



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

21 May 2013

Dear Brothers, colleagues and friends

Anyone who works with teenage boys and young men – or who have been such themselves – know two things that guys need to have affirmed in their lives: they need to be seen as ‘cool’, and they need to win, to be successful. It’s a male thing. Men (and not only younger ones) will typically seek to avoid anything that sees them not accepted by the people whose positive judgements they seek; and they will run a mile from any risk of failure or looking stupid. We educators of boys know that this is deep in them and try to shape our strategies for teaching, and the kind of culture we create in schools, in ways that tap positively into this male disposition, so that boys can be engaged, inspired and indeed affirmed.

We usually do that well. Sometimes, though, we don’t. One touchstone for how we are doing is the way we do sport. The present controversies around performance enhancing drugs bring this into sharper focus.

In what now seems a rather quaint term, it used to be common enough in some private boys’ schools that there was a ‘Master-in-charge of Games’. Not a ‘Director of Sport’ or ‘Head Coach’ but someone who had the more innocent responsibility to organise ‘games’. How far we have come!

Like many who would be reading this, I too have been involved in coaching and in inter-school sport where the expectations were high, and where people felt that there was a lot more than sheep-stations riding on next Saturday’s result. Properly managed, that can be made to work well, particularly when school-level coaches see themselves primarily as teachers, when they regard the sports field or the court as a classroom, when they have a sense of the opportunity they have for instilling values, and attitudes, and teaching worthy life-lessons. And where they don’t lose their perspective.

There is a helpful Marist lens for assessing how a school may be going in this area: the three violets – simplicity, modesty and humility. Simplicity is about genuineness and lack of pretence. How much does an attitude of simplicity contrast with the image of the ‘buffed’ and ‘ripped’ sportsman who tries to turn himself into a make-believe Adonis. Modesty is about not seeking to impose, not to be ‘in the face’ of another, to be polite in the best sense of that word, and to be as in the old language of sportsmanship ‘humble in victory and gracious in defeat’. Humility is about being grounded, about living in the real world, about eschewing arrogance or presumption.

Some of the first French Brothers to come to this country had difficulty adjusting to the Australian boys’ obsession with contact sport such as football – particularly with what they saw as the ugly side of it. In Sydney they nicknamed rugby as “ruggedby”, and tried to encourage the lads to play football by the ‘Australian rules’ rather than the ‘Rugby rules’. It offended what they saw as the essential Marist spirit. What would they have made of today’s boys going down to the shop for powdered protein or other supplements – let alone peptides or steroids being peddled on the quiet, or an unhealthy gym-culture that can insidiously take root among young men. But these early Marist pioneers came to accommodate sport and indeed to appreciate the value and opportunity that games offered in the Australian context. If they were around today, perhaps they might be chiding modern day educators on how they were shaping what was ‘cool’ in the culture of their schools, and how they were defining success. And reminding them gently that before all else they were teachers.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

23-24 May MSA Regional Council Meeting (Melbourne)
 24 May MSA Regional Council Meeting (Sydney)
 6 June Feast of Saint Marcellin
 7 June iBelieve Programme/Australian Marist
 Community, St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill
 10 June Queen's Birthday, Public Holiday
 11 June Mission Council Meeting, Marist Centre Melbourne
 16-20 June Footsteps # 1, Mittagong

23 June Marist Brothers' Jubilee Celebrations, Brisbane
 27 June iBelieve Programme, Leeton
 28 June iBelieve Programme, St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas
 29 June Marist Brothers' Jubilee Celebrations, Sydney
 4 July Staff Retreat Day, Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park
 7 July Marist Brothers' Jubilee Celebrations, Melbourne
 11 July iBelieve, St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville

MARIST IMMERSION WORKSHOP

4-6 AUGUST 2013

REGISTER NOW

This live-in workshop is for school immersion leaders and staff team members. It will facilitate processes for sharing of immersion experience on preparation, deepening the participant experience in-country, debriefing, organisation and risk management. It will also introduce new school leaders to immersions. The workshop provides an opportunity for a critical examination of models of immersions and feedback and expectations from receiving communities. There will also be input on Marist Volunteers Australia and Gap Year opportunities. These workshops will be conducted by Marist Solidarity in collaboration with team members from Marist Schools Australia and the Mission & Life Formation Team. As available places in both programs are limited, participants who express their interest first will be given priority. Registrations forms can be downloaded [here](#). For further information about these programs please contact Helen Quirk E: helen.quirk@marists.org.au T: 07 3512 9800



Professional Development
in 2013

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING AT PARRAMATTA MARIST HIGH

In November 2013 Parramatta Marist High school will be hosting a three day Conference run by the Buck Institute for Education (<http://www.bie.org>), one of the forerunners in Project Based Learning in Education. This conference is open to both Primary and Secondary educators and will run from 13-15 November. This will be a hands on conference with workshops run by international presenters so numbers are limited. The keynote speaker is Larry Rosenstock, founding Principal of High Tech High School in San Diego, California <http://www.hightechhigh.org>. For further details and to register please visit: <http://www.pblaustralia.com>.

A recent visit from the President of the United States to a school that is part of the New Tech Network was an affirmation of the innovative approach to education being carried out in New Tech Schools, including Parramatta Marist.

White House Video: <http://youtu.be/Vx4vC6-7qis>

MARIST SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE: DR PAUL SHARKEY



Dr Paul Sharkey is a presenter at this year's Marist Schools' Conference, to be held from 28-31 July this year, in Cairns. Paul is the Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Adelaide and Executive Officer of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools. He has completed postgraduate programs in theology, education, program evaluation and educational leadership and management. While Paul recognizes that Catholic schools are confronted with challenging identity issues, he enjoys the privilege of working with colleagues in mission for the sake of the Gospel. He is an engaging speaker with a clear understanding of the challenges facing educators in Australian Catholic schools today.

The full conference program and registration form are available via: <http://www.msa.edu.au/conferencesevents/>

STUDENTS FOCUS ON THREE KEY QUESTIONS AT VOCATIONS FORUM

Seventy Year 12 students from twenty Marist schools across QLD, NSW and ACT gathered recently to explore the topic of vocation and learn more about making choices in life. At two events conducted by the Marist Vocations team, in partnership with the Marist Youth Ministry teams from Brisbane and Sydney, students looked at three key questions relevant to discerning a vocation: "What gives me Joy?"; "What am I good at?"; "What does the world need me to do?" During the Forum, students also engaged in a Q&A session with a panel representing the vocations of Married Life, Religious Brothers and Sisters, Priesthood and Young Lay Marist life. Each person shared how they came to discern their vocation and the importance of having good mentors who walked with, and supported them in their discernment.

Br Greg, Director of Vocations for the Marist Brothers, spoke of the positive response from students to the Forum. "It's terrific to see the way the students connect with each other from their Marist various schools, but just as important, the questions they're asking about making positive life choices. We've got a lot of generous young people seeking to make a difference in our society and church. The best thing we can do is give them tools to discern how best to use their gifts for others".

In 2013, the Vocations Team will be offering similar forums to students in Victoria, commencing with a Justice Forum for Year 11 students in October.



Students from QLD at the Yr 12 Vocations Forum at the Lavalla Centre

iBELIEVE GOES WEST ... NEWMAN COLLEGE, WA

On the first day of this term, staff at Newman College WA gathered to reflect on the Church's "Year of Faith" and what it might mean for the College community. Being a Marist School, the Mission and Life Formation Team was invited to lead the morning. Keynote presenter, Br Tony Leon led staff in a reflection of our contemporary society from a faith perspective. This enabled staff to reflect on goals the College community might set out to achieve from a faith perspective.



MARIST LEADERS: NEXT GEN I MELBOURNE

Fourteen participants from Perth, Forbes, Sale, Wangaratta, Kilmore, Warragul and Shepparton took part in the Next Generation 1 programme at the Marist Centre Melbourne on Friday, 17th May. The programme focused on some of the agenda that leaders for the next twenty years will need to address and this was placed in the context of our Marist identity. Paul Herrick, Br Mark Paul and Br Tony Paterson led the programme. Our gratitude to all who participated in this important process as we consider the leadership of our Marist schools into the future.



MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA PRIMARY COLLOQUIUM

The Marist Schools Australia Primary Colloquium was generously and graciously hosted by Marist College Canberra Junior School from 8-10 May 2013. Participants travelled from our schools at OLSH Alice Springs, Murgon, Sunshine Beach, Daceyville and Ashgrove. The program included keynotes by Daniel Ang and Br Peter Carroll and a range of workshops on iconography, faith in action and Christian meditation for children delivered by the CEO team from the Townsville Diocese.

Reflection from Cathy Kiernan, St Thomas More Primary, Sunshine Beach:

I feel privileged to feel a part of the Marist community. I really enjoyed sharing time with other primary teachers from this community. Primary and Secondary schooling is very different and it was good to have time to address the issues that relate to Primary. I appreciated the opportunity to spend time in a different environment and I really enjoyed meeting some of the students and popping into their classrooms to see their learning environments. I enjoyed sharing the Eucharist as our culminating activity. Thank you for the opportunity. I will be strongly advising our new APRE of the benefits of continuing this Marist Primary Colloquium, just sad that it won't be my turn next time.



L to R: Br Tim Beencke (Murgon), Craig Warnes, Kirsty Bell, Maree Rolfe, Eamonn Moore (all from Canberra), Charmaine Mantarro (Daceyville), Jamie Brauer (Ashgrove), Allana Vedder (Daceyville), Ryan Apps (Ashgrove), Anne Chivers (Alice Springs), Cathy Kiernan (Sunshine Beach), Paul Herrick (MSA Regional Director Melbourne), Belinda McClure (Alice Springs), Carole Wark (MLF Team), Wendy Hoffman (Sunshine Beach).



L to R: Allana Vedder, Anne Chivers, Wendy Hoffman, Cathy Kiernan, Paul Herrick

MARIST VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Welcome home to **Jessica Alampi** (teacher from Notre Dame College, Shepparton) and **Sergio Rebelo** (ex-student of St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas) who volunteered with the New Horizons project in Quoc Qai, Vietnam. Both volunteers made a significant contribution to the project and to the Marist presence in the region. **Br Barry Lamb** recently arrived in Vietnam to support Br

Geoff and the team at the New Horizons Centre. We wish him all the best.



Jessica conducting her Sunday morning class in Vietnam.

YOUNG ADULT MARIST 'IMMERSION' EXPERIENCES

Last year graduating students in Marist schools were invited to consider living and working in a Marist community overseas in a 2-month placement in 2013. **Llywellyn O'Brien** (ex-student of Marist College, Canberra), **Liam Sharpe** and **Tom Milliken** (ex-students of Marist College Ashgrove) have recently returned from very successful immersion experiences in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Solomon Islands.

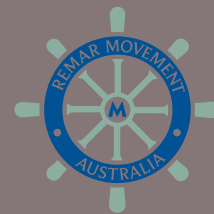


Tom with some students at Marcellin Primary, Vanga Point. This was part of the experience for each of these young men.

Best wishes to Cameron Goddard and Tom Clear (ex-students of Marist College Eastwood) who are presently on immersion experiences with Marist Solidarity Cambodia.

For more information or to register your interest in volunteering and immersions, please contact:

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REMAR NEWS

Over two weekends this month, Blue Retreats are being held over two sites in Victoria, bringing together Blue (Year 11) Rowers from Marist schools across the country. The focus of the retreat was on "discovering Jesus" and on "going deep."

The theme for the weekend was the anchor. It symbolises the 2 things this retreat is about:

1. It is an ancient symbol for *JESUS CHRIST* - throughout the weekend learning about and discovering more about this man and His message.
2. It is also a symbol of *GOING DEEPER* - an anchor is extremely heavy because it needs to go deep to hold a boat steady. It grips onto rocks on the ocean floor to stabilise the ship. It must go right to the bottom to be effective.

REFLECTIONS FROM ROWERS FROM THE 10-12 MAY CAMP

Joseph: "I found this retreat to be an enriching experience. It challenged me to be myself and to understand how to be myself. It allows you to dive deeper into your understanding of faith, morality and yourself".

Noah: "Wow Blue Retreat went fast! I had quite a different experience then I've had in the past but it has been the best yet. A highlight of mine was doing the T-Shirt session as it felt really nice letting people know about the T-Shirts that you wear. Being part of this camp has helped me realize and identify what's needed for me to move forward".

Zac: "Blue Retreat has been an unforgettable experience. I have learnt so much about: God's love, myself and ministry. One of my highlights from this retreat was the reflective session Saturday night. It was a great opportunity to reflect on my relationship with God and my relationship with myself and because of that opportunity, I felt that I have grown as a person".

Charmaine: "I came to Blue Retreat with almost no idea what it was going to be like. We were given the time to reflect throughout the three days and this allowed me to wrap my head around all the ideas and stories that the RMT presented. I started this weekend doubting my faith but because of this Retreat, my faith is back stronger than ever before".

Brody: "This weekend has been great. It was good to just get away from the pressures of everyday life and just reflect. It has been a marvelous weekend full of happiness, joy, forgiveness, tears, deep thoughts and reflection".



Nicki Pitt
 Coordinator
 Remar