

Br Peter Francis Somers SM

	Born Sydney, 1 st Jan 1940		
	Died Sydney, 15 th Jan 2018		
Parents:	Leo Ignatius Somers and Vera Mitchell		
Novitiate:	1961	Professed 1 st Jan 1962 (religious name: Br Matthew)	
			<u>Province</u>
Appointments:	1962	Glen Davis	(A)
	1963	Toongabbie	(A)
	Mid-1964	Armidale Novitiate staff	(A)
	Easter 1968	Buma, Solomon Islands	(A)
	Easter 1969	(St Martin's) Tenaru, Sol Islands	(A)
	Dec 1969	Armidale Novitiate staff, Aust.	(A)
	June 1972	(St Martin's) Tenaru, Sol Islands	(A)
	1976	(Aruligo Plantation) Guadalcanal, Sol Is.	(A)
	1977	(N.A.C.), Tenaru, Solomon Islands	(O)
	Jan 1979	(St Joseph's Sec Sch), Tenaru	(O)
	Feb – July 2001	Renewal Program, New Zealand	
	Nov 2001-04	Marist Form Community, Tutu, Fiji	(O)
	2005-2015	Oceania House, Sydney	(O)
	2016	Maryvale, Hunters Hill, Sydney	(A)

Schooling: St Columba's, North Leichhardt (1945-50) and Christian Brothers, Balmain (1951-52). Serious bronchial and asthma problems during adolescence affected Peter's schooling.

On leaving school Peter began work with the PMG as a postie and telegram deliverer. He cycled around the Rozelle/Balmain area of Sydney in this work. In late teens Peter did his military National Service training for three months full-time followed by weekend bivouacs in the CMF.

In mid-1960, at 20 yrs of age, Peter applied and was accepted as a Lay Brother in the Society of Mary, commencing his novitiate on 1st Jan 1961.

Working on farms as a general hand during his early years as a brother in Australia, Br Peter (or Br Matthew as he was first known in religious life) had an interest in machinery and did tech and other courses in petrol & diesel engine maintenance. He also did welding courses. In later years, when in Oceania, he taught himself rudimentary accounting and in some places looked after the mission books.

Br Peter applied for the Oceania missions in May 1966 and left for the Solomon Islands in early 1968. He returned to Australia at the end of 1969, intending to return to Oceania, then reapplied in August 1971. He remained 'on loan' to Oceania in the early years and was finally transferred to Oceania Province in May 1975.

During latter years in the Solomon Islands, when Br Peter was at St Joseph's, Tenaru, looking after maintenance of the school plant and equipment, work visa for expat missionaries became more difficult to get. The Coup in June 2000 effectively signalled the end for missionaries.

During his last years in Oceania, at Tutu, Fiji, Br Peter suffered from the heat and humidity. He returned to Australia, to Oceania House, Rocher Street, Hunters Hill, Sydney, where he helped with hospitality and driving for ten years.

He joined the nearby Maryvale/Montbel community in early 2016, where he lived until his final illness.

Br Peter died in Royal North Shore hospital, Sydney, on the morning of Jan 15, 2018. May he rest in well-deserved peace.