



# MSA Newsletter

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

## From Brother Michael Green

28 October 2014



Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

With what seemed like everyone else my age, when I first had the opportunity to vote, I cast my lot decisively for Gough Whitlam. I guess that some closet-cons must have quietly ticked the box for Billy Snedden, but no-one admitted to doing so, certainly not in the student union bar. Gough was our man. It wasn't just that he saved us from being conscripted to go to fight in the scary jungles of Vietnam (although that might have weighed in just a wee bit; the cadets had sated the military thirsts in most us). Nor was it the case, then or now, that I could be described a raging party-political warrior; too much straight-jacketing of conscience in that. Nor was it that I had developed an especially astute sense of judgement: my favourite pants were flared and light tan in colour, held low on the hips with a big-bucked, cream belt; and my best tie had a wide and colourful sunrise splashed across it. I was, like most late teens, a work-in-progress.

It is not my intention to make another contribution to the plethora of eulogising for E.G. Whitlam that has saturated the print and electronic media over this past week. There's been more than enough of that, and offered with more authority and more panache than I could do on this small page. I would like, rather, to comment on a quality of leadership which even his harsher critics admit Gough had in generous measure, and which is sadly too rare and too little valued: imagination. More than that: the ability to capture the imagination of others. Not to pander to their fears, their self-serving aspirations, their prejudices, or their desire for security or comfort. But to fire their imagination. And their imagination for a world outside themselves.

To do that, a leader needs to be able to envision things differently, quite differently. Such a leader can imagine new frames of reference rather than seeking simply to do things more smartly or more cutely. Such a leader is energised by change, substantial change – paradigm change. Such a leader typically uses new words, develops a new language. Bureaucrats and bureaucratic mindsets often have difficulty with this kind of thinking. It makes them uncomfortable. They can be suspicious, sceptical and dismissive of such leaders.

Our current Pope is such a one. Saint John XXIII was also. Nelson Mandela, of course. Perhaps JFK had it. Francis of Assisi. Excitement, liberation, and purpose garner around such people. They are both inspired and inspiring. Because of them, we never see things quite the same again. They take us to another place, a bigger place, a better place. They spark something in us, something of the Spirit, something that gives life.

Some leaders put most of their eggs into the basket of attending to people's feelings and wellbeing, some into efficiency and wise stewardship, some into prudent risk management, some into personal integrity and transparency, some into skilling or empowering of others, some into eliciting and converging the ideas of the group, some into persuasion and getting people on-board, some into consensus and team building, some into responsible and detailed strategic planning. All are good; indeed all are necessary. But for mine, none is quite in the same domain as leadership that fires the personal and the collective imagination. It is one thing to have the ability to lead people from A to B, to build their support for B, to have them feel comfortable and skilled in B, indeed to enthuse them for B and even have them help to shape B. It is something else altogether to imagine what B might be, to be that incendiary spark that lights what lies latent in people.

Leaders of this calibre often need others to concretise the deliverables, to look after the details, to manage the people and even to bring them along. Perhaps the great Gough might have had a few problems in that regard. I am told that Pope Francis is a difficult man even to tie down to something as simple as the planning a daily schedule. Surely, a person in his position he should be more efficient, more organised, critics might say.

Without the game-changing insights of greatly imaginative and inspirational leaders, we risk moving around in the same circles. My observation is that these circles typically become ever-shrinking and more tightly drawn. Witness our own Church, with the recent Synod as a case study. Witness our own country's political discourse, with any number of examples.

Thank God for bigness and newness.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

31 Oct-2Nov	Red Leadership Camp #3, Stanwell Tops NSW	13 Nov	#serve program, Marcellin College, Randwick
4 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day - PUBLIC HOLIDAY Melbourne	13-14 Nov	MSA Regional Council Melbourne
7 Nov	Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner, Sydney	14 Nov	MSA Regional Council Sydney
9-11 Nov	Student Leaders' Gathering, NSW/ACT	18 Nov	Mission Council meeting
10 Nov	#serve program, St Gregory's College, Campbelltown	23 Nov	MSol Christmas Appeal Launch, Melbourne
10 Nov	MSol Christmas Appeal Launch, Brisbane	24 Nov	MSol Christmas Appeal Launch, Adelaide
10-15 Nov	Marist International Network of Institutes of Higher Education	30 Nov-2 Dec	Student Leaders' Gathering, VIC
12 Nov	MSA Regional Council Brisbane	1 Dec	#serve program, St Augustine's College, Cairns

### MYM APPOINTMENT FOR 2015



Congratulations to **Liz Wake** who has been appointed as the Marist Youth Ministry Regional Coordinator to be based in Melbourne, and will take up her role from the start of 2015. As part of her responsibilities for next year, Liz will also have national responsibility for oversight of the Remar programme, which is the main Marist programme for in-school

Marist youth ministry. One of the major recommendations of this year's Remar review was for its leadership and support to transition to be more regionally based, and also for all MYM programmes and events (both in-school and post-school) to be more integrated and connected. Liz will begin this process in Melbourne next year.

Liz is well known to many Marists, having been part of the Marist family for many years, both through her student days and later her involvement in Remar and Marist Young Adult Ministry. She is an active member of the local Marist scene in Melbourne, and had already signed on to be one of the foundation members of the Marist Association. We welcome her into a formal role of ministry in the Province.

In welcoming Liz, it is appropriate to take the opportunity to thank most warmly both Brother Rod Thomson (who has acted in the role of Remar Coordinator in 2014), and Melissa de Sieno who has been the MYM Regional Coordinator in Melbourne. Both have served MYM with great generosity, skill and passion. Rod returns next year to his position on the Vocations Ministry Team, and Melissa to full-time study.

### MARIST YOUTH CARE PERMACULTURE PROJECT

Marist Youth Care (MYC) has just completed a three week transformational permaculture urban renewal project in the barren space behind the Parish hall on 1 Dawson St.



The program has involved 10 unemployed young women from the local community, who have designed and built the garden from scratch while being supported by a permaculture designer and qualified landscaper. They have created a sustainable and beautiful space for the Parish, which MYC and local volunteers will continue to maintain, and which will be providing a source of fresh fruit, herbs, nuts and vegetables to the local community once the 30 different varieties of edible plants and dwarf trees start to produce yields. This is a welcome and stunning addition to our local Brunswick and Parish community.

The young ladies are now being supported into full-time employment pathways by MYC, who will continue to work closely with them to ensure success and support throughout their journey onwards and upwards towards greater things.

Rachel Burns  
Skills Development Centre Coordinator

### MESSAGE FROM MIMA II



The full English-language message from the participants of the Second Marist International Mission Assembly held in Nairobi last month is now available. Click on this [link](#) to read it.

**FOOTSTEPS 2: MAKING JESUS  
KNOWN AND LOVED  
(19-22 OCTOBER 2014)**



*(Standing L-R): Richard Abra (St Gregory's College, Campbelltown), Br Michael Akers, Mike Greeff (St David's Marist Inanda, Johannesburg, South Africa)  
(Sitting L-R): Chris Morrissey & Kirsty Bell (Marist College Canberra),  
Raeleen Austin (All Saints College – St Peter's Campus, Maitland),  
Fiona Greeff (St David's Marist Inanda, Johannesburg, South Africa)*

**MARIST LEADERS NEXT GENI –  
Sydney  
(16-17 OCTOBER 2014)**



*Participants: Tara Lakeman, Damian Sligar & Michelle Linkenbagh (Mt Carmel High School, Varroville); Kylie Watson (Marist College Penshurst); James McKay & Adrian Crow (St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill); Katina Webb & Benjamin Harsas (John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow); Daniel Fallico & Gabriel Rulewski (Marist College Eastwood); Ross Ursino, Sharon Moore & Katherine Toohey (Marcellin College, Randwick)*

**LIVING CHAMPAGNAT'S VISION  
(12-15 OCTOBER 2014)**

Earlier this month twenty staff members from our schools came together in the heart of our country, Alice Springs. Here we ventured on a three day solidarity retreat where we were able to encounter the living spirituality of the desert and experience the Marist ministry of solidarity in Santa Teresa. The group had the opportunity to visit sacred sites such as Standley Chasm, Simpsons and Emily's Gap (pictured above) where they were able to reflect and pray on the landscape inspired by symbols of the Dreaming.



*(Standing L-R): Danielle Spurr (Marist College Eastwood), Peter Stevens & Nicole Dennis (Parramatta Marist High School), Pam Kedwell (All Saints College – St Peter's Campus, Maitland)  
(Sitting L-R): Ruth Hihiru (Marist Brothers Melanesia) & Brenda King (St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton)*



#serve  
oneanother



Marist Asia-Pacific Solidarity (MAPS)  
 Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS)  
 Marist Volunteers Australia (MVA)

## MARIST SCHOOL ON BOARD FOR VANGA POINT, SOLOMON ISLANDS



Construction students of Vanga Point Rural Training Centre prepare the ground for a new septic tank.

This year Marist College Kogarah provided much needed support for the Vanga Point Rural Training Centre (RTC) in the Solomon Islands so that they could rebuild their toilets, laundry and shower facilities. Vanga Point RTC submitted a series of photos reporting on progress last Thursday. Read the full story on our website: <http://www.maristsolidarity.net.au/newsfeed>

Thank you to all of our Marist Schools in Australia for your support of Marist Solidarity and the people of Asia and the Pacific.



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### Samoa: Science Teacher Needed

A request has come from the Marist Brothers in Samoa for a qualified science teacher at St Joseph's College, Apia. The successful volunteer will have tertiary qualifications and high school teaching experience. The position includes teaching senior classes' physics and chemistry; facilitating department meetings; as well as evaluating the current laboratory equipment and designing future upgrades.

For more information please contact Ashley at Marist Volunteers Australia on: (07) 3354 0600 or [mva@marists.org.au](mailto:mva@marists.org.au).



## MARIST YOUTH FESTIVAL UPDATE



Sydney is getting ready to host the national Marist Youth Festival next January, for Marist Year 12 students and young adults, aged 18 to 25.

In addition to international presenters, the theme: "Just Living: Hearts without Borders", will be explored in engaging workshops. Young people can join the conversation on a range of local and global issues, including justice for disadvantaged and marginalised youth, justice for asylum seekers, justice for our environment and climate, just relationships, and justice in Catholic Social Teaching. MYF will also connect young people to practical opportunities, particularly, to Marist volunteering and immersion experiences, and also to the broader Australian Marist Community.

Earlybird registration closes this week on 31<sup>st</sup> October, and final registration on 1<sup>st</sup> December. I encourage young teachers to attend and walk with your students as they grow in faith, are empowered to act for justice and serve others.

Joseph McDonald  
 MYF Logistics Coordinator

MYF15 Silver Sponsor

