



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

4th September 2012

Dear Members of the Marist Family

Recently I learnt that I was eccentric.

Social commentator Hugh Mackay revealed this to me. During a radio interview, he described people such as I who read morning broadsheets to be, statistically at least, an eccentric minority of the Australian population. Most people didn't get their news that way, and it seems that almost no-one under the age of forty-five reads a newspaper at all.

But circumstances are forcing me out of my eccentricity. The newsagent who is supposed to throw *The Age* over our front fence in the mists of pre-dawn seems to have mislaid our address, a turn of events which has caused me to seek the company of my iPad for tea, toast and porridge. (Are tea, toast and porridge eccentric as well? I suspect they are.) But now, I can read all the papers I want. I can even do the Sudoku on it. Or, for a little variety I can call up some other online news source. Or even simply watch it streamed on ABC24, or do catch-up TV on iView. Or, for more variety, look at Al Jazeera live, go over the Mass readings of the day, look up a recipe for dinner, and check the ladder in our office footy-tipping competition. Less and less eccentric as each day goes by.

The brave new digital world into which we are thrust can certainly be cluttered, even chaotic and anarchic. It can also be often amoral. The world in which and for which we are educating young people is one that has less moral fabric than perhaps any time in history. Revolutionary times are like that. The industrial revolution, during which first and second generation of Marists gave definition to the Marist project, was such a time. For those founding Marists, it was not all about teaching young children in little village schools. Marcellin himself considered taking on works as varied as city orphanages, agricultural trade training for former soldiers, and a project for disengaged youth in the growing urban fringe of Paris. In each, he was dealing with young people who were casualties in one way or another of a society that was changing at a pace for which it wasn't yet geared.

What they offered those nineteenth century French youth was the same as we present to young Australians two centuries later: a sense of their own worth, an experience of the God who loves them, and means to engage their world with hope and with purpose and with compassion. The digital revolution has changed much not only about how information and communication is accessed and used, but so much else about global finance, employment, business, entertainment, careers, and the defining of value and meaning. It is change that grows exponentially. We all have experience of that, and our students even more so. They are digital natives, after all. It is their home territory.

It is in our Marian DNA as Marists that we intuitively go into the territory of the young, because it's where they are. That means digital territory. Teachers and school administrators are doing that with great energy and imagination. But let's always remember that, while we engage it, we have a deeper reason for being there.

A reason that's not eccentric at all.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

24 Sep	MLF Team Meeting - Montagne Centre	•	12 Sep	MSALT Meeting - Montagne Centre, MEL
5-8 Sep	Contemplative Retreat - Mittagong	•	13 Sep	MLF Team Meeting - Bulleen
5 Sep	Gippsland Evangelisation in the RE Clsroom - Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon	•	16-19 Sep	Footsteps #04 - Mittagong
6 Sep	RE Teacher Teams. Evangelisation follow-up - Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon	•	19 Sep	Montagne Centre Staff Formation Day - Montagne Centre - Melb
6 Sep	Spirituality & Leadership II - Middle Mngrs - Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon	•	20 Sep	SHC Staff Retreat - Somerton Park
6 Sep	Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth Workshop -Rosalie	•	21 Sep	SFX Mass - SFX, Hamilton
7 Sep	MSA Regional Council Meeting - Brisbane and Drummoyn	•	21 Sep	Full Staff Day - Kogarah
10 Sep	Canberra Spirituality Session - Canberra	•	28 Sep	Province Mission Council Meeting - St Josephs College
10 Sep	RE Staff (Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth) - Canberra	•	9-13 Oct	Marist Higher Education Conference - Mexico
11 Sep	Marist Leadership: Next Gen I (s2) (SYD)	•	9-18 Oct	BOL
		•	10 Oct	Twilight Retreat - St Michael's Daceyville
		•	17 Oct	Marist Leadership: Next Gen I (s3) (SYD)
		•	18 Oct	Workshop: Simplicity - Mitchelton
		•	21-24 Oct	Footsteps #05 - Mittagong

Year 12 students (Gold Rowers) gathered from across the country to draw their Remar journey to a close. See page 4 for the full article.



MISSION ASSEMBLY

The Letter from the Participants of the recent Mission Assembly at Mittagong, and its recommendations, can be accessed on the MSA site by copying and pasting the link below into your web browser:

<http://www.msa.edu.au/storage/general/News%20from%20the%20Mission%20Assembly%20%20Sept%202012.pdf>

A number of schools have already used these documents as the subject of staff meetings.

AUSTRALIAN MARIST BASKETBALL CARNIVAL

All schools which have registered for next year's Australian Marist Basketball Carnival, which will be held in Alice Springs, should have received confirmation and the first newsletter from the convenor, Brother Matthew Green at OLSH College. If you haven't, please contact Brother Matthew: Br.Matthew@nt.catholic.edu.au

VACANCIES WITH AUSTRALIAN MARIST VOLUNTEERS



Australian Marist Volunteers currently have the following vacancies:

- *Building Supervisor for Vanga Point
- *Volunteer Science Teacher for Mabiri in 2013
- *'Short -Term Volunteers' for the Solidarity with South Sudan project

If you would like to know more about these positions, please visit the MSA website, www.msa.edu.au for full details for each of these vacancies.

Lavalla Catholic College

Catholic Educators

Ready to lead?

Career Opportunities 2013

**Campus Director
(Deputy Principal)**

Kildare Campus Years 10-12

Director of Faith and Mission

[www.lavalla.vic.edu.au/
employment](http://www.lavalla.vic.edu.au/employment)

Enquiries to Principal's PA
03 5174 5272

SCHOOLS WITH SOUL

Red Bend Catholic College enjoyed a wintery staff spiritual formation day on Friday 17th August at the delightful 'Eat Your Greens' Conference Centre in Eugowra, twenty minutes east of Forbes. The theme 'Schools With Soul' was the backdrop for encouraging all Forbes Marists, Brothers and Lay, in their personal spiritual journey in our contemporary world which could be described as having globalised a culture of superficiality.



*Stephanie Cleary, Kellie Mitton and Heather Horsington
(Red Bend catholic College Forbes, NSW)*



Karli Lancaster (Marist College Ashgrove, QLD), Alison Iwanowitsch (Sacred Heart College Adelaide, SA), and Angela Bottari, (Marcellin College Bulleen, VIC)

FOOTSTEPS I: SUNDAY 19TH – WEDNESDAY 22ND AUGUST

The third of five programs for 2012 saw 28 participants enjoy unseasonably warm days and an even warmer welcome as they participated in the process which has been appreciated by well over 3,000 people across Australia in the last twenty years. During the days participants spoke passionately to the team and each other of their renewed energy for 'making Jesus Christ known and loved' in our Marist way.

BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE MARIST WAY

On Friday 24th August staff from Marcellin College Bulleen gathered for their annual staff spiritual formation day at the Treacy Centre in Parkville, Melbourne. Elements of day included an exploration of some letters of St Marcellin and wisdom from 'The Teacher's Guide' as well as 'Water from the Rock'. The new staff charter was also considered and integrated into the process of what was a very enjoyable day culminating in mass and dinner together.



*Mark Asmore and David Brick
(Marcellin College Bulleen)*

LIVING CHAMPAGNAT'S VISION: SUNDAY 26TH – WEDNESDAY 29TH AUGUST



Janelle Doohan (Mt Maria College Petrie, Qld) and Jenny Burke (Province Centre, Templestowe)

This highly anticipated annual event saw a group of twenty retreat to the spiritual centre of the country to engage in Marist mission to the community of Alice Springs and the indigenous people of Santa Teresa as well as taking 'time out' personally for spiritual renewal. It was a powerful experience of land, culture and people. One participant said: "My sense of being a Lay Marist has been set in concrete as a result of the Living Champagnat's Vision experience. To experience the work being done in the Northern Territory at the present and dream about the future works of Champagnat has given me a renewed sense of mission out here and back in my place."



Last week, Marist Solidarity Project Officer, Christian Nobleza, visited Trinity College Beenleigh in Brisbane's south to find out more about their "Jams for Justice" that they have been holding across this school term in support of Marist Solidarity.

This new initiative was introduced by the student leaders of the College this year, whereby students are given the opportunity to showcase their musical talents, as well as promote awareness about, and raise money for the solidarity efforts of Marists in the region. Social Justice Prefect, James Morrison, said that, "the lunchtime series of events this term have proven a popular way of bringing the community together around an important cause."

The students were enthused when Christian informed them that Marist Solidarity is actually supporting a hip-hop band in East Timor which is promoting peace and justice in a similar way through music.



REMAR

190 GATHER FOR THEIR FINAL REMAR CAMP

Our Year 12 students (Gold Rowers) gathered from across the country to draw their Remar journey to a close. It was truly a celebration of all they have experienced and achieved during the past three years, and a fitting way to discover ways in which they might continue to be Christian leaders, post school.



Gold Retreat has truly been an amazing experience. Ever since Red Leadership I have been looking forward to this and it has

certainly not disappointed! The Retreat focused on us Rowers finding our callings in life and all the different aspects of this. All the drama by the Remar Ministry Team was emotional and even hilarious at times. This Camp has reunited me with so many great friends and has helped me to see my future much more clearly. My faith has also grown. I will cherish these memories forever.

Asleigh, Gold Rower, St Patricks College Launceston.

Remar Gold Retreat was an enjoyable weekend that gave me outlooks for life after Remar and high school. As usual it was great catching up old friends and making new friends in our small groups and dorms. Saturday night reflection was a highlight of the Retreat; being able to reflect on the past and future and being able to leave stresses of year 12 at home. Thankyou to Simone and the Remar Ministry Team for doing a terrific job and to all our Helms for their constant support.



Sam, Gold Rower, Marcellin College Bulleen.