



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

19 November 2013

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

How many times can you tolerate seeing a man's head shot off?

JFK. It was some time before they judged that the whole seven seconds were suitable for general television viewing. Fifty years on, though, and now it's thought okay for us to have forensic coverage of every micro-moment in Dealey Plaza. You can replay them in your head, can't you? The slumping forward, the brain fragments flying backwards, Jackie's reaction. Dreadful images. But they are seared into us.

Take your pick of all the theories and riddles, and continue to be amused or intrigued by them – the missing bullet, the impossible time-lapse, the stolen brain, who was or wasn't on the grassy knoll, the hung-over Secret Service agents, the chaotic autopsy, the life histories of Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, who knew what and when – but let's not lose our repulsion for rawness the actual murder itself. Inoculated by the normalcy of television pictures terrorism, natural disasters, asylum seekers' drowning, and other human tragedies, we can become immune. Paul Keating's Remembrance Day Address last week at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier reminded us never to mollify our repugnance for such things.

The assassination quickly became one of those defining moments of our times because people were indeed shocked by it. Metres of library shelves and terabytes of disk space bear witness to how significant people have come to see the event, especially in terms a societal loss of innocence, and a widespread collapse of trust in institutions and meta-narrative generally. Whatever the clever image-making that might have been associated with the rise of Kennedy – not least in Catholic circles – and however far that might have been from the flawed truth of the man himself, the reality is that those bullets did a whole lot more than kill a President and wound a Governor. The unravelling of the Kennedy spin in the years since have only served to generate, in the West at least, ever more scepticism or indeed cynicism towards those who try to win the popular imagination or to make grand claims of truth. But from another point of view, it has made people more alert not to be conned, not to take things on face value alone. Keating suggested that today's youth would never accept to be the cannon fodder that their great-grandfathers' generation became.

We are in the last fortnight of the Church's year – the one chosen to be the "Year of Faith". How has it been in your school? Has the year helped to enhance the vitality of the school's faith life? From one point of view, there couldn't be a less favourable time for us as educators in Catholic schools to be in the business of promoting our particular truth claim, of proposing belief to young people. Some may see last week's release of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the handling of child abuse or next month's public hearings of the Royal Commission, which will focus on the Catholic Church in particular, as another barrage of assassins' bullets to the cause of the Kingdom. But they're not. Or they need not be. The betrayal, the hurt, the crime of it all should pierce our hearts. It does mine. But it is also an opportunity to be truthful. And it is an opportunity to keep faith. Last Sunday's Gospel reading encourages us in this.

One of the blessings of being an educator in schools is knowing that the minds and hearts of young people can be unburdened by the baggage of another time, and so they can see and feel more trustingly. It is a God-given opportunity to get it right for them, without spin, without con, without duplicity.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

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| 30 Nov | Marist Ministries Mass and Dinner, Melbourne |
| 24 Nov | Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Melbourne |
| 25 Nov | Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Adelaide |
| 2 Dec | Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Brisbane |
| 4 Dec | Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Sydney |
| 5-7 Dec | Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Melbourne |

APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to these people on their appointments:

Melissa de Sieno as MYM Regional Coordinator in Melbourne from 2014, taking over from Mario Frazzetto who is returning to Marcellin College after a two-year secondment.

Matthew Brennan as Deputy Headmaster at St Gregory's College, from the start of next year.

TERTIARY STUDIES 2014

A reminder that a range of postgraduate courses at certificate, diploma and master's level in education, religious education and theology are available at a number of institutions across Australia for 2014. Marist Schools Australia has credit arrangements with the Australian Catholic University and with the Broken Bay Institute. Similar credit can be obtained for Marist Studies on application through institutions like the Sydney College of Divinity, the Melbourne College of Divinity or St Paul's Theological College in Brisbane. In addition, Notre Dame University offers a range of courses in these fields. To obtain further details simply go to the website for the given institution and it will indicate the courses on offer.

Most Catholic Education Offices would also be notifying schools of available courses for next year, and very often they offer funding assistance on application.

If you require any further details do not hesitate to contact Brother Tony Paterson: tony.paterson@marists.org.au

The Pontifical University of Parana in Brazil offers a Master's in Marist Studies online. It is delivered in a number of languages including English. The Australian contact for this course is Brother John McMahon: john.mcmahon@marists.org.au

REGISTRATION OPEN

NOW

FOR 2014 PROGRAMMES

Online registration opened yesterday for next year's programmes.

It can be done through the MSA website by following this link:

<http://msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes/>

Instructions for making the bookings were sent out last week.

Here is another link to them:

[Quick Instructions for Bookings Officers](#)

STATEMENT OF THE TJH COUNCIL

The Truth, Justice and Healing Council has been established by the Catholic Church to coordinate its response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and to do so in a spirit of commitment to cooperation, openness, full disclosure, and justice for victims and survivors. As part of the Church, we Marists wholly support the work of the TJHC.

Marist Schools Australia takes this opportunity to endorse this statement of the Council which is being read in all Churches around the country in the next few weeks: www.tjhcouncil.org.au/media/42284/131114-Our-Commitment-doc.pdf.

Read and view other updates from the TJHC at its website: www.tjhcouncil.org.au

NSW/ACT STUDENT LEADERS GATHERING AT MITTAGONG



From November 10th - 12th, seventy-two student leaders from eighteen Marist schools across NSW/ACT, gathered at the Hermitage in Mittagong to explore the possibilities of leadership today. Students were challenged to be transformative leaders through being open to transformation in service to others. The gathering culminated in a formal Mass and dinner in the presence of School Principals and Mr Frank Malloy, as well as a keynote address from Brother David Hall.

2014 RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Resources for next year's Province theme **#serveoneanother** are now available. Follow this [link](#).



REFLECTION ON “LIVING CHAMPAGNAT’S VISION”

**13 – 16 OCTOBER 2013
HELD AT ALICE SPRINGS**

It was with a mixture of excitement and trepidation that I arrived in Alice Springs to take part in this three day residential program, designed to explore the spirituality and pedagogy of Marist education. I would like to say that as I started the program I was reflecting on the words of John Paul II in his address to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders at Alice Springs on 29 November 1986 “For thousands of years you have lived on this land and fashioned a culture that endures to this day. And during all this time, the spirit of God has been with you” However, my thoughts were actually on much more mundane physical needs – would it be too hot? Would I freeze sleeping in a swag under the stars? Would the flies be annoying? Would I encounter a snake? As the program progressed, we were all challenged and inspired by our experiences (and yes, we were all very cold sleeping in our swags under the stars at our campsite near Santa Teresa).

The program was a wonderful mix of meeting Aboriginal people, visiting different places, reflecting on the role of Marist education in the lives of the people of Central Australia and contemplating our individual experiences of “desert” in our lives. It was moving to experience a traditional Aboriginal “welcome to country” smoking ceremony when we arrived at Santa Teresa, and to chat with staff at the school and we were awed by the beauty of Emily Gap – a “natural Cathedral” where we could contemplate the glory of God’s creation. It was a privilege to sleep under the stars and to be told dreaming stories by Aboriginal people, and to eat the kangaroo tails they cooked for us. But it was also important to be reminded by Russell Smith, Indigenous Consultant for the Marists, that all Aboriginal people are not the same and that there is not just one Aboriginal spirituality.

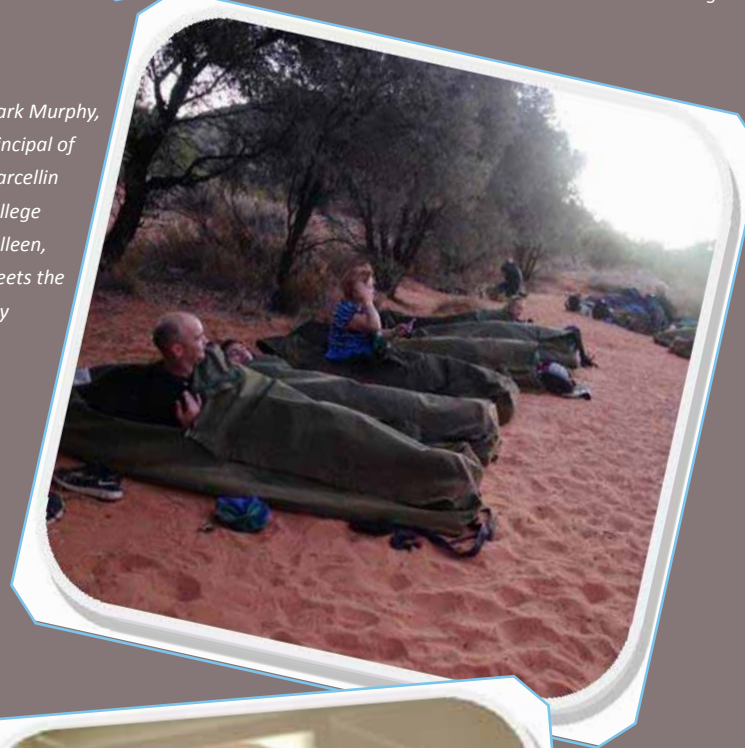
On our final night, we attended “Campfire in the Heart” retreat centre, where Brother Paul Gilchrist, Principal of Alice Springs Marist School, spoke of the complex nature of Aboriginal education.

*Reflection written by Sue Duncan,
Sacred Heart College Senior, Adelaide*



*Bob
Sheridan of St
Francis Xavier's College sharing
& caring*

*Mark Murphy,
Principal of
Marcellin
College
Bulleen,
greeted the
day*



*Br Daniel
Hollamby,
Principal of
Ltyentye Apurte,
Santa Teresa
School*



MSA SCHOOLS COMMIT TO THE WORK OF SRI LANKAN MARISTS



Ms. Elena Gray, teacher at St Patrick's Marist College Dundas, with the students of the Catholic Tamil Middle School in Kalpitiya, Sri Lanka, at a school assembly.

Sri Lanka has long been afflicted with civil war and ethnic tensions. Since the war ended in 2009, the rebuilding of a nation commenced. Still, young men and women are often forced to leave school early to help their families with fishing, farming and duties around the home. This makes high school participation an issue, especially for the Tamil minorities living in rural communities. Marists are on the ground in Kalpitiya, a small isolated town off a spit of the western coast of Sri Lanka. With the support of MSA schools they are working to redress the educational imbalances in Kalpitiya. They wish to ensure that the Catholic Tamil minority can attend higher education. Marist College Canberra has been strong supporters of the project for two years and in 2013 Year 7 students at St Patrick's Marist College Dundas, with teacher Ms. Elena Gray, have also been strong supporters of this work.

Students from both of these Marist Schools have worked hard to raise funds for Marists in Kalpitiya. In September-October of this year Ms. Gray met with the talented teachers and students of the Catholic Tamil Middle School in Sri Lanka to see where the hard work fundraising had paid off.

On reflection Ms. Gray said, "I was amazed to see the completion of the new computer multimedia room. I was also humbled to see how the connection of power to the classrooms has made a major difference. I no longer take for granted the fans, lights and 30 laptop computers in my classroom." The students in Australia were however, shocked to hear that the computer room has only two computers for the entire college. They are committed to continue supporting the ongoing work at the Catholic Tamil Middle School.

Marist Solidarity and Marists in Kalpitiya thank the Year 7 students of St Patrick's Marist College Dundas, Marist College Canberra and the wider Marist Schools Australia community for their support and solidarity.

Michael Coleman
MSol Team – Brisbane

UPCOMING SOLIDARITY CAMPS FOR REMAR STUDENTS!

Solidarity camp, arguably, is one of the most exciting and personally challenging experiences that a Remar rower will encounter. Many blue rowers (year 11's) have been preparing for their upcoming solidarity camps for months, or even the whole year!

Solidarity camp is a big part of the three-year Remar journey, occurring at the end of their second year. Each caravel (group) of rowers collectively plan and fundraise for projects they choose to do in a particular community. These plans intend to actively respond to the needs of that particular community, with groups generally choosing to do their solidarity camp in primary schools or areas of disadvantage.

Solidarity camp is a week-long camp which strongly focuses on active ministry. Caravels aim to serve the community in 'solidarity', which means they work in unity with the community and build relationships with the people they meet along the way.

All caravels are unique in what they choose to do on their solidarity

camp, but the one thing they have in common is the positive energy they bring to the people they encounter. Schools commonly return to the same nursing home, school or mission with the new group of year 11's every year, partnering with the community in the long term. Some schools have even had this friendship with their chosen community for over 15 years.

We wish all the rowers anticipating their solidarity camps the best of luck as they live as Christ's disciples with humility and solidarity.

Remar Ministry
Team 2013

