



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

15 November 2011

Dear Members of the Marist Family

It's a curious, ironic and regrettable phenomenon, what has come to be called "schoolies". Curious because its hedonism and indulgence contradict so much of the value-base that parents and schools have been diligently nurturing in students for all their lives; ironic because it is typically juxtaposed to meaning-laden and uplifting graduation liturgies and rituals (often as closely the day before!); and regrettable because it does not have to happen. But for the rest of this month, it's all on again, folks!

Tempting though it might be for us to take a benign view of this hyped school-leavers' party week – to believe that it is all going to be like a PG-rated "Spring break" movie, and that really it's only kids having some well-deserved and mainly innocent fun – to do so would be at least naïve, if not negligent. Yes, some people are reluctant to throw a wet blanket over what they judge to be the kind of legitimate hijinx that teenagers innocently get up to, and they may even feel a twinge of hypocrisy in doing so when they recall some of their own adolescent antics. Naïve. Negligent.

The various events around the country (and in other places such as Bali and on cruise ships) are fuelled from a number of sources: from tourist operators out to make a quick buck; from smart marketing to an easily targeted and exploited group; from media outlets given to prurient and populist reporting; from peer pressure and the need that younger people feel to do whatever their conventional wisdom judges to be "cool"; and of course from the natural human desire to ritualise and to celebrate. Most media coverage will centre, as usual, on the Gold Coast, and the images are likely to be ugly.

The fact that it occurs diminishes us all, not least we who have the role of educators within our Australian society, and even more so in Catholic schools where in other contexts we slip so easily into rhetoric about bringing about the reign of God in the minds and hearts of young people.

Adults' responses range from exasperated surrender at one end of the spectrum, through damage management (such as the 'Red Frogs'), to the promotion of positive alternative at the other end. They tend to bunch around surrender and/or management. While that is understandable, we may do well to ask if we could do more. Relatively few people or schools are doing much by way of encouraging students to consider positive alternatives. But there are some inspirational exceptions, including in a number of our Marist schools. Wonderful!

It is worth remembering that while tens of thousands of school leavers plunge recklessly into the deep-end of the schoolies events, statistically most do not. Many, perhaps most, opt for something quieter or more personal, or are unable to do so because of other commitments. Then, there are the group of young people who embrace something different altogether. The 'alternative schoolies' events and projects, often centred around solidarity and outreach experiences, are growing. Yes, they do take some effort and resources at a time of year when these are most stretched, and at a point when teachers might reasonably want to say that their responsibilities with Year 12s are done, but it is so encouraging to see.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP.....

Wed 16 Nov	•	Marist Leadership Program – Succession Planning I
Tue 22 – Sun 27 Nov	•	Shared Formation Experience
27 - 29 Nov	•	Student Leaders' Gatherings (The Hermitage Mittagong and Amberley Centre)
Sat 26 Nov	•	Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner - Brisbane
Sat 3 Dec	•	Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner - Melbourne
Mon 5 Dec	•	MLF Team planning day
Tue 6 Dec	•	MSA Leadership Team meeting
Thur 15 Dec	•	MSA Principals' Dinner - Sydney

MARIST APPOINTMENTS FOR 2012

Two appointments have been made recently for next year:

Len Cooke will be the Assistant Remar Coordinator during 2012. Len is the Remar Coordinator at St Francis Xavier's College Beaconsfield – one of many roles he has held at that school. Len will have a particular responsibility to work with Simone Boyd to assist in the growth of Remar, and to work with schools who are looking to introduce the program.

Mario Frazzetto will be the new MYAM (Marist Youth and Young Adult Ministry) Coordinator for Melbourne. Mario is presently on the staff at Marcellin where he has held the positions of Ministry Coordinator and Remar Coordinator.

Both men will be based at the Montagne Centre in Melbourne next year.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY PROJECT

Marist Schools Australia has initiated a joint research project with the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium (KUL) to develop a Marist-specific scale for the Catholic Identity Project. Many member schools would have some familiarity with this ground-breaking international project through their own dioceses. The Marists will be the first group to develop a way of measuring some charism-specific elements within the broader analysis of a school's Catholicity. Brother Peter Pemble will be taking a lead role in this, as the focus of his master's research at KUL within the Faculty of Theology, and working directly with Professor Didier Pollefeyt, the Dean of the Faculty and project coordinator. Peter will be in contact with Principals in the next fortnight to consult them on the development of this scale.

Prayers Please....

Let us remember in our prayer these people who have died recently and the Marist communities that mourn them:

- Patrick Causer, Year 11 student, John Therry High School Rosemeadow, who died unexpectedly in his sleep last week.
- Karen Grady, mother of Luke (Year 9, RBCC Forbes), who was tragically killed in a car accident last week.
- Pat Dwyer, the father of Steve (Deputy Principal, RBCC Forbes) died this morning following an operation last week.

MSA LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETS IN MELBOURNE

The MSA Leadership Team – Brother Michael, Peter McNamara, Brother Robert, Tony Clarke and Paul Herrick – had its sixth in-person meeting for 2012 at the Montage Centre on Friday. In between these longer meetings, members of the team catch up by telephone or videolink on a weekly basis. Topics covered in the day-long meeting included: reviews of some 2012 initiatives (school visits; working of regional offices; course accreditation; Regional Councils; policy development); Marist formation programmes for 2012, especially the new *Footsteps* programme; online registration and payment for Marist formation courses; specific matters in each Region and with individual schools and dioceses; interface with MAPS in 2012; budgeting for 2012; Regional Councils' recommendations; next year's conferences – the Principals' Conference and the Evangelisation Conference; the 2013 MSA Conference; the 2013 pilgrimage; deployment of formation team members in 2012-13; EB progress in the various States; student leaders' gatherings 2012; structures and governance in the new Australian Province; MSA involvement in the Catholic Identity Project.

ONLINE REGISTRATION: A DELAY



We have experienced some difficulties in the development of an efficient and effective system for online registration for next year's Marist programmes. We had hoped to have this operational before the end of this year, but we have decided to delay the start-date until next year rather than start now with something that still has a

few inadequacies. The organising of a method of payment that is mutually acceptable to both us and to our bank is currently a stumbling block.

Therefore ***we will continue with paper registrations for the time being.*** Schools will receive this week a letter and form to register for next year's programmes.

PLANNING FOR 2012 EVANGELISATION CONFERENCE

Last Thursday the Planning Committee for next year's MSA conference – Youth Evangelisation: the Marist Way – had its first meeting. This followed a videoconference last term of a reference group which set the broad parameters for the conference, and an email-survey of Principals regarding to seek their preferences on the location and size of the conference. The committee began detailed planning. Chaired by Brother Michael Callinan, the committee includes James Mazzolini (Marist-Sion College, Warragul), Marian Butler (Marist College, Penshurst), Cassie Schumacher (university student, Adelaide, and old scholar of Sacred Heart College), Brother Michael Green, Simone Boyd, Brother Michael Akers, and Tony Clarke.



MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED

On Thursday 3rd November planning continued for the new national formation program Footsteps – Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved. Gail Coates (Marcellin College, Bulleen), Alannah Darmody (Catholic College Bendigo), Julia Lederwasch (St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton) and Br Michael Herry (Marist Music) joined the MLF team in preparing this exciting program that will offer staff in schools the opportunity of a contemporary formation experience focused on Marist mission, identity, pedagogy, charism and spirituality. All Footsteps – Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved programs will be held at The Hermitage, Mittagong, in 2012.



Pictured: (Back) Br Michael Callinan, Gail Coates, Br Michael Flanagan, Alannah Darmody, Julia Lederwash, Carole Wark, Br Michael Akers. (Front) Tony Clarke, Br Peter Walsh, Br Michael Herry, Br Mark Paul



MAPS Moves On

It must be the fastest restructuring exercise in Marist History! It was only in January of this year that MAPS was reconstructed as a single agency encompassing the work the two provinces in Australia. This was done in anticipation of the creation of the new province – we were trying to be leaders not followers!!

You will remember the basics: two co-directors; offices based at Lavalla Centre in Brisbane; administrative capacity centred in one place; an expanded field of operation.



Brother Chris Wills moving to Secretariat for International Collaboration for Mission

Now Chris Wills has been appointed to lead the Secretariat for International Collaboration in Mission based at the General House in Rome. This is a new secretariat answering the call of the XX1st General Chapter and it joins the existing secretariats of Laity, Brothers, Mission and Solidarity. International collaboration for mission can have many outcomes but Chris will be working on 'recruiting' lay and brother Marists to join international Marist communities in places where there is a need among young people and children including Asia Mission ad Gentes. It is a continuing work of solidarity.

You can expect to hear from Chris. Where might you want to join in Le Projet Maristes at the international level? Possibly not now - but maybe sometime in your future.

The loss of one FTE at the MAPS office will mean the second restructuring in one year. Al Sherry will take on the role of director and Paula McLoughlin and Christian Nobleza will continue in part time support capacity. There will obviously be some gaps and they will become more apparent as the year progresses. People will step up to the plate for a time then the gaps will be filled.



Red Leadership Camps



The second Red Leadership Camp was held from October 28-30 and saw a group of Year 10 students gather who were equally as enthusiastic as the gathering the previous weekend.



"Attending Red Leadership Camp was an amazing experience, not only for myself but for the rest of our Caravel too. What surprised me most, was how many students from across Australia from different life background and journeys have all come together for the same reason. It was a really great feeling knowing that. The weekend consisted of getting to know each other, ourselves, developing stronger leadership skills and finding our own personal faith. The highlight of the camp was getting to know everybody from different Caravels, developing friendships and gaining more leadership skills. Being in Remar is an experience like no other."

James, Red Rower, Notre Dame College, Shepparton.

