



MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA
Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

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Marist Schools Australia

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Lavalla



INSIDE

The Champagnat Journal

Marist Bicentenary Celebrations

MSA Conference in Melbourne

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Lavalla

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Lavalla, the name given to this magazine is taken from the village in France where St Marcellin Champagnat established the world's first Marist school in 1817. There are now Marist schools in 80 countries.

Cover: Pictured at the reception following the Sydney Bicentenary Mass at the Parramatta Cathedral are: Left to Right - Monica Gonzales, Anthony Mackett, Br Mark Paul, Mrs Jenifer Miller, Supileo Taifao and Patrick Pre.



From the National Director



As this edition of *Lavalla* goes to print, the national debate concerning school funding continues and is likely to have a significant impact on the next Federal election. As a national network of schools in seven different states and territories, we have all enjoyed the significant benefits of government aid for the past 45 years. Br Kelvin Canavan fms, was at the forefront of the state aid campaign in the 1960s and early 70s. Some 30 years later, a by-line on his communications to school Principals in the Sydney Archdiocese read *'never take government funding for granted'*.

Kelvin's leadership of the 150 schools in Sydney was characterised by an unswerving commitment to an essential Marist characteristic – investment in building and maintaining quality relationships. Kelvin's success in doing this with politicians from both sides of Parliament at the federal and state levels, was widely recognised among educational leaders and significant players in both major political parties and successive governments. The nature of Kelvin's lifelong commitment to the cause of government funding for Catholic schools is instructive at this point in our history of Catholic education in Australia.

First, Catholic families, educators, and clergy should never be complacent about the unique nature of Catholic schools in Australia. Nowhere in the world do Catholic schools enjoy the level of government support and autonomy we do in Australia. This situation was only realised after 90 years of zero government funding for Catholic schools. Generations of parents, clergy, religious women and men and Catholic politicians, advocated for some support from government for decades.

As the present stewards of Catholic education, we are called to courageously articulate the benefits of our schools as places where communities are built and nurtured, educational excellence is evident and the taxpayer's dollar is wisely invested. Complacency in this regard will eventually breed failure in the form of diminished funding. Catholic families and educators must be vigilant in expressing their gratitude for government funding whilst echoing with one voice the benefits to Australian society of our Catholic schools.

Second, Catholic schools must be recognised as places of educational excellence. This does not mean leading every conceivable "league table" in regard to summative student performance data. More important is the legitimate measure of any educational institution, which is surely the gain made by each individual student in their learning. In this regard, our Catholic schools need be as good, if not better than comparable secular and non-Catholic schools.

As a network of schools educating families from across the spectrum of “educational advantage”, how might other Australians judge our students’ learning gain? Compelling, and illustrative evidence is available to the public on the *My School* website in relation to learning gain as measured by NAPLAN results. It is often overlooked information, which deserves some analysis by educators from all sectors. As educators, we tend more to various diagnostic software packages such as SMART in New South Wales, SunLANDA in Queensland, or the NAPLAN Data Service in Victoria, to name a few. These tools are essential in enabling our teachers to better assist our students. However, an eye on the public data is important. How does our school’s learning gain compare with the students from statistically similar backgrounds? How does our learning gain compare with students from across Australia with the same starting score in the previous NAPLAN test for that cohort?

Third, our schools must be renowned for their overt, expansive, embracing inclusivity. This is where our Catholic schools come to the fore. So many of us are acutely aware of the families in our communities who are disadvantaged and are struggling but not outwardly so. Young people growing up in single parent families, families that have suffered marriage breakup, families where one parent is severely disabled, incapacitated, chronically ill, or dealing with addiction. Our schools support families, particularly those who are suffering extreme duress. Students with disability are welcomed and carefully supported in their education.

The generosity of the current government’s funding arrangements has helped Catholic schools support vulnerable families within our own faith community. As Catholic educators we believe the gift of a Catholic education is beyond measure. Government funding allows us to share that gift as widely as we can. As details emerge from both Federal and State governments regarding the new funding arrangements to come into effect in 2019 for Catholic schools, let our voices be heard clearly in unison with our Catholic leaders to ensure the families we serve now and in future will be supported in their choice of a Catholic education for their children.

Dr Frank Malloy
National Director

Welcome to Griffith and Parkes

Two schools joined the Marist Schools Australia Network recently: Marian Catholic College in Griffith, and Holy Family School in Parkes. Both schools are in New South Wales and were administered by the Marist Brothers some years ago, and so in one sense it is “Welcome back”.



Frank Malloy (left) and Br Peter Carroll (Provincial) are photographed welcoming Denise Gersbach, the Principal of Holy Family Primary School.



John Robinson, the Regional Director for Marist Schools in New South Wales is pictured welcoming Alan Le Brocq, the Principal of Marian Catholic College.

Principals Concluding Appointments

When our schools close for Christmas at the end of this year, four of our current Principals will step away from school leadership. Each has been pivotal in successfully shaping Marist education in their different settings over many years. Below are some personal reflections on each of these fine educators.

The contribution of **Mr Rick Sidorko** to Marist College Canberra has been profound and transformational. On all legitimate measures of school success, Marist College Canberra is indeed a lighthouse school. Rick's leadership of the learning and teaching agenda in particular has been strategic, sustained, and highly effective. The Quality Marist Teaching Project has been widely recognised by educational researchers and leaders across Australia. Saint Marcellin urged the early Brothers to teach their students through example more than words. Herein lies the strength and genius of Rick's success as a Catholic leader, and as a mentor to the teachers, staff, students, parents, and MSA colleagues privileged to share with Rick in the work. Many times over the past 12 years, Rick Sidorko has been the public voice for all Marists in the Nation's capital. In the midst of immense ongoing hurt of victims from crimes of abuse, Rick has publicly acknowledged past wrongs, apologised, and sought and spoken always of reconciliation. I am sure the Marist family joins me in thanking and congratulating Rick and his wife Berenice, for their remarkable gift of leadership to Marist College Canberra.

When **Mr Ross Tarlinton** concludes as Principal at the end of this year, it will mark the end of not only the longest tenure of a Head of St Joseph's but also one of its most outstanding. The twelve years that Mr Tarlinton has been at the helm of the College have seen St Joseph's continue to grow and to flourish. By any measure – spiritually, academically, socially, culturally, physically – Joeys is an extraordinary place for young men to receive a Marist education. This has been greatly enhanced by Ross' leadership. Ross has led St Joseph's College with all the depth of faith, strength of purpose,



Mr Rick Sidorko



Mr Ross Tarlinton



Br Patrick Howlett



Br Mark Paul

breadth of vision and generosity of heart that anyone could hope to find in a leader in the tradition of Saint Marcellin. Ross is a gifted Catholic educationalist, leader and administrator, and his contributions to Marist education more broadly have been significant and highly valued. We wish Ross and his wife Lorna every happiness and success in the future, grateful for all they have given so generously to Joeys and Marist education.

The commitment to the vocation of a Marist educator is in many ways personified by the leadership and life's work of **Brother Patrick Howlett**. Shortly after being appointed Principal at Parramatta Marist High, Pat acknowledged a fundamental truth about the school's culture, – a significant number of the boys were simply not engaged in their learning. What Pat observed was "satisfactory" on many measures. However, a burning sense of justice drove Pat to imagine a new way of engaging completely every student in the liberating and fulfilling joy of learning. Dissatisfied with the status quo, Pat began to seek a new way. The enormity and boldness of Pat's vision is little understood by those who have never had the privilege and responsibility of leading a school as Principal. The leadership required involved immense courage, perseverance, tenacity, patience, intellect and trust in God. As Principal, Pat set the course, inspired and enabled others, spoke for the school and its agenda with government and Church education authorities, made connections with the Tertiary sector and networked across school education in different Dioceses, States and countries. As

Principal, Pat spawned leadership, invited and enabled others to share in the vision, to grow as professionals and as people.

Many of us have known Brother Pat since we were students and young teachers and it is his humility that seems to most often inspire. Humility to explore new ways of educating at a time when many people would have retired. Humility to continue to learn. Humility to say when given a compliment, with a wry smile – "well that's all good, but I'm not perfect!" Humility to always speak of the success of his team. I hope all Marists have the chance to recognise Pat's remarkable contribution in spoken and written word over the next few months.

The John Berne School will have been in existence for 20 years this December.

Brother Mark Paul is the third Principal of this special Marist school and like those before him, will leave a unique legacy for future generations of students and staff. Mark has met every challenge during his four years as Principal with unwavering faith, absolute courage, and boundless creativity. Most notable has been Mark's development of relationships with new donors and the growing number of "friends of Berne". Early in Mark's tenure, the very existence of the school at the Lewisham site was in question. Through Mark's leadership, and vision the school has not only remained at the current site but has received Commonwealth and Province funding, and financial support from the Sydney Catholic Schools Office to completely refurbish the building and plant which was in most part untouched these past 35 years. We wish Mark every happiness and success in his future role at Adelaide University.

International Communities for a New Beginning

In the letter "Montagne: the Dance of the Mission" of March 2015, Brother Emili Turú invited all the Marists of Champagnat, with the help of the Superiors of the Provinces and Districts, to draw up a list of Brothers and laity who show full availability to insert themselves in international communities which were soon to be created.

Mount Druitt Community is the new community created by the Region Oceania answering Brother Emili's call to create International Communities for a new beginning. Our community comprises Argelia and Rodrigo, a Young married couple from Mexico, Brother Jonnel Sisneros, a Young Brother from Philippines and Brother Lawrie McCane from Australia.

Mount Druitt is located 45km west of Sydney CBD, New South Wales, Australia. Our suburb has been identified as the most disadvantaged area of Sydney. It is also the most culturally diverse and has the highest population density of indigenous people in the country.

Unemployment, family violence, crime, homelessness and drug use are out of control in this, Sydney's poorest suburb. Many children are disengaged from schooling and wander the streets, especially those of indigenous background, or refugee children from Africa or the Middle East.

We will be targeting young people who are not at school by establishing a new pathway for disengaged youth to re-connect with education, other forms of training or employment. In partnership with Local Catholic Education Authorities we aim to begin a centre, Marist Learning Zone, where each young person will be given fresh educational opportunities, and the hope of a more promising future.



We pray that Mary will accompany us in this project and, at her side, we will be confirmed in our shared vocation, contributing to the creation of a better society, in which the weak and the marginalised are valued and loved.

"Duc In Altum".

The Lavalla 200 Community at Mt Druitt



Reflection – What is Lavalla about?

It's the name on the front cover of this journal. It's the name that's been given to this Marist bicentennial year. It's a name that is found on buildings in many of our schools and, indeed, the name of one these schools. It's the theme that has been given to the Brothers' General Chapter later this year. Lavalla.¹ But why all this hullabaloo about the town where Marcellin opened the first Marist school and began the Marist Brothers? What's so special about the place?

Nothing much.

And that's the point.

Today, of course, it is a place of pilgrimage for Marists around the world. It is holy ground for us – it is a grace to walk the streets that the Founder walked, to visit the small first house that he bought and extended with his own hands, and to sit around the famous table often in the context of celebrating the Eucharist.

But the Lavalla to which Marcellin was appointed as curate right after his ordination in 1816 was far from remarkable. It was just another French town – about two-and-a-half thousand people, six hundred of whom lived in the town itself, and the rest scattered across two valleys in over sixty hamlets and small villages. Most eked out a modest but satisfactory living from farming, timber and cottage industries. Few would ever travel more than fifty kilometres from where they lived. Its most striking characteristic was perhaps just how ordinary it was. Around eighty per cent of early nineteenth-century France was to be found in rural situations such as this, and in similar socio-economic conditions.

If someone had undertaken a strategic mapping exercise to identify the most favourable place to start a new educational movement, they would have been unlikely to have settled on Lavalla. If they had



been looking for somewhere with outstanding prospects for recruiting skilled and educated teachers, for resourcing capital expenditure, or for setting up a training facility, they would have looked elsewhere than among the Vallauds (the name of the inhabitants of Lavalla).

Marcellin could have waited until he received a more promising posting, some place more conducive for realising his hopes and ideas. And maybe with better transport links and a healthier climate. He didn't. His first Brothers were drawn from the young men who happened to be there; the students, the same. The physical and financial challenges were what they were. It was here that Marcellin set to work, and without delay – in the time and place where he found himself, and with the people whom he found there.

It was in and from this quite ordinary place that so much of what we have come to treasure as our extraordinary Marist-ness was defined and mythologised. So many of the founding stories we tell and re-tell grew from the eight years that Marcellin and his first followers spent in Lavalla – the encounter with the ignorant dying child in an isolated hamlet; Marcellin's coming

to live with the Brothers and unpretentiously to share their life; the first schools which became known for their family spirit, their joy, their zeal; Marcellin and Stanislas lost in the snow; responding to resistance from various quarters; the sense of endeavour; the simplicity of it all and the faith that underpinned it.

We are all called to Lavalla. Lavalla symbolises our here and now – this year, this school, these colleagues, these students, these resources or lack of them, these external authorities, this culture. Perhaps none of them would match our ideal. Perhaps we may be tempted to imagine that in another place, with other people, or that in a different social, educational or religious context, I could be a more effective Marist evangeliser and educator.

Where is it that I should be? In Lavalla, Marcellin tells us. Where will I find Marists to work alongside me? Among the Vallauds. Who are those to whom I will speak of the love of God? Those at my door. "Bloom where you're planted," goes the old adage. It was one that Marcellin lived intuitively and unstintingly.

Brother Michael Green

¹ At the time of Marcellin, the name of the town was written interchangeably as "Lavalla" or "La Valla", with the former being more common. Today the town is known officially as "La Valla-en-Gier" which is often shortened to "La Valla".

Discovery Garden 2017

2017 welcomed Foundation students to Marist College Bendigo for the very first time. Prior to this Years 7, 8 and 9 were in residence, and enjoying a country outlook nestled in Maiden Gully. Our quickly expanding campus, designed by award winning architects Y2, focuses on natural materials and creating areas for self-discovery, exploration and learning. These elements support our Reggio Inspired learning philosophy within our La Valla learning experience (Foundation-Year 4).

We were presented with a blank canvas for our 'play space'. Initially, the design process was underway with a parent discernment group and 2016 staff. It was soon recognised that the ownership and creativity of the students was an untapped source. And the fun began...

4 weeks, 350 designs, 49 fine liners, 25 water colour sets, grass, plasticine, sticks, PVC pipes, clipboards, 5 Educators and 49 inspired, creative and amazing students all combined to present their vision to 1 Principal, 1 Builder and 1 Architect.

And here is their vision for their Discovery Garden.

Our Foundation students are extremely fortunate to have the recognition, trust and support of the leadership team, parents and community of Marist

College Bendigo. Here, children are viewed as being strong, highly capable and creative individuals, where their voice can create action.

Tanya Balcke, Jana Mollison and Leonie Wolfe



PHOTOS: NATHAN TASCA

The Hermitage Pilgrimage ... 2017

One of the most common questions I am asked when people I meet discover that I have been on the Marist Pilgrimage is "What was most memorable about the whole pilgrimage?" At first my responses centred around places, like the Hermitage itself, or the Lake of Galilee, our Archives at the General House in Rome or the basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. And later I thought that it was the Pilgrimage process itself, with the numerous times for quiet and reflection about what was going on around us, or the walks to the next places of interest or the wonderful, informative and dedicated guides that accompanied and guided us through our pilgrim journey. But later it became clearer that it was the other Pilgrims that were the most memorable aspect of this Marist Pilgrimage. For me, being a Marist Brother in an ever-decreasing group of men who believe that what they have done in education, especially where there is a special need for them, there can be a cause for uncertainty and despondency. I have considered that with the departure of the Brothers from our work places of schools and other areas of education that our work would become undone, lost in the general



activity of where we had worked for so long. But the two dozen or so men and women that pilgrimaged with me, showed that Marist spirituality was alive and well in the people with whom the Brothers work.



The work of Brother Michael Green in presenting Marcellin Champagnat's unique way of influencing those so many different people around him to know their God through Mary, was something that we all enjoyed and looked forward to. The Champagnat insights and connections that many of my lay partners in the Pilgrimage showed as belonging to them too, helped me feel that the Brothers were not alone in doing our Marist work. As well, they reassured me that I can have solid confidence that the work I consider to be essentially Marist, worthwhile and unique is 'just so' with them too. I felt buoyed up by their appreciation of the work that the Brothers have done in the last 200 years and that they were keen to identify with St Marcellin's way of doing



things, his spirituality, and to continue the Brothers' work when they were no longer able to do so ... a passing of the relay baton, if you will.

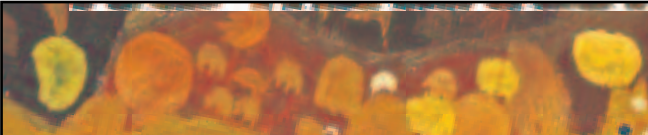
There was never any doubt that what we were about was a pilgrimage. Each of us would have begun our journey with some degree of confidence that we knew what a pilgrimage was about. During this Marist Pilgrimage, increasingly, we grew in our understanding of the concepts of

pilgrim, community, Marist Spirituality and Church. Looking back at the Pilgrimage after months of returning home, *encouragement* seems to be a word that has special significance for how the Pilgrimage continues to have meaning for me. I was encouraged by the Brothers and the lay men and women on the Pilgrimage, the staff and guides whose role was to guide and accompany us on our unique journey and especially, in my own journey as a

Brother, in my pilgrimage with and towards my God.

Our pilgrimage continues today, albeit in our day-to-day workplace, with no Roman ruins, no anticipation of Pope Francis driving around the corner and no strenuous walks around La Valla. We are still pilgrims though, open to what surrounds us on our journey, our quest to further discover who we are and what we are asked to become by our God.

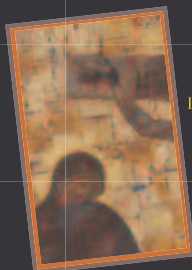
Br Andrew Moraghan and Br Michael Akers

GALOVIC and the MARISTS
a book which captures the beauty and the mystery
of icons and paintings by Michael Galovic,
completed between 1997 and 2017,
for Australian Marist communities.

Twenty images as a selection of those works,
including the last four and major paintings
commissioned for the Marist bicentenary,
to be made into the digiglass windows in the Hermitage, Mittagong.

Commentaries by Brother Michael Green, Brother David Hall
and the artist, about the 20 years of collaboration.



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MT CARMEL CATHOLIC COLLEGE, VARROVILLE

17CYG BAHAMAS – Commonwealth Youth Games

Congratulations go to JORDAN DORIS of Year 12, at Mount Carmel Catholic College, for his exceptional performance in representing his country at the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas. Jordan won a silver medal in the 400 metres and a gold medal in the mixed 4 x 400 metre event.

"Australia's 4x400m mixed relay team featuring Bendere Oboya, Carley Thomas, Sebastien Moir and Jordan Doris were made to wait but were ultimately declared winners of the final event of the Games." (b17cyg)

Jordan has been the Wollongong Diocese Male Athlete of the Year for the past three years and represents both Wollongong CEO and his school with great passion. He is currently the

Australian U/17 400 metre and 800 metre Champion and a student leader within the College. The ongoing goal is representation at next years Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. We wish him well in this.



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, HUNTERS HILL

Grandparents welcomed to St Joseph's College

Without doubt, one of the most highly anticipated annual events at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, is Grandparents Day. For many years the day has given boys in years 7 and 8 the opportunity to spend a morning with their grandparents, sharing special moments that will long be remembered and celebrating their unique relationship.

More than 400 grandparents visited St Joseph's for the event on 8 May, with some travelling great distances to join their grandsons for the occasion.

The morning began with a liturgy focussing on the special bonds that exist between grandparents and their grandchildren. During the liturgy boys lit

candles for their grandparents and spent time reflecting on those who were unable to be there.

A tour of the College gave boys the opportunity to proudly show off the boarding areas, Resources Centre, dining rooms, main building and some of their other favourite areas. It also allowed grandparents who are former students to reminisce about their time at St Joseph's and talk about the many changes that have taken place over the years.

Morning tea was served on the front lawn, giving grandparents and grandsons an often-too-rare opportunity to sit and talk together. The morning



Year 7 student Thomas Bovell with his grandfather Jim.

concluded with a number of student musical performances.

Director of Mission at the College, Mrs Lesley Maher, said Grandparents Day was a celebration of family and love. "It is wonderful to provide an opportunity for the boys to nurture their relationship with their grandparents. As children get older and busier they may see less of their grandparents, so this day is extremely special for both grandparents and grandsons."

The Annual John Berne School Luncheon



Arabella Croft (Berne ex-student)

With a famous Australian compere in Wendy Harmer, an inspiring address by past NSW Premier Hon Mrs Kristina Keneally and stories of success from three Berne ex-students combining with the sumptuous décor and Hyde Park outlook of Doltone House Function Centre, all the ingredients were present for a great luncheon. Add to that the dynamism of celebrity auctioneer Damien Cooley and financial success seemed certain.

The purpose of this luncheon is two-fold: to bring together staff and supporters of this unique school and to raise funds to support its operation. With an enrolment of between 30 and 40 students at any one time, the normal fundraising base of



The Hon Kristina Keneally, Wendy Harmer

a large school parent group is not present. The many friends and supporters of The John Berne School realize this and were happy to respond generously, especially in the auction which asked for financial support for several school projects such as the Champagnat Scholarships, literacy and reading programs and equipment for the new buildings.

Ex-students Anthony Esposito, Arabella Croft and Mark Hinton spoke of the life changing experience of attending Berne. Anthony (2012) had been involved in a carpentry apprenticeship, Arabella (2012) is studying to become a Primary School teacher and Mark (2010) is studying to complete a Bachelor of



Anthony Esposito (Berne ex-student)

Interactive Media. All three spoke not only of the value of their Berne experience where teachers encouraged and believed in them, but also of the faith and loving commitment of their mothers. They truly represented our precious Marist values.

We are indebted to past Development Manager Mrs Angela Flannery and her assistant Mrs Catherine Williams for their wonderful organisation, to the many young men and women who so ably assisted them to make this an occasion to remember and especially to our private and corporate sponsors.

Janet Freeman
Fundraising Committee Member



The Hon Kristina Keneally, Mark Hinton (Berne ex-student)



Michael Lindsay, Br Peter Carroll, Wendy Harmer

MARIST BICENTENARY 1817-2017

Two-hundred years is not a long time – in comparison to the history of the world. However, the past two centuries have a special significance for us – we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Marist Institute, the birth of the dream of St Marcellin Champagnat and the first Marists. We give thanks for all the blessings that we have received over this time. The Bicentenary was celebrated around Australia on Saturday

12th August 2017 with hundreds gathering for the Special Masses and Receptions that followed.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge was the principal concelebrant at the Mass in St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane; Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, OFM Conv., was the principal concelebrant at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta; and Bishop Mark Edwards, OMI, the Auxiliary Bishop for the Western Region of

Melbourne led the liturgy at Marcellin College Bulleen.

The photographs below provide a glimpse of the celebrations.





ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE CAMPBELLTOWN

"There is the music of heaven in all things; and we have forgotten how to hear it until we sing."

– St Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

The saints have always sung. In this Marist Bicentennial year, we walk into the future with hope, as Marcellin and his companions did at La Valla in 1817. What is our song as we go? Marcellin sang on a daily basis as he walked, prayed, and worked alongside the students in his care, and with his Brothers. He insisted that the Brothers include singing as part of the school curriculum. Why would he do this? Didn't he have other things to do? Marcellin instinctively knew that singing

was the sign of a joyful heart, and that the practice of singing together promoted and enhanced gospel joy and community cohesion.

Marcellin sang at Masses and in and out of the classroom. He sang the folk songs of his day (the popular, or 'pop music' of the time), as well as the chants of the Mass, melodic and rhythmic hymns, and especially Marian hymns like the *Salve Regina*. There is something in this focus that we can perhaps rediscover in this

year of "new beginnings." Do our liturgies with our students allow them to give voice in song to the God who loves them, lives within them, and walks beside them? Do we allow ourselves to join in the song while sharing liturgy alongside them to further show them the way of Mary in accompaniment? You don't need the best voice, as Marcellin knew: just the courage and willingness to add your unique voice to bring out the richness in the harmony.

Fiona Dyball, May 2017

ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE CAMPBELLTOWN

St Greg's Marist Cricket Carnival Champions

St Gregory's College has earned a reputation as one of New South Wales' best cricket schools in recent years. This recognition was strengthened by our recent victory at the recent Australasian Marist Cricket Carnival at St Augustine's in Cairns. The Carnival brings together teams from Marist schools across Australia. Congratulations to the team and Coach, Mr Luke Morrissey and Manager, Mr Joseph Lantz.

On 6 December, 12 of the College's players, along with staff members Mr Joe Lantz and Mr Luke Morrissey, travelled to Cairns for the Marist Cricket Carnival.

After 6 days of competition, the Presentation/Dinner was held on Monday night at St Augustine's College. At the Presentation it was announced that the College won the following awards:

- Carnival Champions;
- The selection of six College students

in the Australian Marist XI Merit team; The members of this team were: Daniel Slane (Captain), Cameron Middleton, Vincent Hreszczuk, Rohan Indap and Matt Stimson;

- The selection of Daniel Slane as player of the Carnival with 109 runs and 14 Wickets;
- The selection of Vincent Hreszczuk as Batsman of the Carnival with 164 runs at an average of 55 including the only century scored in the tournament

- The Champagnat Award to Daniel Hodson, an award that acknowledges the player who best showcased the Marist Spirit

Congratulations to the following students who participated in the Marist Cricket Carnival and who came back as Champions: Bailey Dickinson; Rohan Indap ; Vincent Hreszczuk; Lawson Clark; Cameron Middleton; Daniel Slane; Matt Stimson; Ji Mills; Sam Price; Daniel Hodson; Jakob Eljed; Liam Neeson.



THE REX CAMBREY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

This year Marist College Bendigo was again very fortunate to be the recipient of "The Rex Cambrey Education Scholarship". This scholarship is named in honour of long-serving Marist employee and affiliated member Rex Cambrey and is funded through the generosity of The Tony and Gwyneth

Lennon Family Foundation of Perth Western Australia. This year the scholarship has been used to assist two students with their school fees.

Rex Cambrey, Anthony Lennon, son of Tony Lennon, a member of the Family Foundation and his daughter Meribel, visited Marist again this year to catch up

with the two students receiving this scholarship and to see the growth in our College.

Marist College Bendigo would again like to thank Rex Cambrey, Anthony Lennon and the Tony Lennon Family Foundation in their generous contribution to the students at Marist College Bendigo.



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NORTHAM

The introduction of Years 11 and 12 to St Joseph's School in Northam has been exciting and much anticipated for the students, teachers and the whole community. The inaugural cohort of Year 11 students from 2016 are now the first graduating year group of Year 12 students of the school. This marks an important date in the school history books and has been met with great excitement by the students who feel very privileged to be a part of this significant milestone. The school has 20 Year 12 students in 2017, approximately half of whom are completing their ATAR and looking forward to going to university; and the others who are completing their studies and wishing to undertake an apprenticeship or further

studies at TAFE. The students are surrounded and supported by a team of dedicated teachers who are excited to

see the graduation of the first cohort of Year 12 students from St Joseph's School, Northam.



All involved in Marist Cambodia Community Village Ground Breaking Ceremony

On Sunday July 23 ninety students of the Inclusive Education Programme for post school youth and the one hundred and three students at LaValla School actively participated in the turning of the soil to commence this construction project.

Despite the limitations of some physical disabilities, every student joined the staff in taking their turn with the shovel at this momentous and joyful occasion for the Marist project in Takhmao on the edge of the capital Phnom Penh.

The Community Village will comprise 8 residences for students, 2 staff residences and a number of communal facilities such as a dining hall and kitchen, health centre and a study centre for tutoring, library and information technology.

Work will commence on the roads and land preparation this week and then the building construction begins in two months time. A local contractor has been responsible for a creative design of the Village and the project's implementation all of which is under the direction of Mr Sopagna, a senior staff member of Marist Solidarity Cambodia.



MSC Students and staff participating in the ground-breaking ceremony

The Village represents a long held dream of the Australian Marists who have worked in Cambodia as well as the

dedicated Khmer staff. Brother Terry Heinrich, the founder of the LaValla School, has been the main driving force of this innovative response to care of young Cambodians leaving the Marist School for their next phases of education.

Breaking the soil means a dream becomes a reality for the young Cambodians who, because of a physical disability, are often excluded from education especially in the rural provinces. Access to quality Marist education is at the heart of this village.

More details are available on www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au

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MSC Director Bunthoeun Cheng and students breaking ground at the MSC Village

TIMOR LESTE

ICFP Baucau East Timor introduces English into the curriculum

English Education for Junior Secondary Schools is the new subject introduced this year for Year 1 students at ICFP Baucau. The Ministry of Education asked us to start this course so that some of our graduates will be able to teach English in junior secondary schools in Timor Leste. Two Timorese teachers have joined the staff - Luciana da Costa and Virginia de Fatima Ximenes. They have been introduced to student-centred learning and inducted into teaching English by ICFP staff member Margie Beck and volunteer from Australia Jill Gavin. Virginia is now in Brisbane learning more English and assisting with classes in English as a second language. Luciana, who has had experience in teaching English in Timor and Cambodia, will also go for further studies in Brisbane in 2018.

Domingas tells her story

My name is Domingas Ulan Colo. I am 22 years old and I come from Passabe in the district of Oecusse. I am a first year student at ICFP Baucau. My parents are farmers who grow vegetables, so we don't have very much money. But a generous donor from Australia pays for my tuition fees at ICFP. Thank you,



Salvador Ximenes



Domingas (centre) in English class

Australia. I want to become a teacher so that I can return to Passabe to teach the children in my community. I am happy to be in Baucau because I enjoy my studies at ICFP, especially my English classes. I like the house we live in because it has water and electricity.

Salvador's story

"I am Salvador Ximenes from Bagaia in the mountains south east of Baucau. When I decided to become a teacher I enrolled at ICFP in Baucau where I was happy to join the many enthusiastic and like-minded pre-service teachers from all over the country. After graduating, my first appointment was in Oecusse – that area of East Timor that is found in West Timor. The following year I joined the ICFP staff as a tutor in Maths and Phys Ed. As all staff members are expected to undertake Masters degree studies, I learnt English and now I am

enrolled with Australian Catholic University and studying by distance education."

"My dream for the future is to contribute as much as I can to the development of education in Timor Leste. Because I am an educated person, my culture also obliges me to contribute to the development of my family and community back in Bagaia."



English teachers: Virginia (left) and Luciana (right)

Marist Life and Formation

FOOTSTEPS 1 – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED 26 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH 2017

Participants:

Clare Curwen-Walker, Megan Harmston, Alison Braidwood, Fintan Keane, Faaae Uepa, Sinead Coakley, Randall Bezaire, Lance Helms, Christine Yacoub, Gus Coles, Karen Umbers, Lee Summerville, Aaron Lawler, Robyn Ryan, Mandy Webb, Kendall Aglinskis, Glenn Solomons, Phoebe Mitsak, Sally Nicholson, Sabina Prodanovic,



Janine McEgan, Kathleen Slegers, Stephen Davis, Alex Peace, Cameron Hogg, Alex James, Mark Webber, Keith Wrest, Lee Brand, Marcelle D'Castro, Br Sunanda Alwis

Team: Elizabeth Falconer, Paul Harris, Andrew Dumas Br Hubert Williams, Br Neville Solomon

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.

FOOTSTEPS 1 – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED 19 – 22 MARCH 2017



Participants:

Andre Simon, Sue Steward, Sandra Carozza, Craig Hirst, Sandy Corles, Dan Wightman, Dino Faelis, Glenn McKenzie, Stephen King, Luke Morwitch, Kirsty van der Kolk, Mitch Bristow, Linda Roden, Jen Buckingham, Jess Bellamy, Angela Stoneman, Jeni Miller, Katrina Mansfield, Deanna Dawson, Olivia Holmes, Celine

Menuet, Mitch Saunders, Bernadette Clowry, Shane Noonan, Peita McClenaghan, Cathy Holmes, Chantelle Dagasso, Anthony Graziano, Tara McGrath, Sally Sargent, Brett McKellar, Shamaine Jacobs, Daniel Johnson, Fiona Dyball

Team: Paul Harris, Elizabeth Falconer, Andrew Dumas, Sarah Nowlan, Paul Herrick

Thirty four participants from 19 Schools and Marist Youth Ministry shared the Footsteps journey at a very wet Mittagong. The sun did shine from time to time but the spirit of the group was not dampened by the weather. Connecting as Marists and exploring our spirituality are key parts of the program; time for discussion and personal reflection provide an opportunity for participants to deepen their own journey as Marists.

FOOTSTEPS 1 – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED 28 – 31 MAY 2017

Participants: Dan Lynch, James Gill, Matt Hayward, Gary Keown, Alex Fox, Daniel Ronchetti, Nicole Klicki, Ash French, Ange Bekesi, Lauren Hastings, Clint Gifford, Aaron Hume, Andie Bartley, Linda Whiteside, Emily Gray, Andrea Harney, Tod Healey, Di Healey, Trish Star,



John Seers, Rob Hahn, Tom Coupland, James Roberts, Matthew Darben, Dean Cohen, Kelsey McMillan, Ann Glen, Terence McGrath, Caitrina Moran, Justin Colley, Roland Boschetti, Konrad Fepuleai, Erica Waite, Julie Oste, Beth Code, Ron Ruzzier, Peter Coghlan

Team: Ryan Gato, Paul Harris, Andrew Dumas, Jeni Miller, Gabriel Rulewski, John Robinson

FOOTSTEPS 2 – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED 18 – 21 JUNE 2017



Participants: Tim Mullin, Meagan Whaites, Steve Littleton, Claire Fitzpatrick, Steve Turley, Brendan Boidin, Lawrence Zanella, Paula Sexton, Cathy Agius, Ben Frize, Angela Bottari, Danielle Lynch,

Sarah Davis, Jenny Neilsen, Anthony Rooskie, Ken Jordan, Melissa Hurn, Kristen Connors, Clare Waterworth, Leigh Boggis, Sean Mullaly, Mark Heiss, Grant Dooner, Julie Zic, Mel Daley, Steve Bognar, Adam Mzee Kitungano, Daniel Johnson, Louise Colbran

Team: Br Michael Akers, Elizabeth Falconer, Tony Clarke, Paul Harris, Br Hubert Williams, Br Bill Sullivan

FOOTSTEPS 1 – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED 6 – 9 AUGUST 2017

Participants: John Sladic, Becc Bond, Elizabeth Dangerfield, Jane O'Shea, Sharon Hadlow, Liam Hawkey, Kalli Koniaras, Christina Gallichio, Karen Billingham, Peter Igoe-Taylor, Alison Quinn, Justina Holland, Belinda Aveni, Renae



Savage, Bernadette Clark, Michaela Meagher, Annette Luxford, Des Langdon, Lachlan Pollock, Jasmine Akkari, Kellie Weller, Luke Nolan, Kathryn Dore, Megan Waters, Lizzie Friendship, Michael Wallden, Bozana Radas, Jessica Harper, Charmaine Tilley, Bobby Bracken, Neale Williamson, Dermot Holmes, Jason McDonald, Roma Valentine

Team: Paul Harris, Ryan Gato, Hubert Williams, Fiona Dyball, Liam Duncan

AWAKEN

The *Awaken* program focuses particularly on community and recognises how the Christian and Marist story influences our relationships. It enables participants to give witness to the way



Mandy Soosai and Jodi Parker

The teachers of Mt Maria College, Petrie in Brisbane gathered together to celebrate the province program, *Awaken*. One participant commented that she gained insight into an 'awareness of the Marist philosophy and the role of the College



Marisa Favilla, Steve Byrne and Ann Von Bujdoss

On Wednesday 25 January, both the senior and middle campuses of Sacred Heart Adelaide gathered together to participate in the *Awaken* spirituality program. The day



David Riddington, Nicole Arathoon, Melissa Painter

The staff of The John Berne School gathered together to participate in the *Awaken* program, providing a chance to reflect on how life challenges our perceptions and causes us to grow on a personal level and professionally. They explored the Christian

community is being lived out in our particular place and how it contributes to the enrichment of the lives of each other and our young people. 18 January 2017



Cathy Holmes and Tensile Rizutto

in our current society.' As well as these 'big picture' insights staff were invited to reflect upon their own stories and the beautifully told stories of Jesus. 25 January 2017



Peter Young

allowed staff to engage with our Christian story, whilst exploring how their faith community continues to grow and shape Marist life. 30 January 2017



Kelly Wafer, Kristina Allan, Phoebe Mitsak

and Marist story of how God calls us to a deeper awareness through community. Michael and Melissa led a dynamic and engaging workshop following on the practical implications on being *Awaken* at The John Berne School. 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. 18 April 2017



Kerrin Smith, John McKay, Terry Cooney, Taylah DaRiva, Jasmine Santamaria, Justin Caruso, Jade Barr, Vicki Devine, Billena Hales, Kathy Daly, Shona Maskelyne, Luke Hamilton, Pater Augustin

The Awaken Staff Spirituality program commenced the term for the staff at Assumption College Kilmore. 24 April 2017



Francis Xavier Hamilton and St Peters Maitland came together for the *Awaken* program.

NEWMAN COLLEGE

LifeLink Primary Day

On Wednesday 7 June, Newman College hosted the annual LifeLink Day launch for Primary schools. Newman College welcomed student and staff representatives from 73 of the 93 Primary schools in the Archdiocese of Perth. In 2016, agencies supported by LifeLink assisted 34,000 Western Australians. To symbolically recognise this, each student at every Primary school within the Archdiocese was asked to prepare a single heart that would be brought to the launch on 7 June to be placed on the ovals at Newman College in recognition of each of the 34,000 people assisted by LifeLink. Our Year 4 and Year 5 students assisted in placing each of the hearts into one large heart on the ovals at Newman College.

Staff and Student Reflections of LifeLink Primary Day:

On Wednesday, 7th June, the Student Council represented Newman College at the annual LifeLink Launch Day. Newman College actually hosted the event this year, and we were responsible for welcoming guests from 73 Catholic Primary Schools

across the Perth Archdiocese. We met Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, Bishop Don Sproston, and Dr Tim McDonald, the Director of Catholic Education WA. We also recited a poem, 'God's Flight' by Heather Flood for the audience. We worked extremely hard in the weeks leading up to the event in order to perfect it. We were really nervous when we saw how many people were in the audience, but we rose to the occasion and Miss Warchomij, Mr Lynch and Mr Finneran were really proud of us. While the event was going on the

Year 5's and 4's were busily placing LifeLink Hearts into the ground on the Marcellin Campus Oval. There were 40,000 hearts brought to the event by the visiting schools. We were all treated to a delicious morning tea to conclude the event.

LifeLink has raised millions of dollars over the years to support agencies who help people in need across Western Australia. They help people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, the homeless and poor, and those with mental health issues. It has become so clear to us how important it is to support this charity helping people in our very own community.

- by Grace Rose and Rebecca Harris

I was privileged to support our Year 6 Student Council as they represented Newman College in hosting guests from Catholic Schools all over Perth at the Archbishop's LifeLink Launch Event for Primary Schools. I could not have been prouder of the twelve students who make up our Student Council, they greeted guests with warmth and sincerity including students of different ages, teachers and school staff, Assistant Principals and Principals, as well as Archbishop Timothy





Costelloe, Bishop Don Sproston and Dr Tim McDonald. They represented our College with pride and were shining examples of how we expect our students to behave. They worked incredibly hard in the weeks leading up to the event, including giving up their own time, to learn Heather Flood's poem 'God's Flight' which they recited for all of the guests beautifully. Archbishop Costelloe spoke about Jesus' parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, putting into perspective how caring for others in need is showing the same for our Lord. This beautifully reflected the purpose of LifeLink

and how it is all our responsibilities to be open to seeing and hearing those in need in our community and doing what we can to help them. It was quite amazing to see the display of hearts gathered from all of the schools who visited on the day; 40,000 individual prayers, thoughts, notes and drawings to share as messages to those in need in our State. It took all of our Year 5 and 4 Units to get the hearts positioned in the time that the event was going on inside the Auditorium, and they worked tirelessly! The 40,000 individual hearts collected as one enormous heart was quite

the sight to see and symbolic of the Church's intention for us to work together for this great cause. It was also wonderful to see students from different schools getting to know each other and celebrating LifeLink together. The LifeLink Launch Event was a fantastic way for our own and for the broader community to see what great students we have here at Newman College and to celebrate the achievements of LifeLink and I was thrilled to be a part of it.

– Ms Kate Warchomij
(Leader of Wellbeing – Years' 3 – 6)

Marist Association

Marist Daily Prayer App



Have you
downloaded
the Marist Prayer App
yet?

Search for 'Marist Daily Prayer'
in Google Play Store or iTunes store.

New Prayer Resources

New Online Resource Launched:

We Marists - Priorities

Nine interactive online resources for the Priorities from 'We Marists...Our Hopes and Priorities 2016 - 2018' are now available for individual or shared reflection on the Marist Association website home page:



<http://www.maristassociation.org.au/marist-association-home>

Experience them now!

Date Claimer

Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat

National Assembly

2nd to 4th October 2018 - Adelaide

An open invitation is extended to all Marists who have expressed interest in, or joined the Association, to attend.

Book flights and accommodation now!

(Note: Assembly begins 4.30pm Tuesday 2nd and closes 3.00pm Thursday 4th)



For further information about the

Marist Association

please go to the website:

www.maristassociation.org.au

or email

marist.association@marists.org.au

FROM THE ARCHIVES

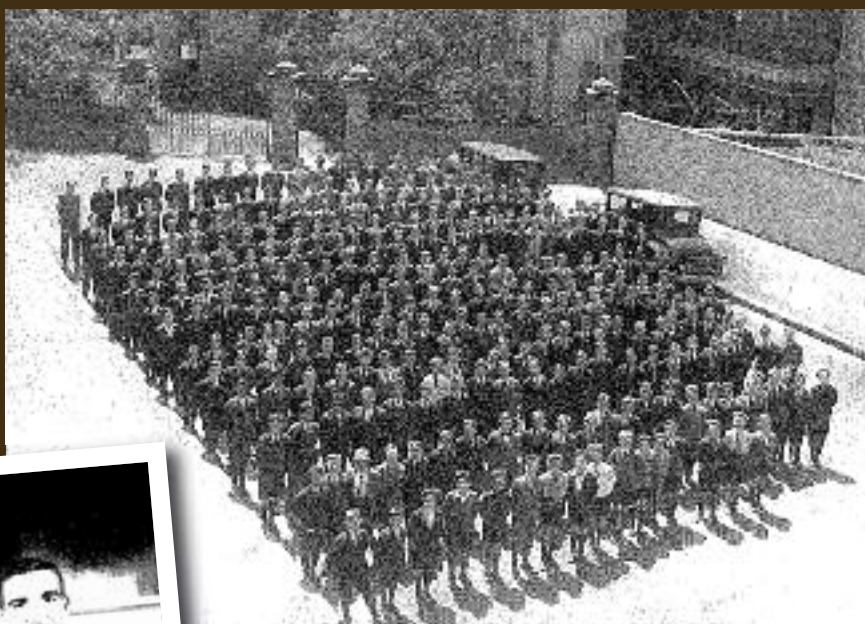
Photographs telling a story...

Historians correctly tell us that our present situation and our future are always tied to our past. The following photographs tell us something of our Marist story and heritage over many years.

DARLINGHURST 1928

Assembly of the Senior Students at the Marist Brothers' High School.

Photograph appears on Page 10 of the school magazine "Blue and Blue". Not sure who owned the cars!



RECALLING MOSMAN 1964



The photograph on the left is a recent acquisition to the Province Archives courtesy of Brother Tony d'Arbon. Pictured are three of the illustrious staff members from the secondary department at Mosman in 1964. Left to right: Brothers Ildephonsus (Brian) Sweeney, Chrysostom (Anthony) d'Arbon and Emilian Nevin. Absent is Br Nilus (Alan Anthony). The photograph was taken in 1964 – the last year of secondary classes at Mosman. Address of the school was: Marist Brothers' High School, Cardinal Street, Mosman. All very religious!

FUNERAL PROCESSION OF ARCHBISHOP KELLY 1940

The photograph was taken outside St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney in 1940 – according to the record printed on the back of it. Things were in correct order – religious habits and rosary beads; and following the Marist Brothers are the Christian Brothers and then the De LaSalle Brothers. Archbishop Kelly was the Coadjutor Archbishop of Sydney from 1901 to 1911; and Archbishop from 1911 to 1940 – a long time but not made a Cardinal. He was succeeded as Archbishop by Archbishop Gilroy who was made a Cardinal in 1946.



MOVING FORWARD BY A FEW YEARS – with the technicolour collection!

Gathering after the Final Profession of Br Mark Paul in 1988: Left to Right – Br Harry Prout, Mrs Joan Paul, Peter Morellini, Mr George Paul and Br Justin Guthrie with Br Mark in front.

The final two photographs are of two well-known gentlemen with impeccable credentials: Brothers Kenneth Preston and the late Brian McGrath pictured with Cardinal Martini of Milan and Sir William Deane, Governor General of Australia. Both photographs were taken at Melbourne Youth Festivals in the late twentieth century.



MELBOURNE DAYS

Early twenty-first century, like 2000 – Br Fons van Rooij, then Principal of Assumption College Kilmore with a young postulant, Anthony Robertson. Anthony was living at the Nicholson Street Community, studying at the University of Melbourne, and working one day a week at Samaritan Catholic College.

Both Marists have gone on to greater things since – Fons is now a key member of the Marist Identity Taskforce at Leuven in Belgium; and Anthony is a member of the landed gentry in the Southern Highlands.



Trip to the Heart of Australia

Marist-Sion College Year 11 students have recently returned from another successful Central Australian school Trip – below is a journal of their experience.

We flew straight to the heart of Australia to touch down at Uluru airport and sighting the iconic rock in its magnificence out the window of the plane as we descended to land was awe inspiring and the contrast of the beginning and end of the day was noteworthy. The start of the day saw us in dismal, dark Victoria and at the end of the day we were watching the brilliant sun setting on Uluru; a truly remarkable image. Investigating Uluru and Kata Juta occupied us the following day and we packed our tents to journey another 400kms to our next destination.

A short 400km journey found us at Watarrka (Kings Canyon) and nearly all students followed the well-worn route up the very steep first 100 metres to the ridge of the canyon to see the incredible view of the valley below. An excited but tired crew of 50 came back and we boarded the bus for the next 400kms to reach Alice Springs, pausing for a 5

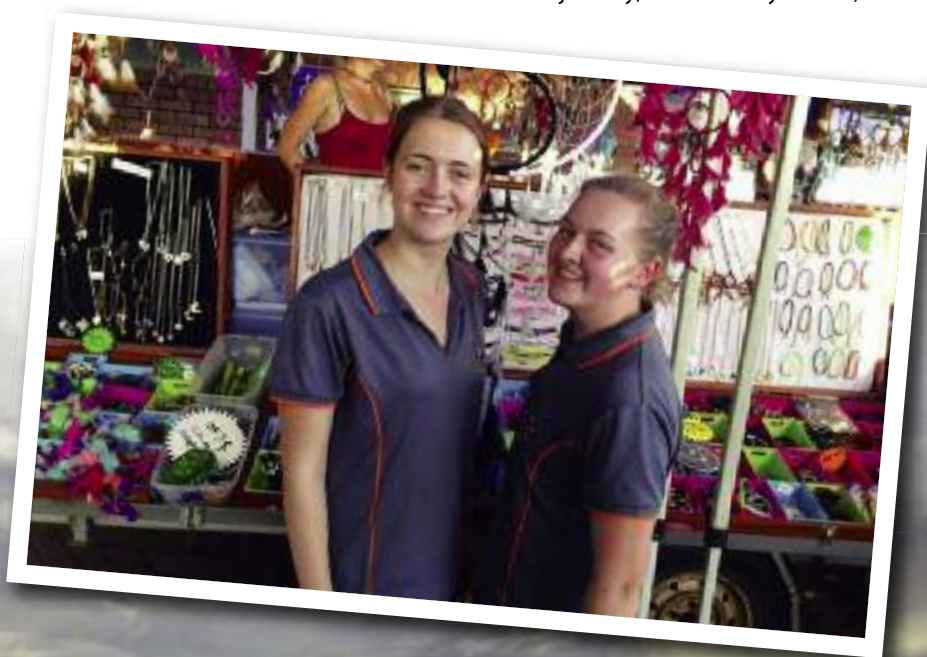
minute camel ride which proved to be more than long enough for most people.

The sights of Alice Springs were offered to us for our two day stop with the Old Telegraph Station providing us with much information on the early settlers to the area and the life of the indigenous community while they lived at the telegraph station. We visited the Flying Doctors and the School of the Air which were educational and interesting: our

fundraising efforts of \$500 for the Flying Doctors was significant.

Rex the Snake Man came to visit our campsite with his variety of snakes and lizards and his information on how to survive in the bush when encountering a snake. The chance to hold a thorny devil and a huge python was an opportunity most people did not pass up.

We travelled for 12 hours on our next leg of the journey, to reach Daly Waters, 10





of which we sat in the coach. We had our first experience of sleeping under the stars which highlighted the spectacular night sky of the outback.

Katherine awaited us after a short journey and several stops along the way. Devils Marbles, Mataranka thermal pool and Cutta Cutta caves were enjoyed by all and broke the journey for us, even though it was minimal miles compared to the day prior. The colours of Mataranka waters and the lush foliage surrounding it were welcome after the red sand and small dusty shrubs of the centre. We had reached the start of the Top End and it was noticeable. The ant hills were gradually growing and the landscape was changing, becoming more tropical the further north we travelled.

Another night under the stars followed by a two hour boat cruise up the Katherine Gorge and then a leisurely day, leaving after the cruise and making our way to Kakadu-the township of Jabiru to

be precise. We set up the tents, swam in the pool, had tea cooked for us and went to bed. What a life. Minimal supervision needed that night because we were all so exhausted. The next day saw us visiting the world heritage rock art sites which included an image of a thylacine, finishing the day with a 4.30pm sunset cruise on the Yellow Waters river system, where we encountered the incredible crocodiles of Kakadu. Our guide Ryan imparted his vast knowledge of the area to us and allowed us to see a great many beautiful things.

Our journey back to the City of Darwin gave us the chance for a town tour of Jabiru, all of which took approximately 5 minutes as the town is very small and due to become smaller once the mine closes down next year. A visit to the Mindil market to watch the sun set for our last time in the Northern Territory on the iconic beach of Mindil, and then a chance to wander through the stalls in search of last minute souvenirs and tasty morsels of kangaroo and camel for dinner.

Our time was up for this year however and we packed our bags and board our plane for the 3000 plus kilometres home.



Biennial Conference Melbourne

Scenes from a very busy conference....



"Bringing Christ Life to birth as Mary today"



July 2017



"But how can this be"



History of the Institute

This year in conjunction with our Bicentenary, the Marist Brothers have published a three volume history of the Institute. The three volumes are titled:

From Marlhes to the world (1789-1907)
Marist mission in a violent and secularized world (1907-1985)
Dawn's uncertain light (1985-2016)

Volume 1 and Volume 2 were written by Brother Andre Lanfrey and Volume 3 was written by Brother Michael Green.

Reflection

The Life of Marcellin Champagnat (1856) by Brother John-Baptist Furet was refectory reading during my novitiate 1957-8. My early memories of Marcellin are of a holy priest with a passion for catechizing the local lads in post-Revolutionary France. He gathered a handful of young men at LaValla to begin what became known as the Marist Brothers or Little Brothers of Mary.

As a 20 year old novice at Mittagong the Marcellin I was introduced to was a rather austere man with a strong devotion to the Mother of God, manual work and prayer. I graduated from the

novitiate without much affection or love for the Founder. As a young teacher in the 1960s I have no recollections of introducing students to Marcellin Champagnat or of celebrating 6 June, apart from wine and extra sweets at the community's evening meal.

The recently released 3 volume *History of the Institute* brings together for me much of what we have been exposed to in recent decades about Father Champagnat and Brother Francois. They are both presented as men I can both relate to and greatly admire. Their spirituality comes across as warm and authentic and most relevant for today. This contrasts with the rather bland and unattractive account in the 1856 publication.

I found Michael Green's insights particularly helpful in understanding the story since 1817. Writing about Marist research and writings Michael tells us "For the Marist Brothers, by 1968, there had been a beginning of rediscovery of Marcellin Champagnat as someone very different from the person they had known only through Jean-Baptist's biography, and his other works. They met a Founder as someone to whom



they could readily relate, someone who would inspire them. By the mid-1960s, some scholarship was revealing this but much more was to come. For example, most Brothers were yet to rediscover Brother Francois and some of the others of the founding generation ..." (Page 200).

I found Michael's insight into the Marist spirituality bequeath to us by Marcellin particularly helpful. "Marcellin ... developed a spirituality which came to be lived within a charismatic family. It was a spirituality that seemed to have lasted for over a century, despite much of its written formulations, rather than *because of it*." (Page 200). This paragraph comes from a genuine Marist scholar.

After 60 years as a Marist, I thoroughly enjoy the new publication as it presented me with a Founder I admired and whose spirituality I could celebrate.

Br Kelvin Canavan

Assumption College Kilmore

More than 80 Assumption College Kilmore students and six staff slept rough during the annual sleepout on Friday August 25 to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless.

The St Vincent de Paul Society estimates that one in 200 people are homeless on any night in Australia.

Participants, who each donated \$10 towards the Vinnies Winter Appeal, slept on basic bedding which protected them from the concrete floor of the Gonzales Centre on a three-degree night.

Before bed there were fun activities: karaoke, an obstacle course, card and board games and a screening of *The Blind Side* which showcases the reality of

homelessness for a black teenager.

Supper was simple with only soup and bread, and cereal for breakfast on Saturday morning.

The sleepout was organised by Certificate III Events Management students. One of them, Ben Gregory, said: "We hoped to help people gain an understanding of how lucky they are and to feel grateful for what they have."

Weeks of preparation went into the evening, and the students said they were humbled when the event had nothing but a positive response.

Ella Beveridge – Year 11



Events Management students who spent weeks organising the sleepout: Back row: Jacob Kirkpatrick, Daniel Weidenbach, Hayley Taylor, Lexis Riddle and Shannon Nichols. Middle: Ella Beveridge and Victoria Credland. Front: (almost hidden by bedding) Ben Gregory

Joel Loum Okumu receives John Bell Scholarship to Study Shakespeare

Joel Okumu, a 17-year-old Ugandan who completed his HSC at St Francis Xavier's College last year, was awarded an inaugural John Bell Scholarship to experience and study Shakespeare during January. This enabled Joel to participate in masterclasses, watch live theatre and to observe the processes and behind-the-scenes for the Bell Company's first production of the year, *Richard III*.

Joel came to Australia when he was five with his nine siblings. He could speak four languages but not English. After the tragic death of his mother when he was seven, the responsibility for raising the family fell to his 17-year-old sister. His was a difficult childhood compounded with memories of violence, hunger and poverty in his early years. These experiences were used to enhance his drama work.

His drama teacher, Kirsten Beletich, spoke of

the impact Joel had on his peers, and how they were left "gobsmacked" with his first class performance. "He pretended to be in an African war scene and acted in the roles of animals, soldiers, screaming children and more. It was all in Acholi (an African dialect) and it was out there. In many ways, he's beyond his years in being able to read the human experience."

Joel prepared to play Othello and the Ghost of Hamlet's Father for the Bell audition. Kirsten spoke of his preparation for roles. "Joel never leaves things to chance. He reads and reads about the

character, he does deep-breathing exercises, he stretches and limbers up, he goes away into a quiet space and mentally gets himself ready." As Joel says, "I have to give my best."

Talking about the influence of his back story in preparation and interpretation of characters Joel shared the following. "Sometimes I see characters from a view of deep sadness whereas others would see, maybe, disappointment. Often I see humour in situations whereas others may see the character as a joke – someone to laugh at rather than laugh with."

John Bell has referred Joel to *The Hub*, a collective of professional actors teaching methodology, film and television acting and theatricality.



SACRED HEART COLLEGE, ADELAIDE

Opening and Blessing of the Brot and Marist Mission March



her Joseph McAteer Centre

2017 is a special year for Sacred Heart College. This year marks the bicentenary (200 years) of the founding of the Marist Brothers, 120 years of Sacred Heart College and 50 years of Marist education at the Mitchell Park campus, which opened in 1967!

The Marist theme of *AWAKEN!* sets the tone that the bicentenary provides the opportunity for a new dawn as we continue to reflect and ponder on new possibilities. We express gratitude for all that has gone before and excitedly anticipate what lies ahead, particularly with the amalgamation of Marymount College, Hove in 2019!

Wednesday 17 May 2017 was a big day for Sacred Heart College. For the first time, the whole school (Middle and Senior schools) gathered together on the Senior School grounds for the Opening and Blessing of the Br Joseph McAteer Centre. Mass was celebrated by Most Reverend Archbishop Philip Wilson and Con-celebrated by Emeritus Archbishop Leonard Faulkner, Monsignor Ian Dempsey, Monsignor Rob Egar and Fr Peter Sheedy.

As well as the opening and blessing of our wonderful new learning and conference space, the inaugural inductees of the



Sacred Heart College Hall of Honour were presented to our community. The Hall of Honour recognises the wide-range of achievements of our Old Collegians through multiple disciplines such as Church; Academia; Law; Entertainment; Medicine; Business and Commerce; Politics; Armed Services; Sport and Contribution to community, and particularly outstanding service to the Sacred Heart community. The inaugural inductees, for the most part, reflect the achievements of Old Collegians in the first 80 years of the College's history. Future inductions in the Hall of Honour will reflect the achievements of our more recent alumni, as the school transitioned into a co-educational College in the 1970s.

Br Peter Carroll, Provincial of the Marist Province of Australia, spoke about Br Joseph's contribution to the College as

Principal between 1916 and 1924 before Brother Jordan Redden unveiled the plaque that was blessed by His Grace, Archbishop Wilson.

Following Mass, all students took part in the annual Marist Mission March from Sacred Heart Senior to Angus Neil Reserve at Seacliff. Each year we walk in solidarity with those in our global Marist community and raise funds which directly supports those who are marginalised through our Marist Immersion programs in India, Fiji, The Philippines, and for the first time this year – Sri Lanka.

We look forward to continuing to *AWAKEN!* our call as Marists to minister to those on the margins.

'Awaken' National Marist

From 30 June to 3 July, St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill in Sydney was transformed into celebration mode as 250 students, young adults, volunteers, staff, Brothers and Clergy gathered from across Australia to celebrate the second National Marist Youth Festival and Marist Bicentenary. The celebration was made all the richer with the presence of young adults from the Province of Southern Africa and the Philippines, who brought an international voice to the celebration.



*Bishop Columba
Macbeth-Green*



The festival theme 'Awaken' invited young people to reflect on the legacy of St Marcellin Champagnat's charism over the past 200 years and to once again awaken to the situations and circumstances of our rapidly changing world, and respond as 'agents of change' in the lives of today's children and young people.

Awaken provided twenty-four engaging workshops covering a range of topics including faith, theology, human rights and social-environmental justice, family and relationships, spirituality and ministry to the peripheries. For the first time, participants encountered the newly created Lavalla 200+ Community from Mt Druitt and were provided with an overview of the community's vision and mission objectives for young people in western Sydney.



Br Tony Leon

Youth Festival

Steve Angrisano with Committee

The four-day festival was blessed with the presence of inspirational keynote speakers who helped to unpack the awaken theme, including 2016 Young Australians of the Year, Nic and Lucas, founders of Orange Sky Australia; Jessica Alampi, teacher from Notre Dame College Shepparton; Brother Tony Leon fms, from Rome, and Chantelle Ogilvie-Ellis from the Sydney Alliance organisation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

Steve Angrisano, the energetic Catholic songwriter-performer from the USA provided a celebratory and faith-filled environment for the young audience, with a dynamic selection of contemporary Christian music, supported by the Broken Bay Diocesan Youth Band.

The Festival Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green from the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes. As an ex-student of Red Bend College Forbes and a member of the Marist Association, Bishop Columba's easy way of connecting with young people, together with his bagpipe solo and 'Wonder Woman homily' made for an engaging experience.

Our community service project for the festival involved the assembly and packaging of 400 birthing kits in small groups. These hygienic kits cost around \$3 each and are distributed to assist women in the clean and safe child birth of infants in developing countries. The workshop provided participants with a



Nick & Lucas of Orange Sky

better understanding of dangers facing expectant mothers in remote conditions and with little support or resources.

Speaking at the conclusion of the four-

day festival, Awaken co-ordinator Brother Greg McDonald reflected on the significance of the gathering; "The festival has been a unique opportunity in not only celebrating our Marist Bicentenary with young people, but also encountering their strong desire to engage in future Marist life and mission. Marist Youth Ministry wants to tap this energy by inviting our graduating school students to participate in a range of emerging projects across Australia, as well as support them in their young adult lives through the provision of good formation and accompaniment experiences."

Awaken marked the 30th anniversary of Marist Youth Festivals in Australia.



Thoughts on Awaken – Marist Youth Festival 2017

To assist wherever possible within my community and to spread the ways of Jesus through my school to make Jesus known and loved in the way of Mary.

– Bethany

'If you want to travel fast travel alone, if you want to travel slow travel in a group'. This quote from Br Tony Leon was my awaken moment to continue my work in the community, just like Jesus said when 2 or 3 are gathered in my name I am with you. If I want to seek God I need to travel slow and really take a look and be awake to the world around me.'

– Dylan

Listening to the stories of the refugees and asylum seekers from Syria and Afghanistan. It gave me insight on both the positive ways Australians and Australian organisations are helping people seeking asylum and also the negative treatment.

– Georgia

I think one realisation for me was the incredible sense of community within the Marist world. Having so many passionate, inspiring Marists in the one place was amazing, and something I'm so glad I could be a part of.

– Emily

The festival has awakened the need I have in me to go out and make an impact on the communities that i am in, and share

the amazing things that i have learnt throughout the weekend surrounding service and ministry and even in creating lots of communication between something as simple as students from different year levels at my school.

– Hayley

It has provided me with a newfound knowledge of the harsh conditions some humans are faced with. This new perspective will ensure I am more appreciative of my friends and family, and to focus on love and joy, rather than material things.

– Sam

The treatment of refugees and asylum seekers really had an impact in my life. As all I hear are negative, and seeing and hearing their story, really awakened me with this issue and want to help these people.

– Wayne-Ralf



Young Marists Celebrating Life

Term 3 Connect gatherings

The focus of the Connect gatherings this term is a call to students to be a saint in their own life time! Following Pope

Francis' words and following the examples of people who have been named saints in the Roman Catholic Church, we can all live our lives looking at ways to make the lives of others

better. All students have been invited to help support Marist Youth Ministry 'supply' good quality second hand clothes for the Marist 180 Community Wardrobe. This wardrobe is for the young homeless clients of Marist 180. Good casual clothes along with corporate wear for job interviews and employment is needed.

The Connect gatherings have given Marist Youth Ministry a chance to wish Yr 12 students that have attended our many Connects and Forums over the past 2 years of their Marist education, all the best for the future. It is not farewell though, MYM invites all Yr 12 students to continue exploring their faith with us post school by attending our monthly Exchange gatherings at Eastwood. All Yr 12 students are invited to our Christmas Exchange on 10 December starting at 6pm at the Brothers Community House at Eastwood.

Macarthur local Connect gathering

Thank you John Therry Catholic High School for hosted the Macarthur Connect on Friday, 11 August.

Eastwood local connect gathering

Thank you to Marist College Eastwood for hosting the local Connect on Friday, 18 August. Thank you Br Justin Guthrie and Br Mark Murphy for cooking us a great BBQ!

Randwick local Connect gathering

Thank you to Marcellin College, Randwick for hosting the local Connect on Wednesday, 23 August.

Forbes Leadership Day

On 2 August, the MYM Team travelled to Forbes to work with their Yr 11 students on what it means to be a Yr 12 student leading the school in the Marist values of 'in the way of Mary, simplicity, presence, love of work and family spirit' in order to make a difference in 2018!



Macarthur local Connect gathering



Eastwood local connect gathering



Randwick local connect gathering



Forbes Leadership Day

Marist Brothers – Our 22nd General Chapter ... A New Lavalla

Every eight years the Marist Brothers hold a General Chapter. The following reflection outlines what a Chapter is about. Elected delegates from around the world attend the Chapter in Medellin in Columbia from September 8. The delegates representing Australia are Brothers Peter Carroll, Ken McDonald, Michael Green and Darren Burge. In addition Mr Tony Clark from the Marist Life and Formation Team has been nominated to attend as a Lay Marist; and there will be some Australian Brothers in support roles at the Chapter: Brothers Chris Wills, Tony Leon and Tony Clarke.

General Chapters only come along every eight years! This makes them a rare and special event in the life of the Marist Brothers internationally. This Chapter is unique because it falls in the bicentennial year.

We are on the threshold of a new epoch of our Marist history! It is a moment to celebrate what has been and to shape a new beginning. The theme for the event, 'A New Lavalla', reflects this challenge.

The original Lavalla experience still resonates with a great number of people today. Lavalla is the cradle of the Marist story. The family spirit nurtured by Marcellin from the very beginning remains palpable in Marist schools, ministries and communities around the world today. Likewise, Marcellin's early experiences at Lavalla and the passion with which he did this hard work has captured the hearts and minds of people over the last 200 years. The strong growth of the Marist Brothers from the early days indicates that Marcellin's response hit a chord and captured the imagination of thousands of people within a relatively short period. The continued growth across the globe highlights its continued relevance.

The questions for us in these times are: what does the new Lavalla look like? How can we strike the chord in our world today? What are the needs of young people today and how can we best answer them? How can we educate the young, especially the most neglected, today?



Two of the delegates for the General Chapter about to leave Mascot for Columbia – Brothers Peter Carroll and Ken McDonald.

The General Chapter is designed to explore these questions in a focused manner over a number of weeks with brothers and lay people from across the world.

So, what is a General Chapter?

It is a meeting of elected brothers from across the globe who come together to form a community for a number of weeks (six weeks in this case) to discern what we believe God is inviting us to do as we move into the future. Seventy-nine brothers have been formally elected by the brothers in their province or district to take up this challenge. Nine lay people from various parts of the world have also been invited to participate in this event. In order to hear the voice of the young, six young brothers are also joining us. These ninety-four people will meet in Medellin, Colombia from 8 September.

In the business world, this would be called a 'conference', which aims to reflect, take stock and establish the vision and key strategic directions for the coming years. Effectively, this is what will happen in Colombia.

Having determined these overall directions, we will elect the leaders to bring this to life over the next eight years. The seventy nine elected members are afforded the right to vote for the new Superior General, Vicar General and the General Council during the course of these weeks.

Those who are keen to see Marist life grow into the future will be challenged to embrace the directions established by the Chapter and will discern how they will bring these to life at the local level.

Br Darren Burge

Solomon Islands Visit: John Mahon and Chris Giles

Recently two of our senior Marists visited the Solomon Islands where they worked as missionaries forty-five years ago.

This was my first visit to the Solomon Islands and St Joseph's Tenaru since Chris and I left there in 1972. Chris had visited once before. Our visit was for a few days only.

The Marist spirit is very evident there through the dedication of the principal, Abraham Hihiru, and the capable staff and the friendly and attentive students. There are four hundred co-ed students, all boarders who are selected by the government because the school is subsidised by the government. There are plans to expand the buildings as many more students want to enrol. A new two storey staff and admin building is in progress. The school has a very good name and employers are keen to employ those from St Joseph's.

Buildings etc. are the responsibility of the school and it has a number of fund raising initiatives.

All students are Christian and half are Catholic. They all participate in all religious worship which includes Mass three times a week. They have a beautiful chapel. The religious spirit is quite evident with religious instruction



Br John Mahon, Br Raphael, Abraham Hihiru (Principal) and Chris Giles

and sessions of communal prayer which includes the daily midday Angelus.

Students appear to be fully committed to the life by study, work and sport. Academic and trade courses are provided with the latter producing wonderful work in spite of limited resources and tools.

This year Brother Raphael has begun a primary school in the former brother's house. It is for the local children who were not going to school.

During our visit it was wonderful to meet some of our former students who were delighted to see us.

The Solomons has, of course, changed greatly since we were there. In the sixties and early seventies there were very few cars, no buses and no taxies. Now there

is an abundance of all these. There seems to be a perpetual peak hour all day around the capital, Honiara. Then, the Solomon Islands was a British Protectorate and most government officials were expatriates (many of them from the shrinking British colonies. Many kept their former military titles, for example the director of education was a 'Major Bovey'!)

The Solomons has, of course, in recent times been through a torrid and unsettling period, but with the presence of the international policing, Ramsi, which has now moved out, things appear to be quite settled.

We felt strongly that the school today is well respected and in very good hands.

(John Mahon)



Br John and Chris Giles with "Old Boys" from the 1960's: Bonaventure Selo, Ezekiel Alebua (former Prime Minister) and Damian Tura (son of former Brother, John Tura).

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Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes
Holy Family School, Parkes

Diocese of Wollongong

John Therry High School, Rosemeadow
Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville
St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

ENDNOTES:

This edition of *Lavalla* has undergone a long 'gestation period' and a special thank you to all the members of the Australian Marist Community (and beyond) who have helped to produce it.

Thank you to Br Hubert Williams who 'held the fort' during my illness, and provided a good foundation for us to build this edition on. A special thank you to all of the contributors – the schools and associated ministries. *Lavalla* is financed by Marist Schools Australia, effectively our Marist schools. A number of Principals have commented that the value of the magazine is the fact that it is

"Marist", it tells us something about our present story, and it is something that can be put into the hands of readers in the Marist network. At present our circulation is about 5,000 copies or more.

The next edition will be in March 2018, and schools are encouraged to submit material on the events and celebrations that take place from now up until the publication date early next year.

In a very special way, thank you to the good people who have helped with the proof-reading and associated tasks as we prepared for publication:

Frank Malloy, Tony Clarke, Ryan Gato, Paul Harris, Rolien Faber, Sally Dillon, John Robinson, Jenifer Miller, Michael McManus, Rex Cambrey, Peter Howes, Kath Richter and John McMahon and our good Graphic Designer, Graham Wye.

A number of other people have also helped and a sincere 'Thank you'. I have purposefully mentioned the proof-readers and photographers simply because it is not a very exciting job!

As for 2018, stay tuned!

Br Tony Paterson
Editor