



Example of an Essay with In-Text and End-Text Referencing

A Brief History of New Norcia

The town of New Norcia is situated north of Perth on the Great Northern Highway. It is one of Australia's most important heritage sites and is today the home of a community of Benedictine monks. With its olive groves, church bells and distinctive architecture, it is described by Power (2004, p. 2) as resembling 'a piece of old Spain in the middle of the Australian bush'.

It was founded by Bishop Salvador and another Spanish Benedictine monk, Dom Serra in 1846 (Lawton 1995, p.2). Salvado's original vision was to create a self sufficient village based on agriculture for the local aboriginal population, and to bring Christianity to the community. However, after introduced diseases had wiped out many of the local inhabitants, he concentrated his efforts on providing them with a general education (*New Norcia monastery n.d.*).

Following Salvado's death in 1900, New Norcia changed direction under the leadership of Bishop Torres, with the emphasis moving towards the educational and pastoral needs of young men and women from all parts of Western Australia. While the education and community care of the local Aboriginal people continued, it was no longer a priority. To achieve this objective, he sold some of the land to raise funds for building projects, including the construction of two boarding Colleges for non-Aboriginal children (Hutchison 1995).

Abbot Catalan succeeded Bishop Torres, leading New Norcia from 1916-1950. He continued to add to the fabric of the town, constructing the hostel and organising extensions and improvements to many of the existing buildings. Abbot Catalan also acquired a number of artistic treasures from Europe; many of the Italian and Spanish style paintings now housed in the Art Gallery were obtained and brought to Australia by him (*The story of New Norcia* 1991).

While some advances were made during the first half of the twentieth century, New Norcia's progress was hampered during this time by two world wars and a severe economic depression, which had their effect on implementing new projects (*The story of New Norcia* 1991).

From the 1950's to the 1980's the township underwent considerable change; one of the most important achievements being the increasing involvement and gradual handing over of administration to Australian members of the Benedictine community (Hutchison 1995).

Since the early 1980's, tourism to the township has flourished. Today, the Museum and Art Gallery attract thousands of visitors each year. Some people come to study music, art and Aboriginal studies at the Education Centre, while others stay at the hotel, or at the guesthouse to experience the peaceful life of a Benedictine Monastery. The former College buildings are now used for seminars and school camps, and the Gift Shop features a range of New Norcia's own produce including bread, olive oil, wine and honey (Lawton 1995).

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