



Executive Summary Oceania Council August 2018

Taking advantage of improved quality of communications infrastructure across the region, the Oceania Council meeting was held via videoconference on 13 August. Members participated from Auckland, Brisbane, Christchurch, Port Moresby and Sydney. Due to difficulties a connection with Suva could not be established.

Over all the first meeting was successful and procedural and technical issues for future meeting are being dealt with.

As an outcome, each year at least one of the regular Oceania Council meetings will be held using this technology.

Lavalla 200>

An extensive progress report was received from the Lavalla 200> community. The current members will complete their contracts in early 2020 and will be replaced by a new group of volunteers. There was a long discussion the success of the project and on how to handle the transition from the existing members and the arrival of new members. This concerns issues such as visas, language and cultural immersion. Discussions will also be needed with Br Valdicer Fachi, the new director of International Collaboration for Mission (CMI) to obtain an understanding of the long-term vision of the General Administration to the Lavalla 200> project.

Education Network

This Network group comprises Mr Benedict Tooming (M), Br Terry Costello (P) and Dr Frank Malloy (Chair, A). They are actively exploring the possibility of developing a school improvement program for schools in Melanesia and the Pacific, based on the experience of a similar program developed by Australian Marists in Africa.

Pacific Marist Schools Leaders Course – Part II

Following the very successful course for school leaders in Melanesia and the Pacific held at Lomeri, Fiji last year, a second session was held at Lomeri, 22-24 April 2018.

Financial Administration Network

This Network is the bursars and financial managers in the three administrative units. Following the meeting of the Asia-Oceania leaders in February, bursars from the Asia Region will attend one of the Network meetings in Sydney 30-31 August.

Under 50s Brothers Gathering

This gathering of Brothers in Oceania Under 50 will be held at Lomeri, Fiji in January 2019. It will focus on the calls from the XXII General Chapter.

Publications

There was positive feedback about the electronic version of the Oceania Calendar. Following a request from a number of Brothers the 2019 Calendar will include January 2020.

The annual publication of the popular *Marists in Oceania* is also very well received and the 2018 issue is in preparation.

Oceania Partnership Commission

The strategic plan of the OPC is to train and provide ongoing formation for local formators to develop their capacity to grow a deeper sense of Marist life (communion) in the diverse forms where it is found in her Administrative Units in Oceania.

Following the Marist Asia Commissions meeting Dan Dungey (P), chair of the OPC, reported back on possible areas for further collaboration. This meeting was held at the Montfort Centre, Singapore, 9-12 April. The theme of the meeting was “Coming Together for a New Beginning”.

Marist Learning Zone (MLZ)

A highly successful launch of the MLZ at Mount Druitt took place on 27 July. The Oceania Council was delighted that the project has been officially blessed by the Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Vincent Long ofm and look forward to continuing the fruitful partnership with Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta in this project. Particular thanks to John Robinson (Marist School Australia) and Greg Whitby (Executive Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Parramatta), for getting the MLZ established. Thanks also to the staff of the MLZ, Graeme Atkins (Chief Project Officer), Daniel Morin, Br Lawrie McCane, Mrs Argie Hernandez Mendoza, Mr Rodrigo Gris and Br Jonnel (Noynoy) Sisneros for all of their enthusiasm and hard work in developing and implementing the concept of MLZ.



**Br Lawrie McCane, Bishop Vincent Long ofm,
Argie Hernandez Mendoza.**



**Rodrigo Gris, Bishop Vincent Long ofm,
Argie Hernandez Mendoza.**



**Greg Whitby, Executive Director of CEDP
and Brother Peter Carroll, Marist
Provincial, unveiled the plaque.**

Br Tony d'Arbon

Executive Officer | Oceania Council.
27 August 2018.