



MSA Newsletter

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

From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

In these early weeks of the new school year the sense of **hope** among our students, parents and staff is palpable. Our Marist theme this year is centred on this core Christian virtue, and we believe that with God's help, their hopes will become a reality.

In the lead up to our students commencing, many schools have engaged the Mission and Life Formation Team to work with staff in developing our spiritual lives and build capacity among one another to be effective and creative evangelisers among the young people in our care. With the arrival of the students, schools throughout our network are signalling the new school year with commencement Masses, seeking God's blessings and Spirit in order to meet the many challenges ahead. Both these features of a new school year are happily common in Catholic schools.

In this time of excitement and anticipation, it has been interesting to read in sections of the press over the past few days, reports of the growth in enrolments nationwide in government schools and a decline in Catholic school enrolments. The source of the figures is the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#). Analysis readily identifies the fact that in 2017 the percentage of Australian school students enrolled in Catholic schools had fallen by a quarter of a per cent. Possible causes for this change have been suggested by some in the media to be associated with anticipated rising costs and school fees, and in the coming months the debate over government funding is likely to intensify. With this in mind, recent comments from Mr Ray Collins, the newly appointed CEO of the National Catholic Education Commission are instructive. In a report in the Australian newspaper on the weekend, Mr Collins acknowledged the important issue of accessibility for families and the affordability of school fees. Mr Collins also noted that in areas where the population is increasing and there is a strong demand for Catholic schools "our growth is inhibited because of our limited capacity to raise funds for new schools or expand existing schools." Appropriate levels of recurrent and capital funding from government for Catholic schools, are essential for sustainability and growth.

In this current context it is critical for us to be clear as to why we do exist as an alternative education for young Australians. As the rituals associated with commencing the year in a Catholic school indicate, we are first and foremost communities of faith, prayer, and outreach. Parents send their children to us for the purpose of developing and strengthening their sense of God's love for them in ways, which will endure and flourish throughout their lives. The Church has for centuries prioritised evangelisation through Catholic education.

As we commence the 2018 school year, let us be clear in our purpose and support of one another as we pass on the precious gift of faith with the joy and hope Jesus brings to our lives.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

7 Feb	In the Marist Way: Innisfail	26 Feb	In the Marist Way: Gippsland
11-13 Feb	National Remar Conference: Mittagong	26 Feb	In the Marist Way: Brisbane
14 Feb	Ash Wednesday	2 Mar	Remar Red Caravel Day: VIC
16 Feb	In the Marist Way: Melbourne	9 Mar	Remar Red Caravel Day: VIC
20 Feb	In the Marist Way: Perth	9 Mar	MYM Marist Connect: Macarthur
23 Feb	MYM Marist Connect: Brisbane	13-14 Mar	National Marist Principals Conference: Brisbane
25-28 Feb	Footsteps1: Mittagong	18-21 Mar	Footsteps1: Mittagong

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO NCEC



Ray Collins has been appointed as the Acting Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission following the resignation of Christian Zahra for family reasons on 18 January 2018.

Ray will serve in this position until a new Executive Director is appointed.

Ray is the former Director of Schools for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle serving in the role for nine years until his recent retirement in December 2016. He has a 44 year career in education, including 19 years in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. Ray is well known and warmly regarded in Marist circles, as a former student and parent.

In 1988, Ray joined the Diocese of Bathurst Catholic Education Office as an education consultant before commencing at the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Office (CSO) in 1998, where he was later appointed as Director of Schools in September 2008.

Ray has displayed an integrity and dedication to his vocation as a Catholic educator, earning the respect of his colleagues and fellow directors. He provided steady guidance throughout his time at the CSO with a particular focus on Catholic identity and serving the marginalised in our community. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of our current educational and political environment.



MLZ is a cooperative learning program partnership between Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) and the Mount Druitt Lavalla200+ community. MLZ is not a school but offers a temporary re-location for young people enrolled in a CEDP school who have disengaged from their education. It connects them back into their learning, building skills in communication, collaboration and general life readiness. It prepares

young people to re-engage with learning in pathways that suit their needs. MLZ is offered at no cost to participants.

<http://www.mlz.catholic.edu.au/>



LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL

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 2018 is **Friday, 16 March**.

All submissions should be sent to Br Tony Paterson (tony.paterson@marists.org.au).

SAINT GREGORY'S COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMPBELLTOWN

Congratulations to Headmaster Mr Damien Millar, on the opening of the new Junior School at Saint Gregory's College, Campbelltown. The co-educational school commenced last week with 200 students enrolled in Kindergarten through to Year 6. Mr Joel Weekes, the Head of the new Junior School, has assembled an outstanding team of teachers and support staff to ensure the students will be engaged in an exciting learning journey in a modern learning environment. This new Catholic Primary school is helping to meet the growing demand from parents who have settled in this fast developing area of the Wollongong Diocese, and will be an integral part of Australia's newest Parish of Saint Mary MacKillop, Oran Park. Follow this [link](#) to learn more about this exciting new development.



MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Audacious Hope Kilmore

With the 125th Anniversary of the founding of Marist education in Kilmore, Victoria, Assumption College has given precedence to their historical motto *TO SEEK THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE (QUAE SUPRA QUAERE)*. How appropriate is this motto for taking up the Marist Association Theme for 2018: An Audacious Hope.

The John Berne School Spirituality Day

At the John Berne School staff were invited to listen, discern, share and respond to the question: 'What hope do we have to offer the young?'. Relating this to their experience of working with young people at risk, they were able to share some deep stories and reflect on their personal and communal journey.



In the Marist Way - New Staff Induction Forbes

The 'In the Marist Way' program welcomes new staff to the Marist school and provides an invitation to share in the spirit established by St Marcellin as passed on through generations of Marists.



AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY - IMPACT IN COMMUNITIES

Happy New Year from all the team at Australian Marist Solidarity. As we look forward to the year ahead, we have for the first time been able to look back and measure our impact in the communities we work in partnership with. Much of this work is down to the generous support we have received from the Marist Schools Australia network and for that we are very grateful.



Photography by: Conor Ashleigh

Total beneficiaries - 15,593

Adults - 3,079

Young people (18-30) - 3,001

Children - 9,513

Total beneficiaries in education projects -11,248

Non-formal - 1,014

Kindergarten / Preschool - 314

Primary - 3,731

Secondary - 5,149

University - 243

Vocational & skills training - 797

Total beneficiaries in health projects - 2,808

Total beneficiaries in community development projects - 1,537

Many thanks again for this valuable partnership with AMS and may 2018 be a year filled with promise for the MSA community.

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A NEW-LOOK MYM COMMENCES THE YEAR OF YOUTH

Marist Youth Ministry has kicked off the Year of Youth with a formation week at the Edmund Rice Centre, Amberley VIC. Gathering from five states, the three Regional Teams took four days to deepen our understanding of Christian discipleship and mission in the Marist way and to better equip ourselves as effective youth ministry leaders in this Year of Youth.

Facilitated by Ryan Gato from the MLF Team, theme presentations covered Discipleship, Understanding our Marist and Charism, Jesus - more of him - less of me, Mary in Scripture, Positive team communication and Goals and Strategic planning. Many thanks to Joe McCarthy and Fiona Dyball for presenting particular keynotes.

Our team also spent a morning with Denise Lacey from CatholicCare on creating a Child Safe Environment in MYM and better understanding the 'Standards' in the Victorian legislation.

The formation week also included a 'Bread Run' service experience at the Exodus Village, West Heidelberg, the celebration of the Eucharist with Fr Andy Hamilton SJ and a team commissioning by Joe McCarthy, Deputy Leader of the Marist Association.



Welcome to our 2018 MYM Teams:

Brisbane: Caitlin Humphrys (Co-ordinator) and Chelsea Boreham (Assistant, Beenleigh '16)

Sydney: Jenifer Miller (Co-ordinator), Monica Gonzales (Dundas '15), Supi Taufaa (Auburn '15) and Jerick Perez (Dundas '16)

Melbourne: Br Greg (Co-ordinator), Damian Ruiz (Somerton Park '14), Jack Stammers (Bulleen '11) and Matheus Silva (Brazil volunteer)

Adelaide: Maddy Forde (Somerton Park '13)

REMAR: Edwin Bakker (Co-ordinator), Cara McLaughlin (Somerton Park '17), Leila Petruzzella (Somerton Park '17), Lachlan Scott (Bulleen '16), Lachlan Viney (Bulleen '17).

Marist Youth Ministry looks forward to connecting with Marist Schools during this Year of Youth and offering a range of creative and faith-filled programs for young people, especially 15-18.

Brother Greg McDonald, FMS

National Co-ordinator Marist Youth Ministry