Veronica Brady made such an important contribution to the teaching and appreciation of Australian literature, it is hardly surprising that Westerly is to honour and celebrate her.
Christ Church Credo

Every Thursday, a group of students meet in the Centre for Ethics at 12.45pm to discuss how to be a Christian in everyday life. Matt Smith from Dalkeith Anglican Church leads the session, during which the group reflects on a passage from the bible to decipher its meaning and impact on their lives. The group is interested in evaluating the claims that Jesus makes about himself. The group’s name is ‘Credo’, from the Latin for ‘I believe’.

Corporal Michael O’Sullivan

Corporal Michael O’Sullivan enlisted in the Australian Army in May 1968 and was assigned to the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. He joined the 4th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, in September 1970 and arrived in South Vietnam with the Battalion on 22 May 1971.

On 30 July 1971 in Phuoc Tuy Province, 10 Platoon D Company was in contact with elements of 1st Battalion, 274 Regiment, who were entrenched in bunker system. The platoon suffered a number of casualties and Corporal O’Sullivan moved forward under intense rocket and automatic weapons fire to render aid to the wounded. Corporal O’Sullivan calmly and courageously cared for the wounded, ignoring the fact that he was continually exposed to direct enemy fire, which killed a soldier who was assisting him. He continued to give aid to the wounded until he could move them to safety.

Corporal O’Sullivan’s actions in giving aid to the wounded, his steadiness in battle, professionalism and outstanding devotion to duty reflect great credit on himself, his Corps and the Australian Army.

Saturday 12 March, 4.30pm to 5.30pm
Clarinet/Viola/Piano - Mozart/Bruch/Francaix

This series is a fundraiser for Anglicare.
Tickets are available at Trybooking.com ($35/con $25) or reservations 9454 7412
For more information - Magellan.org.au

Trio Magellan will perform on 12 March

Corporal O’Sullivan will speak to students on 25 February
The Hon Kim Beazley, AC

The Hon Kim Beazley was elected to the Federal Parliament in 1980 and represented the electorates of Swan and Brand. Mr Beazley was a Minister in the Hawke and Keating Labor Governments holding, at various times, the portfolios of Defence, Finance, Transport and Communications, Employment, Education and Training, Aviation and Special Minister of State. He was Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Australian Labor Party and Leader of the Opposition. Mr Beazley served on parliamentary committees, including the Joint Intelligence Committee and the Joint Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee.

After his retirement from politics in 2007, Mr Beazley was appointed Winthrop Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Western Australia. In July 2008 he was appointed Chancellor of the Australian National University. Mr Beazley took up his appointment as Ambassador to the United States of America in February 2010.

In 2009, Mr Beazley was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for service to the Parliament of Australia through contributions to the development of government policies in relation to defence and international relations, and as an advocate for Indigenous people and to the community.

Mr Beazley was born in Perth. He completed a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts at the University of Western Australia. He was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship for Western Australia in 1973 and completed a Master of Philosophy at Oxford University. He is married and has three daughters.

The book launch of A Story Worth Telling by Ric Barrett-Lennard will be held in the senior staff common room.

Ric Barrett-Lennard will speak to the community on 13 March

A Story Worth Telling

This year’s Lent course will be on the “Five marks of Mission” of the Anglican Communion.

Each one-hour session will begin at 7:00pm and will be led by a guest speaker. These talks will be held in the Christ Church Parish Hall. Please see the calendar of events for details.

Marks of Mission
Mr Ken Arkwright

Kenneth James Arkwright was born in Breslau, Germany, in April 1929. An only child, he lived in a large city apartment with his parents and grandparents. After the establishment of Nazi rule in 1933 they were forced to move to smaller and smaller apartments and rooms during the following years enduring the restrictive laws against the Jews. At the age of 14 Ken was working in forced labour, initially in the Breslau Jewish cemetery where the young people had to dig graves and bury bodies that were delivered in paper bags. In 1944 his family were deported east to a concentration camp but the Russian advance meant return to Germany. They escaped the transport and assuming false names worked as farm labourers in Halberstadt until the cessation of hostilities. On his return to Breslau, Ken studied and obtained his matriculation. He emigrated to Australia in 1949 where in time he became an accountant. In 1959 he married Judith Masel and joined her family’s men’s and boys’ wear business. They have two married sons and three grandchildren. Ken has had a successful professional and business career as well as being a senior and respected member of the Jewish community in Western Australia.

Ken Arkwright will speak to the students on Thursday March 24

We are always delighted to welcome back speakers whose talks have been so interesting and helpful. For more information on any of our speakers please contact Teresa Scott at tscott@ccgs.wa.edu.au

The Bright Spark Market

Create - Innovate - Share

Interested in what the young and young at heart are inventing?

This is for you.

Come join us for an afternoon of showcasing innovative ideas, original handmade products and inspirational charity initiatives.

Where: Christ Church Grammar School Refectory
Queenslea Drive, Claremont WA

When: Sunday 3 April, 2016
2 - 5 pm

For further details contact Lorna Bunney on 0411 895 101 or gbunney@bigpond.net.au
## The Centre For Ethics

### Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event and topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
<td>Christ Church Credo</td>
<td>Matt Smith</td>
<td>12.45pm</td>
<td>Q1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>Embracing Fatherhood</td>
<td>Miles Proitter</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>RSVP <a href="mailto:tscott@ccgs.wa.edu.au">tscott@ccgs.wa.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15 February</td>
<td>GOOD NEWS: To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom</td>
<td>The Reverend John Shepherd</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Christ Church Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 22 February</td>
<td>FORMATION: To teach, baptise and nurture new believers</td>
<td>The Reverend Ryan Green</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Christ Church Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25 February</td>
<td>Service under fire</td>
<td>Mick O’Sullivan</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 29 February</td>
<td>SERVICE: To respond to human need by loving service</td>
<td>The Reverend Graeme Napier</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Christ Church Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7 March</td>
<td>JUSTICE: To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation</td>
<td>The Reverend Chris Bedding</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Christ Church Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 March</td>
<td>Australia's relationship with the United States of America</td>
<td>Kim Beazley</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>RSVP 9442 1705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10 March</td>
<td>Easter in art</td>
<td>Frank Sheehan</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>RSVP 9442 1705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 12 March</td>
<td>Trio Magellan Clarinet/Viola/Piano Mozart/Bruch/Francaix</td>
<td>Paul Wright, Sally Boud Michael Howell, Geoffrey Bourgault du Coudrey, Sacha McCulloch and Faith Maydwell</td>
<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>Tickets available Trybooking.com or 9454 7412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 13 March</td>
<td>Book event: A Story Worth Telling The Remarkable life of Canon William McClemans</td>
<td>Ric Barrett-Lennard</td>
<td>4.00pm</td>
<td>RSVP 9442 1705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14 March</td>
<td>CREATION: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth</td>
<td>The Right Reverend Tom Wilmot</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Christ Church Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 March</td>
<td>Without regret</td>
<td>Ken Arkwright</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 27 March</td>
<td>Easter service</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 3 April</td>
<td>The Bright Spark Market</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.00pm to 5.00pm</td>
<td>Refectory: <a href="mailto:gbunney@bigpond.net.au">gbunney@bigpond.net.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6 April</td>
<td>Ethics Book Club</td>
<td>Frank Sheehan</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>RSVP 9442 1705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7 April</td>
<td>Roc Teen Workshop</td>
<td>Claire Eaton</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Classrooms</td>
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Please contact Teresa Scott on 9442 1705 beforehand, in case there is a change to the program.

A map of Christ Church Grammar School is available on our website www.ccgswa.edu.au/about-us/our-location/campus-map