



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

18 October 2011

Dear Members of the Marist Family

Even in deep Melbourne, a game of rugby was the cause of the normal evening prayer time of our community being abandoned. We are usually quite faithful to our Sunday evening pre-dinner 'holy half-hour' in front of the Blessed Sacrament, so the desertion of our spiritual duties was not done lightly. This was not just any game, of course; the Wallabies were taking on the All Blacks in the semi-final in the Rugby World Cup. National pride on the line, and all that. Code rivalry laid aside. One confrere had organised to supply each of the rest of us with little Aussie flags to wave as all the Australian tries were scored, and a large ensign was draped on the wall. We even had pies and sauce. All was set.

We'll get over it. In time.

It is a good thing to have hopes and dreams, and ones that are even more important than desperately wanting our footy team to win. For us who spend our lives in the Christian the education of young people, the sowing of hope is the stuff of what we do. At this time of year, in particular, when graduation ceremonies and end-of-year rituals take place in our schools, there is a heightened experience of this. At the end of last term, most of our New South Wales colleagues celebrated the graduation of Year 12, and during Term 4 those in other parts of the country will do the same. They are typically wonderful events, moving events, richly celebrated, as they deserve to be. Teachers, parents, and of course the graduating students themselves have all invested much in getting to this moment.

The work of the teacher is a noble one. I expect that next week in most schools, when World Teachers' Day rolls around again, this will be appropriately marked and honoured. As teachers, we are in the business of opening up for young people reason and means for them to aspire to be all they can be, and for them to become members of society who are critically aware, responsibly engaged, and compassionately committed. Yes, there is certainly nobility in that. But we who are Christian educators have the additional privilege of sharing with our students a vision and a belief that takes them beyond tangible horizons. The seeds of hope that we are called to sow in them offer something beyond their imaginings. We offer them a way of living based on faith, on hope, and on love. Our graced Marist way of doing that, the way we have learnt from St Marcellin and the generations of Marists before us, is to inspire in them a Marian spirit, a Magnificat spirit.

The deepness of the furrows in the brow of Graham Henry, coach of the All Blacks, and the floridness of his complexion, suggest that winning last Sunday evening meant a great deal to him and that it was the fruit of much effort and personal investment on his part. We don't need to burst any facial capillaries in achieving what we set out to do this term, but let us be mindful that there is a lot more at stake than a gilded cup.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP.....

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| Tue 18 Oct | • Marist Succession Planning 1 (Auburn) |
| Wed 19 Oct | • Province Mission Council Meeting |
| Sun 23 – Wed 26 Oct | • Sharing Our Call 1 (Mittagong) |
| Oct /Nov | • Marist Triple Treat Program (MYC) |
| Wed 2 Nov | • MSA Regional Council Meeting - Brisbane |
| Fri 4 Nov | • MSA Regional Council Meeting - Sydney |
| Tue 8 - Wed 9 Nov | • Oceania Council Meeting |
| Fri 11 Nov | • MLF Team Meeting |
| Wed 16 Nov | • Marist Leadership Program – Succession Planning I |
| Tue 22 – Sun 27 Nov | • Shared Formation Experience |
| Sat 26 Nov | • Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner - Brisbane |
| Sat 3 Dec | • Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner - Melbourne |
| Thur 15 Dec | • MSA Principals' Dinner - Sydney |

VISIT OF BROTHER JOHN KLEIN CG



A member of the Marist Brothers General Council, Brother John Klein, was able to visit a number of schools in Sydney and Brisbane during the first two weeks of their terms. Brother John, a native New Yorker and highly experienced educationalist, was very keen to get an insight into Marist education in this country. He was most impressed with what he saw. Thanks to Principals and staff at St Peter Claver College Riverview, Trinity College Beenleigh, Marist College Ashgrove, Mount Maria College Mitchelton, St Gregory's College Campbelltown, Parramatta Marist High, Marcellin College Randwick, Marist College Kogarah and St Joseph's College Hunters Hill for hosting these short visits. Brother John is already planning his next visit to Australia to see a lot more of Marist education here!

Pictured Above: Ross Tarlinton (Headmaster), Br John, Br Michael and Br Anthony Boyd (Deputy Headmaster) following a College Assembly at St Joseph's

NEW PROVINCE CONSULTATION

A group of just over thirty Marists from around Australia gathered at Marist College Pagewood last Friday for a consultation day on how matters are progressing towards the new Australian Marist Province. The thirty people included members of the two Provincial Councils, Brother John Klein CG, chairs of each of the various national committees and task forces that are working on the agenda of the new Province, and leaders of the key areas of ministry in the existing two Provinces. A proposed organisational map for the Australian Province was proposed, discussed and supported. Following the day, the two Provincial Councils travelled to Mittagong for a two-day planning meeting facilitated by Brother John. Quite significant progress has now been made, all working towards the formal inauguration of the new Province which will take place in Sydney on 8 December next year.

2012 PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS BROCHURE



Regional Directors are sending to schools copies of a brochure which outlines the various programmes and events open to member schools of MSA next year. These brochures are providing a helpful focus for Principals to discuss during this term their schools' participation in things in 2012. Thanks to Regional Directors and to the MLF team for all the work that is going into the planning of 2012. There is much on and quite a few changes. The theme for 2012 – which will be resourced by the MLF team for events such as Commencement Mass and Champagnat Day – is also introduced in the brochure.

LAVALLA



The third issue for Lavalla should have been received in schools a couple of weeks ago. Congratulations to Brother Tony Paterson for editing and publishing each of the three editions our staff journal for 2012, and thanks to all who have contributed material. The journal continues to be an important way in which we can share with each other what is happening in different schools, and so build up our sense of association with each other as Australian Marist educators. If you have any suggestions for the format and inclusions in Lavalla for 2013, they would be gratefully received. Please send your ideas to Brother Tony: tony.paterson@msa.edu.au

2012 MSA DIRECTORY

During this term, Mira Fraser will be compiling the 2012 MSA Directory. She has been in contact with schools for updated information. As any new appointments for next year are made in schools or any other information in the current directory is updated, Mira would appreciate the news. She will send out draft of each school's page for it to check before the end of the term.

CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT AT MITTAGONG

PRAYING WITH MARY, KEEPER OF THE SILENCE



From 7th -10th September, twenty Marists gathered at Mittagong to spend time in contemplation with Mary, Keeper of the Silence. The retreat, conducted by the Marist Mission and Life Formation Team, is an annual opportunity for busy teachers and others to take some time to slow down and grow closer to God in a Marian way. The team consisting of Br Tony Shears, Novice Master, Br Bill Tarrant, Fr Kevin Tuitu'u, Sr Sue Hallams and Carole Wark, provided opportunities for input, accompaniment and silence.

Following optional morning Tai Chi on the first day, there

were two sessions on "Mary and Silence" and "Mary, Teach us to Pray" with spiritual direction being available for those who wished it. The session on day two was "Contemplative Living with Mary."

As well as morning and evening prayer, meditation and Eucharist was provided each day.

Comments from participants included the following:

- Extremely positive. Great location with a very prayerful, yet sufficiently engaging, program.
- Restful. Renewing. Falling more deeply in love with Mary (and Marcellin and my faith!). Rewarding.
- Just what I needed. A time to re-engage with the listening dimension of life and prayer and the need to be more faithful and to be present to the presence of God in prayer and in all of life.
- My busy life was pulling me in many directions with the result that I was feeling mentally, physically and emotionally drained. The retreat was the spiritual nourishment that I didn't know I'd been craving. I have come away with tools that I can use to help me function in my everyday life.
- I really appreciate the 'Marist way', the beauty of simplicity – especially in the morning and night prayers. I find the 'silence' really gave me time to think and reflect. Of course, the surroundings too were conducive for reflection.

Brother Peter Walsh



Top Photograph:

The 2012 team is Br Anthony Shears, Michelle Vass (Marist College Canberra), Carole Wark, Sr Sue Hallams, Fr Kevin Tuitu'u, Br Bill Tarrant

Bottom Photograph:

Participants L to R: Br Peter Walsh, Helen Peters, Sr Sue Hallams, Maria Meagher, Fr Kevin Tuitu'u, Gabrielle Nulley, Kerry-Anne Kwong, Michael Young, Agnes Sivaram, Teresa Bauer, Patrick Fitzgerald, Frank Callinan, Helen Petre, Cathie Clarke, Carole Wark, Mark Gliddon, Raymond Russo, Michelle Vass, Jean Lendon, Br Antony Shears, Br Bill Tarrant.

Marist Staff Immersion Experience



During the recent school holidays seven staff members from MSA schools across the

country joined Br Michael Callinan from the Mission and Life Formation Team on an Immersion Experience to Papua New Guinea and Bougainville. One of the main aims of the time with our Marist friends was for the Australian and Papua New Guinean teachers to share something of their mission as Marists with each other. Aside from meeting students and staff at St Joseph's College Mabiri in Central Bougainville, we were engaged in workshops which considered the vocation of the Marist teacher as well as best practice in outcomes-based education in several locations. We also spent time visiting Project Sankamap in the town of Arawa and the Bougainville Copper Limited mine at Panguna. Our experience was bookended with a fantastic welcome and thorough debrief at the District of Melanesia Administration Centre and Community in Port Moresby. The Australian teachers have all expressed a desire to remain strongly connected with the people and ministry of Marists in Bougainville. Watch out for for a full article and photographic spread in the first edition of Lavalla Magazine for 2012.



Front: Br Michael Callinan (MLF Team), Rachel Thompson (Marcellin College, Randwick), Fraix Marrinon (St Joseph's Primary School, Murgon)

Back: Karina Stambouliah (St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill), Alison Bowness (St Thomas More Primary School, Sunshine Beach), Nicole Arathoon (John Berne School, Lewisham), Matt Capp (Mt Maria College, Mitchelton), Liliane Cooley (Marist College Penshurst)



REMAR

18 Remar graduates submitted their applications to be a part of the Remar Ministry Team in 2012. This is a very positive sign for both the Remar movement and also the wider Marist world.



The level of interest is a true testament to the young people who have previously said 'yes' to being on team. The witness they provide is an inspiration, to young people and adults alike. They bring the Marist charism to life for young people today, and show the essence of what it is to a disciple of Christ.



The choice of the final five proved to be very challenging. The successful applicants have just been announced. They are:

- Jack Stammers
- Cassie Gawley
- Aaron Crowe
- Chris Walsh
- Gabi Fulton