



by the separate advocacy desk already functioning within the District of Melanesia administration continuing its links to FMSI Geneva.

Relationship to the Province of Australia and its offices of Marist Solidarity.

One of the principal partners since the inception of both the offices of Marist Solidarity, viz. Marist Asia Pacific Solidarity (MAPS 2003) and Australian Marist Solidarity Ltd, (AMS Ltd 2009), has been the Marist Brothers' District of Melanesia.

This relationship has not been formalised but MAPS has provided ongoing funding to support the administration of projects, assisted with their implementation and developed the relationship between donors and funding agencies on behalf of the District.

MAPS has also been an implementing body for many projects and assisted with logistical support in the past. Due to the increased capacity of the District, these latter roles have now passed to the MSM desk.

AMS and MAPS will continue to be the principal fund searchers for MSM as requested by the District Leader and the MSM desk officer. The staff of the Australian offices will work with MSM to provide administrative support across all stages of the project cycle as requested by MSM.

The District of Melanesia created in 2012 a desk within the District administration to manage all new projects across the countries of the District: Papua New Guinea including Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. It is currently staffed by Br. Rodney Pauru FMS

Role of the MSM desk

The desk provides support to all project managers in securing funding for their projects, implementing them, accounting for funds and reporting to donors.

It will continue to enhance the long standing relationship with the project managers in the District and also the Australian Marist Solidarity offices and their donors.

The advocacy role for the rights of the child and right to education in Melanesia will be carried out

Please pray for

Our Deceased:
Br Joe Wabi

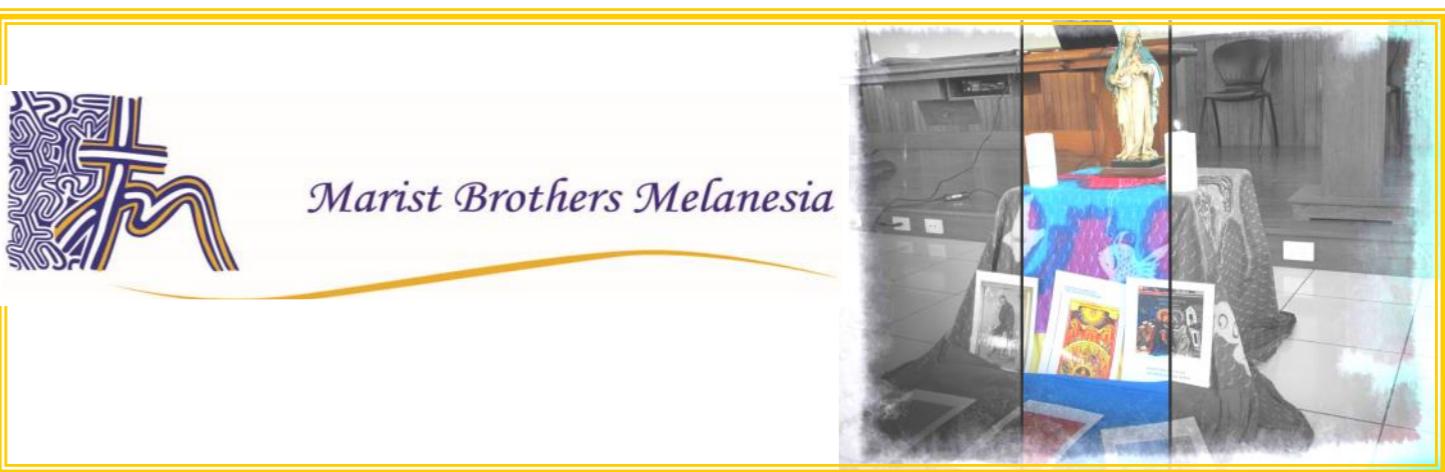
Our sick:
Br John Paul Mauro

Our young men in Formation at;
Laumanasa, Lomeri and MAPAC.



Marist Brothers Melanesia

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Issue 1

Dear Fellow Marists

First of all let me wish all of you a happy New Year. I hope you all had a peaceful and restful Christmas and that all goes well as you start in your ministries. During the Christmas New Year period the District celebrated two significant events. The Brothers from the district gathered together for a week in Port Moresby. This gave the Brothers the opportunity to come together to talk about their life as Brothers.

On the 19th of January Br Clement Pekubei made his final profession at Tabago Parish in the Buin District of Bougainville. Over the past few years the District has celebrated the perpetual profession of a number of Brothers. Each of these celebrations has been a special occasion and had its own unique character. Clem's was no different. For those of us travelling from Port Moresby the journey to Tabago was part of the experience. Over three days we travelled on plane, boat and 4 wheel drive vehicle. There were delays at airports, the possibility of being off-loaded from over booked aircraft and then 14 hours travel on very rough roads. There were three flat tyres, a great deal of dust and sore backs. In the end the journey was only a small part of a very important experience of community celebrating Clem's commitment to living his life as a Marist Brother.

Clem's family walked 4 hours from their home in the mountains to the parish church and prepared the feast for the celebration. Other people came from all over the Buin District to join the celebration. Most obvious was the great number of young people particularly young men who attended the mass and celebration afterwards. It was commented on by many people who had not expected the long line of young men receiving communion. The Tabago area until recently has been very tense with the continuation of factional fighting which started during the Bougainville Crisis. It was only in November that many of these young men were finally able to put their guns down and reconcile.



Br. Clement Pekubei FMS

Final Profession

19 January 2013

Tabago Parish: Buin

Bougainville

South Bougainville



Continued page 2

The sense of joy in this local community being able to reconcile and once again live in peace was still very much part of the community coming together for Clem's final profession.

Both Bert and John Paul made the journey to Tabago. Having these two senior Brothers join in the celebration added something special to the celebration for many of those present. It was good to have two men who were obviously happy living out their lives at Marist Brothers. It was also important for many of the ex-students from Rigu. There were a number of hugs and some tears from ex-students as they shared stories with both Bert and John Paul.

The celebration was for all those who in various ways are Marist. There were the ex-students who were able to reflect on the meaning of a Marist education in their own lives. There were families whose connection to Rigu or Tarlena or Mabiri had had an impact on the life of their family. Significantly there were the Lay Marists who made the journey with the Brothers to Tabago, who joined in the celebration and were able to have time to reflect on the meaning of their own commitment to Champagnat's dream.

It is always a privilege being present when a young man makes the commitment to live his life as a Marist Brother. We were able to celebrate Clem's choice and his family's support of his choice. We were able to spend time reflecting on the journey for him so far. The desire in his own life to complete his education during the Bougainville Crisis; the need to leave home so that he could complete his education; the choice to help with the children in his village working as a volunteer elementary teacher and his continued availability for mission in the District have all been part of his journey so far. In his own life Clem has made choices that have witnessed to a better life, centred on Christ. This was evident as he proclaimed publicly his desire to continue follower Jesus as a Marist Brother.

It is also important to say a little about the gathering of Brothers in Port Moresby before Christmas. Early in the time together the Brothers confirmed the experience of the district mission assembly and the commitment to Brothers and Lay Marists being on mission together. The gathering also was able to reflect on issues including the future of leadership in the District, our life as Brothers and our life together in community. The final statement from the gathering called the Brothers to 'A New Way of being Brother – Men of God'. This call to be "Men of God" is really a call to be followers of Jesus and to witness to what this means. It is a call to reflect on our lives and to understand that we will continue to be renewed, and to be transformed so that we can better live out our desire to be "Men of God".

During his homily for Clem's profession, Bishop Bernard Unabali spoke about being a member of a community of believers. All this happens within a community of believers. Whether we are reflecting on Clem's final profession or the gathering of Brothers, the context in which this all happens is being part of the community of believers.

All of us are called to be people of God. We are all called to be followers of Jesus. Clem at his profession was able to proclaim this is a very public way. The Brothers had the privilege of spending time together and being able to articulate better what it means for them to be followers of Jesus. At the heart of this is the call for all of us. The events of the past few weeks remind us all that we are called to be witnesses and that this will necessarily impact on our lives. I would like to encourage each of us as we start this new year to spend some time reflecting on this call to be followers of Jesus and members of a community of believers.

God bless

MARIST
BROTHERS
PORT MORESBY
COMMUNITY/AU



DISTRICT COUNCIL of the DISTRICT OF MELANESIA 2013



We have just concluded the first District Council meeting of the year. It proved to be a significant meeting. Graham Neist worked with the Council in helping us develop plans for the next 18 months. The Council used the documents from the Mission Assembly in 2011, the last District Chapter and the gathering of the Brothers last December as a starting point for its reflection.

The Council discussed three areas that we would like to plan initiatives for over the next 18 months. We started to look at ways to help develop a Marist Community Spirituality in our Brothers' communities and we set up a work group to help take this work forward during the next couple of months. Mark Kenatsi will be in contact with Community Leaders to discuss some of the plans with them.

The second area discussed was the development of our mission. We looked at appropriate ways of developing our mission and to strengthen the relationship between Lay

Marists and Brothers. Each area of the District will have a different focus. To help to develop these, the Council will develop a short term mission plan.

Also the formation team worked with the Council to plan for the next 12 months. These have been a number of changes with the closure of Wewak and the move to Laumanasa. Over the rest of the year there will be some communication with the District about these plans.

From the District Leader

Visitors to the District

Br. Joe McKee, FMS

Br. Tony Burrows FMS

Bishop Gilles Côté,
S.M.M.

MARIST BROTHERS' ASSEMBLY 2012 STATEMENT



"A New Way of being Brothers Together—Men of God"

We choose to grow

In our commitment to our prayer life, deepening our faith and spirituality,

In our ownership of the District,

In being responsible and accountable with and to one another.

We want to live in communities that are

Honest and open in dialogue

Inclusive,

Responsible,

Compassionate,

Accountable,

Supportive,

Forgiving

Hopeful and

on mission together

News of the District

There have also been a few changes to the congratulate **Mr Abraham Hihiru** who has taken on the position of Headmaster at St Josephs, Tenaru. Abraham has been very generous in taking on this responsibility and we wish him all the best as he takes on this new appointment.



Br. Graham Neist has been involved in the District for a number of years now, working with the District Council and facilitating assemblies and chapters. This year Graham will continue his relationship with the district. He will do some work with the District Council helping it implement some of the outcomes from the Brothers' gathering. He will also help to facilitate various groups within the district in their planning for the next 18 months. Graham is a member of the Provincial Council in Australia and has other responsibilities there but will come to the district at various time during the year to work with various groups.



As many of you are already aware **Br Cornelius Kelets** has been appointed Headmaster of Mabiri. Cornelius has been deputy at Mabiri for the past two years. We wish him all the best as he takes on this responsibility. Cornelius has

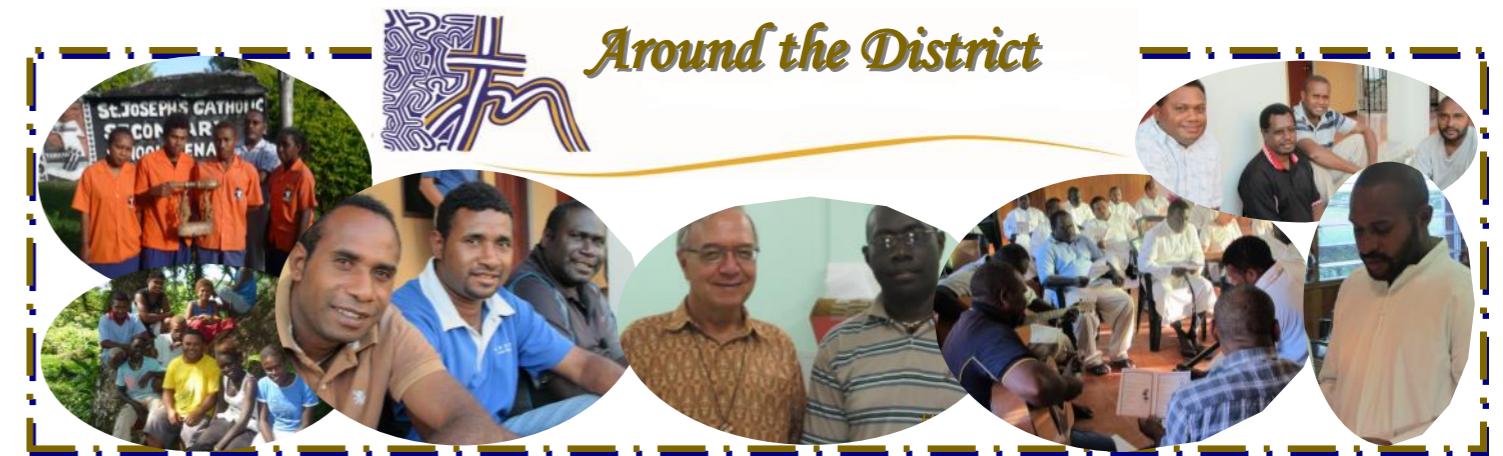
also been asked by the District Council to replace Tony Burrows as a member of the District Council for the next 18 months.

The Novitiate

This photo was taken after the Ceremony of reception into the Novitiate of **Noel Langu** on the **3rd January, 2013**. Noel is our only First Year Novice and he is from East Sepik province, Papua New Guinea. Joining us are our Brothers from Suva communities, Sam Eathorne, Kees van der Weert, Luke Fong and Borerei Katarake. Other s are members of the Novitiate, Mark Needham, Henry Uguni, Afaese and two Second Year Novices, Christopher Matthew from East Sepik province, Papua New Guinea and Hudson Horoto from Areare Malaita, Solomon Islands. Bernard McGrath is absent (one of the members of the Novitiate team). Prayer was held in our chapel followed by lunch. The ceremony marked the beginning of Noel's canonical year and journey as First Year Novice in our Novitiate. Thank you for your continuous support and prayers for our young men in formation centers. May God bless us all in our various ministries.



News of the District continue



Br Brendan & Br Max at the 1st ever gr 6 graduation of St Marcellin Primary in Vanga, recruited 9 students continuing to gr 7. It was a very blessed day for these students along with their parents and teachers. Congratulations to all those who made it through and also to the hard working staff of St Marcellin Primary.

