



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

3 September 2013

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

There was something admittedly a little surreal about the intimate twilight gathering of academics, clerics and literati on the impressive seventh floor terrace of the new Daniel Mannix Building on ACU's Melbourne campus – chilled pinot gris in hand, canapés juggled, some evocative poetry recited. A suitably scholarly address from theologian Professor Tony Kelly CSSR, roundly and resonantly rendered. The inaugural ACU Literary Awards.

Or, also last week, the first 'Arts and Spirituality Symposium' for our Marist schools, organised by the Province's MLF team, led by some former students who are forging careers in the arts, and generously hosted by Marist College Ashgrove – an engaging and uplifting exploration of the where the visual and performing arts can take our spirit, and how they can mediate the Divine.

A luxury, such events? An indulgence of scarce educational resources? No, no, no. Save us from grey and soulless bean-counters obsessed by the measurable outcomes and linear functionality of schooling. Any school, but especially a Catholic school, has a responsibility to create spaces – both physically and culturally – that nurture the spirit. Beauty does that. The arts do that.

We all yearn for beauty. For some it is found in music, for others in art, for others again in the awe of the natural landscape or the poetry of human movement. A colleague once tried to convince me of the unfathomable beauty of pure mathematics and the perfect grace of chaos theory. We agreed on the 'unfathomable' bit.

But we also agreed that love and beauty are two faces of the one reality. Our Catholic tradition, which draws so deeply on symbol and sacrament to bring us into touch with the God who seeks to dwell in our midst, in love, has long been a patron of the arts. It is a natural fit. It recognises that the human longing for love and beauty are measures of healthiness and that they foster wellness – as much as tendencies to hate and mutilation are measures of dysfunction and sickness.

School leaders today recognise the educative and indeed the evangelising value of a school's having both an aesthetically pleasing physical environment and a vibrant arts and liturgical programme. Students and staff are affected, cumulatively affected, by what surrounds them. So, we pay attention to line and form in buildings, to colours and lighting systems, to public art and sculpture, to resourcing of the performing arts, and especially to beautiful sacred spaces at the very heart of where we work. We lost our way with a lot of that in decades after the War, the period that gave us "brutal architecture", and schools made of brick boxes, lit by banks of white fluoro tubes, and surrounded by black bitumen yards. And a brutalising effect all that could have.

In leaving the ACU function last week, the Director of Identity and Mission, Father Anthony Casamento, showed me through the Mary MacKillop Chapel and its precinct. What a splendid space for prayer and worship! What beauty and balance of design! What power for teaching! I was reminded that Marcellin, despite serious debt and a disposition to keep an eye on every franc, stinted nothing in creating a beautiful and symbolically rich chapel at the Hermitage – for all the same reasons. It is being very faithful to our founding Marist intuitions when we seek to bring beauty to where and how we live, work and worship.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

- 4-7 Sept Contemplative Retreat, Mittagong
- 5 Sept Melbourne Marist Core Group, Marist Centre Melbourne
- 5-6 Sept St Thomas More, Sunshine Beach, Staff Spirituality Retreat
- 5-6 Sept MSA Melbourne Regional Council Meeting
- 6 Sept iBelieve Programme, Trinity Catholic College, Auburn
- 9 Sept Marist Leaders: Next Gen 2 Programme, Brisbane
- 13 Sept Bunbury Catholic College Retreat Day
- 15-18 Sept Footsteps Programme, Mittagong
- 16 Sept Staff Formation Day, Marist Centre Melbourne
- 17 Sept Mission Council Meeting, Melbourne
- 19-20 Sept Spirituality & Leadership 1, Red Bend Catholic College Forbes
- 20 Sept MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Marist Centre Sydney
- 22-29 Sept Brothers' Retreat
- 23 Sept NSW/VIC/QLD School Holidays start
- 30 Sept ACT/NT/SA/WA School Holidays start
- 30 Sept MLF/MSA Regional Meeting, Melbourne
- 4 Oct Opening & Blessing of Marist Centre Brisbane
- 11 Oct Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner, Brisbane
- 12 Oct Tenth Anniversary Celebration for St Teresa's Noosaville
- 13-16 Oct Living Champagnat's Vision, Alice Springs

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Brother Jeffrey Crowe, our Provincial, heads off to The Hermitage in France this week, for a three-week conference of all the Marist Provincials from around the world. A "General Conference" is held every eight years – at the four-year or half-way mark between General Chapters. The Provincials will spend their time, with the Superior General and General Councillors, reflecting on how the mandate and directions set by the XXI General Chapter of 2009 are being realised, and to formulate directions for the next four years, in the lead-up to the XXII General Chapter. Please keep Brother Jeff and our international Marist leaders in your prayers over these weeks.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP VACANCIES



PRINCIPAL Lavalla Catholic College TRARALGON VIC

Marist Schools Australia is seeking to appoint a new Principal at Lavalla Catholic College commencing Term 1, 2014. For further details or an Application Package, contact Paul Herrick at paul.herrick@marists.org.au. Click [here](#) for the full advertisement. **Applications close Monday, 9 September 2013.**



HEAD OF SECONDARY Newman College CHURCHLANDS WA

Newman College, Churchlands, is seeking applications for the position of Head of Secondary (Years 7-12) for the commencement of 2014. Download an application form from the College website: www.newman.wa.edu.au. Contact Josie Parker, Executive Assistant for any enquiries: parker.josie@cathodnet.wa.edu.au or 08 9204 9402. Click [here](#) for the full advertisement. **Applications close Monday, 9 September 2013.**



CAMPUS MINISTER Marist College Ashgrove QLD

Marist College Ashgrove has a vacancy for a Campus Minister for commencement 22 January 2014. See College website for further details: www.marash.qld.edu.au. **Applications close 3.00pm Monday, 16 September 2013.**

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

We welcome **Angela Hay** to the Marist family and congratulate here on her appointment as Principal of St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas, from the start of next year.

SOME 2014 DATE CLAIMERS



The brochure for next year's MSA programmes, courses and events is almost finalised. Here are some dates that you may want to mark down:

FOOTSTEPS PROGRAMME 1 Mittagong

- 16-19 March
- 4-7 May
- 15-18 June
- 27-30 July
- 17-20 August
- 14-17 September

FOOTSTEPS PROGRAMME 2 Mittagong

- 18-21 May
- 19-22 October

MSA PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE

- 11-12 March - Mittagong

NATIONAL MARIST FAITH FORMATORS COLLOQUIUM

- 25 March - Mittagong

MARIST PILGRIMAGE

- 11 April - 2 May - India/Rome/Lyon/L'Hermitage

MARIST FORMATION NEW CALEDONIA

- 9-13 August - New Caledonia

CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT

- 3-6 September - Mittagong

LIVING CHAMPAGNAT'S VISION

- 12-15 October - Alice Springs

The MLF team's calendar for locally delivered in-school programmes is also quickly filling. If you are interested in having members of the MLF Team or the MSA Leadership team at your school to assist with staff development, you are encouraged to book it up soon.

Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

Arts & Spirituality Symposium

Marist College Ashgrove

28-30 August 2013



L - R: Presenters - Connor Ashleigh, Sr Rosemary Crumlin rsm, Paul Newton, Chris Nolan.

A symposium? From the Greek: 'To drink together'. At another level the title beautifully captures the search to quench our common thirst. In the arts we are drenched with moments of insight, wonder and holy encounter through the very earthy and raw mediums of colour, movement and sound. Participants of the *Arts & Spirituality Symposium* gathered from across Australia for 3 days at Marist College Ashgrove, Brisbane. Guest speakers and creative artists Rosemary Crumlin RSM, Paul Newton, Connor Ashleigh and Chris Nolan shared their life and artistic work over the days inviting participants to express and deepen their own understanding and experience of their particular art and its connection to things spiritual. Launched on Wednesday night with an energetic and creative overview by Richard Leonard SJ, the gathering's momentum was retrained with a series of workshops including drumming, playback, voice, visual story telling and graphic art. On reflection one participant had this to say of the experience: "I have learned to stop, retreat, pause and look between the 'gaps' and let the 'unknown' wash over me ... I gained a ripple effect by the passion of the artists and presenters".



PROJECT UPDATES

Marist Centre for Migrants – Samut Sakhon, Thailand



Due to the long turbulent history of Myanmar, Burmese refugees have been crossing the border into Thailand for many years in search of a better life and the promise of work. In 2011 the Marist Brothers responded to a need for education to improve the future of the most marginalised young people and their families. As a result the Marist Centre for Migrants (MCM) was established.

It is only because of the support of MSA schools, and other supporters, through MSol that this centre continues to change lives. It provides a variety of education programs on language and computer skills for the young people and their parents. This opens up the opportunities for a brighter future and for parents to gain better paid work to support their families.

La Valla School 2013 Graduation – Takmao, Cambodia



On the 31st of July twenty-six students from the La Valla School for children with disabilities in Takmao, Cambodia, graduated from year 6. These students have completed the accelerated three-year schooling program at La Valla School. This enables children with a range of disabilities to catch up and enter into secondary schools or to continue onto further training where they would never have had the opportunity.

The success of both of these projects is largely due to the superb commitment made by the MSA schools network along with many committed Marists. If you would like more information or would like to support a project contact us on msol@marists.org.au.

Michael Coleman
MSol Team - Brisbane



REMAR NEWS

LIVING IN SIMPLICITY

The Motto for our Blue Crossing is *“Living as Christ’s Disciples”* whilst the values *“humility, loyalty and solidarity”* acknowledge some of the core actions Christ Himself displayed towards those with whom He ministered.

Our Blue Rowers attend a 7-10 days Solidarity Camp that is based on the foundation of working to be the ‘hands and feet of Christ’. The Solidarity Camp experience aims to give Rowers an opportunity to experience ‘service’ in a prolonged context, whilst deepening their experience of communal living within a Christian context. The goals of the Solidarity Camp are:

- To allow Rowers to experience and explore issues of social justice that will challenge them to think deeply about their beliefs and values, and ultimately lead to personal growth.
- To achieve an attitude of openness, respect and listening in regard to the values of the community within which the Caravel are serving.
- To live together as a Caravel, deepening their experience of communal living.
- To focus the energies of the Caravel on a practical project which will ultimately benefit the community within which they are serving.
- To form deeper relationships with those in their Caravel, and to build relationships with those living within the wider community.
- To reflect on how Rowers can live out the Gospel values each day, and particularly at the local level upon your return.

The Solidarity Camp is a significant journey within our Remar program. We wish the Blue Rowers, their Helms and support staff all the best as Caravels commence their Solidarity experiences across Australia. We look forward to sharing their stories with you on our website.

The RMT is busy preparing for the upcoming Red Leadership Camps which will be held in October. We are also ready to embark on a two week break which will enable us to recharge before the business of October – December arrives!

God Bless.

Nicki Pitt
MYM - National Remar Coordinator