

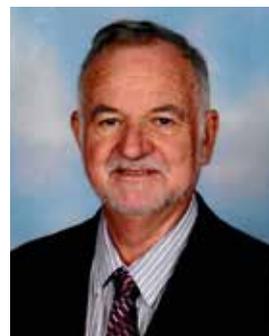


From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues

As Term 2 came to its ragged conclusion across the nation, three significant retirements of Principals were celebrated. Brother Robert Sutton, Brother Michael Flanagan, and Mr Rick Sidorko brought to conclusion an astounding, combined total of 127 years of service and leadership to Catholic education. Each experienced heart felt farewells from their current school communities and expressions of deep gratitude were made for their work throughout their long and fruitful years in schools.

At Saint Francis Xavier College, Hamilton in Newcastle, Brother Robert was acknowledged for the example he consistently provided through his intelligent leadership and humble contributions to every school in which he worked and led. Robert has always been a practical man, gifted in crafting furniture and building, and extraordinarily generous with his free time. For more than 40 years, in every school in which Robert ministered, he physically transformed their landscape. On weekends and in school holidays, Robert could always be found quietly beautifying some part of the staff or student areas to make it a more welcoming, attractive, pleasant and respectful place for people to be with one another. All of this was done with a quiet humility and happiness. Robert led a succession of Marist Schools: Marcellin College Randwick in Sydney, followed by Saint Patricks Marist College Dundas and then Saint Francis Xavier College Hamilton. Robert is fondly remembered by many from his time working at Saint Joseph's College Hunters Hill, affectionately referred to as "the Black Santa", due to the luxurious black beard he sported as a younger Brother in those happy times.



Brother Peter Rodney, who joined the Brothers with Robert in January 1972, spoke in praise at the farewell assembly. Peter said,

At every stage, in every place, Robert has lived out in action all that Marist Educators aspire to be:

- *present in the midst of the school community,*
- *a humble and encouraging presence,*
- *using a variety of means to create a spirit of family,*
- *putting in his own creativity and hard work, so that every member of the community, both student and staff, can develop their potential.*



Brother Michael Flanagan's selfless and driven leadership over the past six years, has enabled Red Bend Catholic College to flourish, and the College enjoys a high demand for enrolment from families throughout the Wilcannia Forbes Diocese and other regions of NSW. Through Brother Michael's creativity and tenacity, the College's facilities have been transformed, importantly creating attractive spaces in which students engage enthusiastically in their learning. Critically, the overall learning growth of Red Bend students has consistently improved during this time due to the concerted efforts of staff and students. Michael introduced a range of organisational and management practices and has attracted quality new teachers to this most committed staff.

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Brother Michael's contribution to Catholic education over 44 years has been characterised by determination, perseverance, compassion, and total dedication to the Marist ideal of making Jesus known and loved in the way of Mary. He has been a highly successful teacher and leader in many Marist schools. He founded The John Berne School at Lewisham in 1998, which he led for 10 years, and was recognised for his outstanding contribution to Catholic education in 2007, when awarded the prestigious Brother John Taylor Award.

Michael was farewelled at a moving special assembly, and the affection the students had for him was obvious. In particular Michael's ready sense of humour was repeatedly highlighted by the student speakers. A Year 7 boarder commented that it was her practice when speaking with Michael in the yard with other students, to wait until the older students laughed at one of his jokes - just to be sure!



Mr Rick Sidorko concluded his time as Principal at The John Berne School at the end of Term 2, bringing to an end over 40 years of distinguished contribution to Catholic and Marist education that has been a constant source of inspiration and example to those with whom he has worked and importantly to colleague school and Catholic system leaders. Rick's passionate and faith filled leadership has been characterised by wisdom, compassion and principle. He is someone who has brought imagination and surety to his leadership, both in fulsome measure. Marist education in Australia and the Pacific, has been the beneficiary of Rick's insight, skill and vision as an educator of exceptional quality.

Having concluded at Marist College Canberra at the end of 2017 after 12 outstanding years as Head, Rick made a commitment to bring his immense experience and capacity to our smallest Marist school in the country, The John Berne School, which provides a pathway and hope for young people who have struggled in mainstream schools. Rick's work with staff in particular over that 18 month period will prove to be an ongoing formative influence on the nature of teaching and learning at Berne for many years.

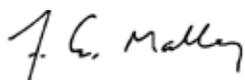
The combined contribution of these three people is remarkable and cause for deep gratitude. All three commenced their vocations in Catholic education as young men fired with faith and enthusiasm, filled with joy to be Marist Brothers. Thousands of students and staff members have been influenced by their goodness. It has been my privilege to meet at random in different circumstances past students of Marist schools led by Robert, Michael and Rick. The admiration, appreciation and affection expressed in relation to these fine leaders has always confirmed Saint Marcellin's oft quoted observation that it is God's work we do as Marist educators.

Just last week, the Provincial Brother Peter Carroll announced Brother Greg McDonald will be concluding his leadership role with Marist Youth Ministry. I am sure all in Marist schools across the country join me in thanking Greg for his incredible energy, vision and enthusiasm in fostering expressions of Youth Ministry in our schools over the past 7 years.

We wish Greg every success in his important work in East Timor which commences next year.

I wish to also draw your attention to the launch of the Bridge Builders programme of the Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, led by Brother Chris Wills. Bridge Builders has been designed to facilitate important volunteering experiences in various Marist ministries. More information can be accessed by visiting this [link](#).

Yours sincerely,



Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

28-30 July	MSA Biennial Conference	23 Aug	Marist Connect - Brisbane
31 July	Meeting of Governed Schools Principals	23-25 Aug	Remar Gold Retreat - NSW
2-4 Aug	Remar Gold Retreat - VIC/SA/NT/WA/QLD	25-28 Aug	Footsteps1 - Mittagong
4-7 Aug	Footsteps2 - Mittagong	28 Aug	Marist Oratory Competition
14-17 Aug	Contemplative Retreat - Mittagong		

Click Here



to Volunteer

Bridge Builders Launches New Web Page!

Marists across Australia are welcome to visit the new Bridge Builders web page - now live!

This program offers both short and long term engagements in Australian or international communities.

The Culture of Encounter is the primary value - this is a Marist program with an emphasis on sharing the life of our global family. It will offer you a world of opportunities!

All Marists are welcome to apply - gap year students, Young Marists, tradespeople, teachers and professionals on sabbatical, young adults or the Grey Army of retirees. See the new web page for details.



www.msa.edu.au/volunteers



LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL

Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia, and/or consider submitting an article for the Champagnat Journal.

The cut-off date for contributions to the second edition of Lavalla and Champagnat Journal for 2019 is **Friday, 2 August**.

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PRINCIPAL - St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton
[Please click here for further information.](#)

BUSINESS MANAGER - Marist College Bendigo
[Please click here for further information.](#)

CENTRE COORDINATOR/RECEPTIONIST - Marist Centre Sydney
[Please click here for further information.](#)

MARISTS AT MULGOA!

A beautiful day welcomed the staff at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville** for their spiritual formation day held at the Winbourne Retreat Centre at Mulgoa.

All staff were presented with a beautiful and simple gift from the school that captured words of the Holy Today theme. One of the simple quotes read: *"The whole universe and all events are sacred doorways for those who know how to see."*

Staff spent time being skilled in practical methods of contemplation, drawing them into these **"sacred doorways"** to help them become more aware of God's presence.



(Staff Photo L-R: Rocco Badolato, Jeshmin Kumar, Kelly James, Karen Gutierrez, Joseph Sullivan, David Teuma, David Cloran and Greg Lozelle)

Footsteps 2: June 16-19



Top photo L-R: Craig Hirst, Rebecca Cornwall and Leanne Harrison
Bottom photo L-R: Tiffany Chandler and Jacqueline Beecroft

Top photo: Julie Schultz
Bottom photo: L-R: Sharon Lucht and Simon Andrews

2019 CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT

Our Marist Contemplative Retreat essentially involves getting away from your usual distractions to focus on your contemplative practice. The Hermitage at Mittagong is the perfect place to drop into quiet and stillness and practice mindfulness. It is open to all interested in Contemplative Prayer and will introduce everyone to a variety of prayer practices. No prior knowledge or experience of Contemplative Prayer is required.

The retreat starts on Wednesday evening 14 August at 5.00pm until Saturday morning 17 August. Coach transport is provided from Sydney Central Station to Mittagong and returns to the airport on Saturday morning.

Currently there only a few spaces available. If you are interested, please register on our Marist website or phone Elizabeth Falconer on 0429 652 281 for further information.



Writer's Corner - Marcellin College Randwick

Many of our school newsletters contain gems of inspiration, often reflecting the great talents of our Marist students and staff. I was captured by this poem by Oscar Rice, a Year 11 student at Marcellin College Randwick . With Oscar's permission, we share it with you and extend our congratulations to Oscar on this beautiful piece of writing.

To Surf



Hands gently sweep through the watery chill,
Propelled forth, I travel to a land
 where white horses play
In wild convulse, yet the mind
 of the searching surfer is still
Smooth, curved, impossible shapes of fluid,
Casting themselves amongst bodies
 of crushed shell
Engaging in a well-choreographed dance,
In which the surfer seeks to enlist.

I sit on my board in nervous calm,
Listening to the whip of the wind.
Caressing, enticing the spirits of the sea.
Harness the beast, the wind whispers to me
I am familiar with such a whisper,
and even now in the mercy of the water's might,
The wind gloats, knowing I won't resist.

Cheers of delight from fellow seekers,
As they see me paddle into the looming shape.
For one with the bravery to commit to even the
largest of pulls, Is braver than all
 in the world of wax and salt.

Rolling sounds, water pounding through my ears,
A gnarly rush of power begins my glide of grace.
Sliding, in fluid race with the growling froth,
Down the frowning face of the behemoth,
 time slowing in my artful parallel
 as I board the train into shore
It is an aggressive, adrenaline fueled
 train and I am the driver
And despite its pricey fares, there
 you will always find me.
Hair slicked back, board grasped,
 sand plastering my face
Awaiting its arrival at my stop.

Oscar Rice, Year 11

Writer's
Corner

Partnering together for change

This project would not have been possible had it not been for the generous support of Kindermisjonswerk and Aid to the Church in Need from Germany. Funds were raised from the Marist Schools Network:

- Notre Dame College, Shepparton
- Catholic College, Sale
- Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta

A Notre Dame College immersion group were fortunate enough to attend the opening and see first-hand how coming together to work towards a common goal can result in positive changes for a community.

Ben Sordello, Year 10 immersion team, said, "For myself, the involvement in Abafala means involving myself in a life changing experience for my benefit as well as many people here in Timor."

Step into
my shoes
2019



Australian Marist Solidary: Building hope in Timor-Leste

The second phase of redevelopment at the Abafala Catholic Primary and Junior High School opened on Monday 15 July 2019 and was renamed Padre Joao de Deus (John of God) primary and junior high school. This completes the school's expansion to provide a much needed second junior high school for the region.



The official opening of the school



Notre Dame College



Students and parents at the opening

The school redevelopment is already enhancing educational conditions for students in this very-poor remote mountain community where they face obstacles such as illiteracy, poverty and insufficient school infrastructure.

Phase one of the school opened in January 2016 and the second phase involved the construction of the second building with classrooms, library and additional toilets to cater for 253 students from grades one to nine.

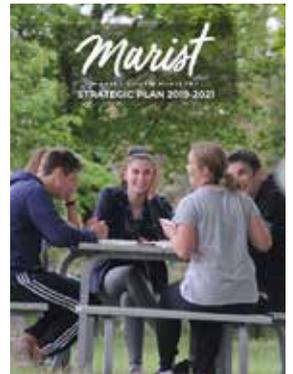
AMS is working to transform education and build brighter futures for the youth in Timor-Leste. The next phase of this transformation is St Teresinha Central School in Quelicai.

To Partner, Build and Transform St Teresinha's visit
<http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/country/timor-leste>

LAUNCH OF MYM STRATEGIC PLAN AND PROGRAMS 2019-2021

Principals will have received two documents from Marist Youth Ministry in the past week.

Our Strategic Plan contains a comprehensive vision for working with Marist youth and young adults across Australia over the next three years. This is the fruit of much discernment and collaboration between key stake holders including Marist Schools Australia, MYM/REMAR, the Mission and Life Formation Team and the Marist Association, Brothers and young adults. We owe a lot to the positive discussions and groundwork that have taken place, enabling us to shape our ministry with young people into the future.



Our Marist Youth Ministry School Information Booklet outlines our specific programs for Marist schools which are being rolled out in 2020 and beyond. Significantly, the booklet includes important information and details about Game Changers, our exciting new school-based youth group and follow-up program to REMAR, which is being piloted in several Marist schools this year and which will formally commence in 2020. For further details contact your regional MYM Office.

Br Greg McDonald, FMS
MYM National Coordinator



Remar Ministry Team promoting the new Game Changers Program

ADELAIDE WINTER SLEEP OUT

On Friday 14 June, over 30 students from Cardijn College and Sacred Heart College spent the night sleeping uncomfortably in solidarity with many in our community sleeping rough every night.

In supporting our local St Vincent de Paul conference, donations of winter items were brought in to assist families who need them most.

As we listened to the torrential rain throughout the night, we were especially grateful for a roof over our heads. Students reflected on what they were grateful for during the night, with responses of friends and family, support networks, and shelter.

In particular students expressed gratitude in feeling safe knowing we had security at the school, and one thing they will take away is we were lucky to have the choice to spend the night sleeping uncomfortably, whereas many others don't have that choice.



Cardijn College and Sacred Heart College students and staff teamed up to participate in the Vinnies Winter Sleepout

Maddy Forde
MYM Regional Assistant, Adelaide