



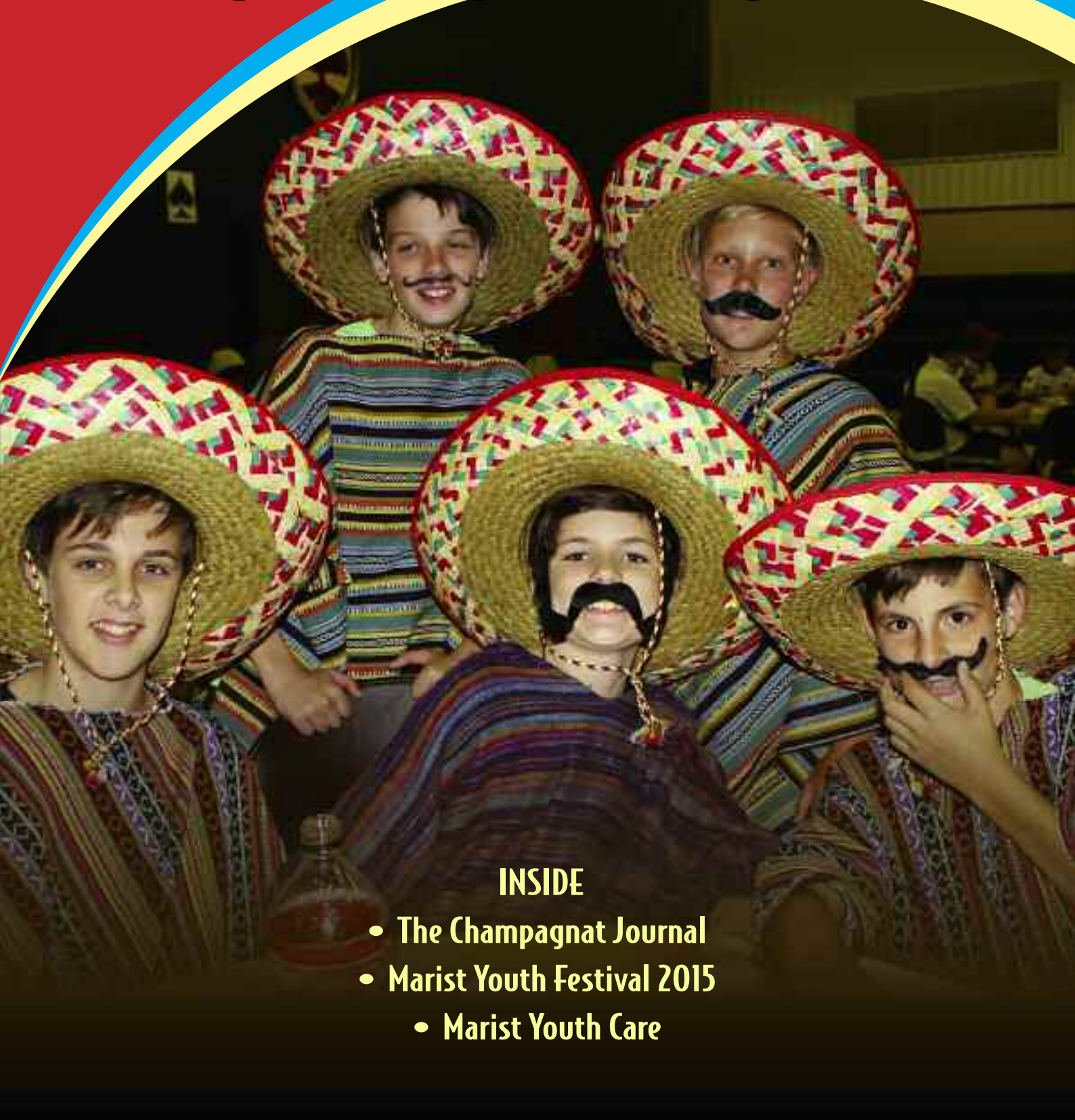
**MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA**  
Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

**The staff journal of  
Marist Schools Australia**

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# Lavalla



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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:** Students from Trinity Catholic College in Lismore in 'festive mood'.

Back L-R: Andrew Hawthorne, Lachlan Gordon

Front L-R: Riley Koina, Sol Taylor, Tranan Burvill



# Editorial

## Dear Brothers, Friends and Colleagues

What's in a name?

The founding Marists thought there was quite a lot. And they were right.

When St Marcellin and his eleven companions climbed Fourvière hill on a mid-summer morning 198 years ago this month, they did so fired by the dreaming and the passion that are the mark of the young. And they brimmed with the certitude and unencumbered daring of the young. 23rd July, 1816. What was in their hearts? What was in their heads? What churned in their gut that morning?

They wanted to be "Marists". It was something new for the Church, self-consciously so. They had come up with the name themselves, and they had been working out what it would mean. They had their ideas, their intuitions, and their conviction for what the Church needed to revitalise and to rebuild itself, and for which needs of people needed to be addressed by the Church. Being Marist was their best answer for all of that: to be sharing in "the work of Mary", as they called it, of bringing Christ-life to birth in people's hearts and of maternally nurturing its growth in them, and of doing so as Mary would do it, in her way. They wanted to give people a sense of the mercy of God, a sense of hope and purpose; they wanted them to feel at home once again in the Church. They did not believe that the most effective ways to do this were punitive, fearful or domineering, but understanding, welcoming and liberating.

It is no accident that before too long each of the branches of the Marist family found itself engaged in the work of education. It was a natural fit. For Marcellin, in particular, it was his principal means for sharing in the Marist dream to which he pledged his allegiance that morning in the Chapel at Fourvière. He had a view of teachers that was quite different from the one that prevailed in the rural and the poorer regions of his country. He saw nobility in teaching. It was a privilege to be a teacher, a calling of the highest order and one that required the most diligent exercise of care and responsibility. Like St Jean-Baptiste de la Salle before him, he used the word "ministry" to describe what teachers did.

What has unfolded in the two centuries since, and what is once again reflected in these pages of Lavalla, is the realisation of a dream of what a name could mean. By and large, it is a story of extraordinary heart and hope. But, like the first Marists, none of us who bear the name is perfect. Indeed, like them, some among us have proved to be quite unworthy of it. But the vision and the efficacy of being Marist are sourced in something bigger than any individual. It is together as Marist family, with the grace of God, that we continue to present to young people a way of the Gospel of Jesus that is accessible, compelling and inspiring.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
**National Director**  
**Marist Schools Australia**





## MARIST COLLEGE BENDIGO

# Open Day on June 6



What a fitting day to host the first official 'event' of the new Marist College – the Founder's Feast day! The weather gods shone on us too. Our 'hall' a marquee, learning space 4 portables on a building site!!! Current Year 7 students (104 of them) who will be Year 8s in our first year hosted and interacted with 135 prospective Year 7s during the morning. Among other things, groups did activities to help familiarise them with what goes where on the 37 acre site. Then approximately 200 parents joined us for lunch and they also had an opportunity to get a clear view of the campus and the vision for the College. A session with the architect, the Principal and Site Manager was appreciated by everyone.

There is much activity on the site with the rammed earth wall now complete on Stage 1 of the building. The site is about 8kms west of Bendigo's CBD, in Maiden Gully which is a growth area of the city.



## Marist Youth Care's annual donation drive

Parramatta Marist High School (PMHS), like all other Marist schools, treasures the charism of St Marcellin as it is expressed in the five characteristics of our way of living out the Gospel of Jesus (Presence, Simplicity, In the Way of Mary, Family Spirit and Love of Work) and works to instil these values in all members of its school community. It is in the current Year 10 CathTech class however, that the student's commitments particularly to the value of Love of Work are being challenged and developed.

Every year Marist Youth Care (MYC) promotes their annual donation drive, with the purpose of raising as much money as possible to help support at-risk youth and their families. Although the campaign is marketed around the July – August period, in 2014 the planning for this campaign and its rollout to high schools started much earlier. In February, representatives from Marist

Youth Care and Parramatta Marist High School met to try and formalise the part each organisation would play in the 2014 donation drive. Unlike in previous years, where schools were offered the opportunity to engage in donation collections for MYC, this year PMHS students were being given the opportunity to generate the main online presence for the campaign – a fully operational website.

With MYC's needs clearly enumerated the project was released to year 10 students in their CathTech classes (an integrated class focusing on Catholic studies and IST). Over 5 weeks the students

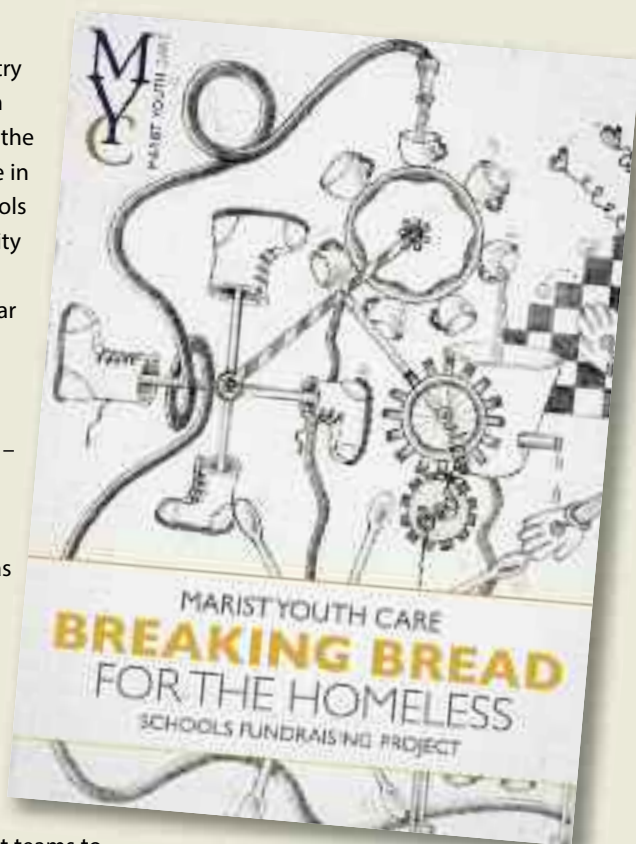
worked in their project teams to develop the most outstanding, fun and eye-catching website that met the needs of the client and encouraged students from all other Marist schools to register and participate in MYC's 2014 Donation Creation project.

CathTech classes became places of heated debate as groups 'discussed' the merits of one colour scheme over another, students worked tirelessly to convert their initial ideas and plans into a website that was innovative whilst also operational and

teachers dedicated many hours to providing advice and feedback to the students regarding their online work. What was most rewarding by the conclusion of this work was the deep level of understanding and empathy the students had developed towards the programs MYC offer and the individuals they help. This was evident by the feedback the student provided including

"[this project] was effective education of an issue, through direct exposure" (Charles A), "[we should] take less, to give more to the homeless" (Peter A) and "[j]ust because they are] homeless, doesn't make them hopeless" (John R).

This year's donation drive, aptly name "Donation Creation", requires the student participants to create something fun based on the donations they receive, like Rube Goldberg machines. If you or your school are interested in participating in the Donation Creation project, check out this website – [www.donationcreation.com.au](http://www.donationcreation.com.au)



## MARIST YOUTH CARE CENTRE, BRUNSWICK

# MYC Skills Development Centre

MYC Skills Development Centre works closely with at risk young people, providing innovative pre-employment training and employment opportunities for young people facing barriers to the employment market. Our training provides our participants with nationally accredited modules towards a recognised qualification, engages them in real life community projects, involves them with our healthy lunches initiative where they cook and eat together everyday, and also helps them develop employability skills. We have been lucky enough to also be able to provide them with a 'job in a box', which is a fabulous tool kit for starting employment, including work clothes, boots, travel cards, haircuts and a range of other extremely practical things which takes away some of the anxiety of starting a new job.



Also, MYC has recently piloted a social enterprise called Pink Lightning providing employment and training to young women in Melbourne. As mobile Nail Technicians we provide manicures to a range of clientele including: companies as part of their employee wellbeing programs, aged care facilities, social groups and Government departments

The photograph in this short article is of the recent graduates who undertook a module in landscaping, the practical work being completed in the new landscape lay-out at the rear of the Marist Centre in Brunswick.

**Rachel Burns**  
**Skills Development Centre**  
**Coordinator**

## MT MARIA COLLEGE MITCHELTON

# Feast Day of Saint Marcellin Champagnat

The community of Mt Maria College came together for the Feast Day of St Marcellin Champagnat on June 6th with their aptly named "Champagnat Day" celebrations. Mr Mark Stower, Principal commented that the Marist hallmarks of presence and family spirit were evident on the day.

A College Mass was celebrated by Parish Priest, Father Frank Lourigan; and Brother Mark Fordyce gave the keynote address titled: "Being a Young Marist Today".

Following the Mass, members of the faculty enjoyed a stylish morning tea and barbeque lunch as they enjoyed the community spirit of the day, while the students got involved in a range of activities including jumping castles, bucking bull and the annual Champagnat Day Dash.



Lavalla



# Reconciliation Week

**Sacred Heart College Middle School boys commit to ongoing reconciliation with each other and our indigenous brothers and sisters by walking the talk!**

National Sorry Day is an Australia-wide observance held on May 26th each year, beginning National Reconciliation Week. SHCMS community gathered and joined with the voices of people around Australia to speak out against injustice and speak up for reconciliation. Students, both indigenous and non-indigenous, were active leaders throughout the ceremony.

We remembered our large rock which was taken from the Willunga area of South Australia, now placed in our Indigenous Garden. The rock is symbolic of the Tjilbruke Dreaming. The Tjilbruke story centers around the Kurna hunter, Tjilbruke, and his journey along the South Australian coastline.

Sorry Day is a particularly important time to remember the injustices done to the Stolen Generations. We remembered the sadness and damage the events from the past have had on Australia's First People. We were reminded that Stolen Generations refers to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities. This past continues to hurt many of Australia's First Peoples today.

Sorry Day gives all people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and their communities.

The theme of 2014 is Walk the Talk. In other words, give action to our words.



*Mr Ashleigh Bryans, Indigenous Ed Coordinator and Ms Rebecca Bond Yr9 teacher and member of Indigenous Ed Committee, planting the native hibiscus into soil brought forward by students and staff.*

We heard the familiar reading from Matthew, imbedded in the life of the College throughout this year.

A Matthew 22:37-40

'You shall love God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbour as you love yourself.' (Mt22:37-40)

The **way** we love is what matters.

We remembered our Marist theme for the year, serve one another, and recalled that the **way** we love is what matters most. The boys repeated the following as a way of committing to Walk the Talk.

- We will treat everyone fairly
- We will respect the rights of others
- We will be inclusive
- We will speak out against injustice
- We will be positive in our conversations

The Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian flags were brought forward by our indigenous students accompanied by peers and a staff member, walking forward together in a spirit of solidarity.

Sacred Heart College Middle School together with many Australians is actively working towards Reconciliation. Mr Ashleigh Bryans, Indigenous Education SHCMS, brought forward the SHCMS Reconciliation Action Plan. Our plan outlines what we commit to do as a school to bring about Reconciliation and understanding.

A representative from each section of the school brought forward a bowl of soil, representing the many cultures that make up our school community.

We are individuals and yet we are connected to each other and together are responsible to bring about reconciliation and understanding of all people.

The soil was combined in a large container creating a bed for a native hibiscus plant. The flowers of the native hibiscus remind us that although much damage and unimaginable pain was experienced by Aboriginal communities as a result of the Stolen Generation policies, the Aboriginal people have strength, hope and resilience. Like the native hibiscus which survives and flowers in the harshest of conditions, Aboriginal people continue to work for and hope for a better future. The flowering hibiscus is a symbol of reconciliation, the flowering of hope and healing. The plant was later transplanted into the schools Indigenous Garden.



*Tyson Newchurch,  
Yr 9 Jonas Varcoe Yr 7 and Rashaun Stephenson yr 9  
proudly standing tall as we celebrate National Reconciliation*

We were reminded of our call to Walk the Talk in the concluding prayer:

God of Love, we remember your love for Indigenous Australians and we pray that all Australians work towards reconciliation and understanding.

May we Walk the Talk in our conversations, our actions and our attitudes.

We make our prayer in Jesus name.

All: Amen

At the conclusion of the ceremony the boys were given a 'Walk the Talk' sticker reminding them of their commitment to action.

**Jennifer Callanan**

**Assistant Principal – Religious Identity and Mission, -  
Sacred Heart College Middle School, Adelaide.**



*Teancum Varcoe yr8 standing tall as SHCMS celebrates  
National Reconciliation Week with fellow students*



# MARIST COLLEGE ASHGROVE

## St Marcellin

### Day Mass

On Friday 6 June College staff and students, along with Brothers, families and friends, gathered in the gym for the celebration of our annual Champagnat Mass. The Mass was celebrated by Father John Boyd-Boland, ofm.

In this the year of "Serve One Another" we acknowledge the way St Marcellin Champagnat used his life in service to others to bring all to a knowledge and love of Jesus. In reflection of this we commenced our Mass by building the Altar in the way that St Marcellin Champagnat built the Hermitage for community and Eucharist.



**At the Mass each year Champagnat Day Awards are presented to a parent, a staff member and a student. This year's awards were presented to:**

**Parent:** Mrs Joanne Collins. Her commitment to the College community, to its spirit and life, is a most worthy reflection of this year's theme of "Serve one another", something our recipient has done time and time again.

*Right: Mrs Joanne Collins with sons, James and William*



**Staff Member:** Mr Michael Druce, Head of the Junior school. Michael is well known and admired by the boys in the Junior school and by at least half of every current secondary school Year group in the College.

**Student:** The qualities we see expressed in the life of St Marcellin and to which each of us might aspire, can be found in our Year 12 student awardee, Thomas McLean.



*Mr Michael Druce with Superior of Brothers' Community at Marist College Ashgrove, Br Brendan Neily*



*Thomas McLean with Superior of Brothers' Community at Marist College Ashgrove, Br Brendan Neily.*



# Mini Vinnies at Marist College Ashgrove

Boys from the Junior school at Marist College Ashgrove have begun their work in the *Mini Vinnies* group this term. The first major initiative that the boys have taken up is the annual St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. The boys have been busy collecting cans of food, jumpers, beanies, gloves and blankets.

The Year 7 students were responsible for distributing baskets to each classroom for the items to be placed. Each Friday, the boys from *Mini Vinnies* visit each classroom to empty the collection baskets. Items are then taken back to the Ministry Office to be sorted. The boys sorted the clothing into different piles according to size and gender. During this process, the boys had interesting conversations about what it would be like to live on the streets during winter, and how this winter appeal would help people who find themselves in this situation.

At the end of the winter appeal, the boys will present all items collected to the members of the local St. Vincent de Paul conference for

distribution. The boys are looking forward to handing these items over for distribution, and seeing the end result of their hard work. The winter appeal has been a great way to involve the boys in making a difference, and to raise awareness about the issue of homelessness.





# Marist Education Conference –

The Education Conference of the Province of West Central Europe took place in the Marist Centre in Guardamar, Spain, from 6th until 9th June 2014. There were 70 participants from the five countries of the Province: Ireland, Scotland, The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, along with presenters from Australia, The United States, Mexico, Brazil and the Netherlands. The participants were members of staff in Marist schools and projects, along with 20 Brothers. The aim of the Conference was to take practical steps to facilitate Marist leadership into the future.



facilitative leadership, which shares similar values to Marist leadership. The result was that the programme and process of the Conference reflected the Marist values that we wish to promote and pass on to others.

The Conference opened, appropriately, on the Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat. The two facilitators led the group in a range of exercises to help us to get to know each other. We also established "Home groups" which became a space

where we could touch base with a group of people whom we came to know in the course of the conference. On Saturday, 7th June, Br. Michael Green and Mr Tony Clarke led the morning sessions with research and reflections on Marist values and leadership.

The planning for the Conference began in 2011. A number of educational leaders in Marist schools had participated in the Marist Leadership Institute in the United States, and all had found this an important and valuable experience. Those who attended the Leadership Institute benefited from meeting Marists from other schools, and talked about it as a formative experience that deepened their own sense of Maristness, and motivated them to promote Marist values in schools.

The Provincial Council decided that in order to enable other members of staff to benefit from such an experience that we should organise a conference for members of staff in our own province. At first this involved teachers and School





# Guardamar, Spain



This presentation set the tone for the Conference. Br. Michael and Tony Clarke shared their experience of working with Marist leaders in Australia, their knowledge of educational insights from St Marcellin and Br. Francois, and analysis of contemporary culture in Church and society, to create a space for a conversation and shared understanding around the main themes of the Conference.

During the afternoon of Saturday, 7th June, the participants were invited to participate in two of the following five workshops:

- A Marian Church: Brother Richard Van Houten
- Marist leadership: Brother Ernesto Sanchez, C.G.
- The inner journey: Liesbeth van Gool.
- A spirituality of presence: Bernice Reijntiens
- Marist mission: Br. João Carlos do Prado.

The workshops provided opportunities to reflect on different aspects of Marist leadership and values. They also provided opportunities to interact with presenters and participants at a deeper level.

The focus of the Conference shifted on the morning of Pentecost to reflect on what practical steps we could take to facilitate Marist Leadership into the future. Those who were present will remember the extraordinary energy that was released as the groups came up with various suggestions for taking this work forward. It was a tangible experience of the release of the Spirit. The following morning the participants met in school, project or national groups to look at specific plans for the future.

There has been a great deal of reflection in recent years on the characteristics of Marist spirituality. When we look at the life of St Marcellin, and the work of the Brothers throughout the history of the Institute, it is clear that we are fundamentally practical men. St Marcellin was a worker who made use of whatever resources – human and spiritual – were at his disposal, in order to further his mission. This practical spirit was evident on the Sunday and Monday mornings when the groups identified a range of ways that the work of the Conference could be continued.

The Marist Centre in Guardamar was

ideal for the conference. The accommodation is of a high standard and the house is decorated with Marist posters and symbols, which reminded us of the focus of our meeting. Prayer and spirituality were integrated into the programme through the work of Aiveen Mullaly, who prepared the liturgies in advance. The participants spent an afternoon in Alicante on Sunday, 8th June and met together for a wonderful evening meal, which rounded off an enjoyable and successful conference.

Many of the participants have sent feedback about the conference and it has all been very positive. The Conference was promoted as a “New dawn” for Marist leadership in schools and projects. The good will, expertise, energy and sense of commitment that were evident at the conference provide a good foundation for planning at local and Province level. Local groups have already met to plan initiatives for the year ahead. The Provincial Council will also discuss how to take things forward at the Provincial Council meeting that will be held in early August.

**Br. Brendan Geary, Provincial  
Province of West-Central Europe**



# Galen students lend a helping hand for the people of Timor-Leste



A team of six Galen students and three staff recently visited Timor-Leste for the second time as part of an ongoing immersion program. The selected students have fundraised as part of the re-building project for the Abafala Primary School. As a result of last year's fundraising attempts, the school now has new desks for Grades 1 and 2, and the rest of the school now have new chairs that were sorely needed. The school has only just got electricity and the teachers are now equipped with computers and they are looking forward to getting a photocopier in the future. Our fundraising efforts are also going towards regular school equipment such as basic books, pencils and stationery. At Galen we have also ensured that money goes towards the wages of the teachers, who are not paid and work in the fields after a full day of teaching so that they can feed their families.

The building project is immense and its completion will allow the community to have students stay within the village up to Year 8, which will offer more employment opportunities within the community.

Galen College are working in conjunction with Catholic College Sale and Notre Dame College, Shepparton on this ongoing project.

Galen staff also are sponsoring a young university student, Jesuina (Jypo) Filipe, with her studies. Jypo was an aide for the Galen immersion trip in 2013, and her family were unable to send her to university. Galen staff decided to sponsor her and she has recently started her International Studies degree this semester in Dili.

In order to assist with the Abafala school building project, the team of six Galen students spent six months raising awareness and \$10,500 through fundraising activities including a Timor Trivia Night at Galen during Term 1. Galen College are very grateful for the support of the many local Wangaratta businesses, sponsors and families who have contributed toward helping the people of Abafala.

**Lyndel Petersen, Social Justice Coordinator**





Students of St Joseph's School working on their '125 years' playground art.

## ST JOSEPH'S, NORTHAM

# 125 years of Catholic education in Northam

Students at St Joseph's School are preparing to celebrate 125 years of catholic education in Northam. The Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition established the first Catholic school in Northam, in 1889. The Marist Brothers opened St Paul's, a boy's College in 1948 and in 1971 these two schools combined to become a co-educational primary and secondary school on two separate campuses. The school has a 125 years tradition of a caring environment and prides itself as a learning centre with programs to cater for all students.

The students enjoyed creating their pavement art last week as they decorated the playground in preparation for Founders' Day. On June 12, the school will celebrate Founders' Day with a whole school Mass, followed by a day of fun and activities as the students reflect on those who worked hard to build a school and community that is still vibrant today.

As a special recognition of this milestone, the school is encouraging past and present members of the St Joseph's Community to purchase a personalised brick paver. These pavers will be laid on both campuses later on this year. Many past and current students and staff members have contacted the school to become involved in this project and others are encouraged to contact the school office for more information.



*Three generations of education at St Joseph's School.*

*Mrs Marie Chomiak (ex-student and current staff member) and her granddaughter Annabelle Chomiak alongside Mrs Margaret Fraser (current staff member of 28 years) and her grandchildren, Aiden and Kate Gentle and Maisey Jones. They are enjoying the street art created by the students of St Joseph's School on the primary campus.*



*Participants from St Joseph's School in Northam, WA: Tanya Czernowski, Carmen Cox (Principal), Lachlan Patterson, Glen Dunkerton, Leon Temby, Steve Johnson.*



# Western Front Tour



39 students and 5 staff began the trip of a lifetime on the first day of last school holidays, exploring where past generations had fought on the Western Front. The journey began in Brussels, Belgium (via Singapore and Frankfurt) and concluded 12 days later in Paris, France.

The trip included many highlights including being involved in the Last Post Ceremony in Ypres to running our own ANZAC Service at the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux. The boys researched a fallen soldier, often a family member, with many graves being found.

The group also had the privilege of being a part of the Easter Sunday service at the Cathedral in Amiens said by the

local Bishop. One student, Patrick Cooke read the 2nd Reading in fluent French. The group also had a chance to visit the beautiful cities of Bruges, Arras and Paris, including visits to Versailles, the Eiffel Tower and the magnificent Sacre Coeur and also Notre Dame Cathedral. How many young Australians can also boast swimming at Dunkirk or visiting the Battle of Waterloo!

Deputy Headmaster, Mr Matthew Brennan stated "As I reflect on the experience, four things are standouts. Firstly, the outstanding behaviour of the students. As staff we received daily positive comments at all places we visited. Secondly, the importance of not letting the ANZAC story die or

underestimate how significant a contribution was made by early generations of Australians. Thirdly, how young a country Australia is and how beautiful Belgium and France are, from the landscape to the buildings; the people and the cuisine.

Mr Brennan also mentioned the amazing job by Mrs Murdoch, head of the HSIE department. The boys now have a lifetime memory due to the vision of Mrs Murdoch and the level of detail she has put into the planning of each minute of the trip. Students, staff and parents owe her a debt of gratitude.

To read the blog go to <http://stgregswft2014.wordpress.com/>





# Opportunities and Development



Remar is a school based program offered to students all around Australia from Years 10 to 12. The program draws on Marist spirituality to focus on building a strong and well developed community within and beyond the school, growing and challenging students' leadership skills, their sense of Christian discipleship, and provides opportunities to minister to those in need. Remar provided the building blocks that assisted me and many people I have met in our personal and faith development, and I look forward to continued involvement for many years to come as a Young Marist.

Students, when they first become interested in the program, might join for various reasons. The reason I joined was to gain more confidence, so that I could play music in front of more than just the mirror, without the fear of nerves ruining my performance. The community, a.k.a. 'Caravel', that my peers built together, became a supportive second family that encouraged self-growth, being strong individuals and improving leadership skills that I could apply in my everyday life. The leadership skills and support became a strong footing for my own self-confidence, which led me to do countless performances and assisted in my leadership position as the school's performing arts captain.

The thing that surprised me the most about this journey is how much resonated with me and my understanding of myself. Remar came around the time where I

didn't value my own opinion, which made personal things, such as my faith, something I would just have, without that much conviction or my own understanding. This all changed after spending time and meeting with people in Remar who have been in similar positions and those who wanted to find spiritual truth that was real for them.

I chose to continue this journey as a member of the Remar Ministry Tream because I have learnt that the feeling of someone giving support and guidance,

in a time that you feel lost and hurt, is one to truly appreciate, so to be given opportunities to serve others that may be feeling the same feelings that I was, is greater than no other. At the end of your Remar journey more paths within Marist Youth Ministry, Marist Immersion and Volunteer programs, and Marist Vocations Ministry, to name a few, assist people like me to do great things with their lives. It's just a matter of getting involved and taking action.

**James Mein**

## RED BEND CATHOLIC COLLEGE

# National Representative

Red Bend Catholic College School Captain Kurt Lovett will cap a remarkable year in hockey when he jets to South Africa later this month with the Australian Schoolboys team. The year 12 student will set off on his second international hockey tour on June 28, with the national schoolboys open team to play about seven games against South African teams. Kurt has also represented the Australian under 18s boys team this year, and was recently selected in both the NSW under 18s and under 21s squads.



# Saints celebrates father & son relationships

As an all-boys College in the Marist tradition we are tasked with journeying with young men in what is often the most formative period of their lives. Each young man who graduates from the College bears little resemblance to the boy that he was at the commencement of his time at Saints. There is very evident growth in all aspects of the young man's life and in his self-awareness. It really is the time to journey from boyhood to the commencement of manhood. Whilst the College plays an important part in this journey, the most profound relationship for most young men on this path is the relationship he has with his father.

The relationship between a father and his son is one of the primary and most critical relationships a man will have, particularly in the teen years. The impact fathers have on their sons during this time is defining for that young man.

Every young man needs to believe in his heart, that the person who he is, is good enough in his father's eyes and that his actions, accomplishments and character are worthy of his father's approval.

In acknowledgement of this relationship, in 2012 St Augustine's College partnered with Men Alive in delivering a weekend

focussed on affirming and building the father and son relationship. This event is now in its third year and from Friday May 30th – Sunday June 1st 2014 thirteen fathers and sons gathered for the third Growing Good Men conference.

St Augustine's College chose Men Alive to facilitate these weekends as their presentations are drawn from both their experience of being fathers as well as sound research. Their relational methodology helps to quickly build rapport with participants. Their "down to earth" and practical sessions provide the right environment for fathers and sons to engage, build and often mend their relationship.

The experience over the past three years of hosting Growing Good Men weekends has been resoundingly positive. The following extracts are typical of the feedback from fathers who have attended past weekends:

*When he was young, my son and I had a very close, fun relationship, but in recent years we had become "passing ships", involved in our own busy lives. The weekend gave us the tool to re-invent our relationship with each other. At the end of the weekend I felt I had my son back in my life, but in a man-to-*

*man relationship (rather than boy-to-man). How fortunate am I!*

*A huge thank you for organising the weekend. It was a powerful, moving and emotional weekend which both my son and I enjoyed immensely. The weekend was well organised, well run and very relevant. I was so glad to hear you are planning to make it part of the Saints calendar.*

*I thought it might be a good idea for myself and my son. The weekend was very well organised and facilitated, and I wish to sincerely thank all those involved. I hope these weekends are offered for many, many years into the future, and that generations of fathers and sons attend for their and society's benefit'.*

The Growing Good Men weekend has become one of the most anticipated events on the College calendar. Each year members of the Pastoral Care Team of the College prepare and assist in the weekend and one of the real positives of the weekend experience is the personal and professional development received by those staff members who attend the weekend.

In 2015, in addition to hosting another "Growing Good Men w/e" the College will host a Father and Son breakfast and a Mother and Son morning tea.







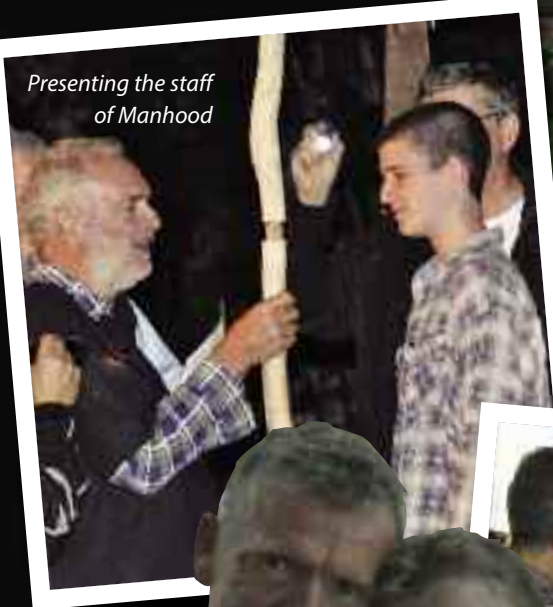
Growing Good Men presentations

Dads express their love for their sons



Recreational activities together

Presenting the staff of Manhood



Sharing in the Eucharist



Left: Blessing the dads



Left: Father and Son bonding

Orienteering together



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, HUNTERS HILL

# Joeys in Bougainville

**The relationship between St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill and St Joseph's School, Mabiri in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, continued to grow this year as another group of students and staff participated in the annual Bougainville Solidarity Immersion.**

The group, comprising eight students from Years 11 and 12 and three staff, travelled to Bougainville over the Easter break. Their first stop was Port Moresby, where they received a warm welcome from Joeys families and friends living in PNG. The families shared meals with the group and took them to see Australian war graves at the War Cemetery and Owers Corner, the start (or finish) of the Kokoda Track. Visiting these significant historical sites was a powerful experience, prompting sobering reflection about the great sacrifices and untold hardships faced by Australian soldiers so Australians may live a life of freedom and comfort.

From Port Moresby the group headed to Bougainville and St Joseph's brother school, St Joseph's Mabiri. The boys from Hunters Hill quickly settled into island life, engaging with the Mabiri boys and quickly forming strong friendships with them. The Mabiri students are so warm and generous and went out of their way to welcome all their guests from St Joseph's College and take particular care of the boys.

The SJC group spent four days at Marai Mission, located in the central highlands of Bougainville, where they were given the rare opportunity to immerse within communities still living a subsistence life, relatively untouched by modern society.

Following are excerpts of reflection statements written by the boys who travelled to Bougainville:

*The boys of Mabiri and the people of Bougainville have shown me the importance of putting others before myself...One of the Mabiri boys left a note in my journal, which I had left on my bed. He wrote, "Thank you very much for what you have given to us. I am so sorry I have nothing to give to you"*







At St Josephs Mabiri

but as a Marist student what I can offer you is much love always brother."

Matte Ager McConnell (Y12)

The most riveting experience was in my village at Marai. A little girl aged two-years-old came up to me and just started patting my leg for about two to three minutes. She had never seen a white person before and I think she thought I was an alien. Now that is something I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life.

James Cusack (Y11)

This experience will seriously impact my life and there is not enough gratitude I can offer to all the people that I have come across. From the people who opened their homes to us, the boys who gifted us their dorms and beds to the complete strangers who offered us a wave and a smile as we rode by on the back of a ute, all of these people have helped to make this a trip of a lifetime.

Thomas Silva (Y12)







Photo by Conor Asleigh

*"When I started attending the group... I realised I was not the only disabled person in Baucau"*

Floriana, 15 Baucau, Timor-Leste

This is a common sentiment expressed by many parents of children with disabilities who are supported by the Katilosa program, which is an AMS funded partnership. It's not often that we hear from the children themselves at Katilosa as many of them do not have access to technology that enables them to communicate. So when we received Floriana's short reflection on her experience it was very special.

In Baucau, negative attitudes towards disability are still the biggest barrier for persons with disabilities to access education, vocational training and subsequently, employment. Unfortunately this attitude is often present in parents, community members, schools and teachers, government officials and even the children who have a disability. At the

household level, children with a disability and their families often develop low self-esteem, hiding away and shunning social interaction, which can lead directly to their exclusion from education. Much of this was also true in Floriana's experience prior to her involvement with Katilosa.

Several years ago Katilosa staff visited Floriana's community where local leaders were made aware of the support that could be provided for her as she was deaf and unable to communicate. Many were skeptical of what was possible and what Floriana was capable of doing. Floriana was all the more determined. The staff of Katilosa began the process of negotiating with the school and the parents to assist in integration into a mainstream school. Wanting the best for their daughter, but concerned about how she would cope with school the parents eventually enrolled her in a school in Baucau, Timor-Leste.

Floriana worked hard and has adapted very well into school despite her disability and her age. Her experience and example has ultimately provided the necessary shift in the way that the school and her parents' view disability and even more importantly the way that Floriana views herself. Earlier this year she shared her experience with the staff of Katilosa and supporters of the program.

*"When I started attending the group set up by Katilosa in Baucau, I realized that I was not the only disabled person in Baucau. I'm now taking part in the program of Katilosa where disabled children like me try to convince parents to send their disabled children to school. I have learned that we have to raise our voices so that other children will not stay at home and deny their rights but they must go to school like all children."*

**Michael Coleman**

**AMS Desk**

**Project Coordinator – Timor-Leste**



# Preparing for rebuild after floods at Tenaru, Solomon Islands



In April, areas of the Solomon Islands were hit by heavy rainfall, which caused widespread flooding leaving 22 people dead and over 50,000 people homeless. The worst hit areas were Honiara and the

low-lying plains to the East – including Tenaru where several Marist projects are located. Students and teachers were evacuated from St Joseph's High School on the third day of rain and taken to

higher ground as close to 1000mm fell. St Martin's Rural Training Centre, as well as the Brother's house, was inundated with muddy water and caused significant damage. The construction of the new Brother's house has also been delayed as a result of this natural disaster.

MSol is preparing to receive several applications for assistance in the rebuilding efforts for this devastated community. With over 1000 people still living in evacuation centres and the rebuild estimated to cost tens of millions of dollars, there is still a long road to recovery for the affected people.

**Ashley Bulgarelli**  
**MVA Coordinator**  
**Project Coordinator – Pacific Region**

# Education for the children of the Moulovibazar tea gardens, Bangladesh

The tea communities are home to some of the most vulnerable people of Bangladesh. They deserve special attention of the State, not just equal treatment. Unfortunately they continue to remain socially excluded, low-paid, overwhelmingly illiterate, deprived and disconnected. They have also lost their original languages in most parts as well as their culture, education and unity. The people living in the tea gardens live with poor housing conditions, low wages, long working hours and experience social discrimination, and restrictions on movement. These conditions deprive them of many basic human needs and rights. This traps the children of tea workers in an endless cycle of poverty.

The Marist Brothers are working to address this by starting a school that will provide quality education for the



children in the tea gardens and the surrounding region. As well as the official program of studies a major focus will be placed on English, Ethics and Computer skills. These skills will give the

children a higher chance of gaining better paid skilled work later in life.

**Br Brian Kinsella**  
**Project Coordinator**

Contact us to join our network of supporters that make education possible in Asia and the Pacific...

## MSol Team

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# FORMATION FOR MARIST LIFE AND MISSION

## Footsteps1 – Making Jesus Christ Known & Loved, 15 – 18 June 2014

**Participants:** Cathy Atkinson and Dianne Barrett (Marist College, Ashgrove); Chong Hin Law and David Blackman (Marcellin College, Bulleen); Adam Mueller and Gregory Bellerby (St Augustine's College, Cairns); Benjamin Grose and Duncan Pugh (Newman College, Churchlands); Edwina Brennan and Sarah Hagarty (St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas); Kelly Rump and Monique Nelson (Marist College Emerald); Bernard Ryall (St Joseph's College Hunters Hill); Jessica Flavell and Michelle Jones (Assumption College Kilmore); Tonetta Iannelli (St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton); Nijel Vidler (Mt Maria College Mitchelton); Rochelle Eggins (Marist College North Shore);

Josephine Geer and Natalie Wagstaff (John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow); Kurtis Harrison and Sarah Melhuish (Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park); Alison Lawrence and Glen Bucklar (St Thomas More Sunshine Beach); Jim Samon (Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta); Clinton Rodoreda and Brooke Nugent (Parramatta Marist,

Westmead); Sally Dillon (Marist Schools Australia, Sydney); Nehme Khattar (Marist Youth Ministry, Sydney); Melissa de Sieno (Marist Youth Ministry, Melbourne).

**Team:** Br Michael Akers, Elizabeth Falconer, Br Tony Paterson, Br Hubert Williams, Daniel Head and Frank Malloy.



## Footsteps2 – Making Jesus Christ Known & Loved, 18 – 21 May 2014

**Participants:** Cheryl Geck and Madonna Spillane (Marist College, Ashgrove); Megan Pettiford and Kathleen Ward (Trinity College, Beenleigh); Colleen Armstrong and Maree Zanin (Marcellin College, Bulleen); Neil Gregory and Christopher Churchward (St Augustine's College, Cairns); Therri Ellison and Paul Quigley (St Patrick's Marist College,

Dundas); Catherine Rogers and Ann Palmer (Marist College Eastwood); Brett Benkenstein and Annamaria Liggieri (Assumption College, Kilmore); Kath Little and Sian Burke (Mt Maria College, Mitchelton); Christine Winderlich and Joanne Fellows (St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville); Kathleen McGrath and Jeffrey Davidson (Marist College

North Shore); Maryanne Davis and Damian Chase (Marcellin College Randwick); Simon Abernethy and Catherine Waud (John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow); John McLaverty and Sherie Killeen (Catholic College Sale); Meredith Jones and Derek Leibbrandt (Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park);

Catherine Brown and Chardonnay Miller (Mt Carmel Catholic High School, Varroville); Corinne McPhee and Paul Harris (Marist Centre Sydney); Jodi Isedale (The Hermitage, Mittagong); Br Terry Costello (Marist Brothers, Auckland).

**Team:** Br Michael Akers, Elizabeth Falconer, Br Peter Carroll, Br Hubert Williams, Ryan Gato and Br Michael Green.





# Marcellin Week

## Trinity College Lismore

Trinity Catholic College Lismore commemorated The Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat on Thursday 5 June 2014 (A day early!). The theme of the prayers and reflections centered around the importance Marcellin placed on the three virtues of Humility, Simplicity and Modesty. As part of the liturgy, the Principal, Br John Hilet, presented four staff with a certificate acknowledging 20 years of service to the Marist charism. The four staff recognised were Mrs Karen Davies, Mrs Lyndall Smith, Mrs Carmel Grace and Mr Tony Lovett. The Assembly concluded with the commissioning of the Cambodian Immersion Group who will depart later in Term 2. It was a wonderful celebration of the life and legacy of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.



*Tony Lovett (left) receiving the award from Br John Hilet (right).*



*Marcellin Day Prayer Space at Trinity College Lismore.*



## #serve Emerald

Mrs Marie Martin, Principal of Marist College Emerald; teachers from Marist College Emerald; Mr Max Martin, Principal of St Patrick's School and members of the local parish joined together to engage with the #serve program in Emerald. They brought enthusiasm, awareness and insight as they participated in the activities and reflections.

**Participants included:** Bobby Bracken, Margaret Bailey, Morag Hyslop, Leigh Murray, Nickie Birchall, Robyn Wright, Colette Curtis, Marie Martin, Kelly Rump, Narelle Gruar, Dan Meehan, Monique Nelson, Chris Bracken, Brad Jarro, Peg Layton, Rod and Elma Devlin, Loy McKinlay, Max Martin, and Steve Melody.



The #serve program was very well received at the Burdekin Catholic High School in Ayr on June 27. Thirty-seven staff attended a twilight session. The Marist spirit is truly alive and well in the Burdekin.

**Participants included:** Melanie Baxter, Marlene Bokma, Rhonda Callcott, Thomas and Jane Chitongo, Stephen Coutts, Antonella Dalle Cort, Jeananne Ellis, Keira Favale, Owen Flanagan, Brian Glover, Aliah Lennox, Sandra Reents, Heather Row, Renee Schlieff, Fiona Scott, Paula Sexton, Rosanna Smart, Madeline Thomson, Robus van Zyl, Daryl Wease, Lawrence Zanella, David Guy, Stephen Keryk, Tom and Anne Kruger, Kelli Loizou, Leah McBryde, Darren Meinicke, Karl Meyer, Catherine Minchin, Kate Moore, Elisa Rigano, Angela Zukowski, Erica Arboit, Joanne Sherrington and Estelle Hildebrandt.

# Sri Lanka Immersion 2014

St. Marcellin Champagnat told us that "to educate young people, you must love them, and love them all equally". This 'Golden Rule' was never more evident than in the young students who represented St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville in our second successful immersion pilgrimage to the remote village of Kalpitiya in Sri Lanka in April. Eight year twelve students and two supporting staff undertook a mission of reaching out to the young people of the area (and some not so young) through the providing of the opportunity to learn English, but also to be witness to the characteristics of Marist ministry: Presence, Simplicity, Family Spirit, Love of Work, and In the Way of Mary.

It has been...and will continue to be...an experience which will shape the lives of our pilgrims as well as those whose lives we have touched.

The experience involved 12 days engaging with the young people of Kalpitiya as friends, mentors and as family. The students were able to utilise their extensive talents and touch the lives of those whom they encountered, whether that be through tuition, music, discussion, games or simply through listening and sharing in their everyday lives. It was an amazing opportunity for us as pilgrims as much as it was for the people of Kalpitiya. The students involved were Chloe Hughes, Emily Morrish, Tamia King, Madison Nitschke, Darcy Glasscock, Max Cassar, Sophie Morrish and Abbey Feutrill. Miss Amanda Rofo and Mr Simon Lilley accompanied the students.



The group departed on 3 April for Sri Lanka via Singapore (where we sweltered in our brief tour of the city), before embarking on our final sector and first evening in Negombo, Sri Lanka. It was here that we were thankful for the peace of mind from the many pre-trip injections and medications as we immediately experienced the dreaded mosquitoes, bats, feral dogs and of course...the donkeys. Negombo was a great 'dipping of the toe' into Sri Lankan culture and enabled us to get an awakening to some of the issues facing people in impoverished surroundings. The further north we travelled towards Kalpitiya, the more we realised that the comforts of our world on the Sunshine Coast were far behind us now.

Kalpitiya is a remote fishing village of around 5000 people. Around half are Christian, a third are Muslim and the rest are comprised of Hindu and Buddhist adherents. It is very evident how much religion shapes the lives of the people; just as it is evident how accepting and accommodating people are of others... even if they are strangers in a new town. It is a fishing town where the vast majority of the young people dream of so much, but alas will follow the family tradition of subsistent fishing or small business, where a day's business sees enough money earned to pay for local fare and not much more. Many people within the town function on less than \$AUD100 a month. Some function on much less than that. It is a harsh reality that those young people who are most

likely to find their 'fortune' in Sri Lanka, will be those who can command English.

Our visit to the local schools saw poorly funded institutions full to the brim with happy, smiling and enthusiastic students who desired nothing more than to learn and achieve. Sadly, in this part of the world, the number of teachers allocated to accommodate for these children is not great and a number of classes often can be unattended by teachers. Some days see the disappointing sight of students sitting, unable to do any quality work because no teacher was available. Some schools had six or seven classes with only two teachers, plus volunteers...and this is where we were able to lend assistance...if only for a few days. This year we visited the Catholic Tamil School, which had commenced the construction of a small administration building, paid for by funds raised through the St Teresa's community lead by the 2013 immersion students. It was a privilege to be part of the foundation stone laying ceremony and be



representing the wider St Teresa's community in another country. This will enable an additional class room to be made available for student learning. We also spent time at the Sinhala Island School, where students would join us each day in their open air classroom for learning activities and games.

Marist House in Kalpitiya has been established to aid students of all ages, including adults, to further their education. Many students leave school at the end of the day and come straight







to Marist House in order to get further education, particularly in English. Marist House is run by Br. Lal Fonseka, a beautiful man whose life is dedicated to the young people at Marist House and in helping them in their dreams in reaching for the stars. So dedicated is Br Lal to his mission that he rarely sets foot off the property in the ten days we were there, "as I am needed here by the people". This presence, simplicity and love of his work typifies the Marist charism. He is indeed a role model to the young people of Kalpitiya and also to those who visit him as we did. The fact that he is so loved by the people (he is seen almost as a reluctant royal in Kalpitiya) is a reflection of how family spirit resonates through his work. It was here in the afternoons and evenings that we were able to truly touch the lives of the local children...and vice versa.

The students involved (and I must say the staff as well) were transformed by the experience of working with such beautiful children, who while living in circumstances which many would cringe at, were so welcoming of us

and eager to share their lives with us and share their joy at being able to interact with people who were prepared to be present to them. It was indeed a very sad occasion when we had to say our farewells. It was more than just a trip where the locals gained from our visit, but we were able to take away so much for ourselves as a result. Much was said within our little group about how lucky we are, how we tend to whinge about things that really aren't important...and how great is our capacity to make a difference in the world...if we make that our priority. Seeing the eight St Teresa's students in discussion about what can be done in the future (as we aim to continue a long lasting relationship with Kalpitiya) simply demonstrates the impact such an experience has had on our pilgrims. Future fundraising endeavours will be undertaken in order to ensure Marist House is adequately resourced, furnished and capable of continuing its valuable works into the future.

The pilgrims were also able to engage in some important visits to Hindu Temples, Mosques, Buddhist Shrines as well as the



Shrine of St Ann, as well as share in the Easter preparations at mass with the locals. There were opportunities to visit local sights, sing local songs, engage with people of many different traditions and circumstances...and eat the local food, even if there was the occasional French-fry, chicken nugget or hot-dog! Best of all; "How about that fried rice?"

The whole experience has been life changing for all of us. Credit must go to our eight students for their example to others and in following in the way of Mary who calls us to 'do good quietly' and to be aware of the gentle presence of God in and through the ordinary events of everyday living.

However it is just the start of the process for these students. To experience such an enlightening is meaningless unless we continue to keep the people of Kalpitiya in our prayers, thoughts and in our actions. This is why this group will continue to work to support the young people who have touched our lives.

**Simon Lilley**

**St Teresa's Catholic College Noosaville**

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## OLSH COLLEGE ALICE SPRINGS



# Structured, Independent, Online Learning

The *Structured Learning Centre* is an exciting new development at the senior campus of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College, Alice Springs. It was created to allow greater flexibility and diversity in course selection and to accommodate students participating in alternative learning such as School Based Apprenticeships. Working in partnership with NTOEC (Northern Territory Open Education Centre) the Sadadeen Campus, is now able to enrol students in a larger variety of subject areas. Courses previously not offered at the College and senior classes that in the past would not have run due to small numbers, can now be accommodated and offered online.

Students attend classes through a video and/or telephone conference with their NTOEC teacher and classmates once a week. All other lesson time is independent learning spent in the *Structured Learning Centre*, supervised by the administrator of the centre or another teacher who can offer assistance as required. The NTOEC teachers are never more than an email or phone call away and always willing to answer any questions students may have between lessons.

**Mrs Nikki Quesnel**  
Curriculum Coordinator (Sadadeen Campus)

## MARIST YOUTH FESTIVAL

We are excited to announce to you the news about our upcoming **Marist Youth Festival, (#MYF15)** to be held in Sydney on the 12-15 January, 2015. The title of the Festival is **"JUST living: Hearts without Borders"**. The Festival will include Year 12 students (Class of 2015) from Marist schools across Australia, but its main target participation will be **young adults aged 18 to 25**. Accommodation and meals for the event will be provided by Sancta Sophia College with students from Marist schools to be accommodated at St John's College, at the University of Sydney.

A letter has been sent to all Principals of Marist schools around Australia asking them to promote the festival and **invite TWO Year 12 students (Class of 2015)** to the Festival.

The Festival will feature two international guest speakers: **Brother Emili Turu fms**, Superior General of the Marist Brothers from Rome, and **Fr Greg Boyle SJ**, founder and Executive Director of Homeboy Industries; as well as two prominent national speakers: **Laura John**, the Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations in 2014 and **Fr Rob Galea**, a singer, songwriter and founder of Stronger Youth.

For more information please visit [www.maristyouthfestival.com](http://www.maristyouthfestival.com)





## NEWMAN COLLEGE, CHURCHLANDS

# Supporting the Community

The Newman Sports Association, which comprises eight sporting clubs made up predominantly of current and past Newman College students, and which participate in local community competitions, has a close symbiotic relationship with Newman College itself. Over the past five or so years, the Association, in true Marist Spirit and with the support of the College, has conducted an annual fundraising luncheon, the purpose of which is to support a family within the Community which is in significant need of some special assistance.

Sophie Martin is 5 years old and attends pre-primary at one of Newman's surrounding Catholic primary schools. Sophie has a severe form of Epilepsy (known as Dravet Syndrome) and Cerebral Palsy. She therefore has extremely high support needs and can never be left alone. Sophie is in a wheelchair for most of the day and her parents require a customised vehicle to enable Sophie to travel in her wheelchair. A new customised vehicle will also enable Sophie's parents to carry the necessary equipment used for Sophie's continued learning.

This year's event was held at a local bowling club on Friday 27 June with special guests,



singer/songwriter and Newman past student, Morgan Bain, and Mark Harvey, past Fremantle Dockers Coach.

Newman College's theme for 2014 focuses on one of the five Marist Characteristics, *In the Way of Mary*. Examples such as the NSA Fundraising Luncheon brings to life the special characteristics of Mary: Faith in God, Courage and Hope in Adversity, all characteristics lived out on a daily basis by Sophie and her family.



Sophie Martin



### Archdiocese of Adelaide

Marcellin Technical College, Christies Downs  
Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park  
Sacred Heart College Middle School, Mitchell Park

### Archdiocese of Brisbane

Marist College, Ashgrove  
Mount Maria College, Mitchelton  
Mt Maria College, Petrie  
St Joseph's School, Murgon  
St Peter Claver College, Riverview  
St Teresa's College, Noosaville  
St Thomas More School, Sunshine Beach  
Trinity College, Beenleigh

### Diocese of Darwin

Ltyentye Apurte, Santa Teresa  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College,  
Alice Springs

### Archdiocese of Melbourne

Assumption College, Kilmore  
Marcellin College, Bulleen

### Archdiocese of Perth

Newman College, Churchlands  
St Joseph's School, Northam

### Archdiocese of Sydney

Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood  
Marcellin College, Randwick  
Marist College, Eastwood  
Marist College, Kogarah  
Marist College, North Shore  
Marist College, Penshurst  
St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill



## MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

St Michael's Primary School, Daceyville  
The John Berne School, Lewisham  
Trinity Catholic College,  
Auburn/Regents Park

### Diocese of Bunbury

Bunbury Catholic College

### Diocese of Cairns

St Augustine's College, Cairns

### Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn

Marist College, Canberra

### Diocese of Lismore

St Mary's Catholic College, Casino  
Trinity Catholic College, Lismore

### Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton  
St Peter's Campus (All Saints College)  
Maitland

### Diocese of Parramatta

Parramatta Marist High School,  
Westmead  
St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas

### Diocese of Rockhampton

Chanel College, Gladstone  
Marist College, Emerald

### Diocese of Sale

Catholic College, Sale  
Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon  
Marist-Sion College, Warragul

### Diocese of Sandhurst

Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta  
Marist College, Bendigo  
Notre Dame College, Shepparton

### Diocese of Townsville

Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr  
St Francis Xavier School, Ayr

### Diocese of Wagga Wagga

St Francis de Sales College, Leeton

### Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes

Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes

### Diocese of Wollongong

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

## MARIST COLLEGE CANBERRA

# Vanuatu Immersion 2014

During the April school holidays, a group of eight Year 11 students and two staff from Marist College Canberra participated in an Immersion at College de St Michel on the island of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu. St Michel's is a French co-educational secondary boarding school. There is a lay staff assisted by Marist Brothers and a community of Marist Missionary Sisters.

The immersion aimed to give students the opportunity to experience life in a developing country and to gain an appreciation of the life of the Vanuatu students.

The boys initially stayed in the St Michel's boarding house where they studied, worked, played and prayed alongside the local students. With little French, the boys found

ways to communicate with the locals despite the language barrier, developing close friendships they will value into the future.

Our students accompanied local boys to their villages over the Easter weekend. They gained a new-found appreciation of the lives, work and values of the *Ni-Vanuatu*, their strong commitment to their faith, and the importance of family and community. All of the boys were embraced by their host families and were wonderful ambassadors of our College.



*Marcel Seial, Angus Dryburgh  
and Br Blaise Jai*

Our thanks and appreciation to all members of the St Michel's school community, in particular the Marist Brothers, who welcomed us so warmly into their environment and ensured our stay was rich and rewarding.

**Glenn Slater and Kylie Coll**