



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

Tell me again: what year is this?

The question is not the function of a foggy mind or the worrying sign of early-onset dementia. While I do fear that there may be some traces of truth in each of those, the question is prompted, rather, from the number of ways people seek to describe or to claim this moment in time.

For the large proportion of our planet's population it is 2015. Some more serious Christians may go further and prefix *Anno Domini* to this numeral, the two thousand and fifteenth year of the Lord, in this new era of grace and favour. But their maths would be out by four to six years, and those Orthodox Christians who still follow the Julian rather than the Gregorian calendar may want to quibble over another thirteen or so days. The Ethiopian Christians, who have a different take on more than a few things, claim it's 2008. Or you could run into trouble with Muslims for whom this is 1437, or Buddhists living in the year 2559, or observant Jews for whom it is 5776. Or maybe we should jump back to the year dot and settle for the year 4.5 billion and something. But that presumes that the Sun and the Earth have had the same orbit for all of that time, which may or may not be the case.

If agreeing on a numeric descriptor is too problematic, perhaps we could go with one or more of the groups that have made their own claim on these twelve months. The Church has named it the Year of Consecrated Life. That's worthwhile. We Marists have put in a double claim: internationally it is the 'Montagne Year', and here in Australia we have augmented that with the theme of 'justLOVE'. We could and should do something with those. The UN has also put in a twin bid for both the 'Year of Light' and the 'Year of Soil'. The Pope is rumoured to be penning an Encyclical on ecology to tie in with the latter. If so, that's something to anticipate. Then, in this 4713th year of the Chinese lunar calendar we are just about to cycle around to another Year of the Goat, or more accurately the Year of the Wooden Goat, the last such one being in 1955. People born in these years are claimed to be polite, kind-hearted and dependable, something with which I am inclined to agree.

There is the potential for both idle distraction and useful engagement in this range of perspectives. Probably each of us will tap into some of the more worthwhile of them, and to good purpose. It is helpful to have both identity and focus, and a sense of direction and moving forward. Naming years is one way of doing that; there are others. The activity of school life can, if we are not careful, overwhelm our sense of deeper purpose. We can develop what Jesus might have called the 'Martha syndrome'.

At the start of this new school year – howsoever you may want to name or innumerate it – let us hear Jesus speak to the Martha in us, telling us there is only really one thing that matters, and it is well for us to create time and space, each day, to allow this to deepen our appreciation of that.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

11 Feb	In the Marist Way, Melbourne	9 Mar	Labour Day Public Holiday, Victoria
16-18 Feb	Marist Nurses & Carers Conference, Mittagong	9 Mar	Marist Principals' Regional Meeting, Brisbane
17-18 Feb	In the Marist Way, Brisbane	10 Mar	Marist Principals' Regional Meeting, Sydney
19 Feb	In the Marist Way, Gippsland Region	11 Mar	MSA Regional Council meeting, Brisbane
20 Feb	In the Marist Way, Northern Qld	11-12 Mar	MSA Regional Council meeting, Melbourne
25 Feb	In the Marist Way, Macarthur Region	13 Mar	MSA Regional Council meeting, Sydney
1-4 Mar	Footsteps 1 programme, Mittagong	13 Mar	Marist Principals' Regional Meeting, Melbourne
5 Mar	In the Marist Way, Central Victoria	15-18 Mar	Footsteps 2 programme, Mittagong
6 Mar	In the Marist Way, Sydney Eastern Region	19 Mar	In the Marist Way, Adelaide

MARIST COLLEGE BENDIGO FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Monday, 2nd February was the first day of school for Marist College Bendigo! Visit the [MSA website](#) for more photos of the special day.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE justLOVE BANNER

Once again this year, Sacred Heart College, Adelaide, has gone all out in bringing the Marist theme to front of

mind with students and staff. These two huge banners have been erected on the College buildings.



MARIST YOUTH FESTIVAL

MYF 2015 was wonderful success: three days for two hundred Young Marists to celebrate their faith, deepen their discipleship, heighten their sense of justice, experience community as part of the Marist spiritual family, and be inspired to make a difference in their Church

and their world. Thanks to the many MSA schools who supported it by sponsoring ex-students and Year 12s to participate, and members of staff to act as volunteers, workshop leaders, and in other ways. See more about it on the MYM Facebook page.



NEW PROVINCIAL



Last month, the Superior General, Brother Emili Turú, appointed Brother Peter Carroll (former Principal of St Peter Claver College Riverview, Marist College North Shore, and Trinity Catholic College Lismore, and currently the Deputy Provincial) as the next Provincial of Australia, and as Leader of the Marist Association of St Marcellin. Peter will take up his roles at the Brothers' Chapter in September. Our warmest congratulations!

MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN



Click on the image to read the latest newsletter: [New Lands](#)

LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL DATES FOR EDITION ONE 2015

Cut-Off for April edition: Friday, 20 March 2015. All contributions required by that date. Text should be WORD document and photographs high resolution jpg. We are still asking for names with

photographs but permission is required from those in photo etc. Circulation: Monday, 20 April 2015. All submissions should be sent to tony.paterson@marists.org.au

MARIST CRICKET CARNIVALS

Congratulations to the winners of the Marist Cricket Carnival: *Notre Dame College Shepparton, Marist College Canberra, St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill* and thanks to

the three host schools for all they did to stage the event in each venue - St John's College Woodlawn, Lismore, Marist College Ashgrove AND Marist-Sion College, Warragul.

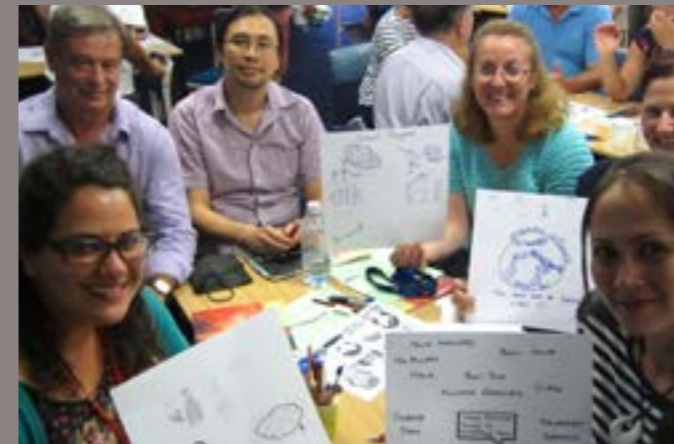
READ THIS NEWSLETTER ON YOUR PHONE OR TABLET

The MSA Newsletter, as well as details of all programmes and events, past issues of the Lavalla and Champagnat journals, and other news and

information, are all accessible on the Marist Schools Australia app. Download it for free from the App Store or Google Play.

justLOVE LEWISHAM & MYC PETE'S PLACE

Staff from John Berne School, Lewisham and Marist Youth Care's Pete's Place display the fruits of their discussion and creativity during the justLOVE spirituality program.



Tanja Dunne (front left), Br Mark Paul, Dom Wan, Sharon Alafaci, Stef Liversedge and Melissa Painter (front right)

RED BEND CATHOLIC COLLEGE INSERVICE: LEADERSHIP & SPIRITUALITY



Standing: Alexander Abbey, Wendy Burke, Br Michael Flanagan, Br Michael Akers, Colin Hawthorn, Jan Hawthorn, David Watts. Sitting: Row 3 Jo Cabban. Row 2 Paul Harris, Therese Glasheen, Chris Douglass, Jenny McDean, Louise Spry, Laura Hassell, Rebecca Charlesworth, Sam McCarthy, Jenny Neilsen, Steve Cooper. Front Row Julianne Allan, Karen Umbers, Gillian McMillan, Hannah Porrelli, Ash Hogan, Melissa West, Tony O'Connell, Trish Martin, Matthew Pearce.

justLOVE ADELAIDE



Dan Ryan and Garreth Hutton

BR ROBERT O'CONNOR, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, CONSULTANT



Brother Robert's role in supporting a number of Principals and leadership teams, not only for professional and Marist MSA leaders and their support from the MLF Team, and their personal accompaniment. So please feel free to make contact as you see any ways in which I may be able to support you and your leadership teams. For contact: robert.oconnor@marists.org.au

letter he sent in 2012. In part it read: My work in the NSW/ACT as Regional Director during 2011 highlighted a developing awareness from

MARCELLIN TECH COLLEGE STAFF REFLECTION DAY

On Thursday, 22nd January, we held a Reflection Day at Marcellin Technical College focusing on the Catholic and Marist nature of the College as well as Characteristics of Marist Education and how they apply at Marcellin.



L-R Pete Sudaj, Tim Buckley, Serge Mensitieri, Gianni Petrucci, Sally Aitken

L-R Pete Sudaj and Tim Buckley

PROGRAMMES, COURSES AND CONFERENCES

Registrations for the range of MSA programmes and events to be offered by the MLF Team this year have been coming on thick and fast. Quite a few schools have been early off the mark to run this year's special staff programme – justLOVE – as well as the new-

staff induction programme *In the Marist Way*. This is a biennial MSA Conference year. This year it is to be hosted in Melbourne at the end of July. Registrations open on 2 March. Principals should have received a letter regarding this.



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

LAUNCHING THE 2015 MARIST SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN!



Look out for this years logo as we take up the challenge to "Join the Solidarity Effect"

The Marist Solidarity Schools Campaign for 2015 was launched on our website yesterday:

www.maristsolidarity.com.au

When Pope Francis took office the media talked about "The Francis Effect". He reminded all of us that: "Solidarity means thinking and acting in terms of a community; of prioritizing the life of all over and above the appropriation of goods by the few". He continues asserting that "solidarity, in its deepest sense, is a way of making history".

Marists in schools across Australia have a sacred task when reflecting on the dignity of humans as the central element of Catholic social teaching because each child reflects the image of God.

We would like to thank all those in our MSA Network who continue to support Marist aid and development and invite your school community to "Join the Solidarity Effect" by supporting the educational opportunities that Marist Solidarity seeks to provide.

Check out the launch video on YouTube

<http://bit.ly/JointheSolidarityEffect>

Br Allen Sherry (E.D. of MSol)
 & Michael Coleman
 MSol Team – Brisbane
 E | msol@marists.org.au



GET REAL ALTERNATE SCHOOLIES

Between November 29 and December 13, 2014 eight Year 12 leavers from six different Marist schools embarked on a 2 week Alternate Schoolies Immersion. Myself, along with Br Doug Walsh and Mark Gilbert lead the group: Jaiden Harding (Good Counsel College, Innisfail), Chloe Moore (Marist College, Emerald), Sarah Berryman & Lauren Mummery (Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr), Taylor Schmierer (Mt. Maria College, Mitchelton), Dominic Kocx (St. Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill), Cameron Menzies & Josh Brady (St. Gregory's College, Campbelltown). We engaged in ministry with The Kuya Centre, Bagong Barrio Educational Fund, St Vincent de Paul Society and the Daughters of Charity.

A quote from one of the participants

"It has rekindled my faith and reaffirmed my faith in the Church and its' ministries. I am more open to responding to where God leads me"

For more information about this years Get Real Alternate Schoolies Immersion, head to www.maristyouthministry.com/getreal or contact me at sally.mceniry@marists.org.au or 0409451822.

Sally McEniry
 Regional Coordinator Brisbane
 Marist Youth Ministry

...MORE ABOUT THE MARIST YOUTH FESTIVAL 2015

"Having something like Marist youth shows that as young people we can do so much for the nation...we are the future" - Cinderella Nyathi (OLSH, Alice Springs)

The Marist Youth Festival was an inspiring, empowering and life-changing experience for Young Marists in our country. The atmosphere, the music, the guest speakers and workshops were excellent. We hosted 181 participants including under and over 18s, with students from 25 Marist schools, supported by 32 volunteers, with leadership from the Central Committee and MYM team.

Participants and volunteers have just completed an evaluation, with the results showing the true value in this experience.

Joseph McDonald
 MYF Logistics Coordinator



The Australian Technology Park was a fantastic venue for our gathering



Br Emili Turu, Superior General, addresses participants on the theme of 'Just Living'



Participants celebrate their faith in community at MYF