



# MSA Newsletter

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



*From Dr Frank Malloy*

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

I write to you from a very different world and reality. The experience of being confined to rest and convalescence is immensely challenging. Whilst thankfully a temporary state, it provides deep insights to the lives of people who do not enjoy good health. Hospital, nurses, doctors, dependency, one can easily become negative and frustrated. Yet the goodness of God is so clearly apparent in the many people you encounter, one's Faith is strengthened and confirmed.

From the very first moments after colliding with the vehicle, a tide of selflessness and generosity by friends and strangers has left an indelible mark and a repeated question. What compels people to act with such kindness? Complete strangers stopped traffic, called an ambulance, provided first aid, and physical assistance. The tender and professional care of the ambulance officers; the visit by Police Officers in hospital; the nurses, Doctors, and various other medical professionals who speak and care like brothers and sisters; the many, many, well wishes and visits from family, friends, and colleagues. What makes people so kind? My recurring conclusion is simply that we have all been made in the image and likeness of God. Whether Muslim, atheist, Buddhist, or Christian; Chinese, English, Australian or Indian; a hospital orderly or renowned specialist; we are all created in the image and likeness of God and that is goodness.

Immersed in such universal and spontaneous good will, one is left wondering how it is possible division, acrimony, and rancour can ever get a foothold among us. It is a question for my reflection and prayer this Lenten season.

Another interesting insight has been to our healthy Australian sense of humour and the fleeting nature of "sympathy". Once it was clear there were no life threatening or permanent serious injuries, for many a new source of amusement was readily available. Suggested Lenten Penance included abstinence from beer and walking. My sincere thanks for the support of Marists throughout Australia, and in particular, Brother Peter Carroll and Mr Paul Herrick. As this is the last newsletter before Easter, may the joy and hope Jesus' rising brings richly fill your hearts and minds this Holy season. I look forward to our work together in Term II.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

24 Mar	Remar Red Caravel Days VIC	9-13 Apr	Marist Basketball Carnival
26-28 Mar	Remar New Helms & Coordinators In-service NSW	14 Apr	Good Friday
27 Mar	In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Pete's Place	16 Apr - 7 May	Marist Pilgrimage
31 Mar	MSA Regional Council Meeting, Sydney	17 April	Easter Monday
31 Mar	Remar Helm Inservice NSW	21-23 Apr	Remar Blue Retreat VIC
4 Apr	In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Dundas	25 Apr	Anzac Day
6-7 Apr	Remar Red Caravel Days SA	28-30 Apr	Year 12 Marist Forum NSW

### 2017 MSA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA  
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/>



### WELCOME TO MARIAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE GRIFFITH



On Thursday 9 February, Marian Catholic College Griffith was welcomed into Marist Schools Australia at their Opening Mass. The celebration of this occasion was marked by the choir's beautiful rendition of Sub Tuum sung for the first time in many years.

We extend our congratulations to the Marian Catholic College community and assure them of the support and partnership of our family of Catholic schools.

John Robinson, MSA Regional Director NSW and Alan Le Brocque, Principal, Marian Catholic College

### CHAPEL RENOVATION ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE HUNTERS HILL



This project involves the refurbishment and upgrade to the existing heritage Chapel at St Joseph's College.

The works will include the demolition of brickwork, removal of existing marble and a new Altar will be installed including steps, ramp and baptism font and the entire timber floor will be sanded and polished.



### JOURNEY OF THE BICENTENARY PAINTINGS



Catholic College Bunbury Year 12 students viewing the Bicentenary paintings



Catholic College Bunbury Principal, Denise O'Meara; REC, Gobi May and Arts Coordinator, Brenda Della-Salle at St Patrick's Cathedral



House Captains from St Joseph's Primary Northam

# MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



## **AWAKEN** - Churchlands - 3 March 2017

It was a great day in the West where all staff gathered for the *Awaken* Program at Newman College, Churchlands. Surrounded by the Bicentennial paintings in their new Performing Arts Complex we all shared stories of ourselves, our community and our Marist tradition. We enjoyed some laughs and pondered on more serious aspects of our Christian story.

## **IN THE MARIST WAY** Western Sydney



On Tuesday 7 March over 48 staff members from five schools took part in the new staff induction program "*In the Marist Way*" at Trinity Catholic College, Auburn. The staff demonstrated an enthusiasm as they explored the story of our Marist spirituality. Many interesting points were raised concerning the many challenges that Catholic schools face in 2017. One participant commented "*In the Marist Way* was a fantastic and timely induction into the Marist way and a great opportunity to meet the wider Marist community".

## **IN THE MARIST WAY** - Eastern Sydney

On Friday 3 March 23 teachers participated in the new staff induction program "*In the Marist Way*" for Eastern Sydney hosted at Marcellin College, Randwick. The participants reflected on the practical ways we can embody the Marist way. One participant commented "I gained a good overall perspective of the Marist tradition. It will enable me to be more mindful of the values when teaching".



## **MARIST EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

The *Marist Educational Leadership Program* is offered annually for people studying at University or for those who simply wish to learn more about Marist leadership. In 2017 it will be taught in Sydney at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill across two weekends in August.

### **DATES & LOCATION**

St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill  
5-6 & 26-27 August 2017

### **INFORMATION**

For further information  
[www.mte.org.au/programs](http://www.mte.org.au/programs)  
or contact Br John McMahon  
[john.mcmahon@marists.org.au](mailto:john.mcmahon@marists.org.au)



## HEALING STARTS WITH A TINY SPARK

Some time ago we introduced Met Vey (pictured) to the MSA community. Vey is currently the English teacher at Marist Solidarity Cambodia's (MSC) LaValla School. At birth, he was born with multiple physical disabilities which require him to undertake daily tasks (writing, eating and movement) all with his left toe. His story is one of determination and self-belief that he can contribute to his family, community and his country despite this disability. Vey is an ex-student of LaValla, graduating in 2000, before heading to University for four years to study English. On completing his degree, he applied for the position of English teacher at his old school.

Today, Vey is married with three children. He has become an integral part of our Marist school by his cheerful presence, his understanding of technology and imparting this knowledge to our current students. He remains a much-respected colleague and a good teacher within our school.



LaValla School is the only government approved school in Cambodia that provides children with disabilities a full primary education. As there is little opportunity for these children and youth to receive an education, LaValla School provides tuition, accommodation and healthcare to the students while they complete their studies.

MSC together with AMS would like to thank in a special way Mount Maria College Petrie in Queensland for your generous donation to provide Electric Wheelchairs to the teachers (including Vey).

We would also like to thank all the schools who have and continue to support the staff and students at MSC through your fundraising efforts.



MSC's program gives these children the life-changing opportunity to take up further study or training. Preventing disabled young people from living lives of disadvantage and isolation provides an opportunity for a better life. To help make

a difference please visit our website:

<http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/country/cambodia/>

**Tony Skinner**

Communications Coordinator, Australian Marist Solidarity

## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH AND YOUTH MINISTRY RESEARCH SEMINAR

From 17 to 18 March I was able to attend the inaugural Australian Catholic Youth and Youth Ministry Research Seminar in Melbourne as a representative of Marist Youth Ministry. Various research was presented to the 50 who attended the conference and it highlighted the significant challenges that youth ministry faces today. The overall sense that I was left with was that as a Marist community, we are firmly on the right track in addressing and putting in to action, solutions to the considerable issues facing engagement of young people in the Catholic Church within Australia today.

Some of the research showed that whilst Catholic Schools in Australia do much work to engage their students in social justice activities, the connection for young people between these activities and a Catholic identity is not realised. In reflection on this I felt that the Remar program, that many of our Marist schools engage with, offers this connection clearly. The well roundedness of the Remar program, incorporating leadership, social justice, faith formation and community really does provide the students who are involved with the program a well-rounded experience of the Catholic faith.

The other areas that I felt that we, as Marists, are doing well in, is our offerings to post-school young Marists. In each region, we provide opportunities for school leavers to stay engaged with the Marist community, and therefore the Catholic faith, post-school. This came through in the research as a big gap in the wider Church and one that sees many young people disengage from their Catholic faith. These two initiatives as well as the quality of the faith formation we offer teachers; and the training given to our paid and volunteer youth ministers; were areas that I reflected on as things we do well.

In saying this there are always ways we can grow and improve as an organisation and the final words from Fr Chris Ryan will help to form the lens through which I will steer my work with young people from this time on: "Who are young people from the perspective of God?"



James Mein, Gilbert Mein, Les Billings, Daina Davies, Caitlin Humphrys, Tara McGrath and Nicole Allan

**Caitlin Humphrys**

Marist Youth Ministry Regional Coordinator