



MSA Newsletter

A newsletter for Member Schools of Marist Schools Australia published fortnightly during term time



From Brother Michael Green

9 August 2011

Dear Members of the Marist Family

Last week's announcement that the Marist Brothers, through *Marist Schools Australia*, would be establishing a new college in Bendigo is quite significant not only for us Marists but more broadly for the Church and the Catholic education in this country. It's momentous, actually.

This is the first time since the late 1960s that the Marist Brothers have established a new mainstream Catholic secondary school in Australia – from scratch and in their own right. There have certainly been new Marist schools since then, but they have generally been diocesan foundations under Marist administration. There have also been quite a number of amalgamated and re-named schools, some existing schools that dioceses have asked the Marists to take on, and a few small centres and education projects. But for the Brothers and a diocese both to agree on the compelling merit of the Brothers' taking full canonical and civil responsibility for developing a new school in the diocese is atypical in the context of the last four decades of Church history in this country.

In establishing and resourcing *Marist Schools Australia* as a family of Catholic schools which draw on Marist spirituality and Marist educational practice, the Marist Brothers have confirmed to the Australian Church their ongoing commitment to Catholic education – not only through existing schools but also in new ones. The comprehensive suite of formation courses and programmes that are being delivered, the infrastructure that is being set up around MSA, and the number of personnel employed at Province level to support all this, are all aimed at strengthening and growing the Marist contribution to Australian Catholic education. The new school in the Diocese of Sandhurst is a welcome and practical realisation of this dream. It will give heart to the many Catholic educators who are attracted to the Marist way, and who wish to develop their vocation and professional career within the Marist family and the graced way of the Gospel that it seeks to live out.

There can only be one *raison d'être* for any charism: to enhance the capacity and readiness of the Church to undertake its mission. Saint Paul tells us this. Charisms are of the Church and for the Church, the Spirit irrupting within it. Our Marist charism is simple in its essence – to make Jesus Christ known and loved through the Christian education of the young. We understand that the Catholic schools which we conduct give us a most efficacious means of doing this; they have done so in the past and they continue to do so. It is where we Australian Marists are most at home: in the midst of school kids. In the classroom, in the school yard, on the sports field, in the chapel, in youth groups, on retreats, in the boarding house – in the myriad of opportunities with which schools provide us. In Bendigo we have been at it since 1893; let's hope we'll still be going strong in 2093!

In our negotiations with the Diocese of Sandhurst over recent months we have been mightily encouraged by the way that the clergy and people of the Diocese have seen of the benefits of there being another provider of Catholic education in Bendigo, and that this provider would be the Marist Brothers. As the new school takes shape and develops, MSA and the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office will work side-by-side to complement each other to provide the families of the Diocese with an outstanding Catholic school.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP.....

- Fri 12 – Sun 14 Aug • Shared Marist Life Retreat (Brisbane)
- Fri 12 – Sun 14 Aug • Remar Gold - National Gathering of Year 12 Rowers (at Bacchus Marsh)
- Mon 15 August • Solemnity of The Assumption, Patronal Feast of the Marist Brothers
- Mon 15 – Tue 16 Aug • Mary, the Mature Disciple (Marist Canberra)
- Tue 16 Aug • Marist Schools Australia Establishment Committee meeting (Montagne Centre)
- Tue 16 Aug • Marist Leadership, Succession Planning 1, (Drummoyne)
- Fri 19 Aug • Staff Formation Day (RBCC, Forbes)
- Fri 26 – Sun 28 Aug • Year 11 Justice Forum (Toowoomba)
- Sun 28 - Wed 31 Aug • Sharing Our Call I, Mittagong
- Tue 30 Aug • Mary, the Mature Disciple (2), Cairns
- Tue 30 Aug • New Staff Induction, Traralgon

PMC MEETING NO 2

NEXUS :VOLUME 2



Here is the link to the latest volume of "Nexus", the occasional newsletter on the development of the new Australian Province:

www.maristoz.edu.au/pmTkG63xnexusvol2MHbjsQjn1ks.pdf

The new Province Mission Council held its second meeting yesterday, this time in Melbourne. Brother David, the Chair, reported a full and fruitful discussion as the Council discussed some important issues for how the mission of the new Australia Province is most effectively led and supported.



NEW MARIST SCHOOL PLANNED IN BENDIGO



Brother Michael Green and Darren McGregor (Principal Catholic College Bendigo) discussing plans for the new Marist College in Bendigo.

OVERNIGHT RETREAT FOR MARISTS!



- When:** 5pm, Friday 2nd September
Until 7pm Saturday 3rd September
- Where:** Amberley Retreat Centre
7 Amberley Way, Lower Plenty
- Cost:** \$145
- Bring:** Sleeping bag (or bed linen); towel

Enjoy the company of Marist friends, whilst having a retreat experience in the beautiful surrounds of Amberley Retreat Centre.

There will be opportunity for:

- Guest speakers
- Small group discussion
- Quiet time
- Prayer & Eucharist
- Shared meals

Topics for reflection include:

Getting to the heart of Marcellin **Br Michael Green FMS**
The Art of being Mary **Charles Watt**

REGISTER NOW:

Contact Joe McCarthy:

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Prayers Please.....

Recently Deceased

- Brother Gregory Moran FMS - Sydney
- Brother Oliver Clarke FMS - Darwin
- Zac Bissell aged 18, as a result of an accident. Zac's father Craig, is the Director of Student Services at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, NSW.

SHARING OUR CALL SHARING CHAMPAGNAT'S VISION

Here are some photographs of the latest Sharing Our Call - Sharing Champagnat's Vision program which was held at The Hermitage, Mittagong from 31 July - 3 August 2011.



Veronica Bressi (St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill) and Trudy Ferris (St Gregory's College, Campbelltown)



Carmel Luck, Eamonn Moore and Erica Drewsen (all from Marist College Canberra)



Br Ishmael Tauwato (Vanga Point Rural Training Centre), Jovan Gulabovski (Marist College Pagewood) and Chris Lus (Port Moresby Administration, PNG)

NETBALL CARNIVAL 2011

The Annual Marist Schools Netball Carnival was held recently at the Marist Sister's College, Woolwich, Sydney. Photographed below are participants. The Champions for the 2011 competition were Catholic College Bendigo. Congratulations to all participants!



An Immersion Experience

Many MSA member schools undertake student immersions during the school holidays. These are done in conjunction with MAPS, with REMAR, and as part of



in-school programmes. Here is a report on one just done by Year 11 students at Catholic College Sale.

Eight students took part in a seven day immersion 80 kms along a dusty road south east of Alice Springs to Santa Teresa.

Also known as Ltyentye Apurte, it is the land of the Arrernte People, an Aboriginal Community of around 500 people with a strong Marist Brothers presence.

The experience was an immersion - quite different from a tourist visit. Each student gained an insight and an appreciation for the harshness of life and conditions in outback Australia.



The CCS students were involved in a school based program in which each student was allocated a local indigenous student to tutor throughout the week, a program which turned out to be very successful for all. The students also had the opportunity to work at the Santa Teresa Community Women's Centre, where they cooked for the local 'meals on wheels' service and delivered the packages to the Elders of the community.

The Catholic College Sale students have returned with a refreshed appreciation for their own lives and a renewed perspective on their education and future. 'Thank you' to Santa Teresa.



The REMAR team recently travelled to Alice Springs to conduct the Blue and Red Caravel Retreats at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College with Year 10 and Year 11 students.



Rowers from the Blue Caravel

Grow and learn are the two words would describe my experience on Blue Retreat. We all walking in with hopes and obstacles both similar and different in their own ways, and yet, through the journey of this weekend we have all grown together. It's an amazing thing to be able to sit down and honestly talk about discipleship with other people without any inhibitions.

Jennifer, Blue Rower
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Alice Springs



Red Caravel group

God invented human curiosity so that we would use questions, who is God? What does God look like? Our curiosity and persistence to find answers is what drives us. If we were in a racing car, our navigator would be God, we would be the driver and life is the life. God is with you when your lost, when the car is broken, when you can't see, when you crash, he crashes with us. Because God loves us, we are his beautiful creation and he cherishes us as he cherishes him.

A truly memorable and insightful experience.

Alex, Blue Rower
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Alice Springs