



# MSA Newsletter

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



*From Paul Herrick*

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

With the establishment of the Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, Formation of its members, which now is in excess of seven hundred members, has been identified as a key focus. This will help to ensure long term sustainability of this Association of Christ's Faithful and so continue the vision of Saint Marcellin to make Jesus known and loved and ultimately contribute to the mission of the Church.

Many programs have been developed by both the Association Pastoral Team and also the Mission and Life Formation Team to enable this formation to take place. Since the beginning of the school year, teachers and non-teaching staff new to Marist schools have participated in one such program as they embark on their ministry in Marist schools. The program entitled 'In the Marist Way' has been designed to introduce participants to our Marist story and how this story sits within and contributes to the gospel message of Jesus and his message of salvation.

The program has been reviewed in recent months however its focus is still centred on emphasising that as people working in Marist schools, our challenge is to not only provide students with an educational setting which is contemporary and one that challenges all students to achieve their best, but that this occurs in a setting where 'Jesus is known and loved, and that this is carried out in a distinctive Marist way.

As Catholic Marist Schools we are called to insure that the message of the Gospels is both lived by and shared with all members of the community. This can be a significant challenge. The students must be at the centre of all we do. Marcellin insisted that all are welcome in Marist schools and that all students must be loved equally, especially the most in need.

At a recent 'In the Marist Way' which I attended in the Latrobe Valley, participants were asked to identify what they believed to be the distinctive features of a Marist school and one feature which continually emerged was that of the relationships which developed between all members of the community. In a school setting, it is difficult to comprehend how anyone employed; teacher or non-teacher could survive unless they were able to develop positive relationships with their students and also one another.

Marist relationships need to be honest, sincere, transparent, based on trust, respectful, inclusive, and forgiving. They need to be based on the understanding that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. We need to recognise the face of God in both students and colleagues alike. As the priest says in the final scene of Les Miserable, 'to love another person is to see the face of God.' As members of a Marist community we are called to begin from this premise.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Paul Herrick**  
ACTING NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

7 Mar	In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Sydney West Region	16 Mar	In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Adelaide
7-8 Mar	MSA Regional Council Meeting, Melbourne	16 Mar	Marist Principals Regional Meeting, Sydney
8 Mar	MSA Regional Council Meeting, Brisbane	17 Mar	Marist Principals Regional Meeting, Melbourne
9 Mar	In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Central Victoria	19-22 Mar	Footsteps1: Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved
9 Mar	In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Northam VIC	26-28 Mar	Remar New Helms & Coordinators In-service
13 Mar	Marist Principals Regional Meeting, Brisbane	27 Mar	In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Pete's Place
15 Mar	In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Melbourne	31 Mar	MSA Regional Council Meeting, Sydney

### NEXT LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL PUBLICATION



Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia, and/or consider submitting an article for the Champagnat Journal.

The cut-off date for contributions to the first edition of Lavalla and Champagnat Journal for 2017 is **Friday, 31 March**.

All submissions should be sent to Br Hubert Williams at [hubert.williams@marists.org.au](mailto:hubert.williams@marists.org.au)

### 2017 MSA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE



Online Registration for the 2017 Biennial Conference has opened!

Sunday afternoon, 30 July until Tuesday evening, 1 August 2017 at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne VIC.

Early Bird rates apply!

**REGISTER NOW:**  
<http://msa.edu.au/registrations/>

### MINISTRIES DIRECTORY 2017



This year's edition of the Marist Ministries Directory has been printed and copies have been posted to schools.

### TAIZÉ AT THE HERMITAGE



You are welcome at The Hermitage for an evening prayer based on Taizé on Thursday 23 March commencing at 8.00pm.

If you would like to join in, please email [office@thehermitage.org.au](mailto:office@thehermitage.org.au) or telephone 02 4872 1911 with details.

Click [HERE](#) to see the flyer.

### NEWMAN COLLEGE INAUGURAL COMMENCEMENT MASS

The over 3500 students, staff and families of Newman College in Perth gathered for their inaugural PK-12 Family Mass on Wednesday 22 February. This was a significant occasion as it was the first time that all three campuses of the College had celebrated the opening Mass together as one. The Principal celebrant was Bishop Donald Sproxton, Auxillary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Perth, and he was joined by four concelebrants from the neighbouring parishes.



Peter Loreck (College captain), John Finneran (Principal), Bishop Donald Sproxton and Lucy Houghton (College captain)





# MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



## FOOTSTEPS 1, 26 February - 1 March 2017

Mittagong lived up to its reputation for unpredictable weather as we gathered for our first *Footsteps 1* program for 2017. Teachers with 1 year to 39 years experience, as well as non-teaching staff from our schools and colleges, brought their own stories and experiences to what was an enjoyable and engaging three days.



## IN THE MARIST WAY - Melbourne

New staff from Assumption College, Kilmore and Marcellin College, Bulleen gathered at the Marist Centre Melbourne on February 17 for *In The Marist Way*. This day gave staff a chance to understand the unique ways that Marists approach teaching, and for people new to Marist education to have a grounding in Marist spirituality.



## IN THE MARIST WAY - Brisbane

Luke Ryan, Corey Bodley and Caitie Humphrys

Staff from Trinity College Beenleigh, Marist College Ashgrove, Mt Maria Mitchelton and Mt Maria Petrie participated in the *In The Marist Way* program on Monday 20 February. As a new staff member to a Marist School one participant said that she had learnt much about the Marist tradition and that she looked forward being in relationship with her students in the way of Mary.

## CARE FOR THE SOUL RETREAT

The *Care for the Soul Retreat* is an adult retreat experience offering an opportunity for deepening and integrating prayer, mission and service.

Offered on four occasions in 2017

- Friday 23 – Sunday 25 June
- Thursday 3 – Saturday 5 August
- Friday 25 – Sunday 27 August  
(*Savouring the Silence Retreat*)
- Friday 27 – Sunday 29 October

For further information [download the brochure](#) or register at:

<https://maristschools.ismartsoftware.net/iRegister/Courses/>





**TIMOR-LESTE 11 PROJECTS**

**BACKGROUND TO THE NEED**  
During the post referendum violence of 1999 when Timor-Leste sought and won independence, as much as 70% of Timor-Leste's infrastructure was destroyed, 95% of schools were damaged, with four out of every five completely destroyed, and almost 55% of all school teachers left the country. Education is therefore a large priority for the Timor-Leste Government.

**70%** of Timor-Leste's infrastructure was destroyed after 1999

**95%** of schools were damaged and 4 out of every 5 schools were destroyed

**55%** of primary and secondary school teachers left Timor-Leste

**EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

Australian Marist Solidarity's priority in Timor-Leste is education in all its forms. We seek to support and strengthen the education sector through a multipronged intervention aimed at:

- Providing quality teacher training at the Marist-run Teacher Training College (ICFP)
- Improving learning environments by renovating and rebuilding rural schools
- Supporting non-formal local education initiatives that supplement existing formal education pathways

Our partners are focused on achieving sustainable development by ensuring that education is available and equitable to all. We focus our work in Baucau and the surrounding districts and align our approach with national targets and priorities within the Diocese of Baucau. To see our full position paper on Timor-Leste please visit: <http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/solidarity-step-timor-leste-position-paper/>

### Project in Focus

*The Children and Youth Centre (CYC) Ponta Leste engenders community spirit and fosters strong friendships between the students as well as the teachers.*

CYC Ponta Leste is a Timorese run organisation that works in partnership with Australian Marist Solidarity. CYC Ponta Leste is based in Baucau, East Timor and was established in 2006. In Baucau there is a high level of unemployment so the centre also creates employment and stimulates the local economy while students are kept off the street and engaged in educational activities. It aims to protect children's rights and provide a safe and friendly environment where children and youth can access services and extra-curriculum classes. CYC Ponta Leste currently runs five after school classes: sports, English, literature, music and computers. Children's rights workshops are conducted for the students and the local community and sporting events are held throughout the year. A resource centre is available with books, games and other activities. Approximately 150 children and youth aged between 6 years old and 20 years old attend classes at the centre every week.

With your support, there is renewed hope for the youth of Baucau in a country hindered by high illiteracy and high unemployment rates. To donate to this project please visit: <http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/country/timor-leste/>

**Tony Skinner**

Communications Coordinator, Australian Marist Solidarity



## STUDENT LEADERS GATHERING FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS

Over the next three terms, MYM Sydney is visiting the Student Leaders they met and worked with at the Student Leaders Gathering (SLG) last December.

Our first visit to the captains at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown was inspiring! The leaders have made the goals they set at the SLG a reality! One main goal was to help Year 7 students transition into high school. The Year 12 students, with the approval of the College Executive, have started a Homework Club for Year 7 students to get support they need with their studies. Well done to the leaders.

We look forward to visiting other Student Leaders to hear how they have been able to make a difference in their school community!



Student Leaders at St Patrick's Marist College Dundas

## YOUNG MARISTS VOLUNTEER AT THE JOHN BERNE SCHOOL

Two Young Marists gave up some of their time to volunteer for the annual ASX Golf Day, a fundraising source for The John Berne School. Thank you to Dominic McDonald, (St Joseph's College, 2015) and Kaspars Walker, (Marist North Shore, 2015) who drove buggies and completed player registrations respectively.



Kaspars Walker overseeing the registration tent from on-high



Dom McDonald making sure the buggies are safe overnight.

**Jenifer Miller**

Marist Youth Ministry Regional Coordinator