



## From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

On Tuesday and Wednesday last week the National Marist Principals Conference was held at the Marist Centre in Brisbane. This was the only opportunity in 2018 for Principals of our Marist schools across the country to gather and reflect together in person on our shared mission in Catholic education throughout the 18 Dioceses in which we serve. As with all of our Marist gatherings, good spirit, a strong sense of community, and prayerfulness were abundant.

The Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Reverend Mark Coleridge gave the opening address, titled “Responding as Catholic Leaders”, sharing a range of perspectives shaped partly from recent experiences as a member of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council, and as the key spokesperson for the 2020 Plenary Council in Australia. After contextualising the place of the Catholic Church in Australian society at different periods in our history, Archbishop Mark proposed that today our Catholic schools must strive more than ever before, to be places of encounter with God for our young people, their parents, teachers, and all members of the extended school community. Experiences of discipleship, in which listening, prayer and discernment are emphasised and taught were identified as core elements in creating moments of encounter.

The conversations that followed Archbishop Mark’s inspiring address over the following days consistently echoed many of his observations and challenges. The creation, development, progress, and potential of the Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat as a new community of Christ’s faithful was explored further and local experiences shared. The role and potential of the Association in assisting to animate the faith life of our school communities, especially among staff, parents and alumni was identified by many Principals and future formation opportunities were prioritised.

In this Year of Youth in the Australian Catholic Church, new, creative, and flexible expressions of Marist Youth Ministry were considered and advice provided. The fruits of the REMAR programme were strongly endorsed, whilst collectively the gathering sought to understand “the signs of the times” anew, and how best to meet the needs of young people searching for meaning in their lives beyond what is experienced in classrooms and other formal settings.

Importantly time was spent looking at Australian educational research that identified the growing percentage of passively disengaged secondary school students in our country. Informed by the most recent OECD PISA report for Australia and a related research paper from the Grattan Institute, Principals reflected on what our Marist wisdom, tradition, and lived experience evoked in considering recommended responses to manifestations of disengagement by students from their learning. The informed, intelligent, faith filled and enthusiastic dialogue that followed clearly demonstrated the remarkable quality of education and leadership existent in our Marist schools in all their diversity. As with the MSA Assistant Principals Conference in 2017, exploring contemporary research in Australian education through the lenses of faith and learning, invites us as Catholic educational leaders to consider new ways in which, we can make meaning of the Gospel message with our teachers and students.

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To conclude our time together, Br Al Sherry and the team from Australian Marist Solidarity shared with the Principals examples of their work in developing countries in Oceania, Timor-Leste, South East Asia, and India. With over 150 projects in operation, the current reach of Australian Marist Solidarity would simply not be possible, without the generous support from all Marist schools. Listening to just some of the stories of the lives changed by AMS, gave everyone gathered great encouragement to continue to strengthen our efforts to support them.

On behalf of the Marist Schools Australia Leadership team, I sincerely thank all the Principals who gave their time to be present at this important gathering of Marist leaders as well as our generous hosts at the Marist Centre and Principal Mr Peter McLoughlin at Marist College, Ashgrove.

In this last newsletter for Term 1, I take this opportunity to wish you a happy Easter. May you experience the hope and joy of the risen Jesus during this holy season.

Yours sincerely



Dr Frank Malloy  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## NOTICES AND NEWS

### COMING UP...

18-21 Mar	Footsteps1: Mittagong	8 Apr-1 May	Marist Pilgrimage
23-25 Mar	Remar Blue Retreat: NSW	12 Apr	Remar Red Caravel Days: SA
28 Mar	Remar Red Caravel Days: NSW	20-22 Apr	Remar Blue Retreat: VIC
29 Mar	Holy Thursday	24 Apr	In the Marist Way: Alice Springs
30 Mar	Good Friday	25 Apr	Anzac Day
1 Apr	Easter Sunday	5-6 May &	Leadership from a Marian Perspective -
2 Apr	Easter Monday	26-27 May	Melbourne

#### COMMISSIONING OF NEW HEAD AT MARIST COLLEGE CANBERRA

On 22 February, Mr Matthew Hutchison was commissioned as the new Principal of Marist College Canberra at the Commencement Mass.



*Marist*  
ASSOCIATION OF  
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

2018 DIRECTORY

The 2018 Marist Directory has been printed and will be distributed to schools shortly.

# NATIONAL MARIST PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE 13-14 MARCH | MARIST CENTRE BRISBANE



# MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



## In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Macarthur Region

Staff in the Macarthur region gathered for the *In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction*. There was a great synergy and interconnectedness with some staff having attended Marist schools as students and others did prior ministry at various Marist schools in the region. The generous and welcoming nature of the John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow community ensured that participants shared their own insights and stories and finding a new layer of meaning around the characteristic of Presence and Family Spirit.

## In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Sydney Western Region

Thirty staff new to six of our inner-west Sydney Marist schools, came together at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill for the *In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction* program. The participants shared what they valued about being an educator and carer, and discussed the meaning and value of educating in the Marist tradition. Marist Spirituality was explored, and an invitation was extended to let this spirituality be integrated into their own lives.



## In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction Central Victoria Region

New staff from Notre Dame College in Shepparton and Galen College in Wangaratta met at Notre Dame College to participate in the *In The Marist Way: New Staff Induction* program on Tuesday, 6 March. Staff explored the rich Marist charism and were inspired by Marcellin's practical action, grounded in his lived faith. The session finished with a shared lunch where the Principal of Notre Dame College, Shepparton, John Cortese, joined new staff to gather around the table. Marist spirit and hospitality in action!



## MYM QUEENSLAND

### THE CHETANA TRIBAL BOYS HOSTEL SECURES VEHICLE

For Marist Youth Ministry in Queensland, the first two months of 2018 have been full and blessed with dialogue with young Marists from all over Queensland about faith, leadership and their hopes for the future.

The first Connect Night for MYM Queensland took place on 23 February where students from three Marist schools in Brisbane gathered to discover 'What is Hope?'. The participants explored what hope is to them; heard about authentic Christian hope; and made connections with other Marist students. With the help of our Young Marist Volunteer team, the students left the night filled with hope for the future, new friends and a feeling of connection to the Marist family.

The Young Adult Ministry has kicked off this year on 6 February with the Marist Volunteers Camp. The group gathered for an overnight camp to build bonds with each other and to prepare for a year of service. Over the two days of training the Young Adults learn about how to be an authentic leader, child protection safety and made goals and plans for the year ahead.

As a ministry, one of our many goals this year is to create a safe and welcoming environment for young adults to express and discuss their faith, no matter where they are on their spiritual journey. We aim to encourage ex-Marist students and even those who have never been a part of the Marist community, to come and experience our events.

One of these events is our monthly Sunday Mass and Dinner, held on the last Sunday of every month. Our first was on 25 February and we had a great turn out of young adults join us for Mass, dinner and to hear what 2018 is all about. It was encouraging to see that there were post-school aged students from 6 different Marist high schools from around Queensland. In 2018 I am very much looking forward to seeing our post-school community grow so as to build a safe and vibrant space for our Marist students to find themselves once graduating.



Caitlin Humphrys  
MYM Regional Coordinator

*AMS has worked with the hostel for a number of years with different projects and we wish to thank the MSA community for their ongoing support.*

The Chetana Tribal Boys Hostel in the West Bengal village of Talit, India, is home to 70 boys aged between 8 and 18 years old who come from poor families and are of the marginalised Shantal ethnic minority. These children live at the hostel and attend government schools in the area (grades 5 – 12). Due to extreme family poverty their families are unable to send them to school, with many children only eating one meal a day, however, their families do contribute a small amount of \$7 USD per month to keep their child in the hostel. This co-payment generates an investment by the family in their child's wellbeing and prevents the hostel from being seen by these families as a permanent place to send their child. The children return to live and work with their families during holidays. If the boys weren't at the hostel, then they would likely not be attending school.

The children who stay at the hostel currently take public transport to two schools over 5 kilometres away from the hostel. Often the buses and minivans will not stop as they are full so the children either return to the hostel or walk for over one hour in very hot conditions on a busy road. Other times the children have to ride on the roof or cling to the sides or back of the bus if there is space. There is also a problem that because they pay student fares, the conductors won't let them on as they would rather take an adult who pays the full fare.

Recently, the Chetana Tribal Boys Hostel was able to purchase a minivan to transport the children to and from school every day. Thanks to Marist College North Shore and Marcellin College Randwick (who both go on immersion to Talit) for their generous fundraising efforts and subsequent donations, which combined to make this vehicle a reality. AMS has supported this project for a number of years with different programs and wish to thank its many donors throughout the years as well.

This vehicle will ensure that these tribal boys continue their education and in the long-term help them find a respectable job and move out of the crippling poverty that plagues these ethnic minorities.



Media: Tony Skinner, AMS Communications Coordinator  
W: [www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au](http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au)  
E: [Tony.Skinner@marists.org.au](mailto:Tony.Skinner@marists.org.au)



# Marist Tertiary Programs Newsletter

## Together we Learn and Grow

Newsletter 5 | March 2018



*A message from Br John McMahon...*

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Brothers,

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2018. We hope you have the chance to participate in one or more of our Marist Tertiary programs this year. As our world changes, as it evolves (Rohr), so too do our programs. We continually strive to assess the academic needs of our participants and to examine the contexts in which you work.

As a Marist community we strive to 'learn and grow', as our Marist Tertiary logo suggests. And, as Marists, we do this together as a family, a community or a team. We are blessed with the many Marists who are participating this year, whether through doing our MTE or MLF programs or writing essays. Many are pursuing University degrees, often at ACU, some are simply participating in programs for enjoyment. All are welcome.

An emerging interest is the opportunity the University of Divinity is offering students to write minor theses on theological topics relevant to Marist practice. Three Marists have successfully completed such theses over the last two years. We hope that eventually you'll have a chance to read these in our Marist Journal 'Champfagnat'.

Leadership proves too be a popular focus for our students. It seems when you are undertaking Marist Tertiary programs, you are often at a point in your careers where you have had several years of teaching experience and now you are being invited by your principals to lead within some part of the school community. Discussion at our programs often focuses on what it means to lead. How do we include the factors our world is addressing today? How do we help those we are leading to fulfil their leadership roles more professionally.

Fortunately, in our Marist context, we can share with each other how we can respond in Mary's way. We perhaps do this briefly when we have the opportunity informally or in a more sustained way at a meeting with other staff. Mary taught and led Jesus. How do we teach and lead in Mary's way today? Hence we are excited about our new program for 2018 which studies 'Leadership from a Marian Perspective'(MT402). It's a four day program across two weekends in May. We are currently enrolling.

Your feedback about our programs is always welcome. We hope 2018 is a happy year of learning for you.

With best wishes,  
**Br John McMahon**  
National Director

### Upcoming Programs

- \* MT402 Leadership from a Marian Perspective (LMP)

This program will be taught at Marist Centre Melbourne across two weekends: May 5-6, 2018 and May 26-27, 2018. Accreditation for this unit is with Australian Catholic University at the Masters Level. Enrolments are now open.

- \* MT401 Marist Educational Leadership Program (MEL)

This program will be offered on 4th-5th August, 2018 and 25th-26th August, 2018. The Course will be held at Marist College, Canberra ACT and presented by Dr Jennifer Elvery and Br John McMahon.

Further information can be obtained on [www.mte.org.au](http://www.mte.org.au)

## Contact Us

**Melbourne**

**Br John McMahon**

National Director

**PO Box 753**

**Templestowe Vic 3106**

**T +61 39846 8512**

**M +61 417 879 758**

**Email:**

[john.mcmahon@marists.org.au](mailto:john.mcmahon@marists.org.au)

[grace.johnstone@marists.org.au](mailto:grace.johnstone@marists.org.au)

**Website:**

[www.mte.org.au](http://www.mte.org.au)

**Registration:**

[www.msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes](http://www.msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes)

*Together we Learn and Grow*