



# MSA Newsletter

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



## From the Acting National Director

Dear Colleagues

Two weeks ago the Marist Centre in Melbourne hosted a group of 40 Catholic educators from Thailand. Archbishop Louis Chamniern Santisukniran led a group of Priests, Brothers, Sisters, as well as lay men and women, who were visiting Australia to learn how Catholic education operated in different ways across the country. Brother Kevin Hoare, who has been working in Bangkok made the introduction to Marist Schools Australia.

As the presentation came to its conclusion, time was made available for questions, two of which stood out. First, the group was anxious to learn if and how Catholic schools in Australia retained the best teachers and most able students. Second, they sought to understand the expectations in Australia regarding qualifications and ongoing formation required to work in a Catholic school, and in particular to teach Religious education. Both areas of enquiry reflected very real challenges for Catholic education in Thailand.

Complex questions, with limited time to answer through an interpreter, our responses included broad indicators such as the average performance of Catholic Schools in the National Literacy and Numeracy assessments, which compare favourably to all other schools across the country<sup>1</sup>. The increasing expectations by Religious Institutes, Catholic Education Authorities and Bishops in regard to qualifications and accreditation were outlined with further explanation of Marist Schools Australia's work in the area of formation.

As we spoke on these matters, the group became increasingly animated until a Salesian Priest, a senior member of the group jumped to his feet and passionately addressed his fellow Thai educators, saying *"This is what we must do! We must have the best schools in the country so the teachers want to stay and the parents want to come – then we can evangelise!"*

Whilst an oblique compliment to Australian Catholic Schools, it was a salient reminder of the need to actively tend to our core imperatives as Catholic educators. Pope Paul VI summed up our dual moral purpose when he urged teachers to be *"prepared for their work with special care, having the appropriate qualifications and adequate learning both religious and secular ... and skilled in the art of education in accordance with the discoveries of modern times"*.

The challenge in these words is complex and calls for a response that is integrated. Enculturation of the Gospel message is a multi-dimensional and sophisticated quest. Our Church's history of its pursuit is replete with stories of heroic failure, martyrdom, and sainthood. However it is what we are charged to do as "21<sup>st</sup> Century" Catholic educators. Drawing upon contemporary research and evidence based effective pedagogy and practice is a prominent feature of Marist schools in this country as is the pursuit of excellence as high performing educational institutions. Reflecting and articulating how innovations can strengthen our schools as authentically Catholic, faith filled communities is an ongoing challenge, but one filled with delightful epiphanies.

For example, when one considers the purposeful and selective use of student performance data, (a particular research interest of mine over the past six years), it can elicit groans and yawns from colleagues whose imaginations have fallen dormant. Others however, see refinements in the specificity of student performance data as a rich way to deepen relationships with students, identifying precisely areas for further development and building constructive, engaging learning environments. However one views various educational research, developments and innovation, the key elements remain constant as described by our Salesian friend from Thailand, for without the attraction of good schools, our opportunities to evangelise are thwarted.

Yours sincerely

**Frank Malloy**  
ACTING NATIONAL DIRECTOR

1. NCEC Submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding March 2014

## COMING UP...

11 Nov	MSA Regional Council, Brisbane	23-27 Nov	Remar La Valla Solidarity, Melbourne
11-12 Nov	MSA Regional Council, Melbourne	25-27 Nov	Remar Red Embarkation, Sacred Heart College Somerton Park
13 Nov	MSA Regional Council, Sydney	29 Nov-1 Dec	Remar Red Embarkation, Marist-Sion College
13 Nov	just LOVE: Hearts without Borders, Marist College North Shore, Marcellin College Randwick, Marist Catholic College Penshurst	29 Nov-1 Dec	Student Leaders Gathering, Amberley, Melbourne
16 Nov	Online Registration Opens for 2016 Programmes & Events	30 Nov	In the Marist Way, Marist Youth Care
18-21 Nov	World Congress on Catholic Education, Rome	3-5 Dec	Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Adelaide
20-22 Nov	Remar Red Embarkation, Marcellin College Bulleen	4 Dec	Association Council meeting
		5 Dec	Marist Ministries Mass and Dinner, Melbourne

### INTRODUCING THE 2016 REMAR TEAM



RMT 2016 announcement!  
Congratulations to:



**Emily Duivenvoorden**  
2015 Marist-Sion College, Warragul



**Sara Petruzella**  
2014 Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park



**Gerard Pirie**  
2015 Assumption College, Kilmore



**Damian Ruiz**  
2014 Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park



**Supileo Taufaa**  
2015 Trinity Catholic College, Auburn

*Looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!*

### 2016 PROGRAMMES & EVENTS BROCHURE



The 2016 Programmes and Events brochure was mailed to Principals last month.

Details of next year's programmes and events can be found on the [MSA website](http://www.marist.org.au) and app.

REGISTRATION OPENS

**16 NOVEMBER**

FOR 2016 PROGRAMMES

### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP VACANCY

#### HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION



MARIST COLLEGE ASHGROVE is seeking applications for the position of Head of Administration commencing January 2016.

Interested applicants are invited to visit the College website <http://www.marash.qld.edu.au/> for a position statement and selection criteria. See [full advertisement](#).

### THAILAND CATHOLIC EDUCATORS VISIT MARIST CENTRE MELBOURNE



# Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

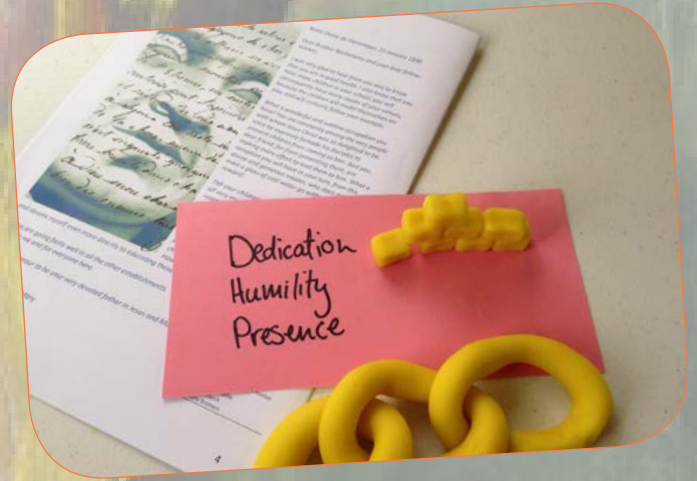
## MARIST SOLIDARITY RETREAT ALICE SPRINGS

The beginning of October saw 17 participants come together from various Marist schools and ministries to embark on the Marist Solidarity Retreat. The annual retreat takes place in Central Australia, spending significant time in the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Community Centre in Santa Teresa. The retreat provided an encounter of the living spirituality of the desert by visiting sacred indigenous sites and being guided by local indigenous elders. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience the vitality and passion of the growing Marist ministry of solidarity in the heart of our own nation.



## CHAMPAGNAT PRESENTATION VARROVILLE

The MLF team worked with staff from Mount Carmel Catholic College Varroville in deepening their understanding of St Marcellin through a process of sharing their thoughts on the characteristics and virtues that inspire us in our mission as educators. In small groups the staff discussed the qualities we want to form in our students. The picture of this “Marist Graduate” affirmed our task in shaping the young people in our care.



Wayne Marshall, Christine Meharg, Michael Gleeson, Chardy Miller



Alison Galea, Madeline Worthington, Peta Willard

LOVE  
hearts without borders

## SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION MAKES EXCELLENT PROGRESS



Our partners in Timor-Leste report that excellent progress has been made on the first stage of reconstruction of the Abafala Catholic Primary School. The school is currently in a state of significant disrepair and construction works will provide students with a safe, clean and greatly improved learning environment.

Marist Solidarity liaison in Timor-Leste, Brother Tony Clark, reports that a special ceremony—led by Diocesan Bishop Basilio Nascimento—was held at the school on September 21, to bless the new foundations. It included representatives from the local community and current students. There were speeches and a banquet lunch.

Brother Tony says that construction is running ahead of schedule and that local Timorese builders and labourers are providing good quality work under the daily supervision of the project architect. The new buildings will be finished before Christmas and ready for the start of the new school year.

Diocese of Baucau Catholic Education Director, Madre Herminia Sarmento says that teachers at the school are already talking about celebrating the inauguration of the stage one buildings, which is likely to be at the end of January.

This first stage of construction includes a new building with three classrooms, toilets and repairs and renovations to the staff room. The school is located in a very remote community in Baucau. It is the only primary school in the district and provides education for about 135 students.

Special thanks to students at Galen Catholic College in Wangaratta, Notre Dame College in Shepparton, and Catholic College Sale for your generous support of this Marist Solidarity project throughout 2015.

To find out more about our work in Timor-Leste email us at [msol@marists.org.au](mailto:msol@marists.org.au) or go to our website:

[www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au](http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au)

## REMAR RED LEADERSHIP CAMPS 2015



October has been a huge month for the Remar Ministry Team. Over 300 Year 10 rowers from 15 schools have gathered together for their first major Remar retreat – their **Red Leadership Camp**.

All three retreats were an example of the Marist characteristic of *family spirit*. As rowers explored the four spokes of Remar they also began to make connections with students from our wider *Marist family*. The theme for the camp focused on the Red Crossing motto of *'Sailing away from mediocrity'* through living out the values of *Dedication and Sacrifice*. The program included energizing games, whole group inputs, dramas/skits, prayer sessions, singing and Blue leaders sharing's.

Rowers shared their Remar journey so far and presented with pride their caravel name, banners and motto. Sessions across the camp focused on Leadership and skills, Community, Ministry and Service and Faith Development. The Remar Ministry Team reflected on the already evident immersing leaders across the three camps - rowers who were enthusiastic and eager to explore more about themselves and others. Rowers were visited by a special guest, Marcellin Champagnat. Marcellin shared a number of his stories with the students and reflected on his mission and how he came to form the Marist Brothers. Rowers were also blessed to hear from Br Doug Walsh, Br Harry Prout and Br Justin Golding. The brothers shared stories and examples of their ministry work and the key role that building relationships is in serving others. Through these stories they were real examples *'sowers of hope (WFR 141)...* opening new ways that enable youth to be transformed by the experience of knowing and loving Jesus' (WFR 155).

Once again the Remar Ministry Team was supported by MYM Assistants in Melbourne and Sydney and a number of *Young Marists* (past students and Remar Rowers) who made up our energetic Volunteer Team (V-Team). Music Ministry was brilliantly lead by MYM Assistant *Gilbert Mein*, supported by Br Michael Herry and other talented V-Team. A huge thank you to the Helms and support staff that attended and participated with energy and enthusiasm. *We especially recognise the commitment of the Helms in their first year in the Red Crossing and wish them every blessing as they continue their journey with their caravels.*

Remar Ministry Team 2015

